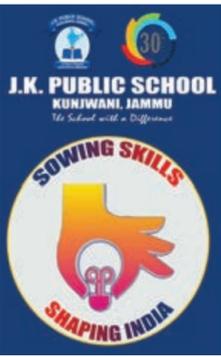


# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K



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**03 Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz better express that 'Pasmanda' means Socially discriminated & not 'left behind'**

**09 LS passes Immigration and Foreigners bill 2025**

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

## Kathua encounter: 3 terrorists eliminated, 3 cops martyred

### DySP among 7 security men injured; search ops continue

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three terrorists were gunned down while three policemen were martyred and seven others including a deputy superintendent of police injured in a fierce day-long gunfight in a remote forest area of Kathua district, officials said on Thursday.

The martyred cops have been identified as SgCT. Tariq Ahmad, son of Kabir Hussain, resident of Reasi; SgCT. Jaswant Singh, son of Angeez Singh, resident of Londi, Hiranagar and SgCT. Balwinder Singh, son of Prem Singh, resident of Kanna Chak, Kathua.

The encounter started around 8:00 AM amid intensified operations led by Jammu and Kashmir Police against a recently infiltrated group of terrorists believed to be members of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, the officials



Security forces during the Kathua encounter.

said. The gunfight triggered intense firing and explosions, the officials said, as dozens of local youth were seen assisting the security forces to carry heavy weapons and ammunition deep inside a gorge.

The encounter, centred near Jakhole village in the Ghathi Juthana area of Rajbagh, involved a group of approximately five terrorists and an initial exchange of gunfire resulted in injuries to

six policemen including the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) leading a search party, the officials said.

They said that three terrorists were killed in the onslaught led by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and assisted by the Army and CRPF.

Adding to the tension, five police personnel, including the SDPO, were reportedly trapped near the gunfight's location, adjacent to a rivulet

concealed by dense foliage.

However, the SDPO -- a DSP rank officer -- was evacuated from the scene late this evening, while three of his personal security officers were found martyred, official sources said.

The bodies of the terrorists were also not retrieved so far as security forces halted the operation for the night, the officials said.

The operation will be resumed with the first light of the day on Friday as two more terrorists are believed to be trapped in the area. They are also presumed dead but their bodies could not be located by the drones, the officials said.

Besides the SDPO, two more policemen were admitted in Kathua hospital and their condition was stated to be "stable". Two army personnel were also injured and shifted to military

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**14 private member resolutions including 3 on statehood to be moved in LA next month**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A total of 14 private member resolutions, including three seeking restoration of statehood, will be moved in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly during the second part of the budget session next month, an official said.

The maiden budget session of the assembly post abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories commenced in Jammu on March 3, having a total of 21 sittings as per the revised calendar. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

peace and integration, emphasizing that it reflects the success of the government's relentless efforts to restore normalcy, prosperity, and inclusivity in the region.

"Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah, Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented socio-economic development, the strengthening of democratic institutions, and a renewed sense of hope among its people," Chugh said, adding: "PM Modi's dedication to building a Viksit Bharat, where every citizen feels empowered and connected, is truly commendable." Chugh noted that the spirit of nationalism and unity has taken deep

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been a significant increase in the number of pilgrims. Nearly 40,000 pilgrims visit the Mata Vaishno Devi



40,000 devotees pay obeisance daily at the shrine in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district.

"In recent days, there has

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**PHE DWs defer strike over festivals, CM's appeal**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Daily Wagers (DW) have deferred their ongoing strike for 10 days following an appeal by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and considering the upcoming Eid and Navratri festivals.

"Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had appealed in the Assembly for the employees to end the strike as it is causing inconvenience to the people. Keeping in mind the upcoming Eid and Navratri, we have decided to defer our strike for 10 days," said Ravi Hans, leader of

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## 2 more Hurriyat groups denounce separatism, repose faith in Modi-led Bharat: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said two more constituents of the Jammu and Kashmir-based Hurriyat Conference have discarded separatism and reposed their faith in the new Bharat built by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This development comes a couple of days after similar announcements made by two other affiliates of the separatists' conglomerate. On Tuesday, Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) and the Jammu and

Shah said under the Modi government, separatism is breathing its last and the triumph of unity is echoing across Kashmir.



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"Another great news from Kashmir Valley. Two more groups affiliated with the Hurriyat, namely J&K Tahreeqi Isteqal and J&K Tahreek-I-Istiqamat, have discarded separatism and reposed their trust in the new Bharat built by PM Shri @narendramodi Ji," Shah wrote on X. In a statement, J&K

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## LG hands over appointment letter to sister of bus driver martyred in Reasi terror attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday handed over the appointment letter, on compassionate ground, to Renu Sharma, sister of Arjun Sharma, who was killed in Reasi Terror attack.

