

**Neebha**  
Multispecialty Institute

**Dr. Shitiz Gupta**  
M.S., M.Ch. (Plastic Surgery)  
Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon

**Dr. Shikha Dhawan**  
M.S. (Obs. & Gynae), D.N.B. (Obs. & Gynae)  
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

29-A, Shastri Nagar  
Delhi 110085  
Tel: 9810114877

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Disability categories for PwDs reservation increased from 3 to 5: Dr Jitendra

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ADGP (L&O), Div Com Jammu visit Poonch to assess security scenario post DKG encounter

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UT Rollball Championship to start from Dec 26

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

# Retired SSP shot dead by terrorists while offering ‘Azaan’

## LG condemns terror attack

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A 72-year-old retired police officer and local "muezzin", Mohammad Shafi Mir, was shot dead by terrorists on Sunday morning while he was giving a call for "Azaan" from a mosque in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, leaving the community in shock.

According to Mir's cousin Mohammad Mustafa, who was present at home during the incident, the call for pre-dawn prayers was being given through a loudspeaker when it abruptly stopped. Mir's last words were "Reham" (mercy), Mustafa recalled. The "Azaan" had stopped at the phrase "Ashhadu Anna Mohammadu Rasool-Allah" (I bear witness that Mohammad is the messenger of Allah).

Police officials stated that Mir, who retired as a Senior Superintendent of Police



(SSP) in 2012, was shot inside the mosque located in the Gantmulla locality of Sheeri area. "Terrorists fired upon Shri Mohd Shafi, a retired police officer, at Gantmulla, Sheeri Baramulla, while praying 'azaan' in the mosque and succumbed to injuries," the Kashmir Zone Police said.

Police are also looking into the possibility of personal animosity as the deceased was shot with a .12 bore gun,

the officials said. Mir's family members described him as a dedicated individual who had taken up the role of the local "muezzin" and faithfully carried out his duties at the mosque.

After the incident, a large number of people gathered at Mir's house and at the mosque complex to pay their respects. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter. Mustafa, speaking to

reporters, shared his account of the incident, stating, "He (Mir) was my cousin. He used to call for prayers every day. This morning, while I was reading the Quran, as usual, he started the 'Azaan', so I closed the Quran."

He added, "My cousin recited 'Ashhadu Anna Mohammadu Rasool-Allah', and then the 'Azaan' stopped. I only heard a shout of 'Reham' (mercy). It was in a heavy voice."

Mustafa said he initially thought Mir might have stopped his call due to some other reason and guessed he could have collapsed due to dizziness. But it was later revealed that Mir was shot, he said.

Relatives of Mir claimed that he had been shot four times. His younger brother, Abdul Kareem, who was awakened by the sounds, believed they were caused

## LG greets people on Christmas

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message the Lt Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I extend my greetings to all, especially the Christian brothers and sisters.

The sacred festival of Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ,

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## 2 drone-dropped explosives, cash seized near LoC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two drone-dropped packets containing six battery-operated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), a pistol and some cash were seized in a joint operation by the Army and police near the Line of Control in the Akhnoor sector here Sunday, officials said.

The timely recovery of the packets, believed to have been dropped by

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St. Mary's Garrison Church, Jammu illuminated on the eve of Christmas. (Pic by Deepak Yadav)

# Education prerequisite for complete socio-economic equality: LG

## Shares J&K's transformational journey in schools, higher education institutions



LG Manoj Sinha addressing commemorative event at Jagatpur PG College, Varanasi on Sunday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VARANASI: Terming education and knowledge as a prerequisite for complete socio-economic equality, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said education is the only tool to transform a society.

"The entire nation is today working with one objective to make India self-reliant and a developed country by 2047", the Lt Governor said while addressing the commemorative event at Jagatpur, Varanasi.

He said, under the guidance of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, India is making impressive strides in new areas of knowledge connectivity.

The Lt Governor shared the transformational journey in School and Higher Education in Jammu Kashmir. He also highlighted the College on Wheels initiative launched recently to provide the students an opportunity to learn beyond the walls of classrooms.

