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STATE TIMES

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KUNJWANI, JAMMU

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SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

03 Although as CM of UT Omar has some Legislative & Executive limitations but still he can freely do some good & undo some bads

04 Satish cautions officials against unnecessary delay in execution of vital development projects

10 JK Public School Kunjwani excels in J&K Roller Skating District Championship-2024

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## Terrorists fire at ambulance in army convoy in Akhnoor; 1 ultra eliminated

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Terrorists opened fire at an Army convoy Monday morning, targeting an ambulance, in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu region, following which special forces and NSG commandos launched an operation killing one of the attackers, officials said.

In a first, the Army also pressed its four BMP-II infantry combat vehicles for surveillance and strengthening the cordon around the attack site near the Assan temple in Jogwan village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Bhattal area of Khour, the officials said.

The Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty or BMP-II is a



1980-era Soviet Union Infantry Combat Vehicle which has 30mm fully stabilised automatic cannon, 7.62 mm Machine Gun and 4 kms range anti-tank wire-guided 'Konkurs' Missile. It can carry seven troopers and three crew members.

It is also equipped with the Night Vision Device and Smoke Grenade Launchers system and has a maximum speed of 45 kms per hour.

Helicopters were also pressed into action to locate the hiding terrorists in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Army lost its expert dog 'Phantom' in gunfight

JAMMU: An Army dog laid down its life after being hit by a bullet from terrorists during an encounter in the Akhnoor sector of the Jammu region on Monday, the force said. The courage, loyalty and dedication of the canine -- Phantom -- will never be forgotten, it added. The Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X, "We salute the supreme sacrifice of our true hero -- a valiant Indian Army dog, Phantom."

"As our troops were closing in on the trapped terrorists, Phantom drew enemy fire, sustaining fatal injuries," it added.

### Dy CM flags fake account on X; tags police

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday flagged a fake account in his name created on social networking site 'X' and tagged the police for action.

The fake account impersonating Choudhary cropped up on X within a fortnight after the formation of a new government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Sharing a picture of the fake profile in a post on X, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "This is a fake account created by some miscreant..."

He requested the people not to follow the fake account and also tagged the chief minister and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

## LG directs pre-emptive action against terrorist threats



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a security review meeting at Srinagar on Monday.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Reviewing the functioning of the security grid, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday directed all concerned officials to take pre-emptive action in respect of terrorist threats.

"We must safeguard peace and pace of development. At the same time strongest possible actions need to be taken against terrorists and those who are providing support, safe haven or any assistance to terrorists. Our aim is to ensure socio-economic devel-

opment and promote a sense of security among the people," the Lieutenant Governor said while chairing a review meeting in Srinagar, on the security situation and development aspects of all the districts of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Modi to launch multiple health projects, distribute 51,000 appointment letters today

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch development projects worth nearly Rs 12,850 crore on Tuesday and also extend his government's flagship health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above. Modi has chosen to unveil the major health sector push on the occasion of the ninth Ayurveda Day and the birth anniversary of Dhanvantari, considered the god of medicine.

At a separate event, he will also distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters

to the youth as part of his government's 'Rozgar Mela', an official statement said.

Noting that it has been the constant endeavour of the prime minister to provide quality healthcare services in the country, another statement said Modi will inaugurate Phase II of India's first All India Institute of Ayurveda in the national capital.

It includes a Panchakarma hospital, an ayurvedic pharmacy for drug manufacturing, a sports medicine unit, a central library, an IT and start-ups incubation

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## CM pushes for fiscal reforms, initiatives for enhanced funding from Centre

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the functioning and progress of Finance Department.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to chief minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to CM, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance and the heads of various divisions of Finance Department.

Principal Secretary Finance Department made a



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Monday.

detailed presentation highlighting the budgetary trends, fiscal challenges and the ongoing reforms.

The Chief Minister appreci-

ated the focus on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and improved revenue realization while noting that the receipt of CSS funds from

Gol under different CSS during the current year is Rs. 10300crore as compared to Rs. 6386 crore and Rs. 5997

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## Inquiry ordered into deaths of three youths in Nagrota accident

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu on Monday ordered an inquiry into a road accident that claimed the lives of three youths in the Nagrota area near here the previous day.

The inquiry was ordered by District Magistrate, Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, an official spokesperson said.

Three youths - Sumit Balgotra, his cousin Gaurav and friend Ram Mehra of Janipur locality of Jammu city - were killed when their motorcycle collided head-on with a truck at Panjgrain along the Jammu-Srinagar

national highway Sunday evening.

A committee headed by Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner, Revenue has been entrusted to ascertain the cause of the accident within seven days and to find out whether any shortcomings, such as inadequate signage, improper gradient, or lack of mandatory safety measures led to the accident, the spokesperson said.

The committee comprises officers from departments, including the Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings), Transport

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## Conspiracies being hatched to destabilise J&K again: Raina

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday said conspiracies are being hatched to destabilise the region again.

"This business of guns and grenades should stop right now as it will not benefit anybody," he told reporters after visiting the residence of Dr Shahnavaz Dar in Budgam district.

Dar was among seven people killed in a terror attack at the Gagangir tunnel construction site in Ganderbal district on October 20.

"Through a lot of hard work, peace and development has returned to Jammu and Kashmir but conspiracies are being hatched to destabilise the area," Raina said.

The BJP leader said while the government and

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## CJ visits J&K LSA; inspects infrastructure, operational facilities

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, who is Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, accompanied by Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem and M. K. Sharma, Principal Secretary on Monday visited the office of J&K Legal Services Authority at Janipur and conducted an extensive inspection of the infrastructure and operational facilities



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan being honoured during visit to office of J&K Legal Services Authority at Janipur.

available there.

