

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Terror strike in...

dastardly terror attack on civilians in Gagangir, J&K, is a despicable act of cowardice. Those involved in this heinous act will not be spared and will face the harshest response from our security forces. At this moment of immense grief, I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured" Shah posted on X.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also strongly condemned the terrorist attack on civilians at Gagangir, Ganderbal. He has reiterated the Government's determination to deal firmly with such acts of terrorism and reaffirmed security forces' resolve to eliminate terror elements. The Lieutenant Governor has spoken to senior officials and directed them to intensify the anti-terror ops in the area.

In a post on X, he wrote: "I strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attack on civilians in Gagangir. I assure the people that those behind this despicable act will not go unpunished. We have given full freedom to J&K Police, Army and Security forces. Our brave personnel are on the ground & they will ensure terrorists pay a very heavy price for their action. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families. Praying for speedy recovery of the injured. The entire nation stands in solidarity with the families in this hour of grief".

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari also condemned the "horrific" terror attack on migrant labourers in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

In a post on X, the minister said that the "innocent labourers" were engaged in a vital infrastructure project in Gagangir, Sonamarg.

"I strongly condemn the horrific terror attack on innocent labourers in Gagangir, Sonamarg, Jammu & Kashmir, who were engaged in a vital infrastructure project," Gadkari said.

"I offer my humble tribute to the martyred labourers and extend my deepest condolences to their families during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a swift and full recovery," he added.

Police and army have cordoned off the area to track the attackers.

The incident occurred four days after a new government was sworn in the Union Territory. On Friday, the bullet-riddled body of a labourer from Bihar was found in Shopian district, officials said.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti also condemned the attack.

"Unequivocally condemn this senseless act of violence against two labourers in Ganderbal. Deepest condolences to their families," she said in a post on X before the officials revised the death toll in the incident.

In a post on X, People's Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone said: "Strongly condemn the dastardly act of terror wherein two persons have lost their lives in Sonamarg. This is an insane act of madness. My thoughts with these two families. May the perpetrators be brought to justice."

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra expressed grave concern over the attack and said such incidents will vitiate the atmosphere in the Union Territory. He urged the government to take immediate measures to prevent such brutal attacks on innocent labourers.

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## Record tourists' arrival...

and 12 foreign nations participated in 42 km Full Marathon and 21 km Half Marathon.

The Lt Governor congratulated all the winners and participants. He lauded the efforts of Tourism Department, J&K Police, Security Forces, Youth Services & Sports Department and all the stakeholders for the massive success of Kashmir Marathon.

"This successful mega event has put J&K on the world marathon map," he said.

Termining the occasion as another historic moment for J&K, the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for absolute transformation of J&K, which has made hosting of such international events possible.

With its ideal climate, rich cultural heritage, warm hospitality, and scenic beauty, J&K is emerging as a preferred destination for international sporting events. The signature running events at Srinagar and Jammu in future, will bring together runners from across the globe and encourage tourism, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty said: "I feel blessed to have got the opportunity to be a part of this historic day. With the kind of hospitality and scenic beauty J&K have, I am confident that in the coming days, it will become the number one global spot for international events like Marathons. Efforts will surely be made to bring more films to Jammu Kashmir".

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; senior officials, prominent citizens, sportspersons and youth in large number were present during the felicitation ceremony.

## Two FIRs registered...

public safety. "The prompt response from the police ensured that the situation was controlled without further incidents. Two separate FIRs were lodged which demonstrates our commitment to address any incident/disturbances lawfully and responsibly," police said in a statement.

The police urged both the communities to rely only on verified information from official sources and to report any concerns directly to the police.

"Spreading false information is harmful and can create unnecessary tension within the community besides attracting legal action. We encourage everyone to prioritize facts over hearsay," the police said.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said police intercepted an unusual case of bovine smuggling involving a modified oil tanker in the Jandrah area of Nagrota subdivision near here along Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

During the operation, seven bovines kept inside a specially created cabin were rescued while the driver of the tanker escaped, he said.

## Hope Kashmir Marathon...

management of the event. I am also grateful to the people of Srinagar, whose presence and encouragement motivated the runners."

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty when he flagged off the Kashmir Marathon, the first international athletic event of its kind to be held in the valley, which was attended by athletes from across India and abroad.

Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma; Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal; Secretary Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez; and Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob, were also present at the ceremony.

The marathon featured top long-distance runners from India, including Asian gold medalists, as well as elite athletes from Europe and Africa.

