

02 Sarpanch among three booked under PSA for narcotics peddling

03 Distant & Backward area people hope Delimitation Commission-2020 can cut shackles of wrong ‘traditions & inclinations’

12 Volleyball tourney held across 3 blocks

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

Jawan martyred; number of terrorists killed in overnight encounters rise to 6

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Six Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals involved in the December 13 attack on a police bus on the outskirts of the city, were killed in twin encounters in south Kashmir that also left an Army jawan was martyred, officials said on Thursday.

While three terrorists were killed in an overnight encounter in Anantnag, three others were killed in the gunfight which took place in Kulgam district on Wednesday evening, the officials said.

Two jawans and a police personnel were injured during the Anantnag operation, they said.

The encounters took place after the forces launched cordon and search operations in Nowgam Shahabad area in Anantnag district, and Mirhama area of Kulgam both in south Kashmir after specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in these areas on Wednesday evening.

In the last about five days, security forces have carried



Below 200 terrorists active in Kashmir now

SRINAGAR: For the first time since insurgency broke out in Kashmir, the total number of terrorists active in the valley has fallen below 200 and the recruitment of youngsters by terror outfits has also been kept in check, top security officials said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference in the Qazigund area of Anantnag district in south Kashmir, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar and General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey said the security situation has improved in the valley.

"Majority of the operations conducted this year were based on human intelligence," Lt Gen. Pandey said, adding that the number of active terrorists in the valley has come down to 180. Giving further details, Kumar said this is the first time since insurgency broke out that the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

out multiple operations across the valley resulting in

11 hardcore terrorists being neutralised, killed. On Wednesday night, in two separate operations, six terrorists, including two Pakistani terrorists, of JeM cadre have been neutralised in Kulgam and Anantnag, General officer Commanding of the Army's 15 Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey said.

He was addressing a joint press conference along with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, at Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The GoC said during the operation, Sepoy Jasbir Singh lost his life.

As the operation was being conducted in very heavily built up area, while evacuating civilians from harm's way, we had two Army personnel and one JKP personnel suffering gunshot wounds. They are all stable as of now, he said.

The IGP Kashmir said the JeM group was involved in the December 13 attack on a police bus in Zewan area on the outskirts of the city here in which three

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Six JKAS officers get Special Scale; 39 promoted to Selection Grade

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday promoted six Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers to the Special Scale while 39 Time Scale officers promoted to the Selection Grade of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service.

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of Selection Grade officers namely Trishala Kumari, Kunzes Angmo, Pran Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Khurshid Ahmad Shah and Zahida Bano to the Special Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in pay level 13 (Rs. 123100-215900), with effect from December 10, 2021," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

Consequently, Trishala Kumari, Pran Singh and Rakesh Kumar have been designated as Special Secretaries in the respective departments. Meanwhile, in another order, sanction is accorded to the promotion

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SIA files charge-sheet against Hurriat leader, 8 others for ‘selling’ MBBS seats

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir

Police filed its first charge sheet against nine people, including a Hurriyat leader, in a case related to "selling" of MBBS seats in Pakistan to Kashmiri students and using the money to support and fund terrorism, officials said on Thursday.

The case was registered by the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), a branch of the police's CID, in July last year after receiving information through reliable sources that several unscrupulous people, including some Hurriyat leaders, were hand in glove with some educational consultancies and were "selling" Pakistan-based MBBS seats and seats in other professional courses in colleges and universities.

The CIK, which has been designated as the SIA now, filed its charge sheet before a court against Mohammad Akbar Bhat alias Zaffar Akbar Bhat (Chairman Salvation Movement, a constituent of hardline Hurriyat

Conference), son of Ab. Jabbar, resident of Usmania Colony Baghi-Mehtab.

Others named in the chargesheet under Section 173 CrPe in FIR 05/2020 U/S 13, 17, 18, 40, ULP Act, 420 IPC of PS CIK Srinagar has been produced before the Court of Special Judge Designated Court under NIA Act Srinagar are Fatima Shah, wife of Nisar Ahmad Shah, resident of Palhalan Pattan, presently at 172, Nundreshi Colony near Sham Lal Pump Bemina, Srinagar; Altaf Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Jabar Bhat at present Pakistan; Qazi Yasir, son of Late Nisar Ahmad Qazi, resident of Qazi Mohalla, Reshi Bazar, Anantnag; Mohammad Abdullah Shah, son of Ghulam Ahmad Shah, resident of Kulpora Salkoot Kupwara; Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh, son of Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Nowgam, Shangus Anantnag; Manzoor Ahmad Shah, son of Gh. Ahmad Shah, resident of Kulpora Salkote Kupwara, presently at Pakistan; Mohd Iqbal Mir, son of Ghulam

Rasool Mir, resident of Cheeni Chowk near Khwaja Mir Ali School Anantnag of Mahaz Azadi Front.

