

J&K Bank bags 'Development Leadership Award-2023'

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra receives massive public participation

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

JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Farmer's Day

Five soldiers martyred, 2 injured as terrorists ambush Army vehicles in Poonch

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Five soldiers were martyred and two injured when heavily-armed terrorists ambushed two Army vehicles in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The vehicles carrying the personnel to the site of a cordon-and-search operation came under attack at a blind curve at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Bufliaz under the jurisdiction of the Surankote police station around 3.45 pm, according to the officials.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba claimed responsibility for the

Jammu-based defence PRO Lieutenant Colonel Suneel Bartwal said a joint search operation was launched in the general area of Dhera Ki Gali Thanamandi-Surankote region of Poonch on Wednesday night on the



basis of "hard intelligence" about the presence of terror-

As additional forces were moving to the site, the ultras fired upon the Army vehicles -- a truck and a Maruti Gypsy. The troops swiftly responded to the attack, the defence spokesperson said.

In the ongoing operation, five soldiers were martyred and two injured, the officials said. The injured have been admitted to a hospital. The operation is in progress and further details are being

ascertained, the officials said. The officials have not ruled out the possibility of the soldiers engaging in hand-tohand combat with the terrorists during the intense con-

frontation

They said there was a possibility that the terrorists had walked away with the arms of the targeted soldiers.

As the operation continues, authorities are diligently working to gather more information and do away with the threat posed by terrorists in

Taking to X to condemn the dastardly ambush Thursday, Democratic Azad Party Progressive. (DPAP) chairman Azad termed the incident "devastating" and said the casualties are deeply saddening.

'... terrorism hitting Jammu is alarming and we stand united against this menace. Urging the government to take swift and decisive action for the safety of all citizens. Praying for the swift recovery of the injured," he said.

Mufti, who heads the People's Democratic Party (PDP), described the incident as "terrible". She con-"dastardly demned the attack" and expressed her deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the slain soldiers

Apni Party president and former Jammu and Kashmir minister Altaf Bukhari said he was distressed to hear about the loss of the brave

PD&MD finalizes placement of 50 officers

STATE TIMES NEWS

Development Monitoring Department (PD&MD) on Thursday placed 50 officers of Jammu and Kashmir Economics and Statistics (Gazetted) Service as Joint Directors and Deputy Directors in the department.

As per government order issued in this regard, 10 officers presently posted

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Surrendered terrorist arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Police on Thursday arrested a surrendered militant, who was absconding for 18 years, in Kishtwar district, officials said. A surrendered militant named Parvaiz Ahmed alais Haris was arrested during a raid in Kishtwar, they said. He was absconding in a case of murder and attempt to murder besides the Arms Act registered against him in 2005, they said. He was produced before the court.

Red tape replaced with red carpet for industries in J&K: LG



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the Jammu Kashmir Food Processing & Wellness Conclave in Jammu on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that red tape has been replaced with red carpet for industries in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are offering opportunities in various fields of food processing, vegetables, bakery production and nutraceuticals. GI certification will help investors to create global brands and create international standards of food safe-

ty and quality," the Lt Governor said while inaugu-Jammu Kashmir Processing and Food Conclave Wellness Jammu.

On the occasion, J&K SICOP and Apollo Hospital exchanged land deed for setting up of Apollo Hospital in

The Lt Governor welcomed the industry leaders, policymakers and stakeholders from hospitality, wellness and food processing sectors to explore investment opportunities and foster collaboration during the two-day conclave, organized by J&K Trade Promotion Ogranization.

He said the exchange of land deed with Apollo Hospital today will pave the way for one of the biggest players in health sector to formally start the ground work in the Union

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

HC quashes termination order of DGM JKPCCL

Vigilance

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Jammu has quashed the termination order of Suresh Kumar Rekhi, Deputy General Manager (DGM), Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCCL) issued under order No 84 of 2021 dated July 29, 2021.

The petitioner was appointed as Assistant Manager (Civil) in 1993 on the basis of Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC). Later, the petitioner was booked under FIR 19/2014 by State

Kashmir's harshest

winter period

Chilla-i-Kalan' begins

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's

harshest winter period,

Chilla-i-Kalan', began on

Thursday with the mercury

dropping several notches

below the freezing point at

Srinagar city -- the sum-

mer capital of Jammu and

Kashmir -- recorded a low of

minus 4.3 degrees Celsius on

Tuesday night, down from

the previous night's minus

3.7 degrees Celsius, they

Pahalgam in south

Kashmir's Anantnag dis-

trict, which serves as one of

the base camps for the annu-

al Amarnath Yatra, recorded

a minimum temperature of

minus 5.8 degrees Celsius.

