

02 AE facing bribery charges commits suicide in judicial custody

03 Advisor, CS discuss functioning of SED with Union Secretary

10 JK Public School Kunjwani shines in 'Start Quest Season 4'

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Horticulture Deptt clears promotion of 15 officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Departmental Promotion Committee meeting of Non-Gazetted Cadre of Horticulture Department, Jammu Division was held under the chairmanship of Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak, here on Thursday.

The Departmental Promotion Committee cleared the regular promotion of 15 Divisional/

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Court rejects bail plea of fraudster accused of duping Rs 1.30 cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Rajinder Sapru rejected bail application of one Fiyaz Ahmed Rather, who duped Rs 1.30 crore from innocent student for PG course in Medical.

According to Crime Branch petitioner assured complainant in the case for arranging admission of his son in MD Course at ASCOMS Sidhra for session 2016 for which he demanded an amount of Rs. 1,30,00,000 and complainant paid said amount to petitioner. APP D P Singh, appearing for Crime Branch

75 new COVID cases in J&K; 26 in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 75 fresh coronavirus cases on Thursday, taking the infection count to 4,52,722, officials said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 4,748 as no fatality due to the virus was reported in the past

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Four JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government on Thursday transferred four JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Gulzar Ahmad Dar, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Director, KIMS, Srinagar and ex-officio Special Secretary to

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 22.5°C Min: 12.0°C

Humidity
Max: 90 Min: 50

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 7.4°C Min: 0.7°C

Humidity
Max: 96 Min: 86

Sunset : 18:25 Hours
Sunrise : 07:05 Hours

Ukraine attacked by Russia; seeks India's support in defusing crisis
Modi speaks to Putin, calls for immediate ceasefire & dialogue



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a telephonic conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday appealed for immediate cessation of violence and asserted that differences between Russia and NATO can only be resolved through "honest and sincere" dialogue.

During their conversation, Modi also sensitised the Russian President about India's concerns regarding the safety of the Indian citizens in Ukraine, especially students, and conveyed that India attaches the highest priority to their safe exit and



Will take all steps to bring back Indians: Shringla

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday assured its citizens stranded in Ukraine that it will take all possible steps to bring them back safe and sound.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said at a media briefing that the Indian embassy in Ukraine is extending all possible assistance to the Indians notwithstanding the complicated situation. He said a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by PM Narendra Modi, was underway on the Ukraine crisis. Shringla said Modi conveyed at the CCS meeting that the topmost priority of the government is the safety and security

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return, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) here said.

President Putin briefed Prime Minister Modi about the recent developments regarding Ukraine, it said.

The prime minister reiterated his long-standing conviction that the differences between Russia and the NATO group can only be resolved through honest and sincere dialogue, the PMO said.

Prime Minister Modi appealed for an immediate cessation of violence, and called for concerted efforts from all sides to return to the path of diplomatic negotiations and dialogue, it said.

The leaders agreed that their officials and diplomatic teams would continue to maintain regular contacts on issues of topical interest, the PMO said. India has been pressing for de-escalation of

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ADG BSF visits IB, LoC in J&K; reviews security situation, area domination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BSF Additional Director General (Western Command) P V Rama Sastry visited forward areas along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu frontier and reviewed the security situation and the area domination-cum-deployment of troops, officials said.

The ADG visited Jammu frontier for a three-day visit beginning Tuesday and during the period, he visited areas of responsibility (AOR) of troops along the IB and the LoC, they said.

He was welcomed by BSF IG (Jammu frontier) D K Boora and other officers and was given an impressive guard of honour.

Sastry reviewed BSF's overall deployment and domination plan on LC area and held discussion with commanders of the sector and the battalions on ground and reviewed the security

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Major terror plot averted; Arms dropped through drone recovered from Arnia sector



Seized weapons dropped through drone in Arnia sector.

JAMMU: Police recovered a huge quantity of weapons dropped by a drone along the International Border in RS Pura sector here, officials said.

A search operation was launched by the special operations group (SOG) of the police following information about a drone activity and dropping of weapons by Pakistan-based terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Force (TRF) at the behest of ISI in RS Pura-Arnia area in Jammu district, a senior police officer said.

The operation led to the recovery of one pistol with two magazines and 70 rounds, three detonators, three remote-controlled IEDs, three bottles of explosives, one bundle of cortex wire, two-timer IEDs and six grenades at Treva village of Arnia sector, the officials said.

