

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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‘Viksit Bharat Yatra’ reflects democratisation of public services delivery: Dr Jitendra

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Dr Sanjogita appointed as Ringside Doctor for WBC Middle East, India National Title Fights

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First Pre-Board exams help examinees clear CBSE Floor Test: Principal JKPS Kunjwani

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PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH

Police file terrorism charges against 4; 8 security personnel suspended

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Police have filed terrorism charges against four people arrested after two of them jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber and set off smoke canisters in a major security breach inside Parliament that also led to the suspension of eight Delhi Police personnel.

As more details emerged on what Delhi police said on Thursday was a "well planned attack on Parliament" a day earlier, police sources said raids are being conducted at several places in the hunt for Lalit Jha, suspected to be the key conspirator.

Police on Wednesday had said that six people, five of whom have been nabbed, were involved in the sensational incident that coincided with the 22nd anniversary of the terror attack on Parliament that left nine peo-



ple dead. Vishal Sharma alias Vicky, in whose house the accused stayed in Gurugram before reaching Parliament, is still under detention.

The sources said the role of two more persons has also surfaced during investigations, adding all the accused did everything as part of their foolproof plan.

The four arrested persons--Sagar Sharma (26), Manoranjan D (34), Amol Shinde (25) and Neelam Devi (37) -- were charged

under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA besides sections of the Indian Penal Code(IPC). Offences punishable under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act(UAPA) are non-bailable.

A Delhi court sent the four arrested people to the city police's custody for seven days for interrogation after they were produced before Special Judge for NIA cases Hardeep Kaur. The police had sought their custodial interrogation for 15 days.

During hearing of argu-

ments, the Delhi police accused the four of indulging in an act of terrorism and said they tried to incite fear.

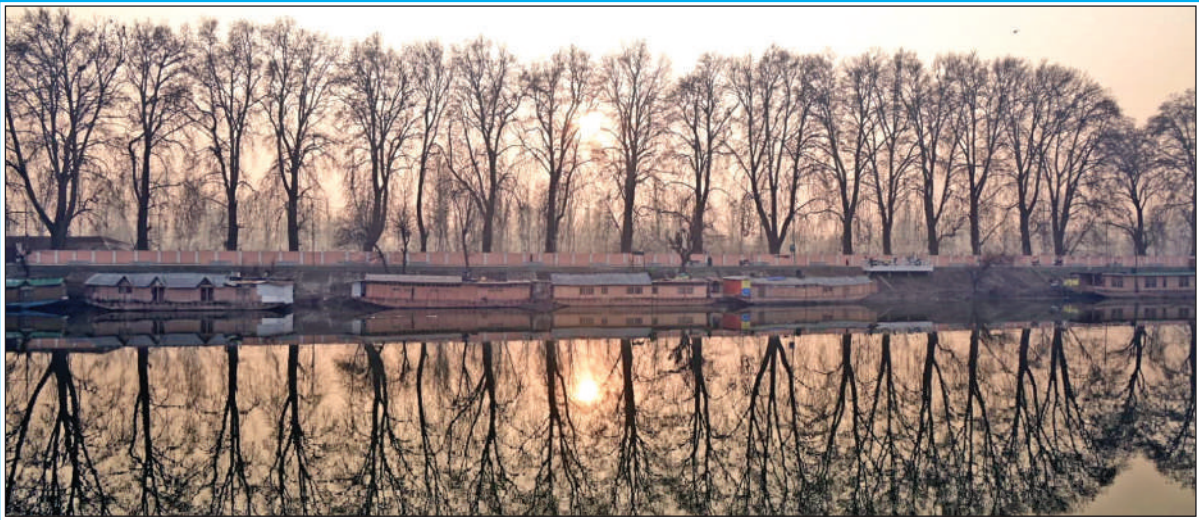
"It was a well planned attack on Parliament," it said. The police submitted that they have added Sections 16 and 18 of UAPA related to terrorism and conspiracy for terrorism respectively.

"Their right was limited to gallery. They jumped from the (visitors) gallery into the Well, which was trespass. They hid (smoke) canister in their shoes," the police said while referring to the security breach.

