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### 1 killed, 14...

officials said.  
In a tweet, Union minister Jitendra Singh said, "I am in touch with DC Indu Chib on minute to minute basis. Exact cause and origin of the blast being worked out...too early to draw any definite conclusion."

Lieutenant Governor Sinha said, "My deepest condolences are with family of Jugal Kumar, who lost his life in IED explosion. Directed district administration of Udhampur to render all assistance to kin of victim & those injured. I strongly condemn this heinous terrorist attack. Our security forces will hunt down those responsible."

Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir also condemned the attack.  
"Unequivocally condemn the Udhampur attack in which one person lost his life and several others were injured. May the deceased rest in peace. Prayers for speedy recovery of those injured," the National Conference (NC) wrote on its Twitter handle.

NC vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah said he was greatly saddened by the attack and the resultant death and injuries.

"I unreservedly condemn this attack, at the same time I send my condolences to the family of the deceased & prayers for the injured, Abdullah said in a tweet.

My deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayers for a speedy recovery of those injured, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti wrote on Twitter.

Peoples Conference general secretary Imran Reza Ansari said terror should be condemned in one voice.

Today's blast in J&K's Udhampur lead to the loss of a precious life & injuring many others. Government need to curb such attacks by heavy crackdown on culprits to prevent further loss of civilian lives, he added.

ADGP Jammu Zone , Mukesh Singh also visited the site of blast at Slatthia Chowk Udhampur and inspected the scene with DIG, SSP , NIA officials, CRPF commandant and bomb disposal experts. He also visited the injured at the hospital and spoke to them. Preliminary examination suggests a low intensity IED explosion. Forensic examination and careful and minute scrutiny of the site will reveal more accurate facts. Investigation of the case has commenced.

Meanwhile, on the direction of Y.P Bourney Chairman District Legal Services Authority Udhampur (Pr District & Session Judge), Secretary DLSA, Sub Judge



Secy DLSA, Rajni Sharma (Sub-Judge) enquiring well-being of an injured at District Hospital Udhampur.

condition. She also inquired about the treatment being given to them from hospital authorities. Meanwhile, the Secretary DLSA met Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib who was also on hospital visit. The Secretary DLSA asked the DC to provide best possible medical assistance to blast victims. She also requested Deputy Commissioner to provide financial help to injured and Ex-gratia to the next of the Kin killed in the blast.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the Secretary DLSA that best possible treatment and help will be provided to injured and family members of the deceased in the unfortunate incident.

The injured have been identified as Hira Lal, 25, son of Lok Man, resident of Dolpur Rajasthan; Soni Kumar, 46, son of Prem Chand, resident of Kot Patyari; Sahil Kumar, 25, son of Romesh Kumar, resident of Pakhalai; Anil Kumar; 19, son of Sat Paul, resident of Bvalli Nallah; Ashok Kumar; 47, son of Beli Ram, resident of Sarsoo; Rakesh Kumar, 40, son of Khem Raj, resident of Barmeen; Amit Kumar, son of Om Parkash, resident of Bant; Bodh Raj, 60, son of Munshi Ram, resident of Gole Mella; Om Parkash, 60, son of Deeku Ram, resident of Hartyan Baletar; Anita, 27, wife of Jugal, resident of Jagano; Kaku Ram, 50, son of Dodi Ram, resident of Kaghote; Raju Ram, 37, son of Dharm Chand, resident of Kuprella; Kuldeep Kumar; 46, son of Dharmu, resident of Kuperella; Varun, 8 month-old, son of Jugal, resident of Donal.

### J&K ranks first...

on Wednesday to celebrate 25 crore registrations of unorganized workers. The award was received by Commissioner Secretary Labour & Employment, Sarita Chauhan, along with Labour Commissioner, A R War.

The e-Shram portal has been developed by the Ministry of Labour and

Employment which was launched for creating a national level database of unorganized workers.

Pertinently, J&K has registered more than 31 lakh unorganized workers since launch of the portal thereby recording 82% out of the targeted achievement of 38 lakh.

