

02 250 detonators found, destroyed in Poonch

03 ‘So far Functionally Sick’ PSEs for all purposes have worked as Government controlled ‘service institutes’

10 U-19 World Cup: Pacer Ravi wreaks havoc as India oust Bangladesh to enter semifinals

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Top JeM ‘Commander’ among 5 terrorists killed in 2 encounters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a major success for security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, a top self-styled commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) was among five terrorists killed in two separate overnight encounters in Pulwama and Budgam districts of the valley, officials said on Sunday.

JeM commander Zahid Wani was active since 2017 and was involved in several killings and recruitment of youths into terrorist ranks.

Speaking to reporters at a joint press conference in Pulwama, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, and GoC of the Army's Victor Force Major General Prashant Srivastava said the gunfights, which broke out on Saturday, took place in Pulwama and Budgam districts of the Kashmir Valley after the security forces received specific inputs about the presence of terrorists.

Four JeM terrorists were



killed in the encounter in Naira area of Pulwama in south Kashmir. One Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, who was identified as Bilal Ahmad Khan, a resident of Chill Brass Khanshab, was killed in Chrar-i-Sharief area of central Kashmir's Budgam.

"Zahid Wani was a top commander of Jaish. His brother was involved in the Ban Plaza attack (in Jammu) and is in jail. Wani was active since 2017, involved in several killings, recruitment. After the killing of Sameer Dar, he

became the 'district commander' of JeM. In fact, he was the Jaish chief of the whole valley. It was a good operation and I want to congratulate the security forces," Kumar told reporters.

The IGP said so far this month, there have been 11 encounters in which 21 terrorists, including eight Pakistanis, have been killed. Thirteen of these terrorists were linked with JeM.

Complimenting the security forces' team for carrying out the operation under the most

challenging circumstances, Victor Force GoC Srivastava said the Pulwama operation was not an isolated one, but a part of a series of human intelligence-based operations that have been undertaken in the jurisdiction of the Army's 15 Corps in the past few months.

He said Wani was among the masterminds of various IED attacks that have taken place since 2017.

"With this success, we have taken a very important step in neutralising the threat of JeM in this area. With the neutralising of Wani, we have eliminated one of the masterminds of various IED attacks that have taken place over the years since 2017," he added.

Wani was also involved in the "extensive recruitment" of young boys into militancy, Srivastava said.

"He (Wani) misled them by their untimely death and caused a lot of anguish to

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Hope PoK will become part of India by 2024: Union Minister

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

THANE: Union minister Kapil Patil has said that Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) will probably come back to India by 2024 and hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for taking many "bold" decisions for the country.

Speaking at an event in Kalyan city in Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday night, the Minister of State for Panchayati Raj also said that Modi has not become the prime minister for bringing down the prices of onions and potatoes and suggested that people complain about the rise in the prices of the kitchen staple like onions but buy pizza and mutton.

Patil, the BJP MP from the Bhiwandi constituency in the Thane district, quickly added that nobody will support inflation and a rise in prices of essential commodities.

"Only prime minister

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Administrative control of CDI transferred to I&C Deptt

AC approves expansion of cold storage facilities in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To streamline the GI tagging of Jammu and Kashmir's art and craft through the Craft Development Institute, the Administrative Council (AC), which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the transfer of administrative control of the Craft Development Institute (CDI) to the Industries and Commerce Department for promoting GI tagging of J&K arts and crafts.

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The decision is aimed at promoting and developing the traditional, contemporary, modern and diversified crafts in Jammu and

Kashmir through targeted and strategic planning.

The Craft Development Institute plays a pivotal role in identifying and promoting varied crafts and obtaining the coveted Geographical Indicator (GI) tag to further boost awareness and sales of authentic products. The Institute has so far assisted Pashmina, Sozni, Kani, Khatamband, Papermachie, Walnut carving, and Carpet art in achieving the GI tag, whereas, Namdha, Shikara, and Wagur are in the process of obtaining the same.