The explosives were dropped by a drone, which is reported to have intruded into the Indian side in Arnia belt of R S Pura from across the border, they said. The dropping of explosives suggests a major terror plan of the

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ACB books XEn Urban Local Bodies for abusing official position

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu has registered an FIR against one Raman Uppal, son of M R Uppal, resident of 339 Shastrinagar Jammu, the then Executive Engineer Urban Local Bodies, Division-II, Jammu and Atul Mahajan, son of Chander Mohan, resident of Kishtwar, Prop Suvani Construction for alleged favouritism and abusing official position and providing undue benefits in allotment of work to beneficiary, in violation to norms and conditions.

According to FIR, a verification was conducted by

ACB on a written complaint lodged by one Aftab Hussain alleging therein to have filed tender documents along with two other contractors (under self-help group) in Urban Local Bodies Div-II Jammu for 'Construction of Lane/drain from Main Road to House of Om Parkash Sharma (Shakti Studio) W. No. 09 Kishtwar', under NIT No. 65-LBJ (II) of 2016. He further alleged that bids were opened in absence of him and other contractors and rates stand changed after opening of bids, thereby allotting the work to Suvani Construction of approximately Rs 9 lakh.

The verification further revealed that balance work of

'Lane and Drain from Shaheedi Park to House of Gh Mohd Zargar W.No. 10 Kishtwar' for an amount of Rs 9 lakh was floated by Executive Engineer Local Bodies Div-II Jammu vide tender notice No. 65-LBJ(II) of 2016. The three bidders including Suvani Construction also participated in tendering process and after analysing of record, it was revealed that the then Executive Engineer Urban Local Bodies Div-II Jammu, Raman Uppal neither floated e-NIT which was in vogue at that relevant time nor constituted/formulated a committee for opening of tenders. The three firms participated

in NIT and the rates quoted for other items by Sunshine Construction was 3 per cent, Nissar Construction was 19 per cent and Suvani Construction was 22 per cent but after opening of bid, Atul Mahajan, son of Chander Mohan, resident of Kishtwar; proprietor of Suvani Construction in league with then Executive Engineer Local Bodies, Division-II Jammu made cutting and insertion by changing the figure quoted for other items as 22 per cent to 2 per cent and managed to get the tender in his favour. The verification conducted further revealed that apart from

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SHO Bari Brahmana, SHO Gagwal among 6 inspectors transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba, Dr Abhishek Mahajan on Thursday transferred two Station House Officers (SHOs) among four inspectors.

As per order, Inspector Rajesh Sharma has been transferred from Police Station Bari Brahmana and posted to DPL Samba; Inspector Rakesh Kumar has been transferred from Police Station Ghagwal and posted as SHO Bari Brahmana; Inspector Vijay Kumar has been

transferred from DPO Samba and posted as SHO Ghagwal; while Inspector Rajeev Kumar has been transferred from DPL Samba and posted as Reader DPO Samba.

As per another order, Inspector Inderal Singh of DPL Samba shall function as Incharge of all the Nakas established in the district for its smoothing functioning. Besides, Inspector Rajesh Chander, MTO DPL Samba shall look after the work of PCR Samba in addition to his own duties till further incumbent is posted.

Three active terrorists, associate arrested across Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Police along with security forces have arrested 3 active terrorists including two hybrid terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT from Budgam and Baramulla. Besides, 01 terrorist associate was also arrested.

Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition have been recovered from their possession.

Acting on specific information about presence of terrorists in Aarath area of Budgam, Police along with 2RR arrested an active terrorist of proscribed outfit LeT identified as Yasir

Four HM OGWs arrested at Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: Security forces on Thursday arrested four OGWs affiliated with banned Hizbul Mujahideen organization alongwith 02 UBGL Grenades, 120 live Rounds of AK 47, 02 Magazines of AK 47, Posters of HM outfit.

As per the details, a Joint Parties of Police Kishtwar, 17 RR & CTT of CRPF 52 BN were on Long Range Patrolling in general area of Dool Dhar Jungle of Kishtwar. Four Persons were seen moving from Dool towards Dool Dhar Jungle, who on seeing the Security Forces tried to flee from the spot and alert parties of LRP overpowered and detained the suspicious persons.

