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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 CAT Jammu Bench disposes of record number of 15,537 cases: Dr Jitendra

03 After Art 74 was amended President cannot take any decision/issue any advice at his/her own Will!

10 J&K bags overall 2nd place in Thang-Ta

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

Terror-free, fear-free J&K our resolve: LG Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Asserting that terror-free and fear-free Jammu Kashmir is our resolve, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said at the operational level, we have improved coordination between Police and other security agencies and adopted 'Whole of Government Approach' to dismantle the entire terrorists' eco-system.

Speaking at the Passing Out Parade of Probationer Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) at Police Academy, Udhampur, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated all the 61 passing out police officers and asked them to discharge their duty with honesty, dedication and high professionalism.

"From today, the nation is entrusting you with the important responsibility of maintaining internal security, combating terrorism,



LG Manoj Sinha taking salute from March-past during Passing Out Parade of Probationer DySPs at Police Academy, Udhampur on Tuesday.

- ▶▶ **Attends Passing Out Parade of Probationer DySPs at Police Academy, Udhampur**
- ▶▶ **Says J&K Police working under extremely challenging circumstances, playing significant role in country's internal security, ensuring integrity of nation and safety of citizens of UT**
- ▶▶ **At operational level, we have improved coordination between Police and other Security agencies and adopted 'Whole of Government Approach' to dismantle entire terrorists and separatists' eco-system**
- ▶▶ **Modern technology like AI tools have changed security landscape. Challenges of disinformation and deep fakes, remain major concerns**
- ▶▶ **J&K Police must use innovative tools to enhance its capabilities in countering disinformation and dealing with cross-border cyber threats**
- ▶▶ **Investigation and successful prosecution important weaponries of effective policing. Responsibility of J&K Police not limited to just neutralizing**

Ten drug peddlers held in J&K, heroin worth lakhs seized
■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Five alleged drug peddlers were arrested along with heroin worth lakhs of rupees at separate places in Udhampur, Kathua, Jammu and Srinagar districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

Nikhil Sharma alias Nipun and Charanjeet Singh alias Monu, both wanted

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Property of terror handler attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached an immovable property of an alleged Pakistan-based terror handler in the Awantipora area of Pulwama district, an official said.

The property, worth lakhs of rupees, belongs to Mubashir Ahmad, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar.

"Police in Awantipora have attached an immovable

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Assembly Polls: Delhi to vote on Feb 5, counting on Feb 8

Bypolls in Nagrota, Budgam to be held later due to snow: CEC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Polling for all 70 assembly seats in Delhi will be held on February 5 and the votes counted on February 8, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar announced on Tuesday.

Bypolls to two assembly constituencies -- Milkpur in Uttar Pradesh and Erode in Tamil Nadu -- will also be held according to the same schedule while that in two constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir -- Budgam and Nagrota -- will be held later due to the current snowy conditions.

Kumar also said bypolls were due in two assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir -- Budgam and Nagrota.

"...because of snow conditions, we will do it later. We have time till April and we will complete those elections before that," he said.

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CEC Rajiv Kumar briefing media at New Delhi on Tuesday.

"DIFFICULT TO DEFINE FREEBIE"

NEW DELHI: It is very difficult to define what a "freebie" is and the Election Commission's "hands are tied" on the issue as it is subjudice, CEC Rajiv Kumar said on Tuesday.

He also said it was "high time" that "accepted and legal answers" were found.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kumar was addressing a press conference to announce the schedule for the assembly polls in Delhi.

Asked about political parties announcing freebies during election campaigns, he said the matter was subjudice and referred to a court judgment that had held freebies were not "disallowed".

"What is freebie for me may be an entitlement for someone else... It is very difficult to define what

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Restoration work continues apace in snow-bound areas: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said restoration work was continuing apace in the Union Territory's snow-bound areas and added electricity supply had almost been restored following



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said restoration work was continuing apace in the Union Territory's snow-bound areas and added electricity supply had almost been restored following

snowfall.

