

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI, JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

02 Snatchers active in Jammu, two incidents reported in 3 days at Domana

03 J&K Govt presents first prize for Best Photography 2022 to journalist Naresh Sharma

10 District Rajouri Volleyball Championship begins

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

EIGHTH NAVRATRA

Maa Maha Gauri

Eighth incarnation of Maa Durga is Maa 'Maha Gauri'. Her clothes as well as ornaments are white in colour.

To have Lord Shiva as husband, she mediated so hard that her body turned black, but when Lord Shiva washed her body it started glittering and got white by virtue of which, she is called 'Maha Gauri'.

By her worship one gets all pleasures of life and gets rid of all the sins.

Mantra to be recited nine times of 'Maa Maha Gauri' is :-

"Om Aing Hreeng Kleeng Chamunday Bhagwati Maha Gauri Mum Sarvam Samridhim Vardhay Vardhay Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चामुण्डायै भगवती महगौरी मम सर्वम् समृद्धिं वर्धयै वर्धयै स्वाहा

Cop martyred in Pulwama terror attack, terrorist eliminated in Shopian

LG salutes bravery of martyr, says terrorists will be given unforgettable lesson for their heinous act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A policeman was martyred and a CRPF jawan injured when ultras attacked a security forces team in Pulwama while a terrorist was eliminated in an encounter in Shopian, officials said.

"Terrorists fired upon a joint Naka party of CRPF & police at Pinglana, Pulwama. In this terror attack, 01 police personnel got martyred & 01 CRPF personnel got injured," Kashmir Zone police said in a tweet.

The police said reinforcements were rushed to the area and a search operation was launched.

A police spokesman identified the martyred policeman as Javid Ahmad Dar. He also said the injured CRPF jawan was evacuated to a hospital for treatment.

Senior police officers, along with reinforcement, reached



Tributes being paid to martyr policeman Javid Ahmad Dar.

the spot, the spokesman added.

"We pay our rich tributes to the martyr for his supreme sacrifice made in the line of duty. We stand by the family of the martyr at this crucial juncture and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel," the spokesperson said.

Police have registered a case, the investigation is in progress and officers are

working to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime, he said, adding the area has been cordoned off and a search is going on there.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political parties condemned the attack.

"Attack on joint naka party of JKP and CRPF is a cowardice & condemnable act of terrorists. I salute the brav-

ery of JKP's SPO Javid Ahmad Dar, who attained martyrdom. Prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. Terrorists will be given unforgettable lesson for their heinous act," Sinha said in a tweet.

Former chief minister and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the attack.

"While condemning this attack I send my condolences to the family of the J&K police personnel who laid down his life in the line of duty today. I also send my best wishes for the speedy recovery of the injured CRPF personnel," Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

Another former CM and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said, "Condemn this attack. My deepest condolences to the family of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG asks misguided youth to shun violence, join mainstream

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Exhorting people to imbibe the timeless teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and contribute towards nation building, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said misguided youth must shun the path of violence and join the mainstream.

"Violence has no place in a civilized society", Lieutenant Governor said at the finale of month-long celebrations held in schools across the UT to mark the 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, organized by the Department of School Education.

Sinha said truth and non-violence were the true powerful instruments of Babu.

The Shanti Yatra which was started from Anantnag and Jammu on 7th September as part of the celebrations also culminated at the SKICC today.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor paid floral tributes



LG Manoj Sinha paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi during an event at Srinagar.

to Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation and also remembered former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary.

When the country was in a state of gloom in 1947, Pujya Babu saw a ray of hope in Kashmir. We are determined to build the J&K of Babu's dreams empowering every section of the society without discrimination, said the Lt Governor.

Mahatma Gandhi has

shown the way to change the world. And, this change has to start from every individual, the Lt Governor observed.

"Let us ensure that Gandhi's thoughts and wisdom of one nation, one people enriches our diversity and strengthens our plural culture. We must follow his ideals to achieve the dream of Gram Swaraj and modern education rooted in our ancient values", said the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kashmiri apples make appearance at UAE supermarkets

■ AGENCY
DUBAI: A UAE-based business conglomerate, which has more than 50 supermarkets in the GCC countries, is showcasing Kashmiri apples in its stores, giving a boost to the export of the superior quality apples from India to the international market.

