

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Duty of academia...

of Srinagar from the flood of Jhelum can be termed as hydraulic engineering. There are many such examples in ancient India. Finding this organically grown knowledge is the duty of the academia today," she said.

Murmu, who is on her first visit to the Union Territory after becoming president, started her speech with the phrase "Yee mouj Kashheer" (O Mother Kashmir!), drawing applause from the audience. She also said that the Kashmir University is blessed by the Hazratbal shrine.

The university is located near the shrine which houses a relic of Prophet Mohammad.

The president expressed happiness over woman students constituting 55 per cent of the university's roll. "It is heartening to know that 55 per cent of students enrolled in the Kashmir University are girls while they make up 65 per cent of the gold medallists and prize winners. I noticed that out of the 21 students who were felicitated here, 17 were girls," Murmu said.

During the convocation ceremony, 21 students were given gold medals by the president.

"Educated girls are the face and future of our society. Our women and girls are proving their mettle and after the Women Reservation Bill 2023, they are ready to play a larger role in the leadership of the nation in the future," the president said.

She said this bill will be a revolutionary step towards women-led development. "It is my belief that women will push forward development," the president said.

Murmu also highlighted that India's presidency of the G20 has been praised all over the world.

Borrowing a Kashmiri phrase by revered Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-Ud-Din-Wali -- "ann poshe teli yeli wann poshi" -- that means food will last as long as the forest lasts, she said that sustainable development is a part of Kashmir's heritage.

It has been rightly said that if there is heaven on earth, it is here, she said, adding that it is the responsibility of the youth to save that.

Referring to the Kashmir University's emblem, she noted that it has three words of the 'Upanishads' and a part of a Quranic verse.

"Both talk about going from darkness to light. There is a message and prayer in this. Our nation's progress will be proportionate to the efforts made by the youth towards peace, prosperity and knowledge. The nation whose youth adopt the path of development and discipline, that society and nation progress on the path of development and prosperity," she added.

President Murmu said the alumni of the Kashmir University had made the institution proud by serving the nation well.

"The list of such alumni is very long and it is not possible to take all the names. Recently, Ghulam Nabi Azad was awarded the Padma Bhushan while Professor Chaman Lal Sapru and Professor A N Pandita were awarded the Padma Shri. I am happy to know that three NSS (National Service Scheme) volunteer students of this university took part in the Republic Day parade. I praise all three. I gave the President's award to one of them Kifayatullah Malik on September 29," she said.

Such young people deserve all the praise and accolades for lending a helping hand to others through social service, the president said.

"I would like to see the youth of Kashmir actively participate in social service while pursuing their academics. By doing this, you can bring change in the country and become a role model for the nation," she said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also addressed the Convocation.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University presented the University report and highlighted the achievements of the University in diverse fields.

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh; Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, SMC; Aftab Malik, Chairman, DDC Srinagar; Vice Chancellors of various Universities; Heads of educational institutions; senior officers; faculty members and students attended the Convocation ceremony.

Earlier in the day, the president paid tribute to fallen soldiers at the Army head-quarters here.

## Heartening that out...

other fields is a matter of great pride for the entire Union Territory. It is a reflection of a brighter future for the nation and a step towards women-led development," he said.

The Lt Governor encouraged the youth to look for new opportunities, take up new challenges and contribute to nation building.

"Learning should be lifelong. It will help in critical and analytical thinking in professional careers and enable the youth to steadily contribute to the ongoing social transformation of our fastest growing economy. In the coming decades, knowledge will be the main driver of economic growth," the Lt Governor said.

He impressed upon the higher educational institutions to strive to create a strong ecosystem for advanced research, innovation, new invention and suitably respond to the needs of society and industries.

We need to have a robust mechanism to serve the local communities and bring change in the life of the last man in the queue, he said.

The Lt Governor commended the University of Kashmir for living up to its motto of "Tamso Ma Jyotirgamaya" - From Darkness to Light, and making significant contribution to nation's knowledge economy, he said.

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## IT Deptt raids...

premises," the CBDT said, without identifying the business group.

The CBDT is the administrative body for the I-T department.

It further claimed that the group has been "suppressing" its taxable income by grossly under-reporting its sales in the cement sector by more than Rs 60 crore over the past several years. "In this regard, evidence in the form of cash vouchers and sales invoices has been seized, which is found to have not been recorded in the books of account," it said.

Similarly, evidence of undisclosed sales in the books of account exceeding Rs 50 crore in the textile and plywood sectors has also been found, the CBDT said.