Earlier, to facilitate the Pashmina artisans and weavers to avail testing, certification, and labelling facilities for authentication of pashmina products, the Government had transferred the administrative control of Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre from the Skill Development Department to the Industries Department. The

step has successfully protected the interests of artisans through authentic trade of genuine pashmina based handicrafts and handloom products in the market.

By another decision, the Administrative Council has approved establishment of 5000 MT Multi Chambered Modern Cold Storage and Ripening Project for storing fresh fruits & vegetables, by J&K State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.

The project will be first of its kind cold storage facility for fresh fruits and vegetables in Jammu district and will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 2646.73 lakh at Talab Tilo, Jammu in next eight months. It will reduce the post-harvest losses by increasing the shelf life of various agriculture/horticulture products, besides addressing the issue of distress sales of the crops by

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Budget session of Parliament to begin today

Oppn likely to raise Pegasus, farmers' issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Budget session of Parliament starting Monday is likely to be stormy with opposition parties all geared up to raise the Pegasus snooping allegations, farmers' issues and the border row with China.

The session is being held in the midst of crucial assembly elections in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP is locked in a bitter electoral contest with its rivals, and with the campaigning in full swing, it will have an effect on Parliament proceedings.

Wet spell likely in Kashmir next week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir went down and settled below the freezing point, even as the Meteorological Department said there is a possibility of rain or snow at scattered places on Monday, officials said.

A day after some improvement, the temperature decreased at most places in the Kashmir valley on Saturday night, the officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius down from minus 1 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 7.4 degrees Celsius marginally up from minus 7.5 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which also serves as the base camp

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 19.4°C Min: 6.6°C

Humidity

Max : 91 Min : 66

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 11.6°C Min: -2.3°C

Humidity

Max : 101 Min: 51

Sunset : 18:02 Hours

Sunrise : 07:27 Hours

COVID: 7-hour relaxation in 64-hr weekend restriction announced in J&K

► J&K adds 4,615 cases; 7 deaths ◄

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday announced a seven-hour relaxation in the restriction on non-essential movement amid concerns raised by traders over the 64-hour long weekend Covid lockdown hampering their businesses.

A fortnight ago, the administration had imposed complete a restriction on non-essential movement from Fridays 2:00 PM to Mondays 6:00 AM to rein in the surge in COVID-19 cases.

Traders of Jammu and Srinagar had sought a review of the weekend restrictions, stating they have already suffered huge economic loss- es owing to the outbreak of the pandemic.

The new lockdown restrictions on non-essential movement would be from every Friday 9:00 PM to Monday 6:00 AM, said the State Executive Committee (SEC) which met under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary A K Mehta to review the overall COVID situation.

This will come into effect

from next weekend, the SEC said.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 4,615 fresh coronavirus cases during the past 24 hours that took its infection tally to 4,32,875, while seven more fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,659, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 1,401 were from the Jammu division and 3,214 from the Kashmir division, they said, adding that four and three deaths were respectively recorded from the two provinces during the past 24

hours.

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 889, followed by 826 in Jammu district.

The number of active coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 40,270. So far, 3,87,946 patients have recovered from the viral infection, the officials said.

There are 51 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

According to reports

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LG reviews progress of mega projects through camera drones



Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday reviewed the progress of mega projects of Jammu Division through

camera-mounted drones via videoconferencing from his office at Raj Bhawan.

The review included three undergoing projects- AIIMS Jammu, IIT Jammu, and

Jambu Zoo. The Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of implementing agencies for fast progress on the projects.

During the meeting,

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Corruption hollows country like ‘termite’; we have to rid nation of it, PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said corruption hollows the country "like a termite" and all have to work together to rid the nation of it as soon as possible.

In his Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi also said India is fighting the new wave of COVID-19 with "great success" and asserted that the people's trust on indigenous vaccines was "our strength".

