

03 JKCA Sub-Committee Member Sunil Sethi resigns

03 Government of India too needs to establish Department of Government Efficiency as has been established by US President

09 Four killed in car-truck collision in Budgam

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

9 killed, 32 injured in Nowgam police station blast; cause being investigated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: An "accidental" explosion ripped through the Nowgam police station in Srinagar, killing nine people and injuring 32 others, senior officials said while underlining that it was not a terror attack.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Nalin Prabhat and MHA Joint Secretary (Kashmir) Prashant Lokhande said the incident occurred while officials were handling samples of the large cache of explosives seized in connection with the Jaish-e-Mohammed 'white-collar' terror module case in Haryana's Faridabad.

Prabhat and Lokhande read out almost identical statements before the media in Srinagar and New Delhi, respectively, dismissing speculation of a terror attack and stressing that it was an unfortunate accident. Neither officers took any questions from reporters.



DGP Nalin Prabhat briefing media at Srinagar on Saturday.

The explosion occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from a large and "unstable" cache of explosives confiscated in connection with an ongoing 'white-collar' terror module investigation.

A bulk of the explosives was stored securely in an open area at the Nowgam police

station.

The nine who died include Naib Tehsildar Muzaffar Ahmed Khan and Suhail Ahmad Rather (Revenue Department), Inspector Israr Ahmad Shah of State Investigation Agency, Selection Grade Constable Aijaz Afzal Mir, Constable Mohammad Amin Mir and Constable Showkat Ahmad

Bhat from Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Selection Grade Constable Javaid Mansoor Rather and Constable Arshid Ahmad Shah from (crime branch photographers).

Mohammad Shafi Parray, a tailor by profession and attached to the sampling team, also died in the blast.

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Delhi blast: Two doctors among 3 detained; FIRs registered against Al-Falah University

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has detained three people, including two doctors from Haryana's Al Falah University, in connection with the blast near the Red Fort, even as two separate FIRs were registered against the institution over alleged irregularities flagged by the UGC and NAAC, officials said on Saturday.

The detentions and fresh criminal cases come amid an escalating multi-agency probe into the Red Fort blast that claimed 13 lives

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Amit Shah to chair NZC meet in Faridabad on Monday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) that will be held on Monday in Faridabad, Haryana, officials said.

Chief ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, lieutenant governors of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and the administrator of Chandigarh, among others, are likely to participate in the meeting.

Coordination among the state governments, water sharing issues and development work are expected to be discussed in the 32nd NZC meeting, officials said on Saturday. The meeting bears significance as it will be

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LG orders probe to ascertain cause of accidental explosion in Nowgam Police Station

Expresses anguish, meets injured, lays wreaths

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his anguish over the loss of precious lives in the tragic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Deeply anguished by the loss of precious lives due to extremely tragic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar. My condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for speedy recovery of the injured.

The government stands in solidarity with the families, friends, and loved ones of the departed. All possible assistance is being provided

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LG Manoj Sinha laying wreath to those who lost their lives in accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station.

Sinha chairs high-level meeting, briefed about anti-terror measures by SFs

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with police and civil administration on Saturday in the aftermath of the accidental blast at the Nowgam police station that killed

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CM mourns loss in Nowgam accidental blast



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic accidental explosion at Nowgam Police Station, which claimed precious lives and left several personnel injured.

The Chief Minister extend-

Govt announces Rs 10 lakh ex gratia for kin of each deceased

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the family of each of the deceased in the accidental blast in Nowgam police station.

The compensation will be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Those severely injured will get Rs 1 lakh each, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on his official X account.

"As a mark of solidarity and immediate succour, the government has announced ex gratia relief from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund at Rs 10 lakh for each deceased and Rs 1 lakh for those severely injured," he said.

ed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, including those of the police officers, forensic science lab personnel, revenue department officials, and other

associated team members who lost their lives in this heartbreaking incident. He also prayed for the swift recovery of all the injured.

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Major Pak-linked narcotics racket busted, 2 held with 3 kg heroin



SSP Jammu Joginder Singh briefing media on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a Pakistan-linked narcotics racket with the arrest of two peddlers here with three kilograms of heroin, valued at around Rs 15 crore.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu, Joginder Singh, said a patrol party led by sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), south, and the SHO of Gandhi Nagar police station arrested the duo from near a cremato-

■ J&K Police bust multi-state cyber fraud;

13 accused identified, Rs 2.27 Cr recovered

■ Three Govt employees arrested for their subordinate's suicide in Jammu

■ Tractor driver arrested for running vehicle over couple

rium in Shastri Nagar.

In total, 3.260 kg of heroin was seized from the peddlers, he said, terming the recovery a "big catch" and a "significant blow" to drug traffickers in the region.

Police are probing the matter after registering a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the officer said.

"The peddlers are part of a major racket linked to Pakistan-based and Punjab-based smugglers. At least seven more members of the gang have been identified, and efforts are on to bring all the culprits to book," the SSP told reporters here.

Explaining the modus operandi of the racket, he said the traffickers used to smuggle narcotics

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Police at the receiving end!

■ PROF. NUTAN K RESUTRA

Once I happened to visit the office of a senior police officer. On the wall behind him was picture of a policeman and some sentences written beside the picture that I never forget. It went like this:

I perform my duty every day.
I do not have any duty hours; but 24x7.
I do not have any holidays.
Rain or sunshine, I am always there on the roads.
I do not know in which class my children study.
I am always there to lend a helping hand in crisis.
I bear the brunt of protestors' wrath.
And yet: I am a corrupt, harassing, bullying government servant.
Yes: I am a Policeman!
I was too shocked to read this painful reality of the belt force people. These sentences made me think what perception people in general have of their saviours.

Please permit me to express my thoughts on this.

Police have been a buffer between the angry mobs and authorities. Come natural calamity- floods, earthquakes, etc- police is there to lend a helping hand. Come a man -made disaster - bomb blasts, riots, stone pelting - we find them at the forefront, ever bearing brunt. And when it comes to blame game, it is found too convenient to blame them also.

I am constrained to write these as I am perturbed with the latest incident that happened in our city. To recall, while on duty there was an altercation between a Deputy Superintendent of Police and a BDO. Not going too much into much circulated videos of the said incident, the ultimate ugly outcome of the issue was the transfer and attachment of the said Police officer, now being placed under suspension for alleged assault on a JKAS officer.

Now this is purely my own view point for which no one is to be accredited.

Many questions keep coming to my mind which I feel any common person may also be having. As I am not a genius, what I am wondering; I want to share it with you all too.

Was it necessary for the government to take such prompt action of transferring and now suspending the Police Officer "pending enquiry" while he was reportedly performing his duty? Could the need- ed actions not have been taken after the enquiry was conducted? Do the decision makers know what it means for the officer to be placed under suspension? Is the fault in toto of the Police Officer only? Does this incident not going to create a wedge between the two main organs of the government: the administration and the executive? And most important of all: do these "prompt" actions not demoralise the forces, who are already under pressure?

Well, frankly friends, I do not have answers to these questions. Please let me know if you have them!