The prosecution said the custodial interrogation of the four arrested people was necessary to unravel the actual motive behind the incident and find out if some other people were also involved.

"Special shoes were made in Lucknow which needs

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View of Dal lake week before Chillai Kalan.

(pic by Shilpa Thakur)

Raghav posted as Addl SP Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Home Department on Thursday posted IPS Officer: "Raghav S, IPS (AGMUT2018), awaiting orders of posting ,is posted as Additional Superintendent of Police, Budgam, against available vacancy", reads an order issued by Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner / Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

Intense cold wave grips Kashmir, water bodies freeze

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is freezing under intense cold wave with Srinagar city recording the coldest night of this season even as the minimum settled several degrees below freezing point across the valley, officials said on Thursday.

Srinagar city -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of

minus 5.4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night which was slightly lower than previous night's minus 5.3 degrees Celsius.

It was the lowest minimum temperature recorded this winter in the city, the officials said.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual

Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, while the famous resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, Kokernag town minus 1.6 degrees Celsius and Kupwara minus 4.2

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JKSTIC allocates Rs 2 Cr to SKUAST-K for research advancements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to boost research and innovation, the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC) on Thursday announced a substantial grant of 2,00 crores to the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir; here.

The funding aims to support some 72 research projects, addressing diverse areas of local importance. Additionally, seed money has been allocated to 17 innovators to develop prototypes for their innovative ideas, laying

the groundwork for patents and start-ups.

The announcement was made during a function held at SKUAST, where the grant was officially handed over. The university has consistently held the top position in the region for innovations, patents, and start-ups, making it a pivotal institution in the field.

The event was attended by Saurabh Baghat, Commissioner Secretary, Science Technology, Prof Nazir Ganje, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K, Dr Nasir Shah, Additional Director JKSTIC, Bilal Ahmad,

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CS takes stock of harnessing of hydropower potential of UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday looked into the harnessing of the hydropower potential of the UT going on through different agencies here besides going into different aspects of Rehabilitation & Resettlement plan framed for the Project Affected Families (PAFs).

The meetings were attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department; Principal Secretary, Forests; Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, PDD; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, DMRR&R;



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Representatives of NHPC; JKPDC and CVVPL besides other concerned officers.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary went into detail about the potential of power on the two important

river basins of Chenab and Jhelum. He took insights into the extent of work done so far on the Hydroelectric projects (HEPs) under execution on both these rivers here in the UT.

Dulloo also asked about the civil and electromechanical

works completed on these

power projects and the time

required for bringing them

into operation. He directed

for hiking the pace of the

projects being under execu-

tion so that these are com-

pleted on time. He even

enquired from them about

any bottlenecks faced in ex-

ecution of these projects so

that these are resolved at an

earliest.

He also stressed on building the capacity of the locals to let them have greater roles and responsibilities to earn their livelihoods. He told them to both furthering the basic facilities towards better and providing them the

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Need to reform, rebuild war fighting machinery to make them ready for future battlespace: IAF chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PUNE: Future battlespace will be cluttered, congested, contested and complex, said Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari on Thursday, underscoring the need to reimagine, reform, redesign and rebuild the traditional war fighting machinery to adapt to this emerging paradigm.

He also tomorrow's wars cannot be fought with imported weapons and it was imperative to develop indigenous weaponry, particularly air-launched weapons.

The Chief of Air Staff (CAS) was delivering the General BC Joshi Memorial Lecture on Transformation of IAF into a Contemporary and Future Ready Aerospace Force' here at the Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Chaudhari articulated the vision of the Indian Air Force as laid down in its latest edition of IAF's doctrine (2023) - "to be an agile and adaptive air force that provides decisive

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Modi received highest national awards of 14 countries since 2014

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the highest national awards of 14 countries since 2014 in recognition of his leadership at bilateral, regional, and global levels, the government said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, replying to a question, also referred to Modi receiving the highest environmental award of the

United Nations in 2018. "Since 2014, the prime



minister of India has received the highest national awards of 14 countries and the highest environmental award of the UN," he said.

