Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Udhampur blast an unsolved mystery, many questions still unanswered

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

30-member Archery team named for Jammu Nationals

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh



act in Rajouri

I&K reports 19 new COVID cases, Ladakh 7

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 19 new Covid cases-- 10 from the Jammu Division and nine from the Kashmir Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 453422.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 453422 positive cases, 252 are Active

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Pak 'commander' of JeM among 4 terrorists killed, 1 held in separate encounter in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

Five detained for sacrilegious

SRINAGAR: Four terrorists, including a Pakistani commander of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), were killed and another was arrested during three separate encounters with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

The encounters took place in Pulwama, Ganderbal and districts Kupwara Kashmir Valley, a police spokesman said.

In Pulwama, acting on specific information regarding the presence of terrorists in village Chewaklan, a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces, the spokesman said.

As the search party moved towards local Darul Illoom Islamic seminary, terrorists hiding inside fired indiscriminately upon the search party in which one civilian suffered gunshot injuries

The injured civilian was identified as Zahoor Ahmad

Manoj Sinha condemned the

"I strongly condemn the

cowardly terror attack on

Mukhtar Ahmad Dohi, the

braveheart of CRPF. My

heartfelt condolences to the

bereaved family. We will not

forgive and we will not for-

get. The perpetrators of

abhorrent, inhuman act shall

be punished, Sinha wrote on

National Conference (NC)

very worrying spurt in such

attacks of late. "A very wor-

rying spurt in the last

president Omar Abdullah said there was a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Governor



rorist commander Kamaal

Bhai alias Jatt and Aqib

Mushtaq alias Usman Hyder,

a resident of Karimabad in

Pulwama. The duo were

affiliated with the proscribed

terror outfit JeM, the

During another anti-terror-

ist operation carried out in

village Wahibugh of the dis-

trict, security forces arrested

an active terrorist, Rouf

Ahmad Mir of Parigam in

Pulwama, the spokesman

Incriminating material,

arms and ammunition,

spokesman said.

Shergojri, a resident of Chewklan. He was taken to a hospital where his condition was stated to be stable

The security forces retaliated the fire leading to an encounter, the spokesman

"Keeping the sanctity of the institution in mind, the operation was carried out with all due precautions and deliberations. In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter, he said.

The slain terrorists were

grenades, were recovered from his possession, he said.

The spokesman said security forces launched two more operations inNechama Rajwar of Handwara $_{\rm in}$ north Kashmir's Kupwara district and in Serch area of in central Ganderbal Kashmir, following specific information about the presence of terrorists.

As the joint search parties approached towards suspected spots, the hiding terrorists started firing indiscriminately on the search parties which was retaliated leading to encounters at both the places, he said.

In the ensuing encounters, one terrorist each, affiliated with the proscribed terror outfit LeT, were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the sites, the spokesman said.

The slain terrorist at the Handwara encounter site

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Panchs, Sarpanchs soft targets for terrorists; taking steps to ensure their safety: IGP

SRINAGAR: Panches and sarpanches are soft targets for terrorists as around 90 per cent of them do not have personal security officers but the police are taking steps to their ensure Kashmir's IGP Vijay Kumar said on Saturday.

His remarks came a day after a sarpanch was shot dead by terrorists in Adoura in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. This was the third killing of a local elected representative in the union territory this month.

"Panches and sarpanches are a soft target as about 90 per cent of them do not have a PSO (personal security officer). We have provided secure accommodation in Srinagar to those who face a threat. Some have been put up in district headquarters,' Kumar told reporters here.

Referring to Friday's killing in Kulgam, the inspector general of police said the

accommodation at a hotel here but he left without informing the police. "We regret it. I went to

Kulgam and took a (review) meeting there, discussed the preventive measures and dos and don'ts. We will try our best to keep all the PRIs or PPs (protected persons) safe so that they can work in a safe environment," he said. According to officials, ter-

rorists fired upon the sarpanch, Shabir Ahmad Mir, near his residence in Adoura around 8.50 pm on Friday.

Independent Sameer Bhat, was shot dead by terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar. On March 2, terrorists shot dead an Independent panchayat member, Mohammad Yaqub Dar, in Kulgam's Srandoo

Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Dr. K.K. Singh

Dr. A.A. Mehra

+91-9622965050

Kumar said in every encounter, there is at least one Pakistani militant Pakistan has instructed militants to carry out attacks near religious places so that they suffer some damage and people's religious sentiments

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CRPF personnel martyred in Shopian, LG condemns terror attack

Lieutenant

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists martyred an off-duty CRPF personnel in Shopian district on Saturday, police said.

