

02 OGW apprehended; 2 AK-47, 4 pistols recovered

03 To eradicate terror in J&K, pursue 'Ray and Gill' model

12 Two J&K cricketers make it to Playing XI of prestigious Challenger Trophy

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Jail official, school principal sacked by J&K administration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing with its policy of weeding out government officials allegedly having terror links, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday sacked a deputy superintendent of jails and a principal of a government school using special provisions under the Constitution, officials said here.

Feroz Ahmad Lone who is the Deputy Superintendent of Prisons Department, a rank equivalent to that of sub-inspector, and Javid Ahmad Shah, principal of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School at Bijbehara in South Kashmir, have been terminated from service for allegedly actively working with terrorist outfits.

The government terminated their services by invoking Article 311 of the Constitution under which no inquiry is conducted before sacking. The number of

employees sacked using the special provisions has gone up to 29 this year.

According to the officials, Lone, who was appointed in 2007-08 in the Prisons Department and finally got a job in 2012 after a prolonged court case, was alleged to be working for terror groups.

He was arrested by the National Investigation Agency in 2017 and since then continued to on suspension.

According to the NIA, Lone had facilitated a meeting between two youths, Danish Ghulam Lone and Sohail Ahmad Bhat, and arrested terrorist Ishfaq Palla at the behest of self-styled commander of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen, Riyaz Naikoo.

According to the conspiracy, the two youths were to go to Pakistan, receive arms training and return to the Kashmir.

However, before they could leave, the two were nabbed by the police in 2017 and the

case was subsequently taken over by the NIA. During interrogation, the youths named Lone, who was arrested by the central probe agency and sent to jail. He is at present out on bail but has not been reinstated.

Shah, who was appointed as a lecturer in 1989, later became principal of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Bijbehara in Anantnag. He is alleged to be a hardcore terrorist supporter and an ardent sympathiser of Hurriyat and the banned Jamat-e-Islami (JeI), the officials said.

He is alleged to have played the role of an advisor to Hurriyat cadre and Jamaat working in Bijbehara during the 2016 agitation and as a principal of a government institution, he ensured that Hurriyat hartal calendars were followed in letter and spirit, not only in the school that he was heading but its subsidiary institutions too.

Shah, by misusing his offi-

cial position openly, disallowed girl students of his institution to study and participate in physical education, curriculum, citing it against the fundamentals of Islam.

He is alleged to be a supporter of terrorists and he motivated girl students to study Islamic studies in a distorted way with the sole objective to radicalise them and fulfil his pro-Jamaat designs.

Earlier last month, the administration sacked Anees-ul-Islam, a grandson of pro-Pakistan separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani for allegedly aiding terrorists' activities in the union territory.

Prominent among those dismissed from service earlier were the two sons of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and tainted deputy superintendent of police Devender Singh

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'You are most popular person in Israel': Bennett to Modi

■ AGENCY

GLASGOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Naftali Bennett on Tuesday shared a light moment during their maiden formal meeting here when the latter informed the Indian leader about his popularity in Israel and invited him to join his party.

Prime Minister Modi met Bennett on the sidelines of the COP26 climate summit here on Tuesday during which they reviewed the bilateral ties besides exchanging views about expanding cooperation in areas of high-technology and innovation.

Modi and Bennett's maiden formal meeting came after their brief interaction on Monday during the climate conference.

According to a video shared on social media, Bennett told Prime Minister Modi, "you are the most popular person in Israel."

Replying to the comment,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in Glasgow on Tuesday.

Modi said, "thank you, thank you."

Bennett further asked Modi to join his Yamina Party.

"Come and join my party," Bennett said, as the two leaders laughed and shook hands.

Earlier, recalling their brief meeting on Monday, Prime Minister Modi said that the people of India deeply value the friendship with Israel.

"Enhancing friendship with Israel. Prime Ministers @narendramodi and @naftalibennett had a fruitful

meeting in Glasgow. Both leaders discussed deepening various avenues of cooperation for the benefit of our citizens, the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

The meeting between Modi and Bennett comes after Jaishankar, during his visit to Israel last month, extended an invitation to the Israeli premier on behalf of Modi to visit India.

According to Israeli media reports, Bennett, who became prime minister in June this year, is likely to visit India next year.

India and Israel elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership during the historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to Israel in July 2017. Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on expanding knowledge-based partnership, which includes collaboration in innovation and research, including boosting the 'Make in India' initiative.

India saw 125 extremely heavy rainfall events this Sept, Oct; highest in 5 years: IMD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India recorded 125 extremely heavy rainfall events during September and October of 2021, the highest in five years, owing to late withdrawal of the southwest monsoon and higher-than-normal low-pressure systems, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

The country recorded 89 extremely heavy rainfall events this September against 61 in the same month last year, 59 in 2019; 44 in 2018 and 29 in 2017.

Also, 36 such events were witnessed in October this year compared to 10 in the corresponding period

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Man arrested in Poonch for links with terrorists from Pakistan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was arrested for alleged links with terrorists from Jammu and Kashmir and across the border in Pakistan after he was among a dozen people detained for questioning in connection with the ongoing search operation in a forest belt in Poonch district, officials said on Tuesday.

The accused Yasir Arafat, a resident of Bhatti Durrian forest, was among three suspects detained by the police for questioning from Nepal while they were trying to flee the country on October 25, the officials said.

Besides, 10 people, including two women, were earlier detained for questioning during the operation in Bhutti Durrian forest.

