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Police ASI, civilian martyred in terror attacks in Kashmir

LG, political parties condemn terror acts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists Wednesday martyred a police officer and a civilian within minutes of each other in two separate incidents in the Kashmir valley, officials said. While the police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) was martyred in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, the civilian was gunned down in Nawakadal near Eidgah locality of the city, they said.

"At about 6 pm, terrorists fired at and critically injured a civilian namely Rouf Ahmad near his residence in Nawakadal area of Srinagar," a police official said.

He said the injured person was shifted to SMHS hospital here, where he succumbed to the injuries.

In another incident shortly afterwards, militants fired at and injured police ASI Mohammad Ashraf outside



Bijbehara hospital, the official said.

The injured ASI was taken to the same hospital, from where he was referred to a medical facility in Srinagar, the official said.

However, he said, Ashraf succumbed to the injuries, the official added.

The areas have been cordoned off and searches launched to nab the attackers, he said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant

responsible for these killings will be brought to justice soon", LG Sinha wrote on Twitter.

He said such barbaric terror act will not succeed in undermining the Union Territory's development journey.

Deepest & heartfelt condolences to bereaved families. Govt stands with the families & friends at this difficult time, he added.

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the attacks.

Allah marhoom ko magfirat farmaye Ameen. I unreservedly condemn these two attacks & send my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives today, he tweeted.

The People's Conference also strongly condemned the killings. We strongly condemn the terrorist attack

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PM to hold meeting on COVID today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid fresh concerns caused by the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a meeting on the COVID-19 situation in the country on Thursday.

Official sources said Modi will take stock of the pandemic situation across the country.

India has so far recorded 213 cases of the

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e-Court fee system rolled out in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday approved to implement e-Court fee system in entire Jammu and Kashmir for collection of Judicial Stamp Duty.

The UT government has appointed Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL) as central record keeping agency to devise and implement the

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J&K received investment proposals worth Rs 31,000 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir has received investment proposals worth Rs 31,000 crore and has notified a new central sector scheme worth Rs 28,400 crore which is likely to provide employment to over 4.5 lakh people, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

MoS Home Nityanand Rai said Union Home Minister Amit Shah met several delegations, families of martyrs, members of civil society and panchayat raj institutions, the public in general besides interacting with about 50,000 members of 4,500 youth clubs during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir in October.

"The government has notified the new central sector scheme for industrial development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore.



This is likely to provide employment to over 4.5 lakh people while boosting the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir," he said in a written reply.

The government has received investment proposals worth approximately Rs 31,000 crore, Rai said.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a business revival package of Rs 1,352.99 crore on September 25,

2020. Under the languishing project programme, 1,192 projects worth Rs 1,983.77 crore were completed, including five projects which were incomplete for more than 20 years, 15 projects for more than 15 years and 165 projects for more than 10 years.

The minister said the progress of projects being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir under the prime minister's development package-2015 has been accelerated.

A total of 53 projects pertaining to 15 ministries are being implemented at a cost of Rs 58,477 crore in various sectors such as roads, power, health, education, tourism, agriculture, skill development, etc. out of which 21 projects have been completed or substantially completed and the remaining 32 projects are at an advanced stage of progress.

Jamwal appointed as Addl AG; Seth, Hunar, Dewakar as DyAGs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Wednesday appointment of six Advocates as Law Officers in the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Sanction is accorded to appointment of six Advocates as Law Officers in the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," reads an order issued by Achal Sethi Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

As per order, Ranjit Singh Jamwal has been appointed as Additional Advocate General (Addl AG),

Parimoksh Seth Hunar Gupta and Dewakar Sharma as Deputy Advocate Generals (DyAGs) and Sumeet Bhatia and Eishaan Dadhichi as Government Advocate.

These appointments shall be for a period of one year which shall be extended subject to satisfactory performance of the Advocate and also subject to the production of documents related to eligibility prescribed in Notification SRO 98 of 2016; and subject to orders passed in WP(C) PIL No 6 of 2021, titled Sushil Chandel Vs Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and others.

Will continue to press for Assembly polls in J&K after winter: Azad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said his party would continue to press for the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir after the winter months to provide a popular government to the people of the Union Territory.

He alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is happy with its "proxy rule" in Jammu and Kashmir and said a government, "which has no mind, eyes, ears and a heart, should be made to sit at home".

"Winter is very harsh here



Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing public meeting at Bhadarwah.

and therefore, the polls are not possible at this time. However, we are putting pressure on the government of India to hold the polls after winter and we will con-

tinue to do so to ensure an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir for the benefit of the people," Azad said addressing a public rally in the Bhadarwah area of

Doda district.

The Congress leader said he is not interested in who becomes the chief minister and which party comes

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Jellani posted as SHO Satwari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu on Wednesday transferred Inspector Sameer Jellani as SHO Satwari. Jellani was earlier posted as SHO Rajouri. On his shifting to Jammu-Kathua Range, the District Police Headquarters today ordered his posting as SHO Satwari.

