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Target killing in Rajouri; 4 PoJK refugees killed; 6 injured

► **Sanatan Dharam Sabha Rajouri calls for Bandh today** ► **Azad, Ravinder Raina, others condemn barbaric attack**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Pakistan sponsored terrorists opened fire on three houses of Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) refugees in Dangri village in Rajouri District on Sunday evening, killing four civilians and injuring several others, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh said police, along with the Army and the CRPF, have launched a massive search operation to nab the terrorists who attacked at Upper Dangri village, about eight kilometres from Rajouri town.

"Firing took place at three houses, separated at a distance of around 50 metres from each other. Three civilians succumbed to injuries on spot and seven others were injured," Singh said. However, one injured civilian succumbed to his injuries in



Heavy security deployed in Rajouri after terror attack while injured admitted in hospital on Sunday evening.

hospital, taking the death toll to four.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the officials said two suspected terrorists appeared in the village around 7:00 pm and opened indiscriminate firing on three houses and fled away. Over hundred families of PoJK refugees during 1947 partition had settled in village Dangri in Rajouri.

The deceased have been identified as Deepak Kumar

(23), son of Rajinder Kumar, Satish Kumar (45), son of Sat Paul and Pritam Lal (56), son of Lal Chand and Shiv Pal alias Ashish (32), son of Pritam Sharma, all residents of Dangri.

The injured include Pawan Kumar (38), son of Sat Pal, Rohit Pandit (35); Saroj Bala (35) wife of Satish Kumar, Sushil Kumar (40) son of Kundan Lal, Shubham Sharma (20) son

of Pritam Lal and Urishi Sharma (17) daughter of Satish Kumar, all residents of Dangri.

"This is targeted killing", said Rajiv Chuni, Chairman SOS International- an organization of PoK 'refugees' settled in J&K, demanding security for these innocent civilians, who have always stayed at their place even during peak terrorism time. "Many times they were

threatened by terror groups to leave the place but these people stayed united and pledged to fight the anti-national elements and Pak sponsored terrorism," Rajiv said, adding "Pakistan must be given a strong reply for this coward act".

Sanatan Dharam Sabha (SDS) Rajouri has given a call for Bandh in the border district on Monday in protest against the brutal attack by

the terrorists resulting into death of four innocent civilians and critical injuries to several others including women and children. The Bandh call has been supported by VHP, BJP and Beopar Mandal.

"Showing solidarity with the victims we appeal all the shopkeepers to keep their shutters down and transport services will remain suspended", spokesperson of SDS

SC to pronounce verdict on pleas against demonetisation today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on Monday on a batch of pleas challenging the government's 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denominations.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer, who will retire on January 4, is likely to pronounce its verdict on the matter on January 2, when the top court will reopen after its winter break.

According to Monday's cause list of the top court, there will be two separate judgements in the matter, which will be pronounced by Justices B R Gavai and B V

Nagarathna. It is not clear whether the two judgements will be concurring or dissenting.

Besides Justices Nazeer, Gavai and Nagarathna, the other members of the five-judge bench are Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The top court had, on December 7, directed the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to put on record the relevant records relating to the government's 2016 decision and reserved its verdict.

It heard the arguments of Attorney General R Venkataramani, the RBI's counsel and the

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Old mortar shell found in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU: An old mortar shell was found near railway tracks in Samba district on Sunday, a police official said.

The shell was noticed lying some 150 metres from the railway line at Kali Badi near Samba railway station, the official said.

He said a bomb disposal squad was rushed to the scene which inspected the mortar and found it empty.

The shell was later handed over to the accompanying team from Rakh Amb-Tali police post, the official said.

Crowds surge at key streets, city centres and shrines as India ushers in New Year sans COVID curbs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Large crowds thronged popular boulevards, tourist hubs and entertainment centres across India and many joined special prayers at places of worship on Sunday as people stepped out to celebrate

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Over 91 lakh pilgrims visited Vaishno Devi shrine in 2022, highest in 9 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over 91 lakh pilgrims visited the famous Mata Vaishno Devi temple in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, the highest in the last nine years, a senior official of the shrine board said on Sunday.

