

# Omar pays homage to Kathua encounter martyrs

Dy CM, Satish Sharma attend last rites of Martyr Jagbir Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday paid floral tributes to Head Constable Jagbir Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice during a two-day long encounter in Kathua.

Leading the wreath-laying ceremony at Police Headquarters, Gulshan Ground, the Chief Minister honored the bravery and dedication of Head Constable Jagbir Singh, who was in charge of the Saffyan police post.

Describing his sacrifice as the highest form of duty, CM Omar Abdullah said, "His courage and commitment will always be remembered. May his soul rest in peace."

Later, the Chief Minister visited the families of the slain policemen-Balvinder



CM Omar Abdullah, DyCM Surinder Choudhary, Cabinet minister Satish Sharma and others paying tributes to martyrs in Jammu.

Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh, and Jagbir Singh-expressing his deep condolences.

"Visited the families of our bravehearts-Balvinder Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh, and Jagbir Singh-who laid down their lives in the

line of duty during the Kathua encounter. Their sacrifice is etched in our hearts forever. We stand with their families in this hour of grief," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Minister for

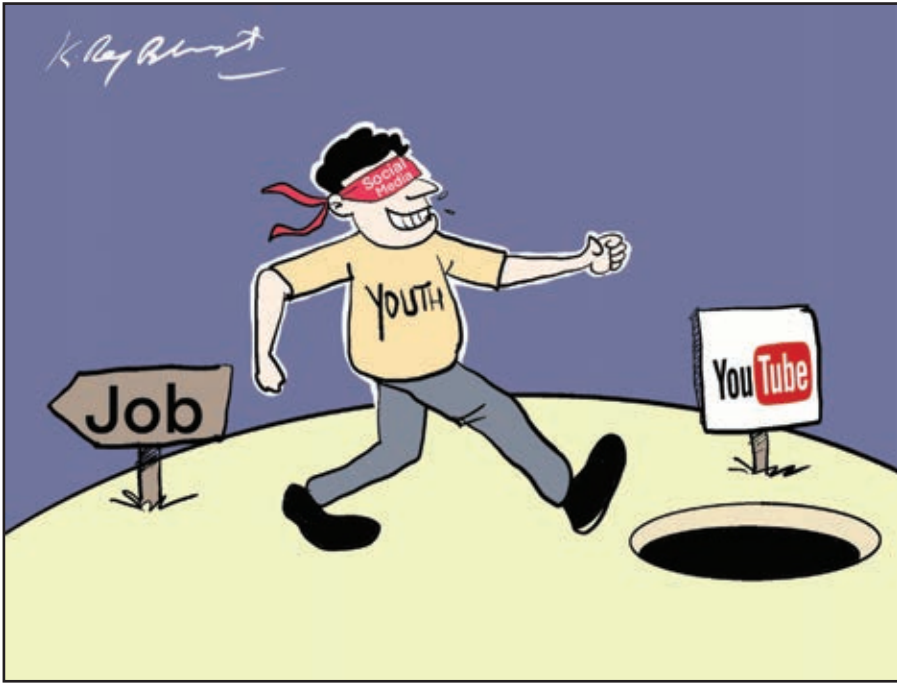
Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma, attended the last rites of Head Constable Jagbir Singh, who was martyred along with his three colleagues in a two day long gunfight in Kathua district.

His cremation took place with full state honours at his native village, Matto, in Akhnoor.

Thousands of people from all walks of life, including relatives, gathered at the village cremation ground to pay their respects to the martyr.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister and Satish Sharma visited Jagbir Singh's residence to express their condolences with the bereaved family. They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The Deputy Chief Minister met with the martyr's mother and other family members, assuring them of full support from the J&K government.



## Dr Andrabi orders major pay revision for Waqf Board employees

Minimum Wages hiked for all temporary employees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major announcement on the even of Eid ul Fitr, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi has ordered increase in the remuneration of Consolidated/ Muster Sheet based/ Stop Gap arrangement Employees, that have been working temporarily on very meagre remuneration from decades. The employees have been categorised into Skilled/ Semi Skilled/ Unskilled Categories, & their monthly remuneration has been fixed at Rs 18000, Rs 16000, & Rs 15000 respectively. The announcement effectively means 200% to 400% hike to the salaries of these low paid employees that have been working for years on remuneration as low as Rs 3000 per month.



Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi chairing a meeting in Jammu on Saturday.

The Regular employees of the Board, Inaams, Khateeb, Pensioners, & Family Pensioners also have benefitted from the announcement with 20% hike to their salaries.

The Teaching Faculty working at Waqf Managed

Bibi Halima College of Nursing & Medical Technology have benefited with a hike of 15%. Some Special Allowances for Employees given additional duties have also been announced.

Travelling Allowance of

Rs 3000 per month has been ordered in favour of Engineering Wing staff as well.

