

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM stresses on...

on addressing power supply challenges, curtailment schedules, revenue realization, and strategies for improving the efficiency of the power sector during the peak winter season.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Power Development Department Rajesh H. Prasad, Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D. Vaidya, Managing Directors of DISCOMs, senior officers of the PDD, and other concerned officials. Kashmir-based officers joined the meeting virtually. Principal Secretary PDD, Rajesh H. Prasad, presented a detailed overview of key areas including power supply status, load curtailment programs, revenue realization, power purchase economics, and mechanisms for monitoring curtailment schedules. The meeting also reviewed consumer and load profiles across Kashmir districts, focusing on consumer counts and challenges in meeting load requirements.

Discussions were held on strategies to address Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses through targeted interventions and mechanisms to plug revenue leakages.

A comparative analysis of power availability this year versus last year was also presented.

The Chief Minister reviewed the physical and financial progress of ongoing works and projects being executed under the UT budget, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and PMDP. Key proposed projects were also evaluated.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah launched the Monitoring of Load Curtailment Programme by clicking on www.LCPJK.in, marking a significant step toward ensuring transparency and accountability in power curtailment schedules. The Chief Minister reiterated for strict monitoring and efficient execution of curtailment plans to ensure a reliable power supply while safeguarding the interests of consumers.

## Ex-serviceman, suspended teacher...

Jameel Anjum, son of Nasir Ahmad of Naraniah Mohalla Jammu with Crime Branch and District Police Jammu, whereas 10 FIRs and 2 PVs are registered with CB and district Police Jammu against another top habitual offender Saroop Lal, son of Manga Ram, resident of Allah, Bishnah at present H.No.70, Ward No 4, Rajiv Colony Bari Brahmana district Samba, who also remained detained under PSA," Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh said, adding that the third accused arrested in separate case has been identified as Arvinder Singh of Jammu.

"While notorious accused Jameel Anjum, who is a suspended government teacher has been arrested after allegations of duping complainant Karan Singh, resident of Rani Park Jammu of Rs. 28.20 lakhs on the pretext of providing Govt job, was proved against him; notorious accused Saroop Lal was arrested after allegations of duping complainant Ram Paul, resident of Kathua of Rs 5 lakh on the pretext on the promise of government job. Third accused Arvinder Singh was arrested after allegations of preparing false PRC and procuring land by fraudulent means were proved against him and others including revenue officials," Benam Tosh said.

SSP Crime Jammu confirmed that challans of case FIR No. 70/2023 under Sections 420, 465, 468, 471 IPC against Jameel Anjum, Case FIR No. 22/2024 under Section 420 RPC against Saroop Lal and case FIR No. 50/2015 under Sections S 420, 465, 471, 120-B RPC have been produced in the Courts in Jammu and Kathua following arrests of three accused.

## Terrorists attack Army...

attack. Security forces have launched a search operation to trace the terrorists, the officials said.

Terrorists lobbed two grenades at an Army post behind an Army camp in the Surankote area. While one of them exploded, the other did not and was subsequently defused by experts during the search operation, they said.

The safety pin of the exploded grenade was found near the perimeter wall of the Army camp, they added.

A massive search operation has been launched by the Army and police in the area to track down the terrorists, who fled after the attack, the officials said.

Meanwhile, security forces continued their search for terrorists in the Dachigam forest in Srinagar outskirts, a day after a Lashkar-e-Taiba ultra was killed in an encounter in the area, officials said. According to officials, the security forces halted their search on Tuesday night but maintained a tight cordon in the area. The search for militants in the vast mountainous and forest area of Dachigam resumed in the morning, they said.

"The search operation in the upper reaches of Dachigam continued on Wednesday and the security forces are conducting extensive searches in the area," an official said.

LeT terrorist Junaid Ahmed Bhat was killed in the encounter with security forces on Tuesday. The category "A" terrorist was involved in the October 20 attack near a tunnel construction site in the Gagangir area of Ganderbal in which a local doctor and six non-local labourers were killed.

Dachigam, a national park located in the Zabarwan range of the Himalayas, reaches the districts of Pulwama and Ganderbal on either side and covers an area of about 141 square kilometres.