The flavoursome premium apples native to Kashmir are considered one of the best quality apples harvested mainly in the months of September-October.

We are happy to announce the availability of freshly harvested apples at our supermarkets in the UAE, Al Maya Group Director and Partner Kamal Vachani said, noting that this is a peak

apple harvesting season in Kashmir.

Al Maya Group, the UAE-based business conglomerate, has more than 50 supermarkets in the GCC countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - in addition to other businesses.

Yasmina Zara, an Arab national and a mother, said this is the first time she has had Kashmiri apples. Though I have tried apples from many other countries, Kashmiri apples are different in taste and freshness. As a mother, I would love to recommend these Kashmiri apples, she said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two terrorists arrested in twin blasts Pak-based LeT behind Udhampur terror act: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit was behind the recent twin blasts in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur which were carried out ahead of high profile visit of the Union Home Minister to convey all is not well in the Union Territory, DGP Dilbag Singh said on Sunday.

He said the case was cracked within three days with the arrest of a recycled terrorist with five more improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in his possession, including three ready-to-use sticky bombs.

Pakistan is an enemy of development and a lover of



DGP Dilbag Singh flanked by ADGP Jammu Mukesh Singh briefing media in Jammu on Sunday.

destruction. That is what they have done over the last 30 years. They won't like any development to happen.

Definitely Pakistan and its agencies have been ensuring that the valley remains not in peace but in turmoil. Now

'FORMER TERRORISTS UNDER WATCH'
JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Sunday said they are keeping a close watch on the activities of former terrorists who have been released from jails amid attempts by Pakistan-based handlers to recycle them into terrorism.

Singh also said several measures have been taken to counter the dropping of weapons and narcotics with the help of drones from across the border and more such measures are in the pipeline.

"This (recycling of former terrorists) is not a problem related to the Jammu province alone. There are numerous examples where such terrorists (after their release from jails) became active again for a second time, a third time or even a fourth time in the valley, but most of them stand eliminated," the police chief told reporters here.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

the things are better and improving with each passing day, the Director General of Police told reporters here.

Flanked by Mukesh Singh, ADG, Jammu, and other senior police officers

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

IAF to formally induct indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will induct on Monday the first batch of indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), in a boost to its combat prowess as the multi-role platform is capable of firing a range of missiles and other weapons.

The LCH, developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), has been primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude regions.

It will be inducted into the IAF at a ceremony in Jodhpur in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary, officials said on Sunday.

In a Twitter post, the defence minister said the induction of the new helicopters will be a "big boost"

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Dr Jitendra launches month-long cleanliness campaign; focus on Govt premises



Union Minister Jitendra Singh launching a special campaign on cleanliness at New Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday launched a special campaign here focussing on

cleanliness, including disposal of scrap and reducing pendency in government departments.

Singh began the campaign

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

COVID: 6 new cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded six fresh Covid cases on Sunday that took the infection tally to 4,79,163, officials said.

No Covid-related fatality was reported in the past 24 hours and the death toll stands at 4,785, they said.

Of the new cases, two were reported from Jammu division and the rest from Kashmir valley, officials said. There are 111 active cases while the overall recoveries have reached 4,74,267, they said, adding that there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Do not ignore any communication shared by NSCS, NSA: PM Modi to ministers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told all ministers and secretaries not to ignore background notes or other communication shared by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and National Security Advisor (NSA), and to take them seriously, sources said on Sunday.

Stressing that while framing any policy, there is a need to look at it from India's strategic point of view, PM Modi said there were instances when notes

from the national security council were not given due importance.



During a five-hour long meeting of the council of ministers held on Friday that was also attended by all sec-

retaries in the Union government, PM Modi cited the case of the dependence on imported Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used for manufacturing drugs, which was highlighted by the NSCS several years back, the sources said.