On preliminary questioning they disclosed their identity as Shafi Bakerwal, son of Meer Khan, resident of Pyas Padyarna; Fareed Ahmed, son of

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Mushtaq son of Mushtaq Ahmed and a terrorist associate identified as Irfan

Bashir son of Bashir Ahmed Dar both residents

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Goyal posted as Addl CS Home; Kabra as Financial Commissioner Revenue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government on Thursday transferred two IAS officers.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Raj Kumar Goyal, IAS (AGMUT:1990) has been posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department and Shaleen Kabra, IAS (AGMUT:1992) Principal Secretary, Home Department has been transferred and posted as Financial Commissioner, (Revenue).

Export registration in J&K goes up by 173 pc

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), a Government of Jammu and Kashmir Undertaking, collaborated with Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to achieve the vision of Export promotion in UT of J&K with its registration drives for handholding the potential Exporters from J&K and facilitating them in getting new Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) which resulted in net increase of export registrations by 173%. IEC is a key business identification number that is mandatory for exports or

imports. Further, number of issued IEC in Jammu and Kashmir has increased from 204 new registrations in 2020 to 557 in 2021.

As per data, a total of 2863 IEC registrations been done till date in Jammu and Kashmir. Also, the value of Exports in the UT from the last five years has increased from US\$ 124.47 million to US\$ 159.64 million.

This was one of the prioritized initiatives of JKTPO under the aegis of Department of Industries and Commerce for Export Promotion in the UT. As per the vision of 'District

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Flight operations resume in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Air traffic to and from Kashmir resumed on Thursday following improvement in visibility, officials said.

The flight operations at the Srinagar airport were suspended on Wednesday due to bad weather after heavy snowfall in the Valley.

The officials said the operations resumed on Thursday afternoon.

They said the visibility at the airport improved from about 800 metres in the morning to about 1,500 metres in the afternoon, leading to the commencement of the operations.

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Oppn driven by 'vote bank' politics, not country's interest: Modi



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AMETHI/PRAYAGRAJ (UP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked opposition parties, saying guided by "vote bank and dynastic politics", they have always sacrificed the interest of the country and the poor.

Modi also questioned the "silence" of rivals over the court's recent verdict on Ahmedabad blasts, and said,

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"Being hostage to vote bank politics, they would not even hesitate to insult the army or the police".

The prime minister's remarks came days after a special court in Ahmedabad sentenced to death 38 members of the terror outfit Indian Mujahideen in the 2008 serial blasts case. The court also sentenced 11 other convicts to life imprisonment.

Modi was addressing a rally for nine constituencies of Amethi and neighbouring Sultanpur. He started the day with the election rally in Amethi and later went to Prayagraj for his second public meeting.

At the Prayagraj rally, PM Modi said two crore

Mobile governance in J&K in 3 months: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday said that Government will launch UT dashboard and 'your mobile our office' app shortly and steps are afoot on multiple fronts to usher in mobile governance in Jammu and Kashmir within three months.

Addressing a district capex review meeting with the DDCs, which was also attended by the secretaries in the government, Dr Mehta said that the foundations of development with accountability and transparency through increased digitisation has been laid in J&K on enduring basis and urged the officers to expedite developmental works and focus on people connect to further



improve the delivery of service.

He said the welfare of the people is at the front and centre of the developmental policies of the government and all interventions are informed by the need to address their needs and aspirations.

He lauded the efforts of the DDCs in ensuring that the snowfall on 22nd February did not cause any significant disruption to the essential services.

The Chief Secretary said they should, however, not rest on their laurels as the good work done by them has led to more

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J&K Admn sets target to harness hydropower potential to make UT power surplus in 5 yrs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has set a target to harness the region's hydropower potential to make the Union territory power surplus in next five years.

"In order to achieve this target, the administration has taken several path breaking reforms in the power sector which will change the dynamics of the power sector here," an official spokesman said here.

He added that among the priorities in this regard was tapping the 20,000-megawatt (MW) power potential of the region.

In the past 70 years, only 3,500 MW out of the potential of 20,000 MW had been harnessed in Jammu and

Kashmir, the spokesman said.

"Once the entire potential is exploited, J&K will have surplus power and can be an energy exporter. However in the past two years alone, the projects for about 3,000 MW capacity projects have been revived and subsequently put on track for operationalisation," he said.

The spokesman said key reforms were undertaken in the power sector during 2020.

The J&K government had constituted a four-member task force on power sector reforms for implementation of initiatives, schemes and relief measures under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan."The

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