The event included two race categories: a 42-kilometerfull marathon and a 21-kilometer half marathon.

The event was organised by the Department of Tourism and the marathon aimed to showcase the improving situation in the valley and promote Kashmir as a prime destination for international events.

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty also shared his enthusiasm for the event, saying, "This is going to be one of the most participated marathons in the world. Where else can you get to run 42 kilometers in paradise!"

## Pak's ISI, terror...

the officials said, the potential recruits are now being introduced to literature by Sayyid Qutb, an Egyptian extremist whose ideologies have significantly influenced radical Islamist organisations including Al-Qaeda.

Qutb, who was executed in 1966, advocated for active jihad against both secular governments and Western influence.

Historically, terror sympathisers relied on direct contact to recruit individuals but as security agencies have intensified their efforts to dismantle such networks, their methods have evolved, the officials said.

New recruits undergo virtual training via accessible online resources, including YouTube, before being assigned operational tasks within the region.

Officials have highlighted a marked increase in recruitment and indoctrination activities via social media, particularly in South Kashmir.

To counteract these threats, security agencies have established social media monitoring units that track potential recruits and neutralise threats in real time.

The proliferation of the internet has made social media an attractive tool for communication and information sharing, which in turn facilitates terrorist organisations in expanding their networks, the officials said.

Some individuals posing as extreme nationalists have been identified as having affiliations with radical groups, including the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, they said.

Moreover, terrorists are increasingly leveraging encrypted messaging platforms and apps such as Telegram and Mastodon, which are already banned in certain districts like Rajouri and Poonch, for covert communication and operational coordination, they said.

The United Nations has repeatedly underscored the effectiveness of terrorist groups in leveraging propaganda for various nefarious purposes, including recruitment and incitement to violence.

In response to these challenges, the UN Security Council had adopted the resolution 2354 of 2017 -- 'Comprehensive International Framework' -- which advocates for legal and law enforcement measures, public-private partnerships and the development of counter-narratives.

The resolution outlines key guidelines emphasising the importance of aligning counter-terrorism efforts with the United Nations Charter, acknowledging the primary responsibility of member states in combating terrorism, promoting coordination among relevant entities, tailoring counter-narratives to specific contexts, and ensuring compliance with international laws and human rights obligations.

In a bid to combat the spread of terrorist ideologies, the UNSC's Counter-Terrorism Committee has been tasked with identifying and compiling successful practices in countering terrorist narratives in collaboration with relevant non-United Nations entities.

During a debate on 'Countering the Narratives and Ideologies of Terrorism,' former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Syed Akbaruddin had highlighted the misuse of social media platforms by terrorist groups, emphasising the critical need for vigilant monitoring while safeguarding freedom of expression.

He had warned against the insidious influence of terrorism, likening it to a Hydra-like monster spreading its tentacles through targeted propaganda disseminated on the expansive social media networks intended to foster global connectivity.

As the situation evolves, authorities remain vigilant in their efforts to combat this new wave of digital recruitment and indoctrination, the officials said.

## Prayed to God...

CJI Chandrachud was part of the bench that delivered the historic verdict.

Incidentally, the CJI had visited the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in July this year and offered prayers.

The idol consecration of the temple was held on January 22 this year in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Gangster moved to...

strict surveillance, complete with jammers to thwart the use of mobile phones.

Kumar said there have been several attempts in the past to throw mobile phones inside from adjoining areas, but all these attempts were scuttled by the police.

The murder accused was shifted to a jail outside this morning after the video showed up on social media, the officer said.

## Police cracks down against drug peddlers, illegal mining activities & other anti-social activities

### STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA : Police in Bandipora in its ongoing drive against anti-social activities, have arrested 04 drug peddlers and recovered 6 Kgs of contraband substance from them, besides, seized 12 vehicles carrying illegal mining material and also arrested 03 gamblers at different places in the district during the current month.

Moreover, moveable property worth lakhs of two notorious drug peddlers were seized under NDPS Act including one scooter bearing registration No JK15B-3917 involved in Case FIR No.162/2024 & Royal Enfield Bike No. JK15B-9081involved in Case FIR No.145/2024 of PS Sumbal.

Bandipora police in its social endeavours also held meetings with trade unions, transporters, Imams, Civil society of Bandipora Town, in which participants raised various issues and they were assured that their genuine issues will be taken up with the concerned officers for early redressal. Meeting/Darbar was also held with serving & retired police personnel of the district during the current month.

## Illegal Mining: 2 Tippers, JCB seized

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Police in Kupwara have seized 02 tippers, JCB and arrested their drivers for involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of mineral.

