

03 Grievance redressal time reduced from 30 to 13 days: Dr Jitendra

10 Satish Sharma inaugurates 35th Senior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship

10 Dr Achyuta Samanta honoured with FIVB Grand Cross Award

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

India supports global alliance against hunger, poverty: Modi



PM Narendra Modi speaking at G20 Session on "Social Inclusion and the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty" at Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil on Monday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

RIO DE JANEIRO: The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts, and G20 must focus on addressing the challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

In an address on the first day of the G20 summit, Modi said India's G20 theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is as relevant at the ongoing summit as it was last year.

US President Joe Biden, Modi, Chinese President Xi

Jinping and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are among the leaders attending the two-day summit at Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum.

The people-centric decisions taken at the G20 Summit in New Delhi last year have been taken forward during Brazil's presidency of the bloc, Modi said.

"I would like to say that countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts," he said.

"So our discussions can

only be successful when we keep in mind the challenges and priorities of the Global South," he added.

The prime minister made the remarks at the G20 session on 'Social Inclusion and the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty'.

The opening day's highlight was the launch of a global alliance to combat poverty and hunger that has been supported by at least 80 nations.

In his comments, Modi also called for reform of the institutions of global governance.

"And just as we amplified

the voice of the Global South by granting permanent membership of G20 to the African Union during the New Delhi summit, we will reform institutions of global governance," he said.

The prime minister said India supports Brazil's initiative for a 'global alliance against hunger and poverty'.

"The people-centric decisions taken at the G20 Summit in New Delhi have been taken forward during Brazil's Presidency," he said.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that we prioritised SDG (sustainable development goals). We focused on inclusive development, women-led development, and youth power," he said.

"And gave wings to the hopes and aspirations of the Global South. It is clear that One Earth One Family One Future is as relevant at this summit as it was last year," he added.

The theme of India's G20 presidency is drawn from

CONTD ON PAGE 9

LeT ultra arrested in Awantipora, terrorist hideout busted in Shopian

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police along with security forces on Monday arrested a terrorist affiliated to proscribed terror outfit LeT and recovered incriminating materials, arms and ammunition from his possession in Tral area of Awantipora.

He has been identified as Irshad Ahmad Chopan, son of Abdul Rahman

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Man held for hacking mother-in-law to death; injuring wife, her sister

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A man allegedly hacked his mother-in-law to death besides critically injuring his wife and her sister with an axe over a family dispute in Udhampur district, police said on Monday.

The accused, Suresh Kumar, fled after attacking the trio at Kiya village on Sunday night but was arrested within 12 hours and booked under the relevant sections of law, they

CONTD ON PAGE 9

SMVDSB approves ropeway project connecting Tarakote Marg to Bhawan

"Over 86 lakh pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi shrine so far this year"

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has decided to implement the long-awaited ropeway project to facilitate safer and faster journey for the yatri.

"The ropeway project will be a game changer, especially for those pilgrims who find it challenging to undertake the 13-kilometre steep trek to the shrine", SMVDSB CEO Anshul Garg said.

"The board has finally decided to implement the ropeway project," he said while addressing reporters in Katra. The project, once completed, will cater to the ever-increasing number of devotees visiting the holy cave each year.

The project has been in discussion for several years, and the board has decided to move forward, ensuring better facilities for pilgrims, he said.

"The ropeway will especially benefit elderly pilgrims



and those who cannot complete the arduous trek due to physical limitations or the limited capacity of helicopter services," Garg added.

In addition, the Board emphasised that the concerns of local stakeholders would be considered during the project's implementation.

"We are committed to addressing the aspirations of all, including the locals while enhancing the pilgrimage experience. This project will make the yatra smoother and more inclusive," Garg assured.

With the decision finalised,

the board aims to begin the groundwork soon, officials said.

As per the officials, the ropeway will connect Tarakote Marg to Bhawan, the main shrine area. With careful planning to minimise environmental impact, the route will provide stunning views of the Trikuta hills, enhancing the spiritual and scenic experience for devotees, they said.

The ropeway is expected to transport several thousand pilgrims daily, significantly reducing congestion

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Properties worth Rs 1.50 Cr attached under NDPS Act

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Properties worth Rs 1.50 crore were attached under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in Anantnag district, police said on Monday.

"In a significant step towards combating drug abuse, police in Anantnag have attached properties worth 1.5 crore under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act as part of ongoing campaign against drug peddlers," a police spokesman said.

A single storeyed residential house worth Rs 80 lakh, owned by Afroz Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Khreibal area of the district

CONTD ON PAGE 9

IOC's 7446 bitumen barrels missing; Over Rs 11 Cr fraud detected

VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: The Economic Offences Wing (EoW) of the Crime Branch Jammu has unearthed a scandal wherein over 7446 bitumen barrels of the Indian Oil Company (IOC) have been found missing, making losses to the government to the tune of over rupees eleven crores.

