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Omar meets Modi...



of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at his office. During the meeting, Abdullah apprised Gadkari about the road connectivity projects in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said. The chief minister presented Gadkari with a traditional Kashmiri shawl. Later, Abdullah met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and sought cooperation for an improved security situation in the union territory so that the development work could be completed. Abdullah had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday and the meeting lasted nearly 30 minutes. According to officials, it was a courtesy call during which the chief minister apprised the Union home minister about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and discussed the issue of restoration of statehood. Since the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into a union territory in 2019, the police force has been under the jurisdiction of the Union home ministry.

Aadhaar card not...
of date of birth," noted the bench. When it came to determining the age, the top court accepted the contention of the claimant-appellants before it and upheld the judgment of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) which calculated the deceased's age on the basis of his school leaving certificate. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by kin of a man who died in a road accident in 2015. MACT, Rohtak awarded a compensation of Rs 19.35 lakh which was reduced to Rs 9.22 lakh by the high court after noting the MACT had wrongly applied the age multiplier while determining the compensation. The high court had relied on the deceased's Aadhaar card to calculate his age as 47 years. The family contended the high court erred in determining the deceased's age on the basis of the Aadhaar card as his age, if calculated as per his school leave certificate, was 45 years at the time of death.

2 Army porters...
terrorist group had infiltrated during early summer and taken shelter in the higher reaches of the Afrawat range, the officials said. The Bota Pathri area was recently opened to tourists. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the recent spate of attacks in the Valley was a matter of serious concern. "Very unfortunate news about the attack on the army vehicles in the Bota Pathri area of North Kashmir which has resulted in some casualties and injuries. This recent spate of attacks in Kashmir is a matter of serious concern," he said in a post on X. "I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms and send my condolences to the loved ones of the people who lost their lives. I also pray that the injured make a complete and swift recovery," he said. The attack on the Army vehicle comes amid a spike in terror incidents in the Valley. In a deadly attack on Sunday, six non-local labourers and a local doctor were killed when terrorists fired indiscriminately upon them at the Z-Morh tunnel construction site in the Gagangir area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Before that, a labourer from Bihar was shot dead by terrorists in Shopian district on October 18. Earlier on Thursday, terrorists shot at and injured a labourer from Uttar Pradesh, Shubam Kumar, in the Tral area of Pulwama district.

LG emphasises vital...
K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor;

Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; Kumar Manoj, Patron Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti; Nasreen Ali "Nidhi," National President and other members of Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, literary personalities and youth in large number were present on the occasion.

Terrorist captured in...
said could be due to a settings or technical issue -- in the top right corner while the rifle carried by the terrorist has a blue marking on the muzzle. The sources said such rifles have been reportedly used by terrorists in attacks on security forces in the Pir Panjal region, which is about 200 km from the site of attack. They said the terrorist was not covering his face but the survivors of the attack had claimed the assailants had their faces covered. A senior police official said it was premature to comment on the evidence collected so far as it can jeopardise further investigation into the case.

Broad consensus achieved...
bilateral dialogue mechanisms, signalling attempts to normalise ties that were hit by a military clash at Galwan in eastern Ladakh in 2020. Speaking at the event, Singh also said security is a broad and multifaceted concept that encompasses many other factors, including internal stability, economic resilience, and the protection of critical infrastructure, all of which are essential to a nation's overall security framework. "Security is often associated with border protection. When we think of security, images of soldiers stationed on the borders, aircraft patrolling the skies, and naval ships guarding the seas typically come to mind. However, as you all know, security extends far beyond border defence," Singh said. The defence minister also said that indigenous manufacturing of arms and defence equipment strengthens the security infrastructure as well as the economy of the country. Had defence been recognised as an integral component of development and studied more comprehensively in the past, India might have achieved self-reliance in the defence sector much earlier, Singh said, adding that self-reliance in defence is a prominent national goal, but does not imply working in isolation from the global community. "When India speaks of self-reliance, it is important to clarify that it does not imply working in isolation from the global community. Instead, as we pursue our goal of self-reliance, we remain dedicated to fostering an equitable and inclusive world order," he said. India is committed to collaborating closely with all the nations to promote a fair and just international system, the defence minister said.

