

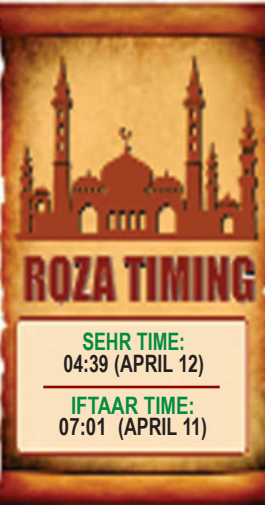
03 Those responsible for KPs' exodus, now shedding crocodile tears: Dr Jitendra

09 Parents, locals protest against Health Department by keeping body on road

10 JK Public School Kunjwani celebrates Ram Navami

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Ramzan Mubarak



COVID: 30 new cases in J&K, no case in Ladakh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 30 fresh Covid cases on Sunday that took the infection tally to 4,53,889, officials said.

No Covid-related fatality was reported in the past 24 hours, they said, adding that the death toll remains at 4,750. All the new cases were recorded from the Kashmir division, officials said.

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Ladakh bridge collapse: Bodies of four workers found

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH: Four workers were found dead under the debris of an under-construction bridge which collapsed in Nubra sub-division of Ladakh, officials said on Sunday.

A section of the under-construction Shatse Takna bridge near village Diskit in Leh district collapsed around 4 pm on Saturday due to strong gusty winds, trapping six workers, the officials said.

After a joint rescue operation lasting over 12 hours, bodies of four persons were recovered from the scene, while two others were rescued in an injured condition

9 Ic/PPs among 16 officers transferred

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu on Sunday issued transfer orders for 9 ICs/PPs among 16 officers.

As per order, Majid Hussain has been transferred from Police Post (PP) Greater Kailash and posted as Incharge PP Sidhra; Shakil Ahmed from PP Sidhra as Investigation Officer (IO) Police Station Domana; Harish Chander from Police Station Bishnah as Incharge PP Greater Kailash; Pankaj Katoch from Police Station Arnia as Incharge BPP Trewa; Mohd Shabir from Police Station Kanachak as

Incharge BPP Kirpalpur; Karnail Singh from Police Station Akhnoor as Incharge PP Jourian; Mahender Kumar from PP Jourian as IO Police Station Bakshi Nagar; Deep Sharma from Police Station Jhajar Kotli as IO Police Station Nagrota; Amrek Singh

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 38.3°C Min: 21.7°C

Humidity

Max: 46 Min: 23

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 23.6°C Min: 10.0°C

Humidity

Max: 68 Min: 41

Sunset : 18:58 Hours

Sunrise : 06:09 Hours

Two LeT terrorists involved in attack on CRPF personnel killed in Srinagar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: In a pinpoint intelligence operation, two Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists involved in the April 4 attack on CRPF personnel in the city, were killed while three security personnel got injured in an encounter here on Sunday, police said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the police was tracking both the Pakistani terrorists from the day of the attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men on April 4, and the operation was launched on Sunday after pinpointing their location.

A police spokesman said at about 10:50 am, on specific input generated by Srinagar Police regarding the presence of terrorists in Bishembar Nagar area of the city, a cordon and search operation was launched by the police and Valley QAT CRPF there.

He said as the search party



proceeded towards the suspect spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon search parties which was retaliated, leading to an encounter. In the initial exchange of fire, one terrorist was killed.

Keeping in view the tourist movement and huge rush in the area, police and CRPF exercised maximum restraint and carried out the operation in a professional manner to avoid any civilian casualty, the spokesman said.

During the course of evacuation of civilians, the trapped terrorist hurled a grenade, resulting in minor splinter

injuries to two policemen and a CRPF Jawan who were shifted to hospital for treatment of their injuries, he said.

The operation was resumed and in the ensuing encounter, another hiding terrorist was killed and bodies of both the killed terrorists were recovered from the site of the encounter, the spokesman said.

Both the killed terrorists were Pakistanis and identified as Mohammad Bhai alias Abu Qasim, alias Mir Shoaib alias Mudassir, and Abu Arsalan alias Khalid alias Aadil.

According to police records, both the killed terrorists were 'A' categorised and linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT.

While Mohammad Bhai was active since 2019, Abu Arsalan was active since year 2021 in Central Kashmir.