4 terrorists involved in attack on religious minorities in J&K killed: MoS Home

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a few targeted attacks on people belonging to religious minority communities by terrorists sponsored from across the border, and four terrorists involved in the incidents have been killed, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha,

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 20.2°C Min: 6.8°C

Humidity
Max: 84 Min: 72

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 11.4°C Min: -1.8°C

Humidity
Max: 88 Min: 61

Sunset : 17:31 Hours
Sunrise : 07:30 Hours

J&K records 125 fresh COVID cases

CS calls for tracking, testing, monitoring

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 125 fresh Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 3,40,161 on Wednesday, while one more fatality due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 28 were from the Jammu division and 97 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 47 cases followed by 20 cases in Jammu district.

There are 1,308 active cases in the Union Territory,

India's Omicron tally at 213

NEW DELHI: India has recorded 213 cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus across 15 states and UTs so far out of which 90 people have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

Delhi has recorded the maximum 57 cases of the Omicron variant followed by Maharashtra at 54, Telangana 24, Karnataka 19, Rajasthan 18, Kerala 15 and Gujarat 14.

The ministry data updated at 8 am also stated that India has logged 6,317 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,47,58,481, while the active cases declined to 78,190, the lowest

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while the number of recovered patients was 3,34,338, the officials said.

The death toll in the Union Territory due to the pandemic was 4,515 as one fresh fatality was reported in the

past 24 hours. The officials said there were 50 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported

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JKPSC declares result of ARCS examination

279 candidates shortlisted for interview against 91 posts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) on Wednesday in its extra ordinary meeting approved the declaration of result of written test of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies (ARCS) examination.

The written test was held on 12th of December, 2021 at 73 centres established at Srinagar and Jammu districts of the Union Territory of the Jammu & Kashmir.

According to JKPSC, a total of 30,725 candidates

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Delimitation draft rekindles hope among marginalised segments of J&K: Rana



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana interacting with cross section of people in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hailing the preliminary recommendations of the Delimitation Commission, proposing addi-

tion of six seats in the Legislative Assembly for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir Valley besides reservation for Scheduled

Tribes apart from Scheduled Castes as a path breaking initiative and defining moment for the political empowerment of marginalised segments of J&K, BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday said equal participation, irrespective of regional, religious and the ethnic affiliations, in decision making holds key to transforming the destiny of this part of the great nation.

"The much awaited report has rekindled a ray of hope among all those who have suffered the ignominy

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Deaths due to road accidents cause of worry: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that deaths due to road accident is indeed a cause of worry, adding that the Government is making continuous efforts to make the public aware of road safety and is committed to enforce the rules and necessary interventions and facilities.

Chaired a high-level meeting on Road Safety here, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officials to identify factors contributing to road accidents & take proactive measures, ensuring enforcement of safety laws in true spirit & making improvements in the response system and spreading awareness on road safety.

The Lt Governor passed



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting on road safety in Jammu on Wednesday.

explicit directions to the officials to rectify black spots within 3 months.

Traffic management has become more & more technology-driven. We need to make necessary technological interventions for highly effective road safety measures, said the Lt Governor.

Training of traffic police, strengthening manpower,

generating awareness amongst the people, especially in educational institutions, crackdown on drunken driving & speed, roping in volunteers for road safety programs would be important steps to address the challenges, added the Lt Governor.

Taking note of regular incidents of road accidents in

particular areas, the Lt Governor asked the health department to explore possibility of developing more trauma centres near accident-prone highways to help accident victims during the crucial golden hours. The chair was informed that the Health and Medical Education Department has so far established eight

Trauma Centres in various districts.

The Lt Governor advised for replicating the effective traffic management models and collaborative efforts with different stakeholders to get the desired results on the ground.

The Lt Governor asked the concerned departments to explore the modalities and prepare a proposal for establishing integrated centres of Inspection & Certification and licensing in highly accident-prone areas of the UT.

He further directed for conducting regular meetings of the District Road Safety Committees for comprehensive and multi-sectoral road safety strategies.

The chair also took a detailed assessment

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J&K may be terrorism-free in 8-10 yrs: Ex-Army Chief Vij

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Terrorism will start crumbling gradually in Kashmir after two-three years of resistance and in a period of 8-10 years, it is likely to be brought to an ineffectual state, says former Army chief Gen (retd) N C Vij.

He has come out with a book "The Kashmir Conundrum: The Quest for Peace in a Troubled Land" in which he tries to give a complete picture - starting with a history of Jammu & Kashmir and its people to the abrogation of special status.

"Terrorism in the region is not likely to disappear in a hurry. It may take eight to ten years, but the intensity is likely to decrease over time, as Pakistan's ability to create

mischievous will also reduce," says Vij, who is from Jammu and Kashmir.

He says he is convinced that the "momentous developments" of August 5 and 6, 2019 dealt a death blow to the militancy in Kashmir.

"From an aggressive position, Pakistan and the separatists have been reduced to scurrying and fending for themselves. Also, as a result of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, new dilemmas have arisen for the Kashmiris. They have lost their special status. This had always made them think of themselves as different from the rest of India. Now, they fear that they will be reduced to a minority in their own home state," Vij writes in

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