CJ visits Baramulla...
cultivation, possession, sale, purchase, transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance to ensure that drug-dependent and non-violent offenders receive the necessary services while still being held accountable. Speaking on the occasion, Justice Tashi Rabstan emphasized the crucial role that specialized courts like the NDPS Court play in the effective dispensation of justice. He commended the efforts of the judiciary and law enforcement in tackling the growing menace of narcotic drugs in the region. The Chief Justice further said that the specialized court will serve as an instrumental platform for addressing cases involving drug trafficking and abuse in a swift and focused manner. He stated that through concentrating resources and judicial expertise, the NDPS Court will help to streamline proceedings and reduce delays in delivering judgements, ensuring justice is served in a timely fashion. On the occasion, Justice Tashi Rabstan also distributed wheelchairs, crutches, and other aid material among the persons with disabilities (PwDs), aiming to enhance their mobility and improve their quality of life. Meanwhile, the Chief Justice conducted a thorough inspection of the courtrooms at the district court complex and assessed the efficiency of court operations, infrastructure, and accessibility for both the judiciary and the public. Later, Justice Tashi Rabstan interacted with the members of the Bar Association Baramulla who put forth their grievances, and the Chief Justice assured them of prompt redressal to their issues at hand.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna...
says the senior-most judge of the apex court is considered fit to hold the office of the CJI and the views of the outgoing head of the judiciary have to be sought "at an appropriate time". The MoP, however, does not specify the time limit for the initiation of the process of recommending the name of the successor CJI. "Those affected by..." this court, no demolition would be carried out," the counsel said. He alleged in one of these cases, the property was demolished soon after an FIR was lodged. Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said the petitioner was a third party and not aware of the facts as it was only a footpath encroachment that was removed by the authorities. He said the petitioner had moved court on the basis of some media reports. The bench refused to entertain the plea observing the petitioner was not directly or indirectly affected by the action. The petitioner's counsel said in two of the three cases, the affected persons were in jail. The bench, however, noted the family members of affected persons, who were in jail, could approach the court. "People who are suffering often don't have access to court," said the counsel. The bench thereafter remarked, "Please don't say that. There are public spirited citizens everywhere". The top court further said if somebody's property had been demolished, they could approach the court and the bench would hear it. The top court had earlier reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions raising the plea that properties, including those belonging to persons accused of crimes, were being demolished in several states. The apex court had on September 17 ordered no demolition will take place across the country till October 1 without its permission. However, it had clarified that the order would not be applicable to unauthorised structures on public roads, footpaths, railway lines and water bodies. On October 1, the apex court had reserved its verdict in the matter saying until further orders, its September 17 interim order would operate. It had then suggested framing of pan-India guidelines on the demolition of properties and said religious structures in the middle of a road -- be it a 'dargah' (shrine) or a temple -- had to go as public interest was paramount. A person being an accused or a convict was not a ground to demolish properties, it had said.

Power Shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out branch cutting / pruning of trees coming under alignment of lines, the shutdown of below mentioned 33KV lines shall be observed which will subsequently affect electricity to given areas. The shutdown of 33 KV Hatchipora tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Hatchipora shall remain off while the power supply to the Hatchipora area will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 26 & 29 of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Amargarh-SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Gurseer, Rohama, Chakloo, SIDCO and Irrigation shall remain off while the power supply to the Gurseer, Rohama, Chakloo, Sideo and Irrigation areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 03rd of November, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV LJHP-Boniya line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Nowshera and Boniya shall remain off while the power supply to the Nowshera and Boniya areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 30th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Sheeri-Malpura-Chandoosa line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Chandoosa, Shurnuz, Malpora and Gantamulla shall remain off while the power supply to the Chandoosa, Shrunz Malpora and Gantamulla areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 31st of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Arampora-Handwara HOT line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Handwara and Chogal shall remain off while the power supply to the Handwara and Chogal areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 28th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Gopalpora Pahalgam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Hutmurrah, Aishmuqam, Sallar, Pahalgam, Batkoot and Salia shall remain off while the power supply to the Seer, Mattan, Poultry, Hutmurrah, Aishmuqam, Siilgam, JNV, Hassamoor, Sallar, Kuller, Kathsoo, Batkoot, Pahalgam, Laddi, Yenner, Salia, Haptnar, Vail Nagbal and Panznulla areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 28 & 30 of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Kulgam-Yaripora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Yaripora and Behibagh shall remain off while the power supply to the Yaripora, Behibagh, Sampora, Kadder, Daderkoot and Parigam areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 27th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Kulgam Devsar line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Devsar, Kelam, Ashmuji and Chambgund shall remain off while the power supply to the Devsar, Kilam, Ashmuji, Chambgund, Hablish and Akhal Pehloo areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 28th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Kulgam DH Pora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at DH Pora, Rambhama and Nagam shall remain off while the power supply to the Nagam, DH Pora, Rambhama, Khull and Gopalpora DK Marg areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 26th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Kulgam Kulgam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Kulgam shall remain off while the power supply to the Kulgam Town, Srandoo, Sangus and Bogam areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 27th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh Qaimoh line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Qaimoh shall remain off while the power supply to the Qaimoh, Redwani and Matalhama areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 27th of October, 2024. The shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh Qazigund line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Mir Bazar, Vessu, Qazigund, Kund and Chowgam shall remain off while the power supply to the Qazigund, Vessu, Mirbazar, Kund, Bonigam, Akhran, Waltengoo, Naltengoo and Khargund areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 27th of October, 2024.