Acting on reliable information, a police party of Police Station Lalpora seized two tippers and a JCB, along with the illegally mined material at Darpora area of Lolab. The accused drivers have also been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 75/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated.

## 2 drug smugglers arrested; recovered 260 gms heroin

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police has arrested two drug smugglers and recovered approximately 260 grams heroin like substance from their possession in the jurisdiction of PS Ghagwal.

A police party of PP Rajpura headed by Incharge PP Rajpura during vehicle checking Naka signalled to stop a Swift car bearing registration No JK08P-5080 for checking. But the driver of the vehicle accelerated the speed and tried to escape the spot. Alert police cops successfully intercepted the vehicle few metres away from the naka point.

During checking of the said vehicle, approximately 260 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance was recovered from the possession of two persons boarding the car.

The accused persons later identified as Bhag Hussain S/O Bashir Ahmed R/O Mahi Chak district Kathua and Murad Ali S/O Makhana Din R/O Mathra Chak district Kathua have been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 140/2024 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Ghagwal and investigation started.

## Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; 13 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Police has foiled bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal, rescued thirteen bovines and seized vehicle.

A Police team of Police Station Ghagwal headed by SHO PS Ghagwal while performing vehicle checking duty at NHW Naka Tapyal, intercepted a truck bearing registration No.

HR38U-6789 coming from Kathua side for its checking.

During checking of the vehicle, thirteen bovines were found laden inside which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the rescued bovines have been shifted to a safer place.

A case FIR No. 141/2024 U/S 223 BNS 11 PCA Act has been registered at PS Ghagwal and investigation started.

## 25 bottles of illicit liquor seized; bootlegger arrested

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Continuing its efforts to discourage the trade and transportation of illicit liquor, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Saksena arrested one bootlegger & recovered 25 bottles of JK Excise Whisky (750 ml each) from his possession in the jurisdictional area of PS Malhar.

A team of Police Station Malhar under the supervision of SDPO Billawar and SHO PS Malhar during naka/ checking at Malhar area apprehended one person namely Mohd. Rafi S/o Mohd. Sharief R/o Nathi Tehsil Lohai Malhar District Kathua who was enroute under suspicious circumstances. During checking 25 Bottles of JK Excise Whisky (750 ml each) were recovered from his illegal possession which he had kept in his possession in order to gain illegitimate profit by selling same to people of concerned area. Meanwhile all the recovered consignment of illicit liquor i.e 25 bottles of illicit liquor were seized and one person arrested in this connection.

In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 20/2024 U/S 48 (a) Excise Act stands registered at PS Malhar and investigation has been initiated.

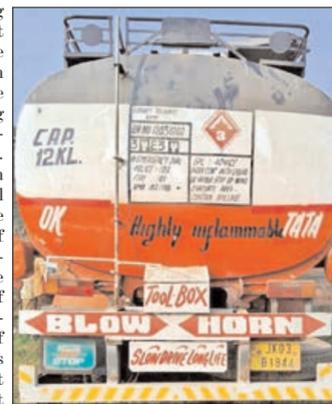
## Modified oil-tanker involved in bovine smuggling seized, 7 bovines rescued

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police intercepted an unusual case of bovine smuggling involving a modified oil tanker in the Jandrah area of the Nagrota subdivision. During the operation, seven bovines were rescued. The smugglers had modified the oil tanker to conceal the animals, likely to evade detection at checkpoints.

The incident highlights the lengths to which smugglers go to bypass law enforcement, using modified vehicles for illegal activities. The JKP's successful intervention underscores their vigilance and ongoing efforts to combat illegal bovine transportation in the area and the oil tanker bearing registration number No. JK03B/1844, in which a special cabin/cavity made by the owner of vehicle. The special cavity made by the owner of vehicle for transportation of bovines towards valley illegally. It can't be rule out

that the same vehicle may involved in some other illegal transportation, which is a matter of further investigation. The driver of the vehicle fled away from the spot after leaving behind the vehicle on the road. In this regard a case Case FIR No.234/24 US 223 BNS 11 PC Act 96/146 MV Act has been registered in Police Station Jhajjar Kotli under relevant sections of law. Further investigation is underway.



## Blast near Rohini school sends city on high alert; NIA, NSG teams on site

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A strong blast ripped through a wall of the CRPF school in Rohini's Prashant Vihar area Sunday morning sending shockwaves across the national capital and the country's top investigation agency, including the NIA, to the spot to find clues into the explosion.