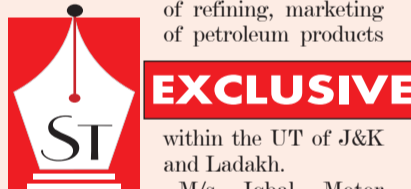
The transport company, which got the job order picked the stocks, as per the records, but failed to deliver it to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) even after the passage of two years.

After conducting preliminary investigations into the scandal, FIR (53/24) has

been registered with the Crime Branch and the investigation entrusted to DySP Parul Bhardarwaj.

According to the FIR, registered under sections IPC 406, 408, 409, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B, a complaint was received in the Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu from Amerjit Singh, Divisional Institutional Business Head, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, (IOC), Jammu Divisional Office accused Haji Ghulam Qadir Akhoun, Proprietor, M/s Iqbal Motor Transport Service, Fleet Owners,

Transporters and Contractors, Srinagar, J&K stating therein that M/s Indian Oil Corporation is a Government of India undertaking and is in the business of refining, marketing of petroleum products



within the UT of J&K and Ladakh.

M/s Iqbal Motor Transport Service, a proprietorship firm was appointed by IOCL as handling contractor at Jammu packed bitumen Storage facility at Indane Bottling Plant, Kartholi, Bari Brahmana, District Samba, vide tender

reference RCC/NR/PSO/IB/PT-85/18-19. A work order vide reference JDO/CFA/01 dated December 8, 2018 was issued to M/s Iqbal Motor Transport Service and on November 25, 2022, a joint inspection and stock reconciliation of packed Bitumen Depot, situated inside IOCL

Jammu Bottling Plant premises, Bari Brahmana, District Samba was conducted by IOCL officials in the presence of Haji Ghulam Qadir Akhoun, proprietor and other firm representatives. Upon inspection, joint stock reconciliation report of packed Bitumen Depot was prepared on November 25, 2022 and it was found that

there was shortage 7446 bitumen barrels worth Rs.8.44 crores as calculated in terms of the CFA Agreement.

During internal enquiry conducted by the IOCL into the matter, it was observed that concerned contractor committed pilferage of packed bitumen barrels from Bottling Plant on forged documents and by generating duplicate/fake/invalid invoices etc besides other malpractices. The same complainant submitted revised letter in this office on December 7, 2023 wherein he furnished additional facts that Haji Ghulam Qadir Akhoun,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CB files chargesheet against man for cheating retired Army JCO

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch filed a chargesheet on Monday against a man arrested for allegedly duping a retired junior commissioned officer of the Army on the pretext of arranging a government job for his daughter here, an official said.

Bashir Ahmad Dar, a resident of central Kashmir's Budgam district who had taken premature retirement from the Indian Reserve Police (IRP), was initially booked early last year by the Cyber Crime Investigation Center for Excellence, Jammu, on a written complaint lodged by former JCO Mohd Zahid of Rajouri dis-

trict, Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh said.

He said the complainant claimed that on January 30, 2023, he received a phone call and the caller introduced himself to be an officer of the J-K Service Selection Board who could manage a job for his daughter in exchange for money.

The retired army officer fell into his trap and accordingly, deposited some amount in his bank account before personally meeting the accused, who introduced himself as the secretary of the board, the SSP said.

However, he said the accused neither managed a government job for

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Woman delivers baby in cab after PHC refers her to another hospital; probe ordered

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A woman gave birth to a baby in a cab after she was allegedly referred to a superior hospital without a checkup by a primary health centre (PHC) in Rajouri district, officials said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma visited the PHC Teryath after the incident and instructed the additional deputy commissioner of Kalakote to conduct a detailed inquiry into the matter and submit a report at the earliest, they said.

Both the woman and her baby are in good health and are currently admitted to the PHC.

According to the relatives of the woman, they reached PHC Teryath on Sunday morning but the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CJ lays foundation stone for mini-auditorium at J&K Judicial Academy



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan along with Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and its members after laying foundation stone in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan along with

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, on

Monday laid the foundation stone for construction of mini auditorium at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

Justice

CONTD ON PAGE 9

House of absconding accused evading law for 7 years attacked

STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Acting on the orders of the District Sessions Court Kupwara under Section 83 CrPC, Police Station Trehgam has attached the immovable property of an accused who has been absconding for the past seven years.