Director Panchayati Raj reviews status of rural infrastructure projects across J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Panchayati Raj Sham Lal on Thursday chaired a meeting to assess the progress of several key initiatives aimed at strengthening the Panchayati Raj system. The meeting focused on the status of Panchayat Ghars & CSC Co-location, the establishment of District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRCs). Discussions were also held on the online enrolment and certification of Panchayat Accounts Assistants under the ICAL-ARF (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India - Accounting Research Foundation) initiative and the establishment of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs). The meeting was attended by all Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs) of Kashmir and Jammu divisions and the SPRC/DPRC team. Sham Lal emphasized the importance of speeding up the construction of new Panchayat Ghars. He urged ACPs to ensure timely completion of the ongoing projects to enhance local governance and service delivery in rural and remote areas. Highlighting the need for collaboration, Sham Lal stressed that the co-location of CSCs within Panchayat Ghars would significantly improve access to digital services for rural communities. He further directed ACPs to closely monitor the establishment of District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRCs) and Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs), which are crucial for capacity building at the grassroots level. Sham Lal highlighted the government's focus on transparency and accountability, with the introduction of the "Audit Online" system to track progress and utilization of resources in real-time.

Javed Rana reviews functioning of Jal Shakti Department

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today said that we have a collective responsibility towards welfare of people and should work towards achieving that goal in a transparent manner while involving community at the local level. He made these remarks during a comprehensive maiden review meeting of the Jal Shakti department convened by the Minister here at Srinagar. Javed Rana said that the government believes in establishing a transparent and accountable governance for the people who have pinned high hopes on the present dispensation. "The government is committed towards welfare and development of every nook and corner of the UT. Collaborative efforts are being ensured at all levels to move ahead in achieving the set goals", he maintained. The Minister said that failures arise when we shy away from our responsibilities and work without coordination. "I have confidence in the system that we will overcome the challenges. The way officers of the department are working is quite laudable and praiseworthy," he added. Highlighting the significance of Jal Jeevan Mission, the Minister said that JJM is a prestigious mission and strenuous efforts are being made to meet the timelines set for completion of the mission. He emphasized on meticulous resource planning, judicious use of funds and mobilization of men and machinery as per the requirements. The Minister had district wise status of tendering/allotment/starting of works under different components of various schemes. He took strong note of the less performing areas and impressed upon the concerned officers to gear up their efforts and ensure deadlines are met, cautioning that the non performers shall not go unpunished. He also impressed upon the officers to maintain highest level of transparency and accountability in implementation process of the schemes and emphasised on continuous monitoring for maintaining quality standards. He said that there has been some complaints about the delay in certification, supply of substandard material which need to be properly checked and subsequent steps taken to rectify the errors, if any. Emphasizing the significance of clean water sources in transforming communities, Rana impressed upon the officers to evolve strategies for effective tapping of natural water. He said that Government's unwavering commitment towards water conservation and sustainable development will bear fruits if we fulfill our role as responsible citizens to ensure a water secure future. He said that effective and sustainable strategies have to be developed to tackle the shortage of potable water which will be posing serious challenges in future. He also directed the officers to focus on flood control measures and soil erosion. Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, gave a detailed presentation informing about the administrative structure, schemes, physical and financial position of the department, digital interventions besides challenges and subsequent strategies to overcome those challenges. He informed that the department has devised a comprehensive plan to achieve the objectives in a time-bound manner. The department is carrying out third-party studies about the technical feasibility and source sustainability of schemes to double-check the parameters, he added.

Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; 8 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Police has foiled bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal, rescued eight 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. UK17CA-6084 coming from Kathua side for its checking. During checking of the vehicle, eight 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. 143/2024 U/S 223 BNS 11 PCA Act has been registered at PS Ghagwal and investigation started.

Absconder arrested after 2 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: In continuation to its drive against the Absconders/Criminals, Police apprehended an absconder who was in a case FIR registered at Police Station Samba during the year 2022. A Police team of PS Samba succeeded in apprehending the absconder namely Sumbinder Singh S/O Rashpal Singh R/o Bidhipur Jattan Chander Chak R.S.Pura district Jammu wanted in case FIR No.190/2022 U/S 188 IPC 11 PCA Act registered at PS Samba. The said accused was evading his arrest since 2022 after the commission of the crime.

Cyber cell solves 7 financial frauds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Cyber Cell of DPO Ramban solved 3 Financial Fraud cases amounting to Rs26,000/(Rupees twenty six thousand). Continuing its efforts to extend services to the general public and address their grievances, Cyber Cell DPO Ramban recovered and successfully refunded an amount of Rs 26,000 in 03 complaints. Brief fact of the cases are that Cyber Cell DPO Ramban received complaints regarding the online financial fraud. After receiving these Complaints, Cyber Cell DPO Ramban immediately swung into the action and started the enquiry into the matter and made hectic efforts which ultimately recovered the defrauded amount of Rs 26,000/- which was swindled by online seams. Continuing its efforts to extend services to the general public and address their grievances, Cyber Cell of District Police Udhampur recovered and successfully refunded an amount of Rs 1,25,611/- in 05 different complaints. Brief fact of the cases are that Cyber Cell DPO Udhampur received 05 complaints regarding the online financial fraud. After receiving these Complaints, team of Cyber Cell DPO Udhampur immediately swung into the action and started the inquiry into the matter and initiated the process for reversal and recovery of the amount. As a result, amounting of Rs 1,25,611/- of total cheated amount have been recovered and credited to the victims account.