"At about 7:35 pm, terrorists fired upon a CRPF personnel, Mukthar Ahmad, at his home in Check Chotipora area of Shopian in south Kashmir," a police official He said Ahmad was taken

to the district hospital in Shopian where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The CRPF personnel was on leave, the official said.

The area was cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, he said.

111 stranded passengers

airlifted between

J&K & Ladakh: IAF

JAMMU: The Indian Air

Force (IAF) carried 111 pas-

sengers in its aircraft between

Ladakh and the Union

Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir in view of the closure

of the Srinagar-Leh national

highway owing to heavy snowfall, an official said. The IAF's

AN-32 aircraft, also known as

Kargil Courier, was operated

to airlift 53 passengers

between Jammu and Kargil

and 58 more between Srinagar

and Kargil, chief coordinator

for the service Aamir Ali said.

He said 44 passengers were

airlifted from Jammu to

Kargil and nine from Kargil to

Jammu, while 46 passengers

were airlifted from Srinagar to

Kargil and 12 from Kargil to Srinagar. The IAF operates C-

17, C-130 and AN-32 aircraft

regularly to airlift stranded

passengers between Jammu

and Kashmir and Ladakh in

view of the closure of 434-km

Srinagar-Leh national high-

way since January owing to

STATE TIMES NEWS

Amit Shah, LG to attend CRPF Raising Day parade in Jammu next week with the insurgency in North East

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha are scheduled to attend the CRPF's annual raising day parade, being held here next week instead of its usual venue Delhi-The CRPF, the peacekeepers of the

nation, is celebrating its 83rd raising day on March 19 and the Ground Centre, Jammu, has been entrusted the task of conducting the celebration, a spokesperson of the force said.

A splendid parade will be organised at Jammu's Maulana Azad Stadium on March 19 in which troops from different sectors of CRPF across India will participate. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will grace the occasion, the

spokesperson said.

He said at present 247 battalions of the force are deployed in different parts of the country and this force is the largest paramilitary force not only in India but in the world.

As a keeper of the backbone of the internal security of the country, the CRPF is involved in dealing effectively region and left wing-extremism in other parts of the country besides fighting terrorist activities in J&K, the spokesperson said.

During the function, he said medals for gallantry services and exceptional achievements too will be given to the CRPF personnel by the Home Minister. He said the celebration would also

include enthralling demonstrations by the CRPF sports team, the Mallakhamb team and Motorbike stunts by the renowned 'Mahila' (women) dare- devils teams of the

A musical performance comprising themes of national unity and patriotism will also be presented, the spokesman

Congress Working Committee to meet today; party refutes claims of Gandhis resigning STATE TIMES NEWS states - Uttar Pradesh,

NEW DELHI:

Congress Committee will meet on Sunday to discuss the outcome of the assembly elections, even as the opposition party reeling from the latest electoral debacle refuted reports that the Gandhi family members will resign from all organisational posts.

Sources said Congress president Sonia Gandhi will chair the meeting of the party's top decision-making body at its headquarters here at 4 PM on Sunday.

The Congress lost Punjab to the AAP and could not wrest any of the four other

Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur - from the BJP. While Sonia Gandhi has not been actively campaign-

ing for some time, Rahul Gandhi has been the star campaigner for the Congress besides Privanka Gandhi. with the brother-sister duo also playing a major role in key decisions of the party.

Despite a high-pitched campaign led by AICC general secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress could manage to win only two of the 403 assembly seats with the vote share

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Russia strikes near Ukraine's capital; mosque reported hit

AGENCY

LVIV: Russian forces pounding the port city of Mariupol shelled a mosque sheltering more than 80 people, including children, the Ukrainian government said Saturday.

Fighting also raged on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv, as Russia's expanding invasion bombarded cities into There was no immediate

word of casualties from the shelling of Mariupol's elegant, city-center mosque. The encircled city of 446,000 people has suffered some of the greatest misery from Russia's war in Ukraine.

with unceasing barrages thwarting repeated attempts to bring in food and water. evacuate trapped civilians and to bury all of the dead.