The chief minister added the restoration work was being closely monitored by ministers, his advisors and senior officers, with regular reviews taken by the Kashmir divisional commissioner.

"Restoration works continue apace in the snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, monitored closely by ministers, my advisors and senior officers, with regular reviews taken by @DivComKash (Kashmir divisional commissioner). Today, focus will be on

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Attack on Hotel Staff: Goons run amok in Jammu, police clueless

Seven days, no action on FIR; locals concerned over law and order in temple city

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A brutal assault on hotel staff in Jammu's Trikuta Nagar on Dec 31, had sent shockwaves throughout the Jammu City, with the police yet to take decisive action against the absconding goons even after seven days. The incident, which stemmed from a dispute over bill payment on new year's eve party, left hotel manager with severe head injuries and another staffer with facial fractures.

The prime accused, Mohit and Shashank Aggarwal, sons of prominent businessman Rakesh Aggarwal, and their accomplices remain at



Mohit Aggarwal, Shashank Aggarwal, Arun Choudhary

large, further fueling public outrage. Adding to the concern, the police have been unable to identify several accomplices who were called by the Aggarwal brothers to join the attack. Despite growing demands for accountability, the police have been accused of dragging their feet in the case, giving the assaulters a long rope to evade arrest.

In a dramatic turn, a police raid at the Aggarwal family's residence yesterday failed to apprehend the accused. The family claimed the brothers were out of town, but neighbours alleged they saw the

duo entering the house shortly before the raid.

The failed raid has only intensified criticism of the police, with many accusing the department of inefficiency or undue leniency. Civil society groups have expressed concern over the city's deteriorating law and order, demanding immediate action.

Police efforts to track down other accomplices involved in the attack have also come under scrutiny. According to CCTV footage and eyewitness accounts, Mohit and Shashank Aggarwal summoned a group of goons

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Bharatpol will help bring fugitives holed abroad: Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said modern systems introduced under the three new criminal laws and technological interventions like Bharatpol will enable law enforcement agencies to bring fugitives who have escaped abroad after committing crimes in India to justice.

Speaking at the launch of a new portal Bharatpol developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to make swift coordination with

Indian agencies on Interpol-related issues, Shah said Modi government has introduced the provision of 'Trial in Absentia' in the three new criminal laws, enabling the prosecution of fugitive criminals even in their absence through court orders while ensuring a fair judicial process.



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OGW among 2 held under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Two alleged criminals, including an over-ground worker (OGW) of terrorists, were booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Kathua district on Tuesday, police said.

Mohd Abass of Dher village of Billawar and Farman Ali of Gota Rahua village of Marheen were lodged in high security Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu after they were slapped with the PSA,

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6.8-magnitude quake in Tibet kills 126 people with tremors felt in Nepal

■ AGENCY
BEIJING: A 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck near one of Tibet's holiest cities on Tuesday, killing at least 126 people and injuring 188 others with tremors also shaking buildings and forcing people to run to the streets in neighbouring Nepal.

According to regional disaster relief headquarters, the quake jolted Dingri

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 18.0°C Min: 7.1°C

Humidity
Max: 97 Min: 77

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 8.6°C Min: 2.8°C

Humidity
Max: 95 Min: 60

Sunset: 17:40 Hours
Sunrise: 07:33 Hours

RSC starts inspection of Udhampur-Baramulla rail link



RSC Northern Circle Dinesh Chand Deshwal during statutory inspection of track.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (RSC) Northern Circle Dinesh Chand Deshwal on Tuesday started a two-day statutory inspection of the recently completed railway line along the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, officials said.

Railways unveils Vande Bharat, specially designed for winters in J&K, for Katra-Srinagar route

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Railway Board on Tuesday unveiled a Vande Bharat Express train, specially-designed to operate seamlessly in Jammu & Kashmir's challenging winter conditions, for the upcoming Katra-Srinagar rail route.

The route is currently under inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, officials said.

