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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 People are waiting for Omar Sahib to execute promises like supply of 200 unit power & drinking water at zero cost

10 Rajouri Volleyball Championship from Nov 9

10 Satish Sharma reiterates Govt's priority towards equitable development

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

Top LeT commander among 3 terrorists killed in twin encounters



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a huge achievement for the security forces, a top Pakistani commander of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit and two other terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and Anantnag districts on Saturday, officials said.

The LeT commander, identified as Usman, was active in the valley for several years and was also involved in the killing of Inspector Masroor Wani, a senior police officer said.

Wani was shot dead from

close range while he was playing cricket in the Eidgah ground here in October last year.

Usman was active in the valley for a very long time and was involved in several attacks, the officer said, adding that his killing is a "major blow" to the LeT in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Usman was the seniormost Pakistani LeT commander here," he said.

Four security forces personnel were also injured in the Srinagar encounter.

Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the densely-populated

2 UP labourers hurt in Budgam terror attack

SRINAGAR: Two labourers from Uttar Pradesh were shot at by terrorists in Budgam district on Friday evening, officials said.

Sufiyan and Usman were injured after they came under attack in the Mazhama area of Magam in the central Kashmir district, they said, adding that the duo were taken to a hospital, where their condition was stated to be stable.

This was the fifth terror attack in the Kashmir valley since a new government was formed in the Union Territory last month.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah were among the leaders who condemned the attack.

In a post from its official X handle, the NC said: "JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed deep sorrow over the terrorist attack on civilians in Mazhama, Budgam, strongly condemning this act of violence."

locality of Khanyar in the interior city here following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

The search operation turned into an encounter as the terrorists opened fire at the search party, which retaliated, a police official said.

During the operation, a fire broke out in the house where

the terrorists were holed up and thick grey smoke was seen billowing into the sky.

Usman was killed in the encounter, the official said.

Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans and two policemen were injured, he said, adding that they were taken to the Army's

Mother-son duo among 3 dead as car plunges into gorge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Three persons, including a woman and her 10-month old son, were killed and an equal number of people critically injured when their car skidded off a hilly road and rolled down into a deep gorge in the Reasi district early Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place at Chamalu Morh and the

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GOC reviews operational preparedness in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Navin Saehdeva on Saturday visited Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Rajouri and reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness, the Army said.

Lt Gen Saehdeva's visit to Songri in Rajouri sector comes a day after his tour of Navapanehhi in Kishtwar district.

Many parts of the Jammu region, including

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LG urges people to work towards building inclusive, progressive society to realize Viksit Bharat 2047 vision



LG Manoj Sinha addressing during Foundation Day commemorative event of 8 States and 5 Union Territories at Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan on Saturday hosted a cultural evening to commemorate the Foundation Day of Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which was celebrated on 01st November across the country.

Students, Security personnel and people of the respective states and UTs were the special invitees on the occa-

- ▶ LG addresses Foundation Day commemorative event of 8 States, 5 UTs at Raj Bhawan
- ▶ Event highlighted rich heritage, culture and tradition fostering a sense of common identity
- ▶ Says it 's occasion to celebrate Unity in Diversity of our great nation; strengthen fabric of traditionally existing emotional bonds between people
- ▶ PM Narendra Modi's commitment to promote spirit of national integration through deeper and structured engagement among all States, UTs has strengthened cultural exchange and inspired mutual coordination with spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

sion. While addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj

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Annual Jhiri Mela to begin in Jammu on Nov 14; Dy CM reviews preparations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 11-day Jhiri Mela will commence here on November 14, an official said on Saturday after J-K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary reviewed the preparations for the annual fair likely to be attended by around 20 lakh people from the northern region.

The Jhiri Mela is held every year during "Kartik Purnima" when devotees pay obeisance at the Baba Jitto temple in Jhiri village on the Jammu-Akhnour national highway near here.

Scores of devotees, mainly from Jammu region, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, visit the fair each

year to commemorate the sacrifice of Baba Jitto, a farmer who gave up his life in protest against the oppressive demands of a zamindar about 500 years ago.

His daughter Bua Kouri, according to the legend, took her life by jumping on her father's funeral pyre.

The event which will conclude on November 24 is expected to attract about 20 lakh visitors, making it an opportunity for the government to actively promote schemes that benefit the rural population, the official said.

"With dedicated support for our farmers, we honour the legacy of Baba Jitto

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Kharge admits 'Khata-khat' model failure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU: Congress's 'Khata-Khat' model is in shambles. This is what Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's own words have exposed the party's failure to deliver on its promises, and Prime Minister Modi hasn't held back, slamming the Congress for its hollow commitments, according to national television channel, Republic.

Meanwhile, according to PTI, the Congress president Kharge has pulled up Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister over his statement that the state government would review the 'Shakti' guarantee. The Congress

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Four drug peddlers held with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Four alleged drug peddlers were arrested in separate incidents and over 21 grams of heroin were recovered from their possession in Udhampur district on Saturday, police said.

A Srinagar-bound cab was intercepted at Chenani for checking, leading to the recovery of 17 grams of heroin, a police spokesman said.

He said all the three persons travelling in the vehicle were taken into custody.

Another drug peddler was arrested after 4.38 grams of heroin was recovered during frisking from his possession at Roundmail on Baredian Link Road, he said.

The spokesman said two separate cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were registered and further investigation is on.

BJP to elect its legislature party leader in Assembly today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit will hold a meeting in Srinagar on Sunday to elect its legislature party leader ahead of the first assembly session in the Union Territory to be held on November 4 after a six-year gap.

