

02 5 Police officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two cops were martyred in a terror attack on a police party in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday, evoking widespread condemnation from various political parties.

The terrorists opened fire on the police team at the Gulshan Chowk in the evening, officials said.

The two policemen were injured in the firing and were admitted to a hospital, where they attained martyrdom, they said. Security forces have cordoned off the area and have launched a search for the assailants, the officials added, and identified the martyred cops as SgCt Mohammad Sultan and Ct Fayaz Ahmad.

Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the circumstances which led to this terror crime. Area has been cordoned off and search



in the area is going on, a police spokesperson said.

Late in the evening, a wreath laying ceremony for martyred cops was held.

Condemning the dastardly act, LG Manoj Sinha tweeted, "No words are strong enough to condemn the heinous terrorist attack on our brave JK Police jawans

03 Why observe J&K Accession Day only & not of other Princely states that acceded to India Dominion, ask 'some'?

Kashmir earlier today that resulted in the death in the line of duty of J&K police personnel Muhammad Sultan and Fayaz Ahmad. May Allah grant them Jannat & may their families find strength at this time," National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

The Peoples Conference wrote: "We strongly condemn the militant attack in Gulshan Chowk, Bandipora today in which two policemen lost their lives. Heartfelt condolences & sympathies with their families."

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami also condemned the act and demanded stern action against those responsible for the attack.

According to a Srinagar based news agency, SgCt Mohammad Sultan (37) was the lone bread earner for his family.

Sultan, who hailed from Shah Wali

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J&K Bank suspends employee for 'inappropriate' emoji on CDS death

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank has placed a woman employee under suspension for her "inappropriate" reaction to a social media post on the chief of defence staff's death, officials said on Friday.

The banking attendant was suspended on Thursday, pending disciplinary proceedings against her, the officials said.

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Govt sets up J&K Adoption Resource Agency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Friday constituted J&K Adoption Resource Agency under relevant section of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

"Sanction in terms of Section 67 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 read with Rule 33(1) of the Adoption Regulations, 2017, is accorded to constitution

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10 33rd JK UT Junior Volleyball Championship to begin today

Gen Rawat, wife Madhulika cremated with full military honours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and his wife Madhulika Rawat were cremated with full military honours at the Brar Square crematorium here on Friday.

Gen Rawat, his wife, and 11 other defence personnel were killed when a Mi17V5 helicopter carrying them crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday.

The mortal remains of the couple were cremated at Brar Square cremation ground. Their two daughters Tarini and Kritika performed the last rites. General Rawat and his wife were cremated on a single pyre.

Family members of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat have planned to take his ashes to Haridwar on Saturday after completion of cremation rituals in Delhi, Tarini told PTI.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Union min-



Kritika and Tarini, daughters of CDS Gen Bipin Rawat and Madhulika Rawat during the cremation of their parents at Brar Square crematorium.

ister Kiren Rijiju, Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain, and British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis were among several others who paid tribute to Gen Rawat and his wife at the crematorium.

Defence officials of several countries also paid tribute to

them. The CDS was accorded a 17-gun salute, according to laid down protocols.

A ceremonial battery of 2233 Field Regiment provided gun carriage. About 800 service personnel were in attendance for the military funeral of the CDS. The final journey of Gen Rawat

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J&K reports 173 new COVID cases, 1 death

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 173 new cases of the COVID-19 and one death due to it in the last one day, officials said on Friday.

The new cases took the overall tally of infections to 33,8563.

Of these, 44 were from the Jammu division and 129 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district reported the highest with 59 cases followed by 25 reported by Jammu district.

There are 1618 active cases in the UT at present, while

25 Omicron cases detected in India so far

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday said 25 cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus have been detected in India so far and that mostly mild symptoms have been noted in all the cases.

Clinically, Omicron is not posing a burden on the healthcare system yet but the vigil has to be maintained, according to

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the number of recovered patients reached 33,2455,

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Mercury falls across Valley

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir fell as the mercury settled below freezing point across the valley on Friday, officials said here.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

They said the resort was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 5.9 degrees Celsius, down a degree from the previous night.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius last night down by half a degree from the previous night, the officials said.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway town to the

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 23.1°C Min: 8.2°C

Humidity

Max: 77 Min: 70

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 12.8°C Min: -2.6°C

Humidity

Max: 87 Min: 62

Sunset : 17:27 Hours

Sunrise : 07:23 Hours

State force should never be used to browbeat political opinion, journalists: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: State force should never be used to either browbeat a political opinion or journalists, the Supreme Court has said, calling for "introspection from the political class across the country" over debasement in dialogue which is taking place even as it asked scribes to be more responsible in the twitter age.

A bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh made these observations while quashing the FIRs against editors of a news web portal and others, in connection with articles

published in West Bengal.

In a country which prides itself on its diversity, there are bound to be different perceptions and opinions which would include political opinions, the apex court said.

That is very essence of a democracy, it said.

State force should never be used to either browbeat a political opinion or the journalists suffer the consequences of what is already in public domain.

We hasten to add that this does not take away the responsibility of the journalists in how they report the matters, more so in a twitter

age, the bench said.