Both the killed terrorists had a history of terror crime cases, including pistol-borne attacks and grenade throwing incidents. They were also involved in an attack on CRPF personnel on April 4 in Maisuma area in which one CRPF jawan attained martyrdom and another got injured, he said.

The spokesman said both the killed terrorists were carrying fake Aadhaar cards to conceal their identity.

Meanwhile, IGP Kumar told reporters near the encounter site that the killing of the two terrorists is a huge success for the police and CRPF. I want to give a message that whoever

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

In first operation outside J&K, SIA conducts raids in Delhi, Faridabad in terror funding case

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI/

SRINAGAR: In its first operation outside Jammu and Kashmir, the newly constituted State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted raids in the national capital region on Sunday in connection with a terror funding case, officials said.

SIA teams carried out the searches at three places in Delhi, one in Faridabad in Haryana and two in Anantnag of south Kashmir in connection with terror funding case FIR No.15/21 U/S 13, 21,

40 UA (P) Act, 120-B IPC Police Station CIK, Srinagar, the officials said. The teams were assisted by the Delhi Police and other security agencies.

Those raided included some lawyers who allegedly received funds from a Pakistan-based conduit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group.

The case was registered by the SIA under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Srinagar recently.

According to the officials, it was learnt that the Lashkar-e-Taiba was raising funds and sending to India in a manner that had visible elements of a criminal conspiracy to sustain terrorist and secessionist networks, their programmes and activities in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of country.

Technical evidence and banking transactions have established the identities of three people in Delhi, one person in Faridabad and two persons in Anantnag who were

allegedly involved in the conspiracy.

The officials claimed technical evidence "confirm that they are in constant touch with the Pakistan-based mastermind (name being withheld for operational reasons and confidentiality of information giving person).

During the searches, incriminating materials such as digital devices, SIM cards, mobile phones and documents have been recovered and seized.

Investigation of the case is in progress.

Pak to have new PM today; Imran 1st premier ousted in no-trust vote

■ **AGENCY**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will have a new Prime Minister on Monday when the National Assembly, which was adjourned in the early hours of Sunday, reconvenes to elect a new head of the government after Imran Khan was ousted from office through a no-confidence vote, becoming the first premier in the country's history to suffer this ignominy.

The combined Opposition has already named Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif as its joint candidate to replace Khan.

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BSF IG reviews security along LoC in Gurez

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: BSF Inspector General (IG) Raja Babu Singh on Sunday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of the troops deployed in Gurez Valley along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, a senior officer said.

He visited forward posts of the Border Security Force (BSF) and met troops.

He was briefed about the current security situation along the frontier.

In addition to the Army, the BSF is deployed along the LoC that is vulnerable to infiltration from Pakistan.

Gurez, a picturesque valley in north Kashmir's

Bandipora district, is located along the LoC and remains cut off from the rest of Kashmir Valley during winter months due to heavy snowfall.

The area is sensitive from the security point of view as it is vulnerable to terrorist infiltration from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

It is located at an altitude of 8,000 feet (2,400 metre) and is about 123 km from Srinagar.

The Kashmir frontier chief of the border guarding force also attended a public interaction and outreach programme in Davar village where the force distributed seeds and farming equip-

ment among locals. "All-round development of the remote border areas of Kashmir is the objective of BSF," Singh said.

The program was jointly inaugurated by the Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal and Inspector General Border Security Force (BSF). The program was attended by a huge gathering of farmers, officers from the Department and B.S.F.

Sharing his thoughts I.G, BSF Raja Babu Singh said that this collective effort by BSF and the Department of Agriculture Kashmir will definitely create the

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Special prayer for universal peace held at Vaishno Devi shrine

'Rath Yatra' taken out in Jammu on Ram Navami

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A nine-day special prayer for universal peace, harmony and prosperity concluded at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami on Sunday.

The 'Shat Chandi Maha Yagya' was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).

The board's chief executive officer Ramesh Kumar, other office-bearers, staff members and pilgrims participated in various religious ceremonies on the occasion, a board spokesperson said.

The special prayer was organised for universal peace, harmony and prosperity, the spokesperson said.

More than two lakh devo-

tees visited the shrine during the Navratri festival.

Elaborate arrangements were made for the pilgrims visiting the shrine.