An Associated Press journalist witnessed tanks firing on a 9-story apartment building in the city and was with a group of hospital workers who came under

sniper fire on Friday. A worker shot in the hip survived, but conditions in the hospital were deteriorating: electricity was reserved for operating tables, and people with nowhere else to go lined the hallways.

Anastasiya Erashova, who wept and trembled as she held a sleeping child. Shelling had just killed her

other child as well as her brother's child, Erashova said, her scalp crusted with blood.

We came to my brother's (place), all of us together. The women and children went underground, and then some mortar struck that building," she said. "We were trapped underground, and two children died. No one was able to save them. Ukraine's military said

Saturday that Russian ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

National Lok Adalat held across I&K, Ladakh UTs STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Legal Services Authority and Ladakh Legal Services Authority on Saturday organized National Lok Adalat throughout the U.T's of J&K and Ladakh.

In order to have maximum response and settlements between the parties in cases like MACT, matrimonial, cheque bounce cases under NI Act, Money recovery cases, etc, it was advised to organize pre-lok Adalat sittings or pre-counselling sessions (either video or teleconferencing or physical session with social distancing)

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

North India's first centre for Space Sciences inaugurated in Jammu CU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at the Central University of Jammu here, saying the first course. B.Tech in Aviation and Aeronautics, with an intake capacity of 60 students, will start this year.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office termed the inauguration of the centre a historic day for north India.

In October 2018, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had



Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurating Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at Central University of Jammu.

signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central University Jammu to set up the centre with facilities for geo-spatial

data analysis that will help in sustainable use of natural resources and plan land-use patterns. The centre

PM rues lack of reforms in internal security apparatus post-1947

STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said there was a need for reforms in the internal security apparatus after Independence, but the country lagged behind in this area.

Addressing the first convocation of Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad in Gandhinagar district, he said during British rule internal security revolved around instilling fear among the masses, which needed to be changed. After Independence, there was a

need for reforms, but unfortunately sufficient work was not done in this direction and we lagged behind," he "Even now, the perception about

More than increasing the number of personnel, what was needed was trained officials who understand

police is that one should stay away

from them...," the prime minister



Due to the lack of trained manpower, security forces lose the capacity for "negotiation" and "things go wrong at the last moment, sometimes due to a few words," he said.

Police and other security personnel should be able to deal strongly with anti-social elements and softly with society and instill "a sense of friendship and confidence among people",

Modi also noted that police personnel find it hard to deal with stress due to the shrinking of traditional support networks like joint families, and said there is a need for experts, including Yoga teachers, who can help them fight stress and relax.

Technology was important for the security forces but its use also needs

'The sphere of security is not only about the morning parade and physical fitness. (Even) A divyang person, who is physically unfit, can still contribute to security through mental training," the PM added.

He also called for regular interaction between various institutions located in Gandhinagar such as Forensic National Sciences University, Gujarat National Law University and RRU.

in jail management and how to deal with convicts and undertrials so that they leave the prison reformed persons, Modi said.

about the growing field of private security and related start-ups. Students trained at RRU could become part of such start-ups, he

"If you have not studied mob and crowd psychology scientifically, you cannot handle it. We want to prepare such people through RRU who are capable of controlling the situation even in such circumstances," the prime minister said.

He also noted that there has been ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Resolution of Ladakh row will facilitate bilateral relations: India-China joint statement

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: After another round of high-level military talks, India and China on Saturday affirmed that a resolution of the eastern Ladakh standoff would facilitate progress in bilateral relations besides helping

restore peace in the region. The two sides also agreed to maintain security and stability on the ground in the region and continue the dialogue through military and diplomatic channels, said a ioint statement issued a day after the 15th round of military talks to resolve the 22month-long standoff at the remaining friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The two sides carried forward their discussions from

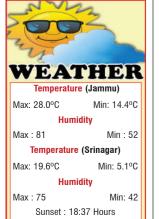
the previous round held on 12th January 2022 for the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector," the joint statement said.

"They had a detailed exchange of views in this regard, in keeping with the guidance provided by the State leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it said.

It further said: "The reaffirmed that such a resolution would help restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the Western Sector and facilitate progress in bilateral relations'

The two sides also agreed to maintain security and stability on the ground in the region. "They agreed

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunrise: 06:44 Hours



he said. This would require a change in training modules and that was why Rashtriya Raksha University was set up, the prime minister added.

proper training, Modi said.

RRU should also focus on training

The prime minister also spoke