He said more than one crore children have sent him "their Mann Ki Baat" via postcards which have come

India fighting new wave of COVID with ‘great success’

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is fighting the new wave of Covid with "great success" and asserted that the people's trust on indigenous vaccines was "our strength".

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, Modi said, "Now the cases of corona infection have also started decreasing, this is a very positive sign."

It is a matter of pride that till now about four-and-a-half crore children have been administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine, he said.

"This means that about 60 per cent of youth in the age group of 15 to 18 years have got their vaccines within three to four weeks. This will not only protect our youth but will also help them to continue with



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from many parts of the country and even from abroad.

These postcards give a glimpse of the broad and comprehensive outlook of the new generation for the country's future, Modi said.

He talked about a postcard from a girl in Assam who expressed her wish to see India in the 100th year of independence as the cleanest country in the world, completely free of terrorism, among the 100 percent literate countries, with zero accidents and capable of ensuring food security with sustainable technology

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WHY I KILLED GANDHI?

Nathuram Godse was arrested immediately after he assassinated Mahatma Gandhi ji, based on an FIR. filed by Nandlal Mehta at the Tughalank Road Police Station in Delhi. The trial, which was held in camera, began on May 27, 1948 and concluded on February 10, 1949. Godse was sentenced to death.

An appeal to the Punjab High Court, then in session at Simla, did not find favour and the sentence was upheld.

Such was the power and eloquence of this statement that one of the judges, G. D. Khosla later wrote, "The audience was visibly and audibly moved. There was a deep silence when he ceased speaking. Many women were in tears and men were coughing and searching for their handkerchiefs. The silence was accentuated and

made deeper by the sound of an occasional subdued sniff or a muffled cough....

I have, however, no doubt that had the audience of that day been constituted into a jury and entrusted with the task of deciding Godse's appeal, they would have brought in a verdict of 'not guilty' by an overwhelming majority".

Nathu Ram Godse appeared before the Court on May 5, 1949 and stated, "Born in a devotional Brahmin family, I instinctively came to revere Hindu religion, Hindu history and Hindu culture. I had, therefore, been intensely proud of Hinduism as a whole. As I grew up I developed a tendency to free thinking unfettered by any superstitious allegiance to any isms, political or religious. That is why I worked actively for the eradication of untouchability and the caste system based on birth alone.



I openly joined the RSS wing of anti caste movements and maintained that all Hindus were of equal status as to rights, social

and religious and should be considered high or low on merit alone and not through the accident of birth in a particular caste or pro-

THE OTHER VIEWPOINT

A raging debate is going on across the country how Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi showed softness towards Pakistan during the Partition by jeopardising interests of the country and how the Congress stitched a cobweb which is responsible for the Kashmir mess. The people are so dejected over virtual subjugation of Hindus in their own country that the voices of eulogising Nathuram Godse, the assassin of the Mahatma, are growing louder. While Godse is publicly honoured by various organisations, a movie is on cards to hit the big screen. As the nation was observing the death anniversary of Gandhiji today, certain organisations kept eulogising Godse. The Hindu Mahasabha paid tribute to his assassin Nathuram Godse and a co-accused in the Gandhi murder trial, Narayan Apte, in Madiya Pradesh's Gwalior by observing "Godse-Apte Smriti Diwas. It is not what STATE TIMES endorses but the last statement of Godse hugely holds both Gandhi and the Congress responsible for the trouble India is finding itself in. People are the best judges and they alone draw conclusions on reading the confessional statement of Godse in the Court of Law.

On February 20, 2017, the Central Information Commissioner ruled that the statement of Nathuram Godse, along with other relevant records related to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, should be "proactively disclosed" on the website of the National Archives. The then Information Commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu said, "One

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fession. I used to publicly take part in organising anti-caste dinners in which thousands of Hindus, Brahmins, Kshatriyas,

Vaisyas, Chamars and Bhangis participated. We broke the caste rules and dined in the company

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