The famous ski resort of

Gulmarg in Baramulla dis-

trict recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, the offi-

Qazigund recorded a low of

minus 4.0 degrees Celsius,

Kokernag town saw the mer-

cury settle at minus 3.0

WEATHER

Sunset: 17:21 Hours

Sunrise: 07:25 Hours

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Min: 83

degrees Celsius

Max: 24.8°C

Max: 71

Max: 6.8°C

Max: 94

they said.

many places, officials said.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu on account of fake PRC which resulted in a legal course of action through which the authorities ordered cancellation of his PRC. Upon this, the GAD in its order to JKPCC Jammu

authorized the competent

authority to terminate the

Organization

services of Suresh Kumar Rekhi on the basis of fake PR certificate. The petitioner in his writ petition pleaded against termination for violating the rules of natural justice without even putting him to any

explanation and CONTD ON PAGE 9

Justice Tashi chairs meeting to review functioning of Juvenile Justice Boards in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of High Level Committee as required under Section 16 (2) of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was convened on Thursday at High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman J&K LSA.

The meeting was attended by R. K. Goyal, Additional Secretary Home, Chief Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department



Justice Tashi Rabstan chairing High Level Committee meeting of Juvenile Justice Boards in Jammu.

and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority also Ex-officio Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and

A detailed review of case pendencies and disposal of cases by the Juvenile Justice Boards across the UT of J&K was held during the meeting. Also, the progress on resolutions passed during

accused under NDPS Act **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The district and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

the previous year's meeting was reviewed besides deliberating upon the issues confronting proper implementation of the said Act in the UT. The Member Secretary, Legal Services Authority presented data regarding the disposal and pendency of cases in various Juvenile Justice Boards. He informed that 2525 cases were pending at the beginning of the current year and 771 fresh cases were instituted uptill 31.10.2023, whereas, 628 cases were disposed of between January to

October 2023 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

BJP to observe 'Veer Bal Diwas' nationwide: Chugh "Prabhat Pheris" and semi-

CHANDIGARH:

National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that the BJP would $\begin{array}{cccc} \text{be} & \text{observing} & \text{December} \\ 26 & \text{as} & \text{the} & \text{"Veer Bal} \end{array}$ Diwas" nation-wide in the memory of Baba Jorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, the two sons of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind

He said the party all across the country would be holding special meetings at the mandal level to pay homage to the two sons of the Guru Sahib. Besides, the party would organise

nars to deliberate on the sac- $_{
m the}$ "Sahibzadas".



Modi, in 2022, had declared December 26 as "Veer Bal Diwas"as a mark of respect to the two "Sahibzaade" ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CS inaugurates Mega Kisan Mela under HADP at Agriculture Complex Lal Mandi

Hands over sanction letters among beneficiaries, tractor keys to farmers



Mela at Agriculture Complex Lal Mandi.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday inaugurated a Divisional Level Mega Kisan

Mela organized by the Agriculture & Farm Welfare Department under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme(HADP) here at

Agriculture Complex Lal Mandi.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Commissioner, Divisional Kashmir, Kumar Deputy Srinagar, Commissioner Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Director Agriculture Mohammad Iqbal, other senior Officers and large number of progressive farmers and Agri Entrepreneurs were present in the mega event. Speaking on the occasion,

Chief Secretary highlighted the significance of HADP CONTD ON PAGE 9

Jammu administration issues notices to 44

administration Jammu has taken a strong stance against drug trafficking and related offences as it has issued notices to 44 accused under the Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

The measures are part of the ongoing decisive fight against drug menace in the district, spearheaded by District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya and Senior Superintendent of Police Dr Vinod Kumar. The accused have been given a

New criminal laws get Parliament nod, RS passes bills by voice vote

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Three new bills that seek to overhaul the colonial-era criminal laws, making punishments more stringent for crimes such as terrorism, lynching, and offences endangering national security, were approved by Parliament on Thursday.

The bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote. The Lok Sabha had approved Wednesday.