The property, residential house, located in Chek Zirhama, belongs to the accused Gh Mohd Khan, son of Akran Khan, who is wanted in connection with Case FIR No. 277/2017 under Sections 366, 376, 109 RPC of Police Station Kupwara. Despite repeated

CONTD ON PAGE 9

ADGP calls for strengthening of intelligence network to counter any threat on any front

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Jammu Zone Anand Jain on Monday visited the border district of Poonch to review the operational and training preparedness of the forces and emphasized the need for officers to strengthen the intelligence network.

A police spokesperson said the ADGP emphasized the need for officers to work in a coordinated and synergised manner to counter any threat on any front.

During the visit, the ADGP was briefed on the status of training programmes, opera-

tional readiness, the overall security scenario and the measures implemented to strengthen the security apparatus in the region.

As part of the review, the ADGP also interacted with personnel of the Special Operations Group (SOG).

He took the opportunity to address issues related to equipment, infrastructure and welfare, ensuring that all units are fully equipped to handle any challenges they may face in the line of duty.

The officers were also encouraged to focus on collecting robust electronic and circumstantial evidence

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amit Shah reviews Manipur security situation

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the prevailing security situation and deployment of troops in Manipur for the second consecutive day and directed top officials to focus on restoring peace and order there as early as possible, sources said.

The Union Home Ministry is also rushing in about 5,000 paramilitary troops to Manipur to assist the state government in handling the current "volatile" situation.

The home minister reviewed the security situation in Manipur with

CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG Manoj Sinha's three mantras to take J&K forward



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 25.4°C Min: 11.4°C

Humidity
Max: 88 Min: 65

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 15.3°C Min: 5.0°C

Humidity
Max: 91 Min: 63

Sunset : 17:32 Hours
Sunrise : 06:56 Hours

JAMMU: Primarily, there were three takeaways from the security review meeting that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha' chaired on Sunday in Jammu, which highlight that how serious effort is underway to counter terrorism, the bane of Jammu and Kashmir for the past nearly 35 years

The whole context of the security review meeting, which is shorthand for assessing and analyzing the whole of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as the security is the prime issue in determining the pedestal where this Union Territory sits at the moment.

Manoj Sinha, as LG assigned with the task of maintaining security and peace in Jammu and Kashmir by virtue of the powers defined in the J&K Reorganization Act, had to look at the security scenario of the UT as of today. It means that he had to review what all has happened in the past few years

and how to move forward in consolidating the gains made so far, and also to take steps to make it perfect so that J&K could have what it has been aspiring for long.

Manoj Sinha, of course, is holding a constitutional position but as an individual he also has become a big stakeholder in J&K; so for him attaining peace in the region is very crucial. He has a constitutional responsibility coupled with the accountability thrust upon him since he took over. Even after an elected government is in place, how constitutional obligations make it incumbent upon him to deliver on certain matters, most importantly in securing peace that is foundational for all the progress that J&K is looking forward to.

First takeaway from his meeting on Sunday was his extraordinary thrust on elimination of terrorism from the soil of J&K. There is no scope to see it as terrorism in Jammu region or the terrorism in the Kashmir Valley, the face of terrorism has been sketched by one hand - that is Pakistan and its spy agencies which

have been seeking to bleed India vis Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. The elimination of terrorism, as underlined by the LG, is not only about targeting terrorists and neutralizing them but also the ecosystem in which they operate. The strike has to be conducted at their roots. There is an urgent need to do a thorough analysis and case study of the acts of terror to tackle terrorism

The primary task of eliminating terrorism rests with the security forces, as they are trained for dealing with the terrorists equipped with bombs, grenades and guns. Recent recoveries and seizures have made it known that the current crop of terrorists, mostly foreigners, are highly trained in using hi-tech arms and ammunition. That was evident the way they struck at the soldiers and para-commandos of the army in jungles and mountainous terrain. So, only security forces can deal with this new and emerging dangerous trend.

Second takeaway is about the development. No development is possible in a destabilized situation, particularly if there exists a threat to life and proper-

ty. This will hurdle everything, and the developmental works are the first casualty. The development is an antidote to fear that terrorists want to inject and deepen in the lives of the people. That part is to be taken care of by the stakeholders within J&K and the investors coming out of the UT. Development and peace are born friends. Development instils confidence, while terrorism injects fear. The distinction needs to be made. The people love development and this love should be encouraged.

Third is out reach by officers. The LG asked officers- civilians and police - to make an outreach to the people. Deputy Commissioners and SSPs are the best people in the bureaucracy who have maximum of interaction with the people. They are stopping point for all the people and have the resources and capacity to address the people's grievances. They can build bridges that others cannot.

It all comes to the point that LG has read the pulse of the people, geography they inhabit and all what they want to happen in Jammu and Kashmir, a strategically sensitive place in the country.

NEWS ANALYSIS