

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG urges people...

the police and security forces to dismantle the entire terrorism ecosystem. "There is a need to identify those who are becoming hurdles in this mission (of peace and development in J-K). "And the information should be given to police and security forces so that the entire ecosystem of terrorism is put to end", he said. Sinha stressed the importance of eliminating terrorism and its supportive ecosystem, affirming the commitment of the central government led by Prime Minister Modi to peace and development. Referring to the recent incidents disturbing the peaceful atmosphere, Sinha invoked Guru Gobind Ji's message of peace, sacrifice, and martyrdom for the entire nation. He urged self-reflection on adherence to these ideals and emphasised that external elements attempting to "disrupt the peace and development movement" should be met with collective resistance. The LG said, "If a few outside people coming to a village with a population of 2000 try to disturb the peace and try to derail the movement of development and progress of the people, blood should boil against them". Four soldiers were martyred when their vehicles were ambushed by terrorists at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buffliaz in the Surankote area of Poonch on Thursday.

With Art 370 in...

at Gurudwara, Bhagwati Nagar. He also unveiled a statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji, disciple of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj and attended a 'Shabad Kirtan'. The administration is restoring the shrine of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji in Reasi. The devotees and tourists from across the country will be able to visit the spiritual place of Baba Banda Singh Ji," the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor said the four Sahibzades of Guruji were the embodiment of courage, valour and sacrifice. The life, ideals and bravery of Sahibzades is unparalleled in history. "Our great Gurus ensured society is free from all discrimination, fear and insecurity. The martyrdom day of Sahibzades is an occasion to remember the contribution of our revered Sikh Gurus to nation and we must strive relentlessly towards achieving the ideals espoused by them," the Lt Governor observed. The Sikh Gurus worked with the common commitment to protect the integrity and sovereignty of India and promoted social justice, social harmony and empowerment of all sections of society, he said. The Lt Governor said, it is a matter of great pride for all of us that the entire society has come together to pay the respect to our Great Gurus, Sahibzades and resolved to the task of nation-building. The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of Union Territory administration to promote Punjabi language in education.

Two separate earthquakes...

According to the National Centre of Seismology (NCS), an earthquake of 4.5 magnitude occurred at 4.33 am in Ladakh. The depth of the earthquake was five kilometers below the surface of the earth at 34.73 degrees latitude and 77.07 degrees longitude, it said. The earthquake jolted sleeping residents of both Kargil and Leh districts but police said there was no report of any damage from anywhere. An earthquake of 3.7 magnitude occurred was recorded at 1.10 am in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. The depth of the quake was five km from the surface at 33.36 degrees latitude and 76.67 degrees longitude, the NCS said.

Security situation reviewed...

central armed police force, and intelligence agencies working in the district were among others who attended the meeting, the spokesperson said. During the meeting, he said the officers engaged in a comprehensive discussion on the current security landscape, sharing valuable insights, suggestions, and assessments. The focal point of the deliberations was the formulation of joint strategies for efficient ground monitoring, encompassing areas such as effective area domination, surveillance of anti-social elements, and social media monitoring, the spokesperson said. The SSP emphasised the need for a unified approach to maintain the peaceful atmosphere in the district. "Strategies were devised to thwart mischievous activities, prevent the spread of rumours, and avert communal tensions. The officers were urged to work cohesively to ensure a synchronised response to any potential challenges on the ground," the spokesperson said. Highlighting improved coordination and cooperation among all agencies, Poswal expressed optimism that the collaborative efforts would contribute to maintaining the security and tranquillity of the district.

Poonch ambush: Search...

are being carried out cautiously as there are dense forests, deep gorges and caves, official sources said. Mobile internet services will remain suspended in Rajouri and Poonch for the fourth day in a row. Chief of Army staff (CoAS) General Manoj Pande visited ground zero in Poonch on Monday where he reviewed the anti-terrorist operation under way in Surankote

and nearby Rajouri district's Thanamandi forest belt. General Pande asked security personnel to remain resolute and steadfast against all challenges. Three civilians picked up by the Army for questioning after the terrorist ambushed two Army vehicles on Thursday at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buffliaz in Poonch were found dead on Friday. The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday announced compensation and jobs to the families of the dead civilians and said the medico legal formalities were conducted and legal action on the matter has been initiated. The Army has ordered a thorough internal investigation into the civilian deaths and said it is committed to extending full support and cooperation in the conduct of the investigation.

Cong high command...