The observations came after senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, appearing on behalf of the West Bengal government, informed the bench that the state has decided to withdraw the FIRs registered against Nupur J Sharma, the editor of English language Opindia.com, YouTube Ajeet Bharti and others including its founder and CEO.

The top court said that it was not inclined to let go off the opportunity of saying something which is

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representatives in the Legislative Council, as 'he wanted their political empowerment'. He advised them to vote for NC's SC candidates in the next elections, lest he will not be nominating or getting elected candidates from their community to the Legislative Council anymore.

Like the classic case of Sheikh Chili, Farooq Abdullah replicated the hilarious character of the essay. He started daydreaming of forming a Government. Knowing well that Legislative Council is a history after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories is something they pleading to get restored back. He does not only day dream of his National Conference holding the reins of power but also visualises a situation where they can restore Article 370, unite Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and revoke the decision of scrapping the Legislative Council. He has been keeping his old Jammu flock

in good humour by promising MLC slots to them. They believe it too.

After playing Sheikh Chili, the National Conference President expressed deep anguish over the treatment being meted out to Scheduled Castes across India even after independence. He made a revelation that at some place in the country Scheduled Castes are still required to carry bells in their necks to keep them ringing so that 'high caste Hindus' can change their routes to avoid confronting 'lower caste'. Not naming the place, he said the SCs are not allowed to enter temples or draw water from the same tap the upper castes do. He painted a very grim picture of caste discrimination in India. Obviously the targets were upper class Hindus.

Farooq Abdullah would have avoided to earn the tag of being Agent Provocateur or Chief Divider, if he had in the same vein told the audience how inhumanly Adamidis are being treated or what is the bone of contention

between Shias and Sunnis. The leader of his stature should take exception to the plight of Pakistan's 500,000-strong Ahmaddiya community, a religious minority that considers itself Muslim but is barred from referring to themselves as such, and from practicing aspects of their faith under Pakistan's strict blasphemy laws. They are being persecuted on daily basis.

As Farooq Abdullah was portraying a horrible tale of Scheduled Castes being persecuted, his Jammu-based factotums were clapping and jerking their turbanised heads in approval. When someone pointed to the President of India, himself an esteemed member of the community, by mentioning Kovind (President Ram Nath Kovind), an alarmed but angry Jammu based senior leader can be seen in the viral video signaling 'Chup Raho' by flagging his index finger on lips, like Mahatma Gandhi's one of the famous monkey. What has happened to these second fiddlers? Can't they

see a larger plan of dividing Indian Hindus by projecting Dalits as a separate entity? In fact, they have hugely succeeded in achieving this objective but for the resistance being given by politically sagacious members of the community. The sinister plan being promoted by known Hindu bashers is to convert majority into minority by forming a larger alliance of Muslims, Dalits and Nasals.

The 'sickular' Jammu-based National Conference leaders are welcome to be the flag bearers of their party but if they cannot prevail upon their leaders to desist from dividing the majority community, at least they themselves can demonstrate their disapproval to such attempts by showing the grace of not being cheer-leaders. But they won't do that because they feel privileged and honoured to give a big applause on everything they hear from their masters like the HMV (His Master's Voice) logo of the yesteryears gramophone company.

Don't be afraid of IT Department, be tax-compliant: Prpl Chief Comm to people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: K M Bali, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Amritsar, a very senior IRS officer of 1987 batch, chaired an Outreach and Interactive programme conducted by Income Tax Department at K R Resorts, Akhnoor on Friday with different representatives of trade associations, professionals, tax payers and stakeholders. The programme was attended by Kuldeep Gupta, Co-chairman PhD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rakesh Malhotra, President Beopar Mandal, Akhnoor, Shiv Kumar Gupta, President ready-made garment traders, CA Anshul Gupta and other representatives of various Traders Associations, prominent citizens and taxpayers of town.

SDM Varinder Gupta and SDPO



Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Amritsar, K M Bali along with others during an Outreach & Interactive programme at Akhnoor.

Akhnoor Varun Jandial also graced the occasion. DDOS from different departments, College students, NCC Cadets and officers from Income Tax

Department also attended the function. Speaking on the occasion, Pr Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Bali made audience aware

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Farooq Abdullah, Sheikh Chilli or Agent Provocateur



DOST KHAN

Old timers still remember the yesteryear text book stories of primary classes-Sheikh Chilli. One of the stories featuring a hilarious Sheikh Chili carrying a milk pot on head and dreaming of buying eggs from the proceeds of his headload, hatching them and subsequently establishing a big poultry farm to get richer eventually and marrying the girl of his choice. Elated over such prospectus, he gets excited and in the run up hits some road obstacle and breaks up the pot-the investment he had weaved in his dream to get richer.

During Scheduled Caste Cell conference in Jammu, National Conference President Farooq Abdullah complained to the audience that they never voted for the NC candidates of their community during the assembly elections, as a result of which he used to get their

representatives in the Legislative Council, as 'he wanted their political empowerment'. He advised them to vote for NC's SC candidates in the next elections, lest he will not be nominating or getting elected candidates from their community to the Legislative Council anymore.

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