Five persons Mohammad Akbar Bhat @Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Fatima Shah, Mohammad Abdullah Shah, Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh and Mohd Iqbal Mir have been arrested and were produced before the Court. All of them were send to Central Jail, Srinagar while as accused persons Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Qazi Yasir and Manzoor Ahmad Bhat are absconding or evading their arrest and challan was produced against them in terms of Section 299 Cr.PC to declare them absconders, according to a handout.

During investigation, oral, documentary and technical evidence was collected and in analysis it surfaced that MBBS and other professional degrees-related seats were preferentially given to those students who were close family members or relatives of killed terrorists, they said.

Evidence also came on record to show that

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K reports 139 new COVID cases, Ladakh 15

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 139 fresh Covid case-, 37 from Jammu division and 102 from Kashmir division--thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Terrotpru to 341167.

Officials said that one Covid related death has been reported from Jammu Division.

Moreover, 120 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 19from Jammu Division and 101 from the Valley.

According to daily Media

Dr Saleem given charge of Director Health Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman , Director General, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization has been given charge of Director Health Services (DHS) Jammu as Dr Renu Sharma, DHS Jammu is going to superannuate on Dec 31, 2021. An order to this effect has been issued on Thursday by Health and Medical Education Department.

Baldev Prakash takes charge as J&K Bank's first MD & CEO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Baldev Prakash on Thursday joined the J&K Bank as its first Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO). Bank's Executive President Sunil Gupta,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 18.3°C Min: 5.9°C

Humidity

Max : 85 Min : 58

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 10.0°C Min: -4.0°C

Humidity

Max : 83 Min: 56

Sunset : 17:36 Hours

Sunrise : 07:33 Hours

Crime Branch conducts raids; two fraudsters arrested, incriminating material seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch Jammu conducted raids at different places in R S Pura area and arrested 2 fraudsters besides seizing some incriminating material.

As per an official spokesperson, carrying forward the ongoing investigation in FIR No 44/2021, registered under sections 419, 465, 467, 468, 471, 489-A-E, 120-B of IPC read with 66-D of IT Act 2000 at Police Station Jammu, the sleuths of Crime Branch Jammu carried out raids at various places in R S Pura and arrested two fraudsters namely Amarjeet Singh alias Dimple, son of Harnam

Singh, resident of 96, Malikpur Partly Simbal and Pawanpreet Singh alias Appu, son of Late Assa Singh, resident of Makhampur Gujran, Simbal Camp, Jammu for their involvement in clandestinely issuing fake and forged certificates including Police Clearance Certificates (PCC), vehicle permits, driving licenses, birth certificates etc. in Jammu for ulterior motives. "Instant case was registered by Crime Branch Jammu on basis of reliable source information which pointed towards involvement of some fraudsters in issuing fake and forged certificates

/documents of different nature to people for their vested interests. Accordingly, teams were constituted for conducting simultaneous raids at different locations in early morning hours in a very professional and meticulous way by teams of Crime Branch Jammu with assistance of CAPF from PCR Jammu, Jammu Police and other Civil authorities in presence of Magistrates. The investigation of the case is in progress for obtaining different leads and clues from questioning of the suspects so that investigation of the case is taken to a logical conclusion," he added.

India's Omicron COVID tally crosses 1,000

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI/PANAJI: India's tally of the highly contagious Omicron variant of COVID on Thursday crossed 1,000 on the back of Maharashtra reporting its highest single-day infection with the new strain, as states further tightened measures to deal with the surge in coronavirus cases.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, meanwhile, said Omicron is gradually spreading in the community and the variant of concern has been found in 46

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Rescue operation going on at accident site in Rajouri.

lances rushed to the spot by authorities soon after getting information.

The deceased have been identified as Ruksana

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Delimitation Row: 43 seats to Jammu a threat to secular fabric of India, says Bukhari

■ PROF HARI OM

Inter-regional relations were never really cordial ever since the formation of J&K State by Maharaja Gulab Singh in March 1846. Indeed, the history of inter-regional relations in J&K was one of rancor, animosity and bitterness of extreme form. It's an established fact.