In a related development, a hardcore Over-Ground Worker (OWG) of a terror group was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Doda district, police said.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

"In order to fight against anti-national elements and to curb terror-related activities in Doda, police have detained hardcore OGW Mohd Irfan of Kanhal Bajarni Tehsil Bhagwah under the PSA and lodged him in jail following a detention order issued by the district magistrate, Doda," police said in a statement. It said the accused was involved in unlawful activities and was trying to spread the terror network to revive militancy in the district at the behest of his handlers operating from across the border. "The accused was operating in a very dubious manner and his activities were a constant threat to the society at large and were prejudicial to the peace, tranquility and security of the region. "The subject was warned a number of times and bound down to desist himself from anti-national activities but he did not change his behaviour and was deemed a grave potential to assist militants in their nefarious designs to revive militancy in the district," police said.

He has been lodged at Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu after obtaining a detention order from the district magistrate, Doda, it said. "The step is taken to maintain the safety and security of the region and is a loud warning to all the anti-national elements to either mend their ways or the law of the land will firmly be applied against them," the statement said.

## Off-duty Army...

to a hospital where his condition is stated to be stable, they said. The soldier was on leave and had come home to spend time with his family. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to track down the assailants, the officials said.

## Why Did Mehbooba...

liking of the Islamists, who don't want other religions to occupy even an inch of space. That is typical of all the Islamist

nations. Bangladesh is copying Pakistan in persecution of the minorities where Hindus and Christians have been subjected to murders, rapes and conversions. The people in Bangladesh, particularly its rulers of the time, have forgotten the atrocities that Pakistani army had committed on them, their women folk, intellectuals and all the sane elements in 1971 before India liberated them by sacrificing its own soldiers for their cause. Pakistan army was made to lose and surrender by the Indian army, to deliver freedom to the people of Bangladesh that replaced East Pakistan.

There have been certain incidents in India, but those should have been seen and commented upon in right perspective. There is a punishment for those challenging the unity and integrity of the nation. Muar Khalid fits into that category. There were times when such elements could get away with anything they would say or do. But now there is a government, which doesn't permit anti-national sloganeering.

Mehbooba should have been aware of the distinction. She deliberately sought to blur the distinction. She went a step ahead, placed India and Bangladesh in the same category on their respective behavior towards minorities. This is misleading and most inappropriate. She must go in for self-introspection whether what she is saying is correct or not. The answer she would get is that it is incorrect. But she will not correct herself, because it is her politics and she is looking to reap political dividends out of such misleading expressions.

Mehbooba is in a survival mode. It is the tragedy of her brand of politics that she had to preside over the worst-ever electoral defeat of her party in 2024 Assembly elections where her tally was down to dismal three seats as against 28 in 2014, 21 in 2008 and 16 in 2002. There was a gradual progression since 2002 polls before the whole thing reversed in 2024. It happens in politics. The electoral map doesn't always remain the same. But Mehbooba Mufti brought unto herself and the party that she has been leading for over two decades.

She was responsible and credited for getting Chief Minister's chair for her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in the aftermath of 2002 polls when the party could win only 16 seats, much short of the required majority of 44. She was able to persuade Congress, which was having 21 seats and others, including Panthers Party, that a Kashmiri should head the government. The same very Mehbooba Mufti undid prospects of her father becoming Chief Minister in 2008 despite the party having scored five more seats than 2002 polls. She is looking at something more this time to expand her party's base by challenging the Indian nationalism.

## CIK, SIA raids...

mobile phones and devices were allegedly being used in the jail premises by undertrial terrorists and terror sympathisers of various proscribed terrorist organisations for communicating with active terrorists and passing on directions received from the handlers across the border.

"The suspects were in continuous touch with the handlers of terrorist organisations across the border; thereby receiving directions and passing on to the active terrorists active in Kashmir valley," they said.

The officials said the searches were conducted in different blocks and barracks of the Central Jail, wherein incriminating material in the form of SIM cards, mobile phones and other digital devices having bearing on the investigation of the case have been recovered and seized in the case.