In the real estate business of the group, being carried out in Kashmir and Delhi,

Shopian. During search, officers were able to recover 17 grams of heroin like substance and 112 grams of charas powder like substance, cash amount of Rs 1560/- and a mobile phone was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Meanwhile in Ganderbal, following a specific information regarding presence of contraband substances in the newly constructed house of Noor Mohd Ganai son of Gh Nabi Gani resident of Rakh Haran Ganderbal in the Jurisdiction of PS Ganderbal. Acting Swiftly, on the directions of SSP Ganderbal Shri Nikhil Borkar-IPS, a special Police team was constituted led by SHO PS Ganderbal reached on the spot. During the search of the house, 05 Kgs of crushed cannabis (Bang Patri) m contraband substance was recovered & Seized. The owner of the house was arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

In Baramulla, a police party of Police Post Kungamdara headed by Incharge PP Kungamdara under the supervision of SDPO Pattan at a checkpoint established at Maharajpora Kungamdara Baramulla intercepted 02 persons identified as Fakhruddin Malik son of Mehraj ul Din & Waseem Ahmad Sheikh son of Shamsuddin both residents of Singhpora Pattan. During search, 60 grams of Charas like contraband substance was recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to PS where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered in respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

## LeT terrorist held in Baramulla with grenades in possession

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces have arrested a terrorist associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit in Baramulla district, police said on Wednesday.

"Police along with security forces arrested a terrorist associated with proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF and recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition from his possession in Baramulla," a police spokesperson said.

The arrest was made at checkpoint Ushkara in Baramulla set up on Tuesday by security forces following information about possible movement of terrorists in the area, the spokesperson said.

"During Naka checking suspicious movement of one person coming towards Naka point by foot was observed. While seeing police party and security forces, the suspect person tried to flee from the spot but alert Naka party apprehended him tactfully," he said. The individual was identified as Mudasir Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Ushkara. Two hand grenades and Rs 40,000 cash were recovered from his possession, according to police.

## Seven school children injured in Udhampur bus accident

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Seven schoolchildren were injured on Wednesday when the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a ditch in Udhampur district, police said. The accident took place in the Omara area, they said.

The injured were hospitalised, police said, adding that a case has been registered.

## Drugs smuggler succumbs to bullet wound

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A narcotics smuggler shot at by Army personnel while trying to smuggle drugs from across the border along the Line of Control in Poonch district succumbed on Wednesday, officials said.

Yasir Nazir (22), a resident of the Karmara village in Poonch, was admitted in Government Medical College, Jammu, on September 24 after he was arrested in an injured condition from the Gulpur Sector, the officials said.

Nazir was shot at by Army troops when he attempted to escape after being signalled to stop while trying to smuggle narcotic substances from across the border. A packet containing drugs was seized from him at the time of his arrest, they added.

He succumbed to his injuries around 1.25 am and his body was shifted to the mortuary for post-mortem, they said. His body will be handed over to his family after legal formalities are completed, the officials said.

## Pathankot attack mastermind Shahid Latif killed in Pakistan mosque

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Shahid Latif, a key aide of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and the mastermind of the 2016 attack on the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot, and his brother were gunned down in a mosque in Pakistan's Sialkot district on Wednesday, officials said.

Three men who came on a motorcycle fired indiscriminately at 53-year-old Latif and his brother, Haris Hashim, as they were leaving the Noor Madina mosque in Daska town after pre-dawn prayers, officials in the know of developments said.

documents with regard to the receipt of on-money (cash) have been recovered.

A key person of the group has "admitted" the above modus-operandi being followed for the generation of undisclosed income, the statement claimed.

The action has resulted in unaccounted cash of more than Rs 1.7 crore being seized, in addition to unaccounted bullion worth Rs 16 lakh, it said.

## President interacts with...



President Droupadi Murmu along with LG Manoj Sinha after interaction with members of local tribal groups and women Self Help Groups at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar.

important role in the socio-economic empowerment of women in J&K and enabling them to take control of their lives.

"Tribal communities in J&K were marginalised for a very long time. The government implemented Forest Rights Act, key reforms and initiatives have been taken for transformation of tribal society and our focus is on holistic development to provide new strengths and capabilities to the community," Sinha said on X.

## Will bring back...

activities and ensure more and more people are joining it to bring a change in Jammu and Kashmir.

Various delegations including ST community members held a meeting with Azad and informed him about the challenges and issues they are confronting.

Azad assured them that all their issues will be taken up at an appropriate level for the resolution. Azad also said that his party will reach out to every corner of the UT to engage with people so that issues on ground people are facing shall be addressed.

The ST delegation was led by Choudhary Latief.

