

03 PHE daily-wagers move towards LG's house, face lathi-charge

09 Youth murders friend over Rs 500

12 JK Public School Kunjwani celebrates World Heritage Day

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

Ramzan Mubarak



COVID: 5 new cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported five fresh Covid cases on Monday that took the infection tally to 4,53,946, officials said.

Of the new cases, one was reported from the Jammu division, and the rest were from Kashmir division, they said. Seventeen of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh

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3,918 candidates appear in JKCCE Mains at 13 centres in Jammu, Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission successfully conducted Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCCE) Mains, 2021 which commenced from 8th April, 2022 and culminated on Monday, both in Jammu and Srinagar.

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission had made elaborate four tier arrangements for security/frisking for the smooth conduct of the Examinations with due observance to Covid-19 protocols.

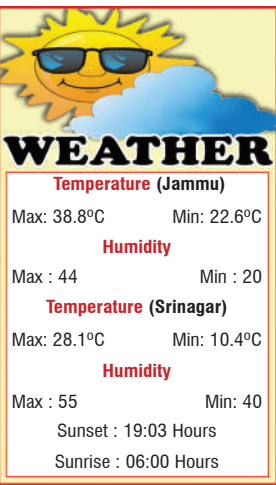
Plane stopped at Srinagar after bomb call

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A GoAir plane, which was scheduled to go to Delhi, has been halted in Srinagar and is being searched following a telephone call warning about a bomb inside the aircraft, officials said.

The plane is being searched thoroughly. Nothing has been found yet, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said.

The GoAir flight, which was scheduled to return to Delhi, was stopped at the Srinagar airport after a manager of another private airline got the call about a bomb on the plane, the officials said. They said the call has been traced to Delhi and the number is switched off since then.

Police are investigating the matter, Kumar said adding that airport operations are going on smoothly.



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 38.8°C Min: 22.6°C

Humidity

Max: 44 Min: 20

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 28.1°C Min: 10.4°C

Humidity

Max: 55 Min: 40

Sunset : 19:03 Hours

Sunrise : 06:00 Hours

RPF HC martyred, ASI injured in terror attack in Pulwama

Pak terrorists using Aadhaar to camouflage identity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A head constable of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) was martyred on Monday and an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) injured as terrorists opened fire at them in Pulwama district, officials said.

The ultras shot Head Constable Surinder Singh and ASI Devraj near a tea stall in Kakapora in Pulwama, they said.

The two were rushed to a hospital where Singh was declared dead on arrival, the officials said.

Over the past three weeks, terrorists have stepped up attacks on security forces and civilians in the Valley. This was the ninth attack this month.

Meanwhile, officials said that with terror groups misusing Aadhaar card to camouflage the identity of their Pakistani cadres, the Jammu and Kashmir Police will



request the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to strengthen safety features of the biometric ID.

The police force will also pitch for devising a mechanism for getting real-time information on an Aadhaar card being misused by terrorists.

The misuse of the biometric ID came to light following the recent killing of two Pakistani terrorists in Bishimbhar Nagar, adjacent to the Dal Lake, in Srinagar.

The terrorists, who had been involved in the killing of CRPF jawans earlier this month, were identified as Mohammed Bhai alias Abu Qasim, who had been active in Kashmir Valley since