We have made an action plan which will be taken forward. The discussion on seats will be held in the alliance committee meeting on December 29," he said. The Congress fought on nine seats in Bihar in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Asked how many seats the Congress would fight on this time, Singh said they would be flexible in seat sharing. "One or two seats may go here or there... It is not a problem. Last time we fought in alliance with RJD and Left parties. This time JD(U) is also there," he said. Earlier, in a post on X, Kharge said, "The Grand Alliance government in Bihar is working firmly as per the expectations of the people of Bihar. We are committed to social justice. For the progress, prosperity and peace of Bihar, every Congress worker is ready to reach out to the people and live up to the aspirations of the people of Bihar." In 2019, out of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, the RJD was given 20, the Congress got nine, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) fought on five, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Hum) and VIP fought three each and CPI-ML got one seat from the RJD quota. The Congress had won one seat, while the JD(U), which was in alliance with BJP at that time, won 16. The BJP won 17 seats, and the Lok Janshakti Party six. The party's high command also held a meeting with leaders from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir has five Lok Sabha seats, and Ladakh has one. After the meeting, the Congress' Jammu and Kashmir in-charge said they discussed ways to strengthen the party in the Union territory, and the strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as well as the assembly polls, whenever they are held. "We will win all five seats in Jammu and Kashmir and one in Ladakh, there is no doubt about it. Rahul Gandhi said Jammu and Kashmir is the most important state. While the Congress is trying to unite it, the BJP is trying to divide it," Solanki said. The Congress high command also held a meeting with leaders from Punjab. Rahul Gandhi shared photos of the meetings on his WhatsApp channel and said several important issues were discussed. Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi along with West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury met former leader of the Gorkha Jammukti Morcha Binay Tamang and ex-Kalimpong MLA Harka Bahadur Chetri. The meetings come as the INDIA bloc parties in their meeting held last week decided to conclude seat-sharing agreements soon.

CS stresses on...

JaKeGA; SIO, NIC and other officers of the concerned departments. Continuing, the Chief Secretary maintained that the technology is panacea for most of today's issues faced by the human population. He made out that a multipurpose digital platform offering genuine solutions to the issues faced by people across cross-section of the society should be the priority for the Department. He elaborated that after providing all the services to public through online mode it is necessary to make their availability easier and faster for all the intending users of the UT. He exhorted that the information and assistance needed by people regarding agriculture, horticulture, skill development, entrepreneurship, credit and grievance resolution should be some of the focal points of this platform. Dulloo stressed on devising an interactive mechanism for grievance redressal where the complainants are periodically apprised about the status of their grievances. He also asked for increasing and distributing the number of VLEs to ensure that far flung areas of the UT too had these in enough numbers to deliver services at the doorsteps of people. In order to ensure timely delivery of e-services to the applicants without visiting offices physically, the Chief Secretary advised the concerned authorities for making stringent guidelines for compliance with timelines set under Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA). He encouraged them to frame a list the erring officials habitual of breaching these timelines so that action warranted under law is taken against them. Regarding the ease and accessibility of these services the Chief Secretary directed for simplifying the formats for all the applications to make them user-friendly for all the surfers. He asked for running sustained IEC campaigns for generating awareness in public regarding the benefits and availability of online services. He even called for carrying out a study of all the services to check their penetration in all the districts along with uptake by users. He even asked for making a robust cyber security and Data Recovery plan for e-office. He told them to ensure that the backup of data is done on real time basis only. In her presentation the Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Prerna Puri informed the meeting that the department has made a significant contribution by increasing the number of online services from 35 in 2019 to 1102 at present offered by 72 departments, PSUs, Universities, Colleges of the UT. She also gave out that 485 services had been integrated with RAS for feedback of

public and 387 with Auto-appeal system for ensuring their delivery as per the time-limits defined under PSGA. She further informed that AQS for quality assessment of services by the users is also part of the digitisation to enable users to evaluate the services as per their experience. She also highlighted that the Department is going to roll out the IVRS for real time grievance redressal and assistance for the public. She said that the suitable real time data recovery mechanism is also being explored by the Department besides implementation of robust cyber security management plan for the UT administration. The meeting also discussed about the performance of offices onboard e-office. It also noted the uptake of Digi Dost facility administered through a toll free number (14471) across the UT besides capacity building of users of e-office here. Later in another meeting also attended by Principal Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Revenue and the Management of Telecom service provider, BSNL the Chief Secretary impressed upon the UT Administration to extend every kind of assistance to the telecommunication department. He also directed the service provider to complete the work on all the handed over sites without any delay besides ensuring that the 4G saturation of all the villages as per the vision of Centrally Sponsored USOF are duly met. He also stressed on smooth implementation of Bharat Net for coverage of all the habitations of the UT under broadband services to enhance the internet connectivity there without any further delay whatsoever.

J&K Reorganisation (Amendment)...

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The law provides for representation of Kashmiri migrants, displaced persons from PoK and Scheduled Tribes in the legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir so as to preserve their political rights as well as their overall social and economic development. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the term 'weak and under-privileged classes (social castes)' in the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 to Other Backward Classes (OBC), expanding the reservation to many more communities. This was recommended by the J&K Socially Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBCC). (PTI)

In coma since...

injured. However, despite his injuries and without any concern for his safety, he advanced towards the terrorist's location and eliminated him," an official said. He said the officer was evacuated from the encounter site on priority to 168 MH Drugnulla, and after being treated at the 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar and the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi, he was shifted to the Military Hospital (MH) Jalandhar, where he had been comatose since 2015. He passed away on December 24. "In line with the armed forces' rich legacy of honouring its fallen heroes, Kupwara Terriers organised a wreath-laying ceremony at Patahri Garrison, Kupwara, to commemorate and honour the sacrifice and martyrdom of Late Lt Col K S Natt," he said. Natt was originally commissioned as a Short Service Commission Officer in the Brigade of Guards in 1998. He served in the regular Army for 14 years before being relieved in 2012. He joined the Territorial Army following the completion of his service as a Short Service Commission Officer.