Arjun Sharma, a resident of Reasi, was the conductor of the bus carrying pilgrims which was attacked by the terrorists on June 9, 2024.

The Lieutenant Governor assured all possible assistance and support from the J&K



LG Manoj Sinha handing over appointment letter on compassionate ground, to Renu Sharma, sister of Arjun Sharma, who was martyred in Reasi Terror attack.

Administration to the family of the martyred civilian.

## 12 injured as bus overturns inside Navyug tunnel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Twelve people got injured when a bus hit the lining of the Navyug tunnel and overturned in Ramban district on Wednesday night, officials said.

The bus, on its way to Srinagar from Jammu, was trying to avoid a collision but hit the wall of the Qazigund-Banihal tunnel and turned turtle, they said.

Twelve persons got injured and they have been shifted to Qazigund hospital for treatment, they said.

## Chugh thanks PM Modi, Amit Shah for J&K's transformative progress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday extended his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to fostering unity, peace, and development in Jammu & Kashmir.

In a statement, Chugh lauded the historic decision of two Hurriyat-affiliated groups - J&K Tahreeqi Isteqal and J&K Tahreek-I-Istiqamat - to renounce sepa-



Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party.

ratism and embrace the vision of a unified Bharat. He termed this shift a monumental step towards lasting

## Hideout unearthed in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Security forces on Thursday unearthed a hideout and recovered ammunition from it in Rajouri district, officials said. Acting on a tip-off, troops of the Rashtriya Rifles and the Special Operations Group of the police launched a search operation in Manyal Gali forests of Thanamandi, they said. During the operation, the forces uncovered the hideout and recovered five live rounds, one grenade, one gas cylinder, a small solar panel and some food items.

## 40,000 pilgrims visit Mata Vaishno Devi daily, specially-abled to get services free: Shrine Board

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi prepares to welcome pilgrims during Chaitri Navratri beginning March 30, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has announced that persons with disabilities will receive various free services to facilitate their pilgrimage to the temple in Katra belt of Jammu and Kashmir.

The board said that nearly



40,000 devotees pay obeisance daily at the shrine in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district.

"In recent days, there has

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## Police, Govt can't ensure peace alone; people must join in

JAMMU: There can be no argument that peace in Jammu and Kashmir is imperative for sustainable development. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday underscored the importance of peace for the future of the Union Territory where Pakistan continues to pursue its designs to cause instability. Few in J&K have become a party to these mischief-spreading designs of the neighbouring country. They live in an illusion that this mischief will succeed one day, forgetting that J&K is an integral part of India. This is an irreversible reality.

Peace in Jammu and Kashmir has two dimensions - based on the past, present and future. The past has been quite gory despite the Nature's blessings. The territory has been a witness to the trauma of thousands of youth going to graves, and many more having lost their way in self-chosen wilderness. Lakhs suffered displacement, and continue to live in a status of people of nowhere.

Second, it is very clear that J&K can make its future bright only if it preserves its present. It said goodbye to its violent

past of over 30 years in August 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated by the Modi government to fully integrate the erstwhile state into the Indian union and opened gates of development wide open. The life of this present is just a little over five years - counting from August 5, 2019 onwards. It can be prolonged if the development and the change in the mindset is taken into future. J&K should be caring about its tomorrow by making its today a spring board for its leap into next day.

It has to be remembered and understood that this present is not an option to go back into yesterday of pre-August 5, 2019. It has to be forward-looking. This needs a little bit of explanation for the benefit of those unaware of the situation of J&K. In the past so many years, the life in this territory, whether in cities or towns or villages, was a nightmare. There were restrictions imposed by terrorists to which the people had to submit. These restrictions chased them in their

homes and outside. The adherence to the restrictions could not guarantee safety. Even without violations, these would invite death.

That sense of restrictions and fear made the people to compromise with their life style. They were enslaved by terrorism and those perpetrating it. This was unbearable situation for the people but they were unable to speak out for the fear of reprisals.

Since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a transformation in the situation; people have lapped the normalcy that was brought about by the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Their focus was on embracing the people and giving a leg up to their aspirations while neutralizing terrorists who had a hellish mindset of killing and maiming people. This normalcy has been consolidated with a big boost to tourism, mega events and vast investments in agricultural and industrial sectors. This has given several avenues of look-ahead moment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Obvious, as it is, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



ing about its tomorrow by making its today a spring board for its leap into next day.

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