The move, according to Waqf Board sources, is outcome of tireless efforts of the present Board that has significantly improved the financial position of the Organisation & is aimed at improving the living conditions of its over a thousand employees working in Kashmir Division on meagre salaries from decades. The decision was taken by the Chair of Dr Andrabi. Members of the Board Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem & Syed Mohammed Hussain also participated in the meeting whileas the Executive Magistrate of the Board Ishtiyak Mohiuddin also took part.

## Varuna Anand appointed as National Initiative Head for Partnerships & Collaborations FICCI FLO for 2025-26

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Varuna Anand has been appointed as the National Initiative Head for Partnerships & Collaborations in Business and a National Governing Body (GB) Member of FICCI FLO for the term 2025-26.

This prestigious role underscores her dedication to FLO's vision of "Power to Empower," fostering meaningful collaborations that drive business growth and women's entrepreneurship.

With over four years of experience as a GB member through her association with the FLO JKL Chapter, Varuna Anand has played a pivotal role in advancing FLO's initiatives. As Chairperson of FLO JKL for 2023-24, she



Varuna Anand speaking at the Governing Body meeting of FICCI FLO at New Delhi.

demonstrated exceptional leadership in empowering women through business and skill development.

Her appointment was formally announced at the grand Change of Guard Ceremony at FICCI Federation House, New

Delhi, marking the introduction of the new leadership team for the year ahead.

Acknowledging the responsibility entrusted to her, Varuna Anand expressed her sincere gratitude to incoming FLO

National President, Mrs. Poonam Sharma, for her confidence and support. She emphasized the critical role of partnerships and collaborations in today's fast-evolving business landscape, stating that strategic alliances are essential for scaling enterprises, fostering innovation, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

As FLO continues to lead with over 12,000 members nationwide across 29 Chapters and 4 YFLO Chapters, Varuna Anand looks forward to contributing her expertise to strengthen networks, create synergies, and empower women entrepreneurs across India, working under the visionary leadership of National President, Poonam Sharma.

## GoC reviews security situation in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A senior Army officer visited Udhampur district to review the security situation, amid an ongoing operation against infiltrating terrorists in nearby Kathua district, officials said.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Jammu-based White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, visited the district's Basantgarh area, which falls on the route used by terrorists earlier to move from Kathua to Chenab valley after infiltrating the border, officials said.

Lieutenant General Sachdeva was accompanied by Major General APS Bal, the GOC of Counter Insurgency Force-Delta (CIF-D), they said.

"GOC White Knight Corps and GOC CIF-D visited Basantgarh to assess the ongoing security situation in the region. The GOC appreciated the troops for their unwavering commitment and dedication in the ongoing counter-terrorism operations."

White Knight Corps posted on microblogging site X. The visit comes at a time when security forces are engaged in a massive search operation in Kathua district, where four policemen and two Pakistani terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight on Thursday.

Security forces on Saturday extended the search operation to new areas after the body of the fourth policeman and two slain terrorists were recovered from a remote forested area in Kathua.

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■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chairman IIPA and Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while delivering the keynote of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Annual Memorial Lecture at the 71st Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), highlighted the democratisation of services delivery over the last ten years since Narendra Modi took over as the Prime Minister.

He underscored the government's commitment to ensure that governance reaches the last citizen in line, embodying the true realization of Antyodaya.

He highlighted his Ministry's responsibility in bringing governance closer



Union Minister and Chairman IIPA, Dr. Jitendra Singh delivering Keynote address at the 71st Foundation Day of IIPA at New Delhi on Saturday.

to the citizens through various citizen-centric reforms.

The Minister outlined several landmark reforms, including Democratization of Civil Services, Life Certificate Campaign, Simplification of Processes, Multilingual Recruitment

nuclear energy with private participation to harness collective potential.

India now ranks 4th globally in patent filings, with 56% of patents filed by resident Indians. He also cited a recent survey from December 31, 2024, which revealed that India has nearly 5,400 scientists among the top 2% best researchers worldwide.

Following the celebrations, Dr. Jitendra presided over the 326th Executive Council Meeting, reviewing action points from the previous meeting and guiding the council on annual activities, including workshops and capacity-building initiatives. He announced that 130 new life members from diverse backgrounds-administra-

tors, academicians, and state service officers-had been onboarded.

An MoU between IIPA and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was exchanged in the presence of Dr. Singh. Additionally, he unveiled the book "Antyodaya Se Sarvodaya: A Framework of Universal Fulfillment".

The event witnessed the participation of several distinguished dignitaries, including S. N. Tripathi, IAS (Retd.), Director General, IIPA; Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor of Chhattisgarh; V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG; Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, IIPA Senior officers, IIPA members, and faculty.

## SP City South reviews security arrangements for Navratri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a gesture of communal harmony and camaraderie, SP City South & SDPO East organized an Iftar party/farewell party at Police Post Narwal, bringing together police officers, officials, and members of the community. The event fostered a spirit of unity and brotherhood among the police personnel and the public.

Following the Iftar gathering, SP City South conducted a detailed security briefing for the police personnel deployed for Navratri celebrations at



SP City South Ajay Sharma charing a meeting.