No one was hurt in the incident.

Police said they were probing a possible Khalistani link to the incident after a post circulating on social media claimed that the explosion was in retaliation to the targeting of pro-Khalistan separatists allegedly by Indian agents.

Sources in Delhi Police said it was a low-intensity IED (Improvised Explosive Device) controlled with a timer or remote without shrapnel or ball bearings.

It is suspected that the perpetrators wanted to send a message to the authorities, a senior police officer told PTI.

After the explosion, teams from the National Investigation Agency (NIA), National Security Guard (NSG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Delhi Police cordoned off the area and forensic experts collected samples from the site.

According to police and witnesses, the blast, captured in a CCTV camera, destroyed a portion of the school wall, windows of nearby shops, and damaged a few cars parked nearby.

The sound of the blast was heard several hundred metres away.

The bomb might have been placed in the late night, police suspected. It went off between 7.35 and 7.40 am, locals said.

The incident comes against the backdrop of a series of bomb threats sent to several airlines in the last few days.

Later in the evening, a purported screenshot of a Telegram post by Justice League India in which a clip of the blast with a "Khalistan Zindabad" watermark at the bottom was circulated on social media platforms.

"If Indian coward agency and their master think they can hire filthy goons to target our members to silence our voice then they live in fools world. They can't imagine how close we are to them and how capable we are to strike anytime #KhalistanZindabad #JLI," the Justice League India said in the post along with the clip.

Videos from the spot showed thick plumes rising from the blast site.

Residents termed the explosion "intense" and reported a foul smell in the area after it.

Anita Singh, a local, had just returned from a temple when she heard the "very loud explosion".

"I felt vibrations in my house. It felt like someone's cylinder had exploded nearby. My children's school bus comes here and usually we stand at this (near the school) gate in the morning," she said.

"But since today was Sunday, nobody got hurt. I shudder to think about how big a disaster it could have been had it happened during the weekdays," Singh said.

The FSL and NSG teams inspected the spot and lifted samples, while police filed a case under sections of BNS on charges of "mischief through explosion" and under the Explosives Act.

NSG commandos deployed robots to scour the area for more explosive materials.

Samples of "white powder" and soil collected from the spot were sent to the laboratory to ascertain the bomb's composition.

"The white powder could be a mixture of ammonium nitrate and chloride," a senior police officer said.

The officer said the perpetrator "intentionally" selected the spot to not harm the people but to send a message.

In a statement, police said they received a PCR call at 7.47 am regarding a loud blast.

People in the area rushed out of their houses and shops after they heard a loud sound.

Sumit, a shop owner, said, "My shop's windowpanes got shattered. Everything inside my shop fell on the ground. It was a very intense blast."

Lt Governor VK Saxena said a multi-agency probe is on in the incident.

"I am keeping a constant watch on the progress of the investigation and assure that the guilty will be brought to book. Meanwhile, I appeal to all to maintain restraint and not indulge in fearmongering," Saxena said.

Action Committee of Unaided Private Schools President Bharat Arora said the incident is deeply concerning for schools across Delhi and the country.

"It highlights the urgent need for schools to conduct thorough internal security audits and work closely with Delhi Police for support," he said.

Chief Minister Atishi said the blast "exposed" the law and order situation in Delhi.

## Congress' CEC meeting for Maharashtra, Jharkhand polls today

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Congress' Central Election Committee will hold its meeting on Monday to finalise candidates for the upcoming Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly polls.

The CEC meeting for Maharashtra was to take place this evening but was postponed with party leaders citing various reasons from Karwa Chauth to holding of meetings for both states on the same day, as the reason for the deferment.

Some leaders said that the BJP had declared its first list of candidates for Maharashtra and some discussions were needed for particular seats, and the seat-sharing talk among Maha Vikas Aghadi constituents was in the final phase. Leaders of the three Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) parties are involved in the ongoing seat-sharing talks to break the impasse as the state is set to go to polls on November 20. The

Congress' panel for screening candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly polls had cleared names on 62 seats last week for consideration of the CEC. The party has announced the candidature of Ravindra Chavan -- the son of Vasantur Chavan, who passed in August this year, necessitating a by-election on the Nanded parliamentary constituency. In the wake of tensions between the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress over seat-sharing for the Maharashtra assembly polls surfacing, Congress' state in-charge Ramesh Chennithala on Saturday met former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

While Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP) are yet to declare their seat-sharing arrangement, their INDIA bloc ally and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Singh Yadav has declared candidates for five of the 12 seats he is demanding.