Meanwhile, after a gap of two years, a grand 'Rath Yatra' was taken out in Jammu on the occasion of Ram Navami. Organised by the Jammu and

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Shat Chandi Maha Yagya' for universal peace concluded at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

(Rath Yatra pics on page-3)

Biden, Modi virtual meet today

■ **AGENCY**

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would meet virtually on

Monday, the first of its kind between the two leaders that would coincide with the maiden India-US 2+2 dialogue under the Biden Administration, the White House said on Sunday.

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will meet virtually with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India on Monday, April 11 to further deepen

ties between our governments, economies, and our people, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki announced.



During the virtual meet, Biden and Modi will discuss

cooperation on a range of issues, including ending the COVID-19 pandemic, countering the climate crisis, strengthening the global economy, and upholding a free, open, rules-based international order to bolster security,

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Precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine rolled out at private centres

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday began administering precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years, who have completed nine months since the administration of their second dose, at private vaccination centres.

The Centre has told all states and UTs that the precaution dose will be of the same COVID-19 vaccine which has been used for administration of the first and second dose and that private vaccination centres can charge up to a maximum of Rs 150 per dose as service

charge over and above the cost of the vaccine.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, who held an orientation meeting of all health secretaries of states and UTs on Saturday, also informed that no fresh registrations would be required for precaution dose as all due beneficiaries are already registered on CoWIN.

All vaccinations will mandatorily be recorded on CoWIN platform and both the options of 'Online appointment' and 'Walk-in' registration and vaccination will be available at private Covid vaccination centres

(CVCs).

Private CVCs will maintain the vaccination sites as per the guidelines issued earlier by the Ministry of Health.

"They can charge up to a maximum of Rs 150 per dose as service charge for vaccination over and above the cost of vaccine," Bhushan had said.

"Administration of precaution dose will be homologous i.e. same vaccine type will be used for precaution dose which was used for vaccination of first and second dose," he had stated. Healthcare workers, frontline

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Northern Command Chief reviews security in Kashmir valley

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday reviewed the security situation in the Kashmir valley, officials said.

Lt General Dwivedi, who is on a three-day visit to the valley from Sunday to Tuesday, was also briefed by Lt General D P Pandey, General Officer Commanding of Chinar Corps, about the measures instituted to counter adversaries' design, Srinagar-based Defence PRO Colonel Emron Musavi said.

The Army commander also interacted with senior officers of Chinar Corps and lauded the strong counter infiltration grid along the Line of Control.

"He also appreciated the



Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi on his arrival at Srinagar on Sunday.

strict control exercised by the formation to abide by the cease fire understanding between the DGMOs of both India and Pakistan," Musavi said.

The Army commander visited two formation headquar-

ters engaged in counter terrorist operations in the hinterland.

He reiterated the credo of use of minimum force and just conduct by the soldiers involved in counter-terrorist

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To become terrorist no longer 'glamorous' in J&K

SRINAGAR: Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is on the cusp of a transition as it has lost the "glamour" that was once associated with it, Army commander Lt Gen D P Pandey has said, adding "white collar terrorists" are now desperately trying to lure into their ranks adolescents who may not yet have the maturity to judge right from wrong.

Lt Gen Pandey, the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of Kashmir-based XV Corps, said those aged between 20 and 25 have understood that "violence leads to nowhere" and thus the number of new terror recruits is nearing an all-time low. In addition, 330 terrorists were killed or surrendered since January last year, he said.

People in general are fed up with terrorism, the Army commander said and expressed hope that the day is not far when the remaining support to terrorists in Kashmir Valley will vanish as well.

He said the society has started developing some allergy towards the idea of terrorism and it is no longer glamorous to become a terrorist. "Terrorism is on the cusp of a transition and the day is not far when the remaining support for terrorism in the valley will also vanish," he said.

"Security forces have been working on a two-pronged strategy -- bringing down the recruitment of local youths and ensuring depletion in terrorist cadres. We have been able to bring down the local recruitment by one-third during 2021," Lt Gen Pandey told PTI in an interview. Sharing data of counter-terrorist operations, he said 330 terrorists have been killed or surrendered since January last year -- the highest in a decade-and-a-half. The number is significant when seen in the backdrop of falling recruitment and infiltration from across the border in the last four years. Only 142 people joined the

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Lt. General D P Pandey consoling a family member of SPO Ishfaq Ahmed, at Chadabugh in Budgam.