The case pertains to a larger conspiracy hatched by proscribed terrorist organisations operating within Jammu and Kashmir and across the LoC at the behest of Pakistani agencies, in connivance with their supporters and facilitators/sympathisers in the Kashmir valley.

They are continuously in process of creating 'new terror modules' wherein by misusing various social media applications, youths of Kashmir are lured by varied ways and means, including radicalisation and instigation with the intention to make the youth indulge in unlawful and terrorist activities, the officials said.

The investigating agency is also looking into the aspect of security breach at the jail premises as to how these digital communication devices reached inside there.

"Facilitators/collaborators in this act will also become the subject of investigation," they added.

The officials said the operation is aimed at uncovering crucial evidence, curb illicit activities, prevent the misuse of communication devices, such as mobile phones, within the security zones, including the jails and dismantling the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory.

## 2 dead, 14 injured...

was launched immediately after the accident. So far, two bodies have been retrieved while the others have been taken to a hospital. Union Minister Jitendra Singh expressed grief over the accident and assured all required help to the affected. "Just now spoke to DC (Deputy Commissioner) Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan after receiving the news of an unfortunate accident of cruiser in Dandaru area. Two casualties reported. More updates awaited. Meanwhile, rescue operation has started. My office is in constant touch. All required help will be provided," the minister wrote on X.

## 2 JKAS officers transferred, one gets addl charge

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday transferred two JKAS officers besides giving additional charge to one.

According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Musheer Ahmed, JKAS, Director, Tribal Affairs, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Social Welfare Department and Ghulam Rasool, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, as Director, Tribal Affairs, J&K.

"Pawan Kumar, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, shall hold the charge of the post of Additional District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," it added.

## Temperature in Kashmir settles below freezing point

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The night temperature in Kashmir plummeted on Wednesday, with the minimum temperature at most places settling below freezing point, according to MeT officials.

A further drop in temperatures is expected in the coming days, owing to the forecast of dry weather, they added.

Barring Kokernag, all other weather stations across the valley recorded sub-zero night temperatures, the officials said. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, they noted. Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley in South Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Pahalgam, a popular tourist resort and one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, settled at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, three degrees lower than the previous night. The famous ski resort of Gulmarg registered a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded minus 1.2 degrees Celsius and Kokernag, at 0.4 degrees Celsius, was the only station to stay above freezing.

## Police attaches properties of 2 drug peddlers worth over Rs 3 Cr in Srinagar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday attached properties worth more than Rs 3 crore belonging to two alleged drug peddlers in Srinagar, officials said.

"Reinforcing the ongoing efforts against drug peddlers/smugglers, police in Srinagar has attached properties worth more than Rs 3 crore belonging to two drug peddlers under Section 68 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act," a police spokesman said.

Giving details, he said the police attached a three-storey residential building belonging to Abdul Ahad Bhat at Banpora Batamaloo worth Rs 65 lakh.

Bhat is accused of selling drugs to the youth of the region for which a case under the NDPS Act was registered against him at the Shaheed Gunj police station.

In another case, police attached a three-storey residential building belonging to Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, father of Jan Manzoor Bhat from Natipora, at Umer Lane Azad Basti valued at Rs 2.5 crore, the spokesman said.

Jan Manzoor Bhat is also a drug peddler involved in selling narcotics to the youth of the area, and a case stands registered against him at the Chanapora police station.

Both the properties were acquired using proceeds of illegal narcotics trade, the spokesman added.

In compliance with Section 68 of the NDPS Act, the immovable properties shall not be transferred/sold/purchased or otherwise dealt with without the prior permission of the competent authority, the spokesman said.

The action underscores the commitment of J-K Police in eradicating the drug menace and dismantling the infrastructure supporting narcotics trafficking in the region, he added.

## Forest guard falls to death from hillock in Ramban

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A 54-year-old forest guard died after falling from a hillock in Ramban district, police said on Wednesday.

Abdul Gaffar Sohil, a resident of Tabeela village in Banihal, was on duty when he accidentally slipped into a deep gorge near Nachlana late on Tuesday night, they said.

Sohil was found dead at the scene by rescuers after a one-hour-long operation, they added.

The post-mortem was conducted at the Sub-District Hospital in Banihal and the body was handed over to his relatives after completing the legal formalities on Wednesday, officials said.