"Conferring the highest awards on the prime minister

of India is a clear recognition of his statesmanship and leadership at bilateral, regional and global levels," Muraleedharan said.

"It also reflects a recognition of India under the PM's leadership, including in giving voice to the Global South on the world stage, and approaching issues confronted by humanity through dialogue and diplomacy," he added.

The minister listed several notable awards conferred on Modi which included

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Notorious drug peddler arrested under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 33-year-old notorious drug peddler was arrested under the Public Safety Act in Reasi district on Thursday, police said.

The drug peddler named Amzad Hussain alias Kaki of Chack Bhagtha was arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and has been sent to the Sub-Jail in Reasi, said a police officer.

Hussain allegedly engaged in organised illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, he added.

The officer said that Hussain's dossiers for the PSA were prepared and

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J&K Admin's directive to officers: Send monthly reports on public issues, solutions to CS office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered officers including deputy commissioners to reach out to people at grassroots level, conduct public hearings, and send monthly reports to the Chief Secretary.

The order was aimed at resolving public issues and was issued following the taking over this month of senior IAS officer Atal Dulloo as the new chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the order issued by Commissioner

Secretary, General Administration Department, Sanjeev Verma, secretaries should conduct a tour every fortnight and conduct public hearing three days a week between 3 pm and 4 pm, except Wednesday.

Similarly, the heads of departments, including the deputy commissioners, have been ordered to conduct a tour every week and hold public hearing three days a week, except Wednesday.

"It shall be ensured that the above schedule is followed in letter and spirit

as far as possible and no official meetings and engagements shall be scheduled on the tour days and public hearing hours," Verma said in the order.

Verma demanded the monthly reports by administrative secretaries, highlighting issues flagged during these tours and public hearings with their possible solutions, be submitted directly to the Chief Secretary and those by the heads of departments to their respective departments.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 20.1°C Min: 6.7°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 78

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 9.7°C Min: -5.4°C

Humidity
Max: 98 Min: 70

Sunset : 17:18 Hours
Sunrise : 07:21 Hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Fourteen opposition MPs from different parties were suspended from the Lok Sabha for the remaining period of Winter Session on Thursday for disrupting House proceedings.

Amid demands from the opposition for a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the security breach in Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved two resolutions on separate occasions for the suspension of the MPs.

Before their suspension, the MPs moved into the Well of the House raising slogans with demand of a statement from the government on the Wednesday security breach. The House witnessed the first adjournment during the



question hour when it was adjourned till 2 pm amid opposition's uproar.

At 2 pm, Joshi read a statement on behalf of the government and said the internal security in Parliament comes under the purview of the Speaker.

He then moved a resolution amid the din to suspend five MPs.

"I move the following that this House having taken misconduct of T N Prathapan, Hibi Eden, Jothimani, Ramya Haridas and Dean Kuriakose in utter disregard

to the House and the authority of this Chair and having been named by the chair ... to be suspended from the service of the House for reminder session," the resolution read. The House was then adjourned till 3 pm.

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Derek O'Brien suspended from RS for remainder of Winter Session

NEW DELHI: TMC member Derek O'Brien was on Thursday suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the remaining part of the Winter Session for his "unruly behaviour" and "misconduct" in the House.

Soon after the House assembled at noon after an initial adjournment, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar named O'Brien and warned him against disrupting the House proceedings and raising slogans in utter disregard of the directions of the Chair.

The Chairman had earlier named O'Brien in the morning for his "unruly behaviour" and had asked him to leave the House. But he remained inside the House. Accusing O'Brien of violating the directions of the chair and for disrupting the proceedings of the House, the chairman allowed Leader of the House Piyush Goyal to move a motion in this regard.

The motion was adopted with a voice vote and the chairman announced that O'Brien stands suspended from the House for the remainder of the session.

Dhankhar then adjourned the proceedings till 2 PM as members of the opposition protested the suspension.

"Gross defiance to directions imparted by the chair was noticed when Derek O'Brien despite being named and directions being given to withdraw from the Council immediately continued to not only remain in the chamber but should slogans, gesticulated

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