### Sarpanch shot dead...

the administration, such recurring attacks highlight the deteriorating security scenario in Kashmir:

"Strongly condemn the assassination of Sarpanch Khonmoh, Sameer Ahmed Bhat. Contrary to the tall claims of the administration such recurring attacks highlight the deteriorating security scenario in Kashmir: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this hour of grief, the party said in a tweet.

In a tweet, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said, "Very tragic. The assassination of Sameer Bhat is reprehensible & I condemn it unequivocally. He joins a long list of politicians & elected representatives whose only crime was their desire to work for the greater good."

The Peoples Conference also condemned the killing.

Strongly condemn the killing of sarpanch, Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Khonmoh. Days before, a representative was also shot to create sense of fear and terror. There seems no end to this ruthless violence. Condolences to the family of Sameer: May your soul rest in peace! the party said.

### 24 PSIs transferred...

as Incharge PP Dewal; PSI Ravinder Singh has been transferred from P/S Katra and posted to P/S Reasi; PSI Akhil Badkulia from P/S Ransoo to DPL Reasi; PSI Vivek Choudhary from P/S Arnas to P/S Katra; PSI Mayank Jamwal from P/S Reasi to P/S Mahore; PSI Rakshat Singh Jamwal from P/S Arnas to P/S Katra; PSI Virender Singh from P/S Katra to P/S Chassana; PSI Rohit Sharma from P/S Chassana to P/S Pouni; PSI Abhijeet Singh from P/S Mahore to P/S Arnas; and PSI Azhar Shakeel from P/S Arnas to P/S Ransoo.

### CS for use...

the recurrent traffic jams on the national highway due to police checking and nakas, the chief secretary directed the concerned to conduct checking of vehicles in a regulated manner without causing disruption to the smooth traffic movement.

The enforcement agencies were further asked to submit the factual reports of each checking drive with the higher authorities for ensuring suitable penal action against the delinquents, they said.

To ensure transparency and accountability during the enforcement drives, Mehta directed mandatory wearing of body cameras by the officials concerned, besides ensuring installation of traffic cameras on all traffic interceptors.

Similarly, the Traffic Police was also asked to adequately plan for the Amarnath Yatra 2022 in consultation with the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

### Modi lauds collaborative...

and vaccination efforts have been lauded globally by the WHO, United Nations, International Monetary Fund as well as in the reports of Harvard Business School and Institute for Competitiveness, the PMO said.

Appreciating the relentless efforts put in by vaccinators, healthcare workers, and Central and state governments, Modi underlined the significance of following Covid-related protocols and urged continued support from the community and participation of individuals to get vaccinated and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, it added.

The meeting also took stock of the status of the vaccination drive in the country, and a detailed presentation on the pandemic situation globally and in India was also made.

Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya attended the meeting besides a number of senior government officials.

The meeting came amid a steady decline in the number of COVID-19 cases nationwide, with most of the restrictions lifted.

India logged 4,575 new coronavirus cases, taking the total tally to 4,29,75,883, while the active cases dipped to 46,962, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

### NIA raids at...

recovery of IED from Bhatindi area of Jammu in June last year and another regarding "radicalising, motivating and recruiting youth of J&K by LeI".

### Money laundering premeditate...

rights of the accused also . Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the bench had put query about section 436-A.

He said PMLA is a peculiar offence which is different from other serious offence which are classified separately like Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Mehta said money laundering usually takes place cross borders and not within the bounds of the country only and there are certain tax-haven nations where the offender can easily park the illicit money.

He told the bench there are certain countries, which give an individual a kind of a shelter by giving him a citizenship, with which India does not have a reciprocal treaty for extradition.

Because of this international nature of this offence, the accused, especially the main accused, has his own infrastructure, wherewithal and every infrastructure in that respective country where he parks his money or he has ensured his stay getting citizenship , the solicitor general said.

This is an offence which is a premeditated offence. It never takes place in the heat

of the moment, he said.