Solarisation of 4,000...

companies (DISCOMs). The DISCOMs in turn have to make payment to the farmers for export of unused power to the grid as per the tariff determined by JKSERC. The solarisation of agriculture pumps besides curbing pollution will provide the farmers with a reliable source of irrigation through solar energy driven pumps and prevent the revenue losses incurred by the DISCOMs on account of energizing the electrical irrigation pumps at subsidized energy tariff of Rs 0.66 per unit against an average power purchase tariff of Rs 3.50 per unit.

Kashmir continues to...

low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at minus 2.0 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded a minimum of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius. The Met department said the weather is likely to remain mainly dry till the end of the month. A dense layer of fog engulfed Srinagar city, affecting normal life for the second consecutive day, officials said. There was less than usual traffic on roads in the morning while vehicles were seen moving at low speeds due to the reduced visibility. "The visibility in Srinagar at 9.25 am was 91 metres due to the fog cover. The motorists should drive carefully due to the low visibility," an official of the local meteorological office said. Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the Valley. The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, especially the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall. 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day-long 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

Ritika pays tributes to Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Chhote Sahibzadas to mark Veer Bal Diwas



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan participating in religious event in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan on Tuesday paid tributes to Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Chhote Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji to mark Veer Bal Diwas at various places in Jammu. Ritika said, that it is a matter of great honour for the entire Sikh Community to observe the martyrdom of the Chhote Sahibzadas globally, which has been possible only due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She also said that PM Modi has a special respect and affection for the Sikh Gurus and Sikh Community, which has been evident through his works during the last 9 years. She said, "Modi government ensured the inauguration of Hemkund Sahib Ropeway, flagging off of special 'Guru Kripa Yatra train' connecting Five Sikh Takhts, opened the

Kartarpur Sahib Corridor after 7 decades despite tensions with Pakistan. She said, "Veer Baal Diwas will connect the new generation of Sikh Community living in India and across the world with Sikh history and heritage. Moreover, it will promote the sense of bravery, courage, and sacrifice in everyone, just like that of the Chhote Sahibzadas."

State Taxes Deptt realizes penalty of Rs 1.71 Cr from GST defaulters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS UDHAMPUR: State Taxes Department has imposed penalty of Rs 1.71 Crores on vehicles defaulters from April 2023 to December, 2023 for transporting goods in contravention of GST Acts/Rules. The enforcement activities were carried out in all the five Districts of Jammu North viz. Dada, Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur on the guidance directions of Commissioner State Tax, J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh and Addl Commissioner, State Taxes (Adm & Enforcement), Jammu Namrita Dagra under several section including Sec 129 of GST Act 2017. Deputy Commissioner

Veer Bal Diwas celebrated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS REASI: Veer Bal Diwas was celebrated in district Reasi, marking a dedication to the courage and valor of our young heroes. Veer Bal Diwas, an annual event, honors the bravery and sacrifice of children who have shown exceptional courage in the face of adversity. The commemoration kicked off on December 22, 2023, with the registration of adolescent girls and boys on the My Bharat Portal, fostering a sense of community and participation. On December 23, 2023, a series of activities unfolded, including the Viksit Bharat Pledge and Drawing competition at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi, as well as the Viksit Bharat Pledge at DC Complex Reasi.



Faculty members and students during the event.

The day further witnessed a competition activities at Government General Zorawar Singh Degree College Reasi, with events such as Essay writing, Speech, Drawing, Slogan Writing, Poetry, Singing, and Pledge. The enthusiasm and talent displayed by the participants were commendable, reflecting the commitment to fostering a sense of patriotism and social responsibility among the youth. As the celebrations culminated on December 26, 2023, the winners of the Veer Bal Pratiyogita were honored during through prize distribution. This event not only showcased the exceptional abilities of the youth but also emphasized the importance of recognizing and nurturing the potential within each child.

Attempt to murder ex-Sarpanch foiled; gangster arrested with pistol

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: Samba police has arrested a hardcore gangster and recovered a country-made pistol from his possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur. The arrested hardcore criminal has been identified as Vishal Sharma son of Sat Pal Sharma, resident of Raja Chack, tehsil Akhnoor. FIR 188/23 under section 3/25 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation has been initiated.

Two more cases of attempt to murder, Arms Act & assault registered at police station Akhnoor against gangster Vishal Sharma in the year 2019 and 2023 respectively. According to police, the hardcore gangster was arrested at a special naka of police station Vijaypur near BDO office. Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh said that a total of one hundred fifty six (156) hardcore criminals have been arrested by Samba police in past eleven months and strong legal action is being taken against the gangsters in the district.

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