Among others present on the occasion included G.M Saroori, Vice Chairman, R.S Chib General Secretary, Ch Haroon Khatana General Secretary, Anita Thakur Gen Secretary, Sobat Ali General Secretary ST wing, Jugal Kishore Sharma Provincial President, Arvinder Singh Micky, Ch Gharu Ram Zonal President, Hira Lal Abrol, Gurmeet Kaur, Sunita Arora, State Secretaries, Adv Maheshwar Singh, Vishal Chopra, Kulwant Singh Provincial Gen Secretaries, Anoop Khajuria, Rajinder Singh Pinky, Swarna Devi, Secretaries, Gourav Chopra, Balbir Singh, Ashok Bhagat Distt Presidents, Prabha Salathia Mahila President Anirudh Raina Student President, Barinder Pratap Singh Youth President and Keertan Singh Minority Wing President.

Latif, who was accompanied by his heavily armed guards, and his brother were killed on the spot in the mosque complex.

According to an Associated Press report from Lahore, the gunmen pretended to be worshippers to enter the mosque complex.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but local police chief Hassan Iqbal said it appeared that Latif was intentionally targeted. The police chief did not provide further details, the AP report said.

Latif alias Bilal alias Noor Al Din, a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, was the launching commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammed in Sialkot and had been involved in planning, facilitation and execution of terror attacks in India.

The officials said that Latif had entered into Kashmir in 1993 from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as a cadre of the banned Hakar-ul-Ansar terror group. However, he was arrested a year later and sent to the Kot Balwal jail in Jammu.

It is believed that he was brainwashed further by Masood Azhar, who was also lodged in that jail till he was set free in 1999 in exchange for the passengers of IC-814, an Indian Airlines plane that was hijacked by terrorists and taken to Kandahar.

After spending 16 years in the Indian jail, Latif was deported through the Attari-Wagah border in 2010 and was believed to have got in touch again with Azhar, who had by that time formed the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group.

"This is the biggest blow to JeM on Pakistan soil," an official said.

Latif, a resident of Aminabad in Punjab's Gujranwala, was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Seven IAF personnel were killed when four JeM terrorists sneaked into the Pathankot Air Force Station on January 2, 2016. The siege went on for three days. After the Pathankot attack, Latif was detained by the Pakistani authorities for some time. He was also involved in the terrorist attacks in Samba and Hiranagar in 2013, officials said.

## Acquitted respondent in 2 criminal cases cannot be appointed as constable: DB

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Mohan Lal in a LPA filed by emphasized DGP, held that were acquitted of the respondent in the criminal case pending against him would not ipso facto entitle him to be appointed as Constable and it is better left to the employer to determine as to whether such person, who has faced criminal trials in two cases and has been acquitted by the competent Court of law, is still fit to serve the police force.

This significant order has been passed in LPA filed by Police Department against the judgment of writ Court whereby Writ Court directed to issue formal appointment order in favour of the respondent as Constable in Armed Police under RBA category. DB after hearing both the sides observed that we are of the considered opinion that the Writ Court, in the given facts and circumstances of the case, could not have straightway issued mandamus to the appellants to issue formal appointment order in favour of the respondent as Constable in Armed Police under RBA category simply on the ground that the respondent stood acquitted in the two FIRs registered against him in Police Station, Gool. DB further said that true it is that the respondent figured in the select list of RBA category, as is evident from order dated 46/2009 dated 17.01.2009. He was not issued an appointment order because of his involvement in two FIRs referred to hereinabove. It is also not in dispute that subsequently the respondent was tried before the competent criminal Court and was acquitted in both the FIRs. We need to emphasize that mere acquittal of the respondent in the criminal case pending against him would not ipso facto entitle him to be appointed as Constable and it is better left to the employer to determine as to whether such person, who has faced criminal trials in two cases and has been acquitted by the competent Court of law, is still fit to serve the police force. The legal position in this regard has already been explained by the Supreme Court in the case of Avtar Singh v. Union of India. In view of the legal position laid down by the Supreme Court, the Writ Court ought to have left it to the appellant authorities to take an informed decision in the matter. With these reasons, the Division Bench disposed off the appeal with a direction to the appellants to consider the case of the respondents for appointment as Constable in Armed Police under RBA category, under which he stands selected vide order dated 46/2009 dated 17.01.2009, in the light of parameters laid down in the case of Avtar Singh (supra). Let a decision in this regard be taken by the appellants within a period of two months from the date a copy of this order is served upon them.

## Army, Police busted terrorists hideout in Bhadarwah forests

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Security forces have busted terrorists hideout in forest area of Bhadarwah in District Doda on Wednesday afternoon. According to an Army officer, Hideout busted in Dev chand ki Gwadi forest area near Seoj Dhar of Bhaderwah by Army and Police. According to SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, On a specific information, a joint operation was conducted by Army's 4 Rashtriya Rifles and Doda Police in Dev chand ki Gwadi forests near Seoj Dhar of Bhaderwah, where arms and ammunition has been recovered. He said that search operation is still going on. The recovery includes 3 Chinese pistols, 9 magazines and 79 rounds," SSP added.