However, things worsened on December 20, 2021, when the new delimitation panel shared its draft proposal with five associate members, including two BJP and three NC Lok Sabha MPs in New Delhi. As per the proposal, the ignored, the enslaved, the marginalized and the looked down upon Jammu province will get 43 seats in the 90-member assembly of the UT of J&K and Kashmir 47 seats, four more than Jammu. The proposal, in addition, reserved seven seats for the SCs in Jammu province as before and nine seats for the ST communities, including Gujjars, Bakerwals, Gadis and Sippis, for the first time.

The BJP members expressed satisfaction. They gave us to understand that the delimitation panel had done justice to Jammu by allotting six out of the seven additional seats, notwithstanding the fact that Jammu deserved at least 50 seats based on the real

population figures, land area, nature of terrain, accessibility and means of communication. On the other hand, the NC members - apart from other Kashmir-based parties, including Congress of Sonia Gandhi, PDP of Mehbooba Mufti, JK Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari, Peoples Conference of Sajad Lone, CPIM of MY Tarigami and all opinion-makers in Kashmir - rejected with contempt the delimitation panel's proposal. They termed the proposal as a conspiracy against Kashmir and Kashmiri Muslims and as a conspiracy hatched to install a Hindu as a CM in the Muslim-majority J&K. So much so, many lambasted the delimitation commission and the Narendra Modi Government, saying reservation of nine seats for the STs was a canny move of New Delhi to create a schism among the Gujjar and Bakerwal and Pathowari-speaking Muslims inhabiting Poonch-Rajouri belt in Jammu province and parts of Kupwara and Baramulla districts in Kashmir province.

The NC/Gupkaris and JK Apni Party were so rattled, shocked and outraged by the delimitation commission's proposal that they went to the extent of announcing that they will hold anti-Jammu protest

marches in Srinagar on December 29 and January 1, 2022. The JK Apni Party did hold a protest march in Srinagar and Jammu on December 29. Not just this, they also submitted a memorandum to the J&K LG Manoj Sinha. It was nothing but a memorandum of hatred for Jammu.

Denouncing the Narendra Modi Government and the delimitation commission, the memorandum, inter-alia, described the delimitation commission's proposal as a blistering attack on what it called "the idea of secular India", a threat to the "secular fabric of the country", a subversion of the cardinal principles as "mandated by the Election Commission of India and Indian Constitution". Not just this, the memorandum of hate accused the delimitation commission and the Modi Government of "disturbing the harmony in J&K where people of different religious belief and ethnicities have continued to live together in peace".

What the Bukharis said in their memorandum was self-explanatory and revealing. How could 43 seats to Jammu in the house of 90 constitute a threat to the so-called idea of secular India and a threat to the secular fabric of the country? How could the reservation of nine seats for the STs across J&K disturb the har-

mony in J&K?

The answer to these two specific questions is simple and straight: They hate the people of Jammu province, including Hindus and Muslims, from the core of their heart. They want to keep the people of Jammu province under the Kashmir's hegemony and domination. They want the people of Jammu province to suffer huge socio-cultural and politico-economic losses. They want to further erode the identity of Jammu province. They want to create a Kashmir-like situation in Jammu province so that it also witnesses Kashmiri Hindus-like exodus. They want New Delhi to continue to snub, taunt, humiliate and destroy Jammu province like it happened between 1947 and June 2018. They want New Delhi to treat Kashmir and their co-religionists as a special case that deserves a special treatment. To short, they consider themselves the masters and the people of Jammu province their slaves.

All this atrocious is utterly unacceptable. It's an appropriate time for the Narendra Modi Government to call the bluff of the Bukharis and ilk in Kashmir. And the only way to call their bluff is separation of Jammu province from

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



reporters on the sidelines of a function at the Tagore Hall here. He said a judicial probe should be announced to bring out the truth of the Hyderabad encounter:

"Police should not work like this wherein they cause pain

to the hearts of people," the former chief minister said.

Three civilians were killed in the encounter at Srinagar's Hyderabad.

Asked about the delimitation commission's draft report, Abdullah said the NC has framed a response to the report and will submit it soon. "We have framed a response to the delimitation panel's report, which will be submitted to the commission. It will be made public soon," the Member of Parliament from Srinagar added.