The BJP bagged its all-time high of 29 seats in the recently held Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

However, its MLA Devender Singh Rana, who won the Nagrota assembly segment by a margin of over 30,000 votes and was a frontrunner for the leader of

opposition post because of his political stature within the party, died on Thursday following an illness.

Known as the "voice of Jammu", he quit the National Conference along with his close associate and former minister S S Slathia and joined the BJP in October 2021.

Last month, the BJP's parliamentary board appointed Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and the party's National General Secretary Tarun Chugh as observers to elect the legislature party leader in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to BJP sources, the meeting will take place in Srinagar on Sunday morning and will be attended by all 28 MLAs and senior party leaders, including its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Ravinder Raina.

They said the leader of the opposition will be chosen at the meeting, and the name will be forwarded to the party's central leadership.

Five names are under active consideration but things will be cleared once the meeting takes place, the sources said. The National Conference (NC)

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620 recruits join BSF after training in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As many as 620 constables were on Saturday inducted into the border security force (BSF) here after completing their 44 weeks of rigorous basic training, a spokesperson said.

A grand convocation parade was organised at the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC) Udhampur with Additional Director General (Logistics/HR), BSF headquarters New Delhi, Puneet Rastogi inspecting the parade and taking the salute of the march past, the spokesman said.

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Inquiry needed into rising attacks in Valley: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The ruling National Conference (NC) on Saturday sought an inquiry into the spike in terrorist attacks in the Valley since Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was sworn in, saying some elements were trying to destabilise an elected government.

"Violence is taking place. There should be an investigation into it. Those involved should be arrested alive. We will get to know who is doing it because there are attempts to defame us," NC president Farooq Abdullah

said at a function here. He questioned why such



attacks are on the rise after the NC formed the government in Jammu and Kashmir. The NC chief also said he apprehended that some elements were trying to

destabilise the J-K government led by his son Omar Abdullah.

"There should be an investigation as to know how these are taking place after government formation. I have doubts that perhaps it is being done by those who want to destabilise this government. Why were not these taking place before? Why are they happening now? There should be an independent inquiry," he added.

He said the peaceful assembly election was a big achievement for the people

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Act fast against terrorism before it's too late



JAMMU: A very disturbing situation is emerging in Kashmir; and the most alarming is resurfacing of terrorists in Srinagar city which had not seen terror attacks and encounters for many years. There were three encounters in a single day on Saturday - one each in central, south and north Kashmir. The most critical one was in Khanyar area of Srinagar where the people had forgotten such a thing decades ago. It is very difficult to recall such encounters in at least past two decades.

This should take the authorities and the public alike to the basic question-why it is happening at this point in time as also who all are involved. The second logical question is what is that these terrorists want to achieve.

According to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, these acts of terror were an ugly manifestation of the terrorists and their backers of the frustration which gripped them after successful Assembly polls, univer-

sally hailed as the most free and fair one in perfectly peaceful atmosphere that Kashmir had not seen for the past over 40 years. This is perfect assessment of the situation in which terrorists and their mentors sitting across the border were orchestrating from across the border. They all want to keep the pot boiling in Kashmir, suggesting that all is not well in the Valley with a broader focus that elections were not an all-time package for peace and prosperity. Terrorists are wrong. The vote was for consolidation of peace and progressive outlook, that's why they are desperate to launch package of terror attacks. There should be no confusion on this count; Pakistan's involvement is clear in each and every terror attack. The game plan seems to give a feeling to Kashmir and its residents that they were safe only as long as they wanted them to be. They want to establish their writ yet again. This should be understood that Pakistan is no friend of Kashmiris, irrespective of the matter whatever it might say. The repeated clamour that "Pakistan is offering political, moral and diplomatic support to

Kashmiris fighting for their right to self-determination," is a big deception. Pakistan is trying to sell multiple messages in its package that Kashmiris can breathe easy till the time Pakistan doesn't open its gunfire through its hired terrorists. Second, it is putting spokes in their peace and an outlook at bright future. Nothing more, nothing less. Third, it is back to its game in drawing attention of the foreign governments toward the violence in the Valley, attributing it to home-made insurgency.

Kashmir of today is capable enough to see through this Pakistani game. As long as there were no terrorist-initiated actions, there were no encounters, peace was there, and they were contributors and partners in that peace-building effort along with the LG administration and security agencies. The government was very clear that there is no place for terrorism in civilized society that prompted it to take several measures to redraw map of peace in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. All-out anti-terror operations broke edifice of the terror- structure in the

Valley. That pressure made the ant-peace elements to retreat. Peace and normalcy started advancing and made its presence felt for the people - they could experience physical peace in which they were out of the fear of the past, and they also started realizing the effect on their lives. For the first time it dawned on them that the peace did not exist in rhetoric, it had come down to the ground and that too solidly. This was nothing short of a miracle for them. They loved the miracle and its spell on their lives.

Pakistan is seeking to wreck that by its traditional and obsolete methods- killing and injuring innocent civilians, this time additional focus is on non-local workers and to engage security forces in encounters. This time something different is happening. In late 1980s, the militancy or terrorism started from urban areas and spread out to the countryside. Now the militancy from the countryside is descending to the urban areas. All this needs special attention, especially the modus-operandi of Pakistan. It's time that all put their heads together to find out how this menace is eliminated in time before it is too late.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 31.0°C Min: 15.8°C

Humidity

Max: 71 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 23.2°C Min: 7.0°C

Humidity

Max: 77 Min: 62

Sunset : 17:39 Hours

Sunrise : 06:49 Hours