Paying tributes to Babu Shrivnath Singh, freedom fighter, social reformer, well-known educationist and founder of Jagatpur Post

Graduate College, the Lieutenant Governor said that he played a historic role in Champaran Satyagraha. Babu Shrivnath Singh Ji promoted the idea of universal access to education and established a senior secondary school in 1945 to bring the quality education within the reach of all sections of society, he said.

The Lt Governor said, our forefathers like Babu Shrivnath Singh were committed to the promotion and all-round development of the nation and the

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## Terrorist attack on former cop act of cowardice, insult to a worship place: Chugh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary



Tarun Chugh on Sunday strongly condemned the incident in which a retired police officer was shot dead by terrorists while offering

prayers at a mosque in Baramulla.

Chugh said it was not just a cowardly act of terrorists but an insult and disgrace to the religious place.

He said it was a shame that terrorists fired on Mohammed Shafi, a former SP, during Azaan in the mosque, which showed how desperate they are.

Attacking a person in the place of worship was the most heinous crime for which the terrorists will have to pay heavily, Chugh added.

## J&K youth have potential to excel in any field: Modi

## PM interacts with students from J&K



PM Narendra Modi in a group photographs with delegation of students of J&K at his residence in New Delhi.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday interacted with around 250 underprivileged students from almost every

district of Jammu and Kashmir who have been touring the country as part of the "Watan Ko Jano-Youth Exchange" programme.

An official statement said

the interaction at Modi's residence was freewheeling and informal. These students are visiting Jaipur, Ajmer and New Delhi under the Central government's programme.

In the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshthia Bharat', the visit was aimed at showcasing the cultural and social diversity of the country to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the statement added.

The prime minister asked the students about their travel experience and the iconic places they visited and discussed with them the rich sporting culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

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## Centre needs to address the root cause of terrorism in J&K: Farooq Abdullah

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Terrorism is alive in Jammu and Kashmir and it cannot be finished by the use of military or police, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Sunday, urging the Centre to find ways to address the root cause of the menace.

The former Chief Minister said the common people should also understand the futility of the continued bloodshed as innocents are losing their lives to terrorism.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a book release function here, Abdullah slammed the BJP over its claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Shouting normalcy or propagating tourist arrivals as peace will not finish terrorism which is still alive. They were claiming that terrorism has finished with the abrogation of Article 370 (in 2019) but four years down the line, terrorism is

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 19.2°C Min: 9.6°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 89 Min: 85

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 8.5°C Min: -2.1°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 100 Min: 73

Sunset : 17:22 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:26 Hours

## DPAP Govt will end insecurity, fear in J&K: Azad

## ‘Provide subsidized pesticides to farmers’

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Former Chief Minister and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday promised that he will provide subsidized pesticides to apple growers of Jammu and Kashmir once mandated to power, saying supporting farmers is very important to give flip to the local economy.

"I believe as long as our farmers are not happy, the economy of Jammu and Kashmir won't grow. Over 60



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad while addressing a public rally at Dangerpora.

per cent population is directly or indirectly depending on horticulture sector and

shares a substantial revenue to keep our economy

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## Special DG BSF visits Jammu frontier, reviews security situation



Special DG BSF Y B Khurania interacting with troops along IB in Jammu frontier.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Director General of Border Security Force Y B Khurania visited the troops along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu frontier, officials said on Sunday.

Khurania, who heads the Chandigarh-based Western command of the BSF, arrived here on Saturday on a two-day visit to review the security situation, a

spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

D K Boora, Inspector General, BSF, Jammu frontier, briefed the Special DG about the prevailing security situation here.

Khurania visited the border outposts along the IB and also reviewed the operational preparedness of field formations along the LoC in Sunderbani and Rajouri sectors, the spokesperson

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Merry Christmas!

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory. Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn.1:14)"

**The Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar wishes the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh peace, joy and love on this Christmas**

MAY THE BLESSING OF JOY ABIDE IN YOU;  
MAY THE BLESSING OF PEACE REST UPON YOU;  
MAY THE BLESSING OF LOVE FLOW OUT THROUGH YOU;  
MAY ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD BE YOURS  
AT CHRISTMAS AND IN THE NEW YEAR 2024

**Rt. Rev. Ivan Pereira**  
Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar

Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar  
Bishop's House, Jammu Cantt., Jammu & Kashmir - 180003