## DMO Kathua suspended

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday suspended Naveen Kumar (Driller), District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kathua, and ordered an inquiry into his conduct.

"Pending inquiry into his conduct, Naveen Kumar (Driller) District Mineral Officer, Kathua is placed under suspension in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 with immediate effect," reads an order issued by Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Mining, J&K.

"During the period of suspension, he shall remain attached in the Directorate of Geology and Mining, J&K," it added.

"Consequent upon the suspension of Naveen Kumar, District Mineral Officer, Kathua, Varinder Singh, District Mineral Officer, Jammu shall look after the routine work of District Mineral Office, Kathua in addition to his own duties till further orders," it further reads.

## Three drug peddlers arrested, contraband substances recovered

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested two drug peddlers in Srinagar and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party of Police Station MR Gunj during naka checking at Syed Mansoor Bridge Zaldagar intercepted a vehicle (Venue) bearing registration number JK01AX-7639, who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, 11 grams of Brown Sugar like substance concealed in a polythene bag was recovered from the Dashboard of the said vehicle. The accused identified as Rakib Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Salam Dar resident of Rajouri Kadal Srinagar has been arrested on the spot.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 51/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station MR Gunj and further investigation has been initiated.

Moreover, during the course of the investigation of case FIR No. 134/2024 under Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act of Police Station Safakadal, a police party of Police Post Noorbagh after unearthing of forward and backward linkages related to the previously arrested accused, another notorious drug peddler has been arrested. He has been identified as Mohd Irfan Sheikh son of Mohd Ashraf Sheikh resident of

Pamposh Colony, Noorbagh. 2.51 grams of Herion has been recovered from his possession. Investigation is going on to establish further connections.

Police also arrested a drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party of Police Post Mirbazar at a checkpoint established at Nipora Crossing intercepted a suspicious person carrying a bag coming from Nipora Link Road towards Nipora Crossing, who after noticing police party tried to flee from the spot. However, he was chased and apprehended tactfully. After search, 9.6 Kgs of Poppy Straw like substance filled in the said bag was recovered from his possession. The said person has been identified as Akshay Kumar son of Kartar Chand resident of Markoli, Samba.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 261/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at police station Qazigund and further investigation has been taken up.

## Two bovine smuggling attempts foiled, 27 bovines rescued

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, J&K Police has successfully foiled two bovine smuggling attempts and rescued twenty seven bovines in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and Police Station Samba.

A Police party of Police Post Rajpura headed by Incharge PP Rajpurafalling under PS Ghagwal has successfully foiled bovine smuggling attempt near Madoon/Trali area and rescued eighteen bovines which were being smuggled by foot from Kathua side towards Samba side via border road. All the rescued bovines have been shifted to a safer place.

A case FIR No. 169/2024 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

Similarly, a Police party of Police Post RakhAmb/Talli headed by Incharge PP RakhAmb/Tallifalling under PS Samba has successfully foiled bovine smuggling attempt near Sadoh area and rescued ninebovines.

A case FIR No. 312/2024 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

## Property worth Rs 1.08 crore of three drug peddlers attached

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Kathua Police attached property worth Rs. 1.08 Crore belonging to three drug peddlers in the Kathua district under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act). The property was identified as an illegally acquired property, during the course of the investigation and inquiry conducted by SHO PS Rajbagh Insp. Rajeshwar Slathia under the command & guidance of SDPO Border Dheeraj Singh Katoch under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Sakseena froze the immovable property of three accused persons namely Raj Wali alias Sher Ali alias Shidu, son of Sattar Din, resident of Jagatpur Maggar Khad Lakhampur District Kathua. (Value of freedzed house 31.10 Laes); Bagh Hussain, son of Lal Hussain, resident of Maggar Khad Lakhampur; Kathua(Value of freedzed house 47.73 Laes) and Bagh Hussain, son of Mir Ali R/O Maggarkhad Lakhampur; Kathua (Value of freedzed house 29.34 Laes). The Total value of all the three houses is 1.08 crore. The action against the accused persons is taken U/S 68F read with section 68E of NDPS Act. As during investigation of case FIR No 30/2023 U/S 8/21/22/29 of NDPS act it was surfaced that the property which has been acquired is as a result of proceeds of Narcotics.