They said the operation to track down a group of terrorists in Bhatti Durrian forest in Mendhar along

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 25.0°C Min: 15.3°C

Humidity
Max: 44 Min: 46

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 18.4°C Min: 2.6°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 50

Sunset : 17:41 Hours
Sunrise : 06:51 Hours

Hazardous cracker dumps in Bishnah potential threat to environment

'Dos-n-Don'ts' instructions just license for black sheep in uniform to mint money

JAMMU: Yet another order, yet another dose of oxygen to unscrupulous elements in the law enforcing agencies to extract or extort as much as they can by allowing wrong-doers and law-breakers to carry on their money-minting avocations. In a way, a ban on anything is a win-win situation for elements in the police and the violators. In the instant case, it is for fire-cracker manufacturers, dealers and stockists.

Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee has issued directions for sale and use of only 'green crackers' in twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar during the festive season.

The use or bursting of green/improved firecrackers on Diwali days or any other festival like Gupurab, Christmas and New Year however, would be restricted to only two hours in the Union Territory during the

festivals i.e from 8 pm to 10 pm.

Intentions behind issuing these orders and instructions might be honest, aimed at maintaining ecology. However, the ground reality is totally different-opposite to what is intended. It is not in respect of crackers but Chinese nylon thread for flying kites. The latter has taken toll on human life with the victims falling prey to, what is called in local parlance, Manja, as the sharp threat has potential to slice throats, this has happened despite ban on the Manja. The marketplaces are full of Chinese Manja stocks, which is a boon for the sellers and a matter of satisfaction for the users.

As regards green crackers and timing for cracking these, fingers remain crossed with



SPECIAL REPORT

regard to adherence to the instructions. Unfortunately, those watching the implementation of instructions, being issued by the government, from time to time, are rightly skeptical about the success of the drive. Reason, brazen display of the foul play as part of the nexus between those in trade and those supposed to implement the ban.

Therefore, it should have been better for the concerned governmental agency to take innovative measures to end the malice rather than indulging in the ritual of issuing instructions. The use and sale of hazardous crackers is no more a secret. The sellers know about the potential buyers and the latter are also well informed about the contacts to have supplies.

With Diwali fervor picking up, it would have been prudent for the government to

work on analyzing the feedback and inputs from various agencies and 'well informed people' to crack down on unscrupulous elements. Like in the case of Jammu, the police can carry out raids in Bishnah and seize huge quantities of crackers stored and supplied to various destinations in the region. If the government is really serious in intentions, let it launch the ops to starve the retail dealers of 'unwanted' crackers.

This will automatically mean availability of the green crackers in the market for clientele to celebrate the festival of virtue triumphing over evil. Otherwise, the latest spell of instructions by various governmental agencies will remain a 'piece on record' with unscrupulous elements siphoning money as bribe to allow the malady to spread without any treatment. The unscrupulous in the police organisation

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BJP leader booked for hurting religious sentiments, relieved of all party posts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A senior Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader has been booked for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of a community through his remarks, prompting the party to relieve him of all his responsibilities including the post of J&K secretary. An FIR has been registered against former MLC Vikram Randhawa after a video surfaced online purportedly showing him

making "disparaging" comments over the incidents of celebration of Pakistan's win over India in a T20 world cup cricket match.

"An FIR has been registered against Randhawa at a police station here under section 295-A and 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code and further investigation is on," a police official said.

Section 295-A pertains to deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious

feelings of any class, while section 505 (2) gives powers to the police to arrest anyone who makes a statement which creates or promotes enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

In a communication, J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina said, "Randhawa has been relieved from all the party posts/responsibilities including the post of JK-UT Secretary with immediate effect."

The order said BJP JK-UT vice president Sham Choudhary, a former minister, would be the new incharge for district Rajouri in place of Randhawa.

The party's Jammu and Kashmir unit had taken note of the video and served Randhawa a showcause notice on Monday, asking him to submit a public apology. In the notice, the BJP disciplinary

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J&K records 110 new COVID cases, Ladakh 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 110 new COVID cases, 18 from Jammu division and 92 from Kashmir division, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 332457.

Also, two COVID deaths have been reported from Kashmir Division, officials said.

Moreover, 91 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been

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Prolonged uncertainty in J&K taking heavy toll on every sector: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said the "prolonged uncertainty" in Jammu and Kashmir is taking a heavy toll on every sector, but the depth of the valley's "suffering" goes beyond "economic catastrophe". Addressing a gathering in Bandipora District of north Kashmir, Abdullah said Kashmir has subsided

from the memory of the rulers in New Delhi.

"The situation on the ground, however, contradicts the government's claim. The uncertainty on all the fronts political, economic and educational -- has only deepened since 2019. Our youth continue to be at the receiving end of it," he said.

The NC president said repeated assurances

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LG congratulates NEET topper, calls him pride of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday congratulated NEET topper Tanmay Gupta for his historic feat as relatives and friends of the 18-year-old boy thronged his Gandhi Nagar residence to celebrate his achievement.

Gupta from Jammu along with Telangana's Mrinal Kutteri and Maharashtra's Karthika G Nair shared the top rank by scoring the perfect 720 out of 720 in medical entrance exam NEET-UG, whose results were announced on Monday.

Congratulations to Tanmay Gupta from Jammu who created history in NEET 2021 with hard work and determination. The national topper with 720 marks, Tanmay is

the pride of J&K. It is a great achievement & the whole J&K is proud of you. Also, my best wishes to all successful students from J&K. LG said in a tweet.

The NEET-UG exam was held on September 12 and over 15.44 lakh candidates had appeared for the exam conducted at 3,858 centres in 13 languages.

Over 8.70 lakh candidates have qualified the exam. Gupta thanked his stars for getting a good environment within the family and at school, both in Jammu and later in Delhi, to create history by becoming the first from J&K to be among the national toppers of NEET 2021.

I got a very good

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