Stationed at Shakurbasti coaching depot in New Delhi, the train has special climate-related features, according to Railways.

Describing its features to mediapersons, Railway officials said that the train has several additional features as compared to the other 136 Vande Bharat Express trains currently running in different parts of the country so that it can meet the operational challenges and passengers' amenities in extreme weather conditions of J-K.

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the completion of the Reasi-Katra section last month, an important development

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Jammu police raid Spa centres in Jammu over 'immoral' activity suspicion; 24 detained

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Twenty-four people were detained after police on Tuesday conducted raids at nearly two dozen spa centres following complaints of alleged immoral activities, officials said.

The major crackdown targeting 20 Spa centres in Channi and Trikuta Nagar areas of south zone Jammu lasted for over four hours, a police spokesman said.

"It was a well planned, coordinated action of Jammu police and civil administration. A total of 20 police teams accompanied by magistrates were deputed for the



SP South Jammu, Ajay Sharma briefing media on Tuesday.

checking of the Spa centres following large-scale complaints about immoral and illegal activities," he said.

The police checked the documents and registers main-

tained in the Spas and seized some Digital Video Recorders to analyse the allegations. At least 24 persons are detained for

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Jammu-centric study centers, think tanks are must to place region in proper perspective



JAMMU: Here is a point to ponder! How much Jammu has done for itself? There are varied answers, but the most worrying feature is that there is a lack of concerted effort to amplify the issues in a formal fashion. Jammu has been a witness to many agitations, rallies and seminars where the issues were raised. These things happened in fits and starts. Today, when the world is flooded with different viewpoints and focus areas, Jammu doesn't figure as much as it should have been, because the effort is individual-centric.

It is time that think tanks and study centres should be set up in universities and other institutions to highlight contribution of its people in the nation-building and containing and curbing Pakistan sponsored terrorism in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir with supreme sacrifices. These are scattered facts. At times these have been com-

ented think tanks.

There are loud noises about the discrimination with Jammu. The discrimination over the decades has been presented as a critical case of neglect of the people of the region for two reasons; the place was not given its due in the political decision-making and economic development, resulting in suppression its aspirations; and the region also suffered because of the lack of attention toward it. Putting it bluntly, the region was considered as a frill to Kashmir, the Valley that was incorporated into Dogra rule which had boundaries up to Tibet to make what was known as erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the Modi government that began its tenure about 11 years ago, Jammu was propelled into the national discourse. Its importance was made known to the country. This also remains a fact that Kashmir continued to hold place of primacy in this narration too. The violence

in the Valley traced to Pakistan and the machinations of the neighbouring country and separatists caught attention of the nation. That also drew the international attention and commentary. For this reason, the Government of India paid greater attention to the Valley to neutralize terrorism and its ecosystem. That was a national necessity and priority to do the course-correction for the international community.

At this point in time when everyone has pinned high hopes on the Modi government for getting more power to the people of the place, which, he in fact, has been pursuing since May 2014 when Narendra Modi took over as PM, there is need for Jammu to become resurgent and resilient. The leadership of all hues does talk about the issues of Jammu. This is good. But lack of a political consensus on issues and the priority areas have been a big letdown. There is fragmentation on the political narrative despite the wide agreement that the place needs better recognition. This hurts Jammu. Political parties, regional

and national, divided by their ideologies have never coordinated the things in a fashion that could have brought dividends and assured the new generation of the surety of their future.

All along there has been focus on the political parties and their ideologically-driven narratives. The civil society did emerge from time to time to raise the issues, but again the approach was very, very selective with no single umbrella defining them. Jammu's media too has advanced the cause of Jammu and some of the conscientious social activists too have contributed a lot in bringing the like-minded people of the region together.

The current geopolitical needs and the situation in South Asian region places a task before Jammu's social activists and all those who wish well for the region and its people to set up institutional framework of think tank, which involves all in the collective effort, as the past experiences of doing things in half-hearted manner have not served region's interests and cause. This call has to be taken now. Tomorrow will be too late.

OUTLOOK