Mehta said while committing this offence, one would ensure where his money will go, how it will be hidden, in which country, who will be helping him, what is his infrastructure to escape and become a fugitive and he will have everything ready.

Referring to Section 45 of the PMLA, he argued that it says about offences to be cognisable and non-bailable and starts with notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure .

My first respectful legal submission is that this ousts Section 436-A, he said.

The solicitor general also referred to one of his notes, which he has placed before the court.

It is submitted that it is trite law that gravity of the offence and the role played by the accused is not an alien concept in matter concerning bail. It is submitted that it is settled law that economic offences constituting a class apart and need to be visited with a different approach in the matter of bail, the note said.

Mehta has said in his note that classification of economic offences in a different class itself is a clear jurisprudential recognition of gravity of the offence being judicially recognised as an extremely relevant factor while considering matters regarding bail.

It is submitted that the gravity of such offences is further accentuated by the fact that economic offences having deep-rooted conspiracies and involving huge loss of public funds need to be viewed seriously and considered as grave offences affecting the economy of the country as a whole and thereby posing serious threat to the financial health of the country, he said.

The arguments in the matter would continue on Thursday.

The Centre had last week defended the PMLA provisions saying if a person knowingly becomes a party or is actually involved in any activity connected with the proceeds of crime, then such an individual is prima facie guilty of the offence of money laundering.

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that 4,850 cases have been taken up for investigation under the PMLA in the last 17 years and proceeds of crime of Rs 98,368 crore were identified and attached under the provision of the law.

The government had told the bench that investigation in these offences was carried out under the PMLA, including 2,883 searches.

The solicitor general had said that out of the Rs 98,368 crore which were identified and attached, proceeds of crime of Rs 55,899 crore have been confirmed by the adjudicating authority.

### DCGI's EUA nod...

the entire world, fulfilling our prime minister's vision of 'making in India for the world'. In line with the philosophy of our CEO, Dr Adar C Poonawalla, we are sure that Covovax will play an important role to protect children of our country and world at large against COVID-19 disease and will keep our national flag flying high globally," an official source had quoted Singh as having stated in the application.

The DCGI has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28. It has not yet been included in the country's vaccination drive. The DCGI on February 21 granted restricted EUA to Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax for the 12 to less than 18 years age group subject to certain conditions.

Covovax is manufactured by technology transfer from Novavax and is approved by the European Medicines Agency for conditional marketing authorisation and also granted emergency use listing by WHO on December 2017, 2020.

India has been using Bharat Biotech's Covaxin to vaccinate adolescents between 15-18 years.

ZyCov-D is the first vaccine cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 years and above in August last year. Indigenously-developed Covaxin received approval for emergency use in 12 to 18 in December last year.

### Army Commander visits...

told them that he had gone out to visit a neighbouring village and did not return. His family suspected that he might have been abducted by terrorists, a claim that was not ruled out by security agencies.

### J&K Govt provides...

girl, the DC expressed sympathies with them and also expressed condolence with the bereaved family who lost their young member in the militancy-related incident, the spokesman said. The DC assured the family that all possible support shall be provided to them from the government. The Srinagar SSP also assured the family of action under the law against the criminals.

### COVID: 24 new...

10 cases, officials said.

Eleven of the total 22 districts in the Union Territory did not report any new case. There are 312 active cases while the overall recoveries have reached 4,48,286, they said, adding that death toll stands at 4,749.

There were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory. No fresh case was reported since last evening, they added.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported nine fresh Covid cases that took the infection tally to 28,139, officials said.

The number of active cases stands at 98 -- 96 from Leh and two from Kargil, they said. The Union Territory has recorded 228 Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil, they said, adding that no fatality was reported on Tuesday.

As many as 28 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, taking the overall recoveries to 27,813, they said.

All the new cases were reported from Leh district, they said.

A total of 626 sample reports were found negative in Ladakh, they said.

## EPFO hosting outreach programme to address grievances of stakeholders

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office - Jammu is organising outreach program "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" and "Pension Adalat" on March 10, 2022 in its office premises from 10 AM Onwards.