Kali Mata Mandir, Bahu Fort. The briefing emphasized vigilance, crowd management, and ensuring smooth movement of devotees during the festival.

Additionally, SP City South held a meeting with local market association members, urging them to stay alert against pickpockets and suspicious activi-

ties. Shopkeepers and vendors were advised to promptly report any such incidents to the police. Special emphasis was laid on keeping routes free from traffic congestion, ensuring a seamless movement of devotees. The parking arrangements were also reviewed, with necessary instructions given for efficient space management and smooth vehicular movement.

In another move in continuation to its aggressive drive against illegal mining under

Operation Ploughing, Jammu Police, South Zone, has seized a

tractor-trolley loaded with sand at Police Post (PP) Chatha for operating without the mandatory Form A authorization. The action was taken in line with strict directions from SSP Jammu, under the close supervision of SP City South and SDPO South. The District Mineral Officer (DMO) Jammu has been informed for further necessary action.

The citizens and netizens have widely appreciated the result oriented efforts of Jammu police reflecting the community's support for the ongoing drive to protect the environment.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has been awarded the prestigious Business Graduates Association (BGA) Accreditation for five years on.

IIM Jammu has the distinction of being the first third-generation IIM to receive an International Accreditation.

This international recognition, endorsed by the BGA Accreditation Advisory Board, is awarded to business schools that demonstrate measurable impact on students and the community while upholding the highest standards of quality in management education.

Expressing his pride in this achievement, Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, stated that the accreditation is a testament to the Institute's relentless pursuit of academic distinction, research excellence, and industry collaboration.

He commended the leadership team, faculty, officers, staff, students, alumni for their dedication to enhancing the Institute's global standing. He further emphasized that this recognition will not only strengthen IIM Jammu's reputation

but also open new avenues for international partnerships, student mobility, and industry engagement, reinforcing the Institute's role as a driver of transformative education and leadership development.

He added that this milestone reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to advancing innovation and thought leadership in management education.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized that the BGA Accreditation reflects the Institute's unwavering commitment to excellence, global benchmarking, and societal impact.

He highlighted that IIM Jammu is dedicated to promoting innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in management education, aligning with international best practices.

He further noted that this accreditation reaffirms IIM Jammu's vision of becoming a globally recognized center for transformative learning and impactful research, further strengthening its position as a leader in management education.

He recognized the invaluable support and guidance of Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, and all Board members.

He also highlighted the dedicated efforts of the faculty, officers, staff, students, alumni, National Partners, International Partners, Corporate Partners, Recruiters, and all Stakeholders in achieving this significant milestone.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, stated that the BGA Accreditation reflects the collective efforts of the IIM Jammu fraternity in upholding the highest academic standards.

He emphasized that this milestone will further enhance the Institute's curriculum, pedagogy, and research, ensuring globally relevant, industry-aligned education.

The accreditation process under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu was led by Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Dr. Gaana J., Chairperson, Accreditation, Dr. V. Rajkumar, Co-Chairperson, Accreditation with support from the academic office, IIM Jammu.

As IIM Jammu continues its journey of excellence, this accreditation reaffirms its mission to nurture future leaders equipped with knowledge, skills, and values to drive transformative change.

## Search operation for terrorists extended to new areas in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Saturday extended the ongoing search operation to new areas after the body of the fourth policeman and two slain terrorists were recovered from the scene of a gunfight in a remote forested area in Kathua district, officials said. Body of head constable Jagbir Singh was retrieved from Ghati Juthana forest in Rajbagh and was shifted to Jammu, they said. The officials said bodies of two Pakistani terrorists, believed to be affiliated with proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, were also recovered along with war-like stores.

The encounter in the area began on

Thursday morning and continued throughout the day on Friday. A total of four policemen and two recently infiltrated terrorists were killed, while the search for other members of the terrorist group is continuing for the third day on Saturday.

Earlier, officials had put the death toll of terrorists at three but the Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat late Friday evening clarified that only two terrorists and four policemen were killed in the encounter. The officials said security forces are sanitising the scene of the encounter while the search operation was extended to adjoining areas including Billawar heights to track

down and neutralize the terrorists.

Gunfire and deafening sounds of explosions were also heard near the scene of the encounter this morning as well but it was later clarified that the firing was deliberate by the security forces as part of the counter terror strategy and the blasts were the result of disposing off littered explosive material, the officials said.

"Relentless operations since March 27 have led to the elimination of two terrorists and recovery of war-like stores. The operation continues," Army's rising star corps.

The DGP confirmed this was the same group of terrorists which was earlier intercepted in Saniyal village

near International border in Hiranagar sector on March 23 evening but managed their escape, resolving that his force will ensure that all terror groups are appropriately dealt with. Talking to reporters after the wreath laying ceremony in Kathua late Friday evening, the DGP said their loss will not be compensated by words but by deeds.

"Neither the intention of J&K Police has weakened nor is our goal far away from us. Our goal is clear and so the intention. There is no lack of passion as J&K police is the only force in the country which is writing its history in golden words by its bravery and sacrifice.