The bills that repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act will usher in a

New criminal justice bills mark end of colonial-era laws: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday

Singh ji.

hailed the passage of three criminal justice bills that will replace as many colonial-era acts as a watershed moment in India's history, and said it marked the beginning of a new era with laws centered on



public service and welfare. "Through them, we have also bid goodbye to the outdated sections on sedition," he said on X after Parliament gave its nod to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

new era in the criminal justice system, Home Minister Amit Shah said while replying to a debate in the Upper

ACB arrests AE RDD for demanding, accepting Rs 2,000 as bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Bureau (ACB) on Thursday and arrested Ahmad Dar. Assistant Engineer, Rural Development Department, Surasyar, Chadoora, District Budgam for demanding and accepting Rs 2000 for releas-

The ACB received a written complaint against Tanveer Ahmad Dar. Assistant Engineer for allegedly demanding bribe of Rs 2000 for release of due payment in favour of the complainant.

that he is contractor of Rural Development Department and had completed allotted Works and the above named demanding 2 percent of the total cost of the bills. The

complainant alleged that the two bills amounting to the tune of Rs 90000 each were to be passed by alleged AE. However, the said public servant remained adamant on his demand of bribe and finally agreed on Rs 2000 as bribe release the payment. The complainant arranged 2000 and approached ACB for legal action.

On receipt of the complaint, case FIR No. 25/2023 U/S 7 PC Act 1988was registered in PS ACB Srinagar and investigation

During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught redhanded Tanveer Ahmad Dar. son of Ghulam Mohammad, resident of Badipora,

BJP wants Congress Mukt Bharat, TMC wants Gandhis Mukt Congress

Trinamool Congress has fired yet another salvo at the fourth generation Nehru-Gandhi scions. After showing place to Rahul Gandhi by proposing the name of Malikarjun Kharge as the prime ministerial face of the newly formed amalgam against Narendra Modi in 2024 general elections, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has suggested Priyanka Gandhi Vadra contesting the elections from Varanasi against NaMo. This has rattled the Congress, say all powerful Sonia Gandhi. She can see through the mischief in the proposal. She understands what it means fielding her daughter against the Prime Minister. This time around, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

in league with his West Bengal counterpart, as he is yet to come to terms for having lost by a margin of over 3.7 lakh votes against Narendra Modi in 2019 general elections from the prestigious Varanasi Lok Sabha Constituency. In this backdrop, the Congress testing turf for a 'senior Yogi Adhityanath's Uttar Pradesh will be disastrous, as it suffered the worst ever debacle in this state in Is it Mamata Banerjee's

love lost for Gandhi scions

or a ploy to free the

Congress from the 'shackles'

of the family? She has her-

self remained a proactive

member of the Congress,

besides a functionary and a

minister, between 1976 and

various other top INDI Alliance leaders, essentially former Congressmen, but they are maintaining low profile on this count as of now. Mamata Banerjee appears to have taken a lead, and taken off the lid, in ensuring the Congress Mukt Gandhis-the decimation of the prospectus of Rahul Gandhi's candidature as Prime Minister two days earlier being the first step towards this 'mission'. One after another, major

affiliates of the INDI Alliance are inflicting political bruises on the Congress, especially the Gandhis. This cannot be just by the waythere seems to be a method in madness. Former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav's spat with senior Congress leaders during bly elections in Madhya Pradesh is still fresh in the minds of INDI Alliance allies. Sharad Pawar and Nitesh Kumar are sulking over the treatment meted out to them in the recent

While Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and other INDI leaders are calling the shots against each other, the BJP is on mission mode to realize the dream of Narendra Modi with regard to the Congress Mukt Bharat. The slogan coined by Modi in 2014 caught the imagination of electors in a big way. Consequently, the Congress performed very badly in 2014 parliamentary elections, resulting in the biggest ever crisis in the grand old party. The alleged

involvement of Gandhis in

the National Herald and Augusta cases besides scams under the UPA regime facilitated the BJP to train guns against the Congress. In later years, the BJP also succeeded in denting the image and the credibility of Rahul Gandhi. He is more seen as a 'comic figure' than a serious politician and contender to carry forward the Nehru-Gandhi legacy. Decimation of the Congress, if not now but in near future, will mean defeat of an ideology and a philosophy that remained ingrained in India's political spectrum for seven decades.

It will be interesting to watch how things pan out in the next few months for the INDI Alliance, Congress and the Gandhis. Future holds big surprises for all the three

JAMMU: Anti Corruption trapped Tanveer ing the payment

The complainant alleged Assistant Engineer

taken up.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9