The Organisation has invited all the stakeholders to attend the programme for quick disposal of their grievances and/or to register any problems faced by them related to EPFO.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat is a public outreach programme that endeavours to address the problems/grievance of all stakeholders i.e., employees and employers by bringing

them on a common platform and to increase awareness and sensitize them about the new initiatives undertaken in their interest by the organisation (EPFO).

Pension Adalat provides a platform to existing and prospective pensioners for closer interaction with EPFO officers for understanding the provisions of EPS 1995 and getting resolution of their pension related grievances such as non-receipt of pension, Digital life certificates etc.

This week being celebrated Ieonie Week under "Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" special focus would be redress women employees' grievances on priority.

## Modi Govt taking special care of J&K, no dearth of funds for UT: Kavinder

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led BJP Govt at the Centre is taking special care of J&K and there is no dearth of funds for its development.

This was stated by the former Dy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Kavinder Gupta while addressing a gathering during a function organized to kick-start a developmental work in Ward 54 here on Wednesday.

Giving a further push to BJP Govt's agenda of overall development in J&K, the former Dy Chief Minister along with BJP District President Vinay Gupta, Secretary Vishal Gupta, Secretary BJP



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta starting developmental works in Ward 54.

Gandhi Nagar Mandal Kapil Gupta and Corporator Ward 54, Neeraj Lucky Puri kick-started developmental work i.e. blacktopping work of roads in Sector 5, 5A and 8 of Trikuta Nagar estimated to be completed at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh.

## LBA gifts two Kanals of land in Leh to Zanskar Buddhist Association

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) gifted a land in Leh measuring approximately two kanals to the Zanskar Buddhist Association (ZBA) and executed the handing over of the possession of land to the ZBA on Tuesday.

The transfer and handing over the possession of land to the Zanskar Buddhist Association was done in the presence of Vice President LBA Chhering Lakrook, President ZBA Passang Lhawang, and President ZBA Youth Wing Stanzin Tundup. ZBA led by its president Passang Lhawang extended grati-

tude to the LBA led by Thupstan Chhewang for this generous donation. ZBA assured that land gifted will be used for the overall welfare of the Buddhist community of Zanskar in particular and Ladakh in general.

Meanwhile, a delegation from Zanskar led by Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Stanzin Lakpa called on CEC, LAHDC, Leh Tashi Gualson and submitted a memorandum requesting financial and administrative support for executing the fencing and ground levelling of the land belonging to Zanskar Buddhist Association Leh.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Uri BDC Chairman Raja Gulam Mohammad Khan, Dy. Chairman Irshad Ahmad Khan, Sarpanch Lateef Khan (Pahalipora) and other prominent political personalities from Block Noorkha, Constituency Uri joined BJP along with their supporters, at party headquarter at Trikuta Nagar, here.

Panch Sadat Ali Khan (Pahalipora), Panch Umer Gul (Pahalipora), Wahid Shah, Mohd. Hussain (Tajal), Rayaz Ahmad (Tajal), Mohd. Aslam (Bajour) were other prominent figures who also joined BJP on the occasion.

J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina welcomed

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

the new entrants into the party fold. Party Vice-President S. Varinderjit Singh, Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, District Vice-President Baramullah Mohd. Rafiq Mangral, Uri Constituency President Ashiq Rafiq and other senior leaders of the party were also present on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while speaking on the occasion, said that parties like NC, Congress, and PDP took full liberty to enjoy the privileges of the power corridors but did nothing to empower the Pahari community.

He said that it was only the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government that took substantial steps to ensure benefit to

this patriotic community.

He also reaffirmed the party's stand for the ST status to the Pahari community and said that this will empower the community and strengthen the National cause in J&K.

Raina said that the policies of the BJP are being appreciated by one and all, which is the reason that almost daily prominent political personalities are eager to embrace the party to serve the masses in a better way.

He said that the party observes that their support will further strengthen the party and also enable these leaders from remote areas to represent their community's voice at appropriate platforms more effectively.