As the property was, prima facie, acquired by the owners from illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The said drug peddlers were involved in the said case and action was taken U/S 68(E) & 68 (F) of NDPS Act of 1985.

## Vehicle loaded with illegal wood seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: On the intervening night of 2nd and 3rd December 2024, at about 2: 45 am, during the routine patrolling, the officers of Forest Division Basohli apprehended a vehicle (Mahindra Pick-Up, registration number JK08A-8104) at Lohai (Poonda), Basohli-Mahanpur road.

Upon inspection, the vehicle was found loaded with Khair-wood (approximately 16 Quintal). On questioning, the Driver failed to produce any valid transportation/ felling permission for the loaded material.

After preliminary legal formalities, the vehicle and the illicit khair-wood were seized under the provisions of Section 52 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and brought to the Divisional Forest Office, Basohli.

A case has been registered against the defaulter under Sections 26, 42, and 69 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The matter has been submitted before the Court of the Authorized Officer, Basohli, for the initiation of confiscation proceedings as per the law.

The operation was carried out by Munish Bhardwaj, SFS; Divisional Forest Officer and Yash Paul Sharma, Range Forest Officer, Basohli.

## Sukhbir Badal escapes attempt on life at Golden Temple; former Khalistani terrorist arrested

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AMRITSAR: Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal escaped a bid on his life on Wednesday when a former Khalistani terrorist fired from a close range at Punjab's ex deputy chief minister at the Golden Temple's entrance here but missed as plainclothes policemen overpowered him.

The audacious attack, which occurred at around 9:30 am, was captured on cameras by mediapersons who had gathered to cover the second day of Badal performing the duty of 'sewadar' at the main gate of the Sikh shrine as religious penance for "mistakes" committed by the SAD government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017.

As other devotees were entering, the shooter, identified as former terrorist Narain Singh Chaura, slowly walked towards Badal (62), a Z+ protectee who was sitting in a wheelchair due to a fractured leg, and pulled out a gun from his pocket.

Chaura, 68, was seen at the shrine on Tuesday as well. Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Jasbir Singh, who was standing close to Badal in plainclothes, sensed the threat to the senior Akali leader and pounced on the shooter, grabbed his hands and pushed them upwards after which the attacker

was overpowered with the help of other security personnel and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) task force members.

In the melee, the gun fired and the bullet hit the entrance wall of the shrine behind Sukhbir Badal, who escaped unhurt.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Harpal Singh said the police had been keeping an eye on Chaura, who was at the Golden Temple on Tuesday as well.

Special Director General of Police Arpit Shukla told PTI that more than 20 cases including under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act are registered against Chaura.

He was involved in the 2004 Buraill jailbreak case where he allegedly helped terrorists Jagtar Singh Hawara, Paranjit Singh Bheora and two others escape from prison. A native of Chora Bajwa village Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district, he has been out on bail.

Chaura had remained in jail in Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Chandigarh, his wife Jasmeet Kaur told reporters at his native place. To a question, she said he had told her that he was going to Golden Temple. She said whatever he did was wrong.

Amritsar Police Commissioner

Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said the attack on Badal was foiled because of the alertness of police and the motive behind it will be ascertained after Chaura's questioning.

The shooter came alone to the Golden Temple, he said, adding that the case will be investigated from all angles.

Sukhbir Singh Badal is the son of five-time former chief minister of Punjab Parkash Singh Badal and had recently announced his decision to step down as SAD president. He was the deputy chief minister of Punjab from August 2009 to March 2017.

Responding to a question, Bhullar said the security deployment at the shrine was sufficient. Police cannot carry out frisking because religious sentiments are involved, he said.

"Around 175 police personnel led by an assistant inspector general have been deployed at the complex," he said.

Devotees are not frisked at the entrance of the Golden Temple, one of the most revered Sikh shrines. It has four entry points. No metal detector has been installed at any entrance. However, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee deploys its task force members who keep an eye on suspicious persons. If they find anyone suspicious, they can check the person.