Over 23,000 devotees offered prayers at the shrine located atop Trikuta hills on New Year's Eve.

In a tweet, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board CEO Anshul Garg said, "91.25 lakh devotees paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in 2022, the highest number since the start of Online Individual



Yatri registration in 2013. May Mata Rani continue to shower blessings of peace, happiness and prosperity upon all of us."

According to shrine board data, 23,110 pilgrims offered prayers at the shrine on the last day of 2022.

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SC to launch project to provide free digital access to official law reports of its verdicts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In another step towards digitalization of the judiciary, the Supreme Court will launch on Monday a project which will provide free access to official law reports of its verdicts to law students, lawyers and the general public.

The Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project will be unveiled on the direction of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud as an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report 'Supreme Court Reports'.

A team comprising officials of Judges' Library and

Editorial Section worked tirelessly and within a short span of 15 days, almost 34,013 judgments were split to create a database suitable for meeting the requirements of the search engine developed by the Supreme Court with the NIC, Pune.

"Digitization and scanning of Supreme Court Reports (SCR) from the year 1950 to 2017 and preserving the same in digitized soft copy in the format of PDF (Portable Document Format), assisted the Registry in creating a digital repository in the Supreme Court's reported judgments in soft form," the top court said in a statement.

The e-SCR project will

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morning," Kumar said on Twitter.

He said the investigation in the case is going on.

"We appreciate the role of the family," Kumar said. Ganie had allegedly snatched an AK-47 service

Injured leopard rescued in Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fully-grown leopard was rescued on Sunday by the wildlife department in a village in Doda district, an official said.

The leopard was found on a roadside in Malwas village in an injured condition, apparently hit by some passing vehicle, the official said.

He said the presence of the wild animal caused panic among the villagers who informed the wildlife department.

A team tranquilised the beast and took it to a veterinary hospital for treatment, the official said.

SFs recover huge quantity of arms, ammunition, narcotics in Kupwara; 1 held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A man was arrested and a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and narcotics were recovered from his possession in Kupwara district, police said on Sunday.

They said the weapons and the contraband substance were meant for a militant outfit in the Valley.

Based on a specific information that a huge consignment of arms, ammunition and narcotics has been smuggled in by two persons in the Chatkadi area of Karnah, Kupwara, a search operation was

carried out by security forces there, a police official said. During the operation, a man, identified as Umar Aziz, a resident of Chatkadi, was apprehended, he said.

On his sustained questioning, he confessed that, he along with his associate, received a consignment of arms, ammunition and narcotics, the official said.

Subsequently, a detailed search was carried out and a huge consignment of narcotics and arms and ammunition was recovered from Garangnard Chatkadi, he added,

terming a major success on anti-terror activities.

The official said the recoveries include five pistols, 10 pistol magazines, 77 pistol rounds, a pistol cleaning rod, a pistol user manual guide, four hand grenades and 10 packets of heroin-like substance weighing 9.450 kg.

A case has been registered and investigation taken up, he said.

As per inputs, the consignment was meant for the The Resistance Front – an offshoot of proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), the official said.

Army Chief begins New Year by visiting troops at LoC in J&K



COAS General Manoj Pande interacting with troops deployed at LoC in Kupwara Sector.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Sunday began the new year by paying a visit to troops posted along the Line of

Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"On the occasion of #NewYear2023, General Manoj Pande #COAS

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 16.8°C Min: 5.7°C

Humidity
Max: 91 Min: 84

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 8.3°C Min: 0.5°C

Humidity
Max: 76 Min: 52

Sunset : 17:37 Hours
Sunrise : 07:33 Hours



dry weather over the next few days for the region leading to colder nights and slightly warmer days.

The mercury in Srinagar settled above the freezing point for the

second consecutive night. The city registered a low of 0.5 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, was another place where the mercury settled above

the freezing point last night. It registered a low of 0.3 degrees Celsius.

In Kupwara, a frontier district, the minimum temperature settled at minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 0.5 degree Celsius, the officials said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of Chilla-i-Kalan, the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' begins on December 21 and ends on January 30.

The cold wave continues even after that with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) following it.

Most areas of the valley received snowfall on Thursday.