During his visit, the Chief

Justice took a round of different sections of the Legal

Services Authority office and interacted with the staff members. He lauded the dedication with which the staff was performing its duties and acknowledged the significant role of J&K LSA in delivering justice to marginalized communities across the Union Territory. He appreciated the constant efforts of the J&K LSA in fulfilling its mission of ensuring "Access to Justice for All." While acknowledging

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## CB presents chargesheet in Rs 10 lakh fraud case, arrests another in Rs 5 lakh job scam

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Crime Wing-CB Jammu on Monday filed a charge sheet against one Gurpreet Singh, son of Baljeet Singh, resident of Baramulla at present Lane No. 01, Swarn Colony Trilokpur, Camp Gole Gujral, Jammu in a fraud case.

Sandeep Mehta, SSP Special Crime wing, CB Jammu divulging the details said that charge sheet was filed against the fraudster in a Case FIR No. 15 of 2023

U/S 420 IPC of Police Station SCW Crime Branch Jammu before the Court of law at Jammu.

He said that fraudster duped complainants namely Muntaz Ahmed, son of Late Mohd. Showkat and Parvaiz Ahmed, son of Mohd. Ishaq, both residents of Kalaban, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch on the pretext of managing jobs in Jammu and Kashmir Govt as Class IV Employees. The accused cheated them with dishonest

and fraudulent means and duped their hard-earned money to the tune of Rs 10 lakhs. The accused at the time of seeking payment from complainant told them to provide the copy of the answer sheets to them and he will get these replaced with the new answer sheets with the help of his friends in SSRB. On different dates and installments, an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs was got transferred into the

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## Ram Madhav gives food for thought to Jammu



JAMMU: A new issue has cropped up with senior BJP leader Ram Madhav saying: "Jammu is missing from the J&K government." What he has implied is that the most populous and Hindu-dominated parts of the region are out of the government and the National Conference government of Omar Abdullah is "Kashmir-centric." He, as senior leader and intellectual face of the BJP, has right to interpret the government that has come into being after the historic Assembly polls.

Is it a food for thought for Jammu region? Five out of 10 districts had voted in large numbers for the BJP in the polls. It scored maximum of its 29 seats from Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi districts. That's a fact which cannot be ignored. The party also won four other seats - two

each from Doda and Kishtwar districts in what is commonly known as erstwhile Doda district. It, by all standards, is a remarkable performance of the party in the Jammu region

There is another fact. The BJP drew blank in Kashmir, though it increased its vote share there. It is a documented fact that the party candidate in Gurez assembly constituency of Bandipore district came close to winning the seat but lost by few hundred votes. Alongside is the fact that despite very high vote share of BJP, it could not form the government, as all the independents on whom the party was depending, lost in the elections. The Valley delivered zero seats to it and its spoken and unspoken allies.

The theory seems to be based on the past experience when the Kashmir-centric governments did not give Jammu its adequate, say in political decision-making, and also shrunk its space in jobs and other opportunities. There was an overall sense and demoralizing effect on the

people who felt as if they were unequal citizens, crudely putting, as second-class citizens. There was a complete sense of disempowerment, and that's one of the reasons that the guarantees and special status enshrined in Article 370 and Article 35A were meaningless for them. They were disenchanted with the system. Their desire was for equal treatment and political-eum economic empowerment.

Since 2002 polls, when Jammu voted

### POLITICAL BUZZ

for Congress and became part of the coalition government with PDP; it continued to remain as discriminated as before. Its experiment of voting for Congress and thereafter expectations from the NC-Congress coalition government under Omar Abdullah also failed. The hopes soared in 2014 when the region gave 25 out of 37 seats to BJP, which later formed the government with PDP. There were expectations that the

BJP that had always spoken of discrimination with the region and the people all along will end that era. The irony became clear and too soon - Jammu could not see its voice being heard and grievances redressed. The experiment of Jammu getting its full say and political empowerment failed yet again. This was conceded by the BJP as it claimed that it had withdrawn support to the PDP-led coalition government in June 2018 because PDP discriminated against Jammu and Ladakh regions, and terrorists were getting emboldened.

What could be the way out for Jammu? To have its own Chief Minister and that too from the majority community of the region -Hindu- came as an answer. The hope was that Jammu's CM would do what others had failed. CM is CM; all the levers of power are with them.

In 2024, Jammu tried and did its best in voting for BJP, trusting the party for all what it had promised - a Jammu -led government and end of an era of discrim-

ination once and for all. That dream crashed as the BJP could not get anything from the Valley, whereas Kashmir voted in one direction and got the government of its own. BJP is now shaping a narrative that discrimination is in store for Jammu in the days to come. It is taking past as its guide.

BJP, however, is not reflecting on one very important factor - leadership. Jammu has not been able to develop leadership that could lead the region to live up to its expectations and proper position in the polity. It is true of all parties. And BJP knows that by its own experience that there was not a single leader who moved out of the constituency than their own to campaign. There is not a single leader with any party that has pan-region appeal. Without addressing the basics, no way forward can either be conceived or achieved, but Ram Madhav has given a food for thought to Jammu, let the region and its people think what they need next time.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 31.0°C Min: 19.5°C

Humidity

Max: 75 Min: 71

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 22.7°C Min: 5.8°C

Humidity

Max: 89 Min: 68

Sunset : 17:43 Hours

Sunrise : 06:44 Hours