Thereafter, on the instruction of Prime Minister Modi, Deputy NSA Vikram Misri gave a presentation on NSCS to apprise Ministers about

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

How far J&K Engineering Gazetted Cadres are responsible for blocks in their Career progress? Why no Non-Functional Grade Promotions for Engineering Gazetted Services in UT of J&K and like?

■ DAYA SAGAR

With the present status of promotion schemes / career progress plans in J&K Engineering Department a Graduate Engineer who enters even directly through PSC in gazetted cadre at an age of 22-23 yrs can progress maximum to the level of a Chief Engineer which post is only of Level-13 but there too due to there being no dedicated department in J&K for handling the affairs of the human resources nor there being even nominated sections even at HoD levels seniority disputes/ no timely DPCs / no timely human resource audit/ no timely reorganisations /cadre planning / promotions of many are delayed much beyond even the laid schedules and

levels. In terms of SRO- 403 of 2018 Superintending Engineer (SE) was deemed to have been placed in Pay Scale of 4500-5700 in place of 3150- 4500 in view correction applied after court directions. But as on date Superintending Engineer as well as Chief Engineer are placed in L-13 pay scale (after 7th Pay Commission grade revisions) and so strangely "Administration" has not still raised the pay scale / level of Chief Engineer which should have been done by govt. in 2018 itself (may be waiting for someone to bring court order).

No doubt in central services like IAS provision { Rule- 4 (c) of Indian Administrative Service (Recruitment) Rules, 1954} is there for appointments of some %

of officers from the Non - State Civil Service (SCS)/ PSC services (non- provincial / State civil services) among those gazetted officer who have worked on the gazetted posts declared equivalent of the level of Deputy- Collector for 8 years but there too there have been no routine appointments by promotion like that in J&K worth creating opportunities beyond Level-13 for officers from J&K Gazetted Engineering Service (in J&K the post of the old grade 7500-12000of Jr. KAS or equivalent is understood to have been declared equivalent to Deputy- Collector for the purpose where as an engineer through JK PSC entered as Asstt. Engineer

in old pay scale of 8000-275-12950. No doubt as regards years conduct of such exercise even for State / UT cadre civil service officers { Rule- 4 (b) of Indian Administrative Service (Recruitment) Rules, 1954 } there too the process has not been regular { for J&K quota in IAS by promotion for Select Lists of 2013 (3 vacancies) , 2014 (0) , 2015 (0) 2016 (2 vacancies) , 2017(3 vacancies) . 2018 (8) the exercise has been completed only in 2022 by issuance of DoPT GOI Notification 140315 /9/2021-AIS (I) - B on 03-08-2022}

Not only there is very very limited career progress , one promotion



A Look through the Mist

in 'incharge capacity' is so often followed with another promotion in incharge capacity more often culminating in even retirement in incharge capacity. Recently Er. Vinod Khajuria who retired working as I/C Chief Engineer and has been drawing pension for nearly last 10 years in the grade of AEE has been recently promoted first Vide G.O 49 -JK (PDD) of 2022 Dt 22-04-2022 as Ex. Engr w.e.f 15-09-2006 then vide G.O. 50 - JK (PDD) of 2022 Dt. 22-04-2022 as SE w.e.f 15-09-2010 and then as Chief Engineer vide G Order No. 51 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 w.e.f 12-09-2012 state of affair well reflects from said orders.

The Officers of field departments 'executing works / policies

on ground, to particularly quote Engineering Departments, are often found complaining of improper handling of their service matters as regards timely grade promotions , creation of new promotion avenues and even deciding / fixation of pay scales. The Engineers have been expressing their grievances / opinions more only in private conversations where as not much meaningful proposals and reasoning appear to have been made by their associations worth taking their agony to policy planners for sympathetic due considerations; such issues have not been presented even during symposiums / workshop conducted by chapters of Indian Institute of Engineers in J&K so 'they' too

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 34.1°C Min: 20.0°C

Humidity

Max: 61 Min: 55

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 24.4°C Min: 11.8°C

Humidity

Max: 78 Min: 44

Sunset : 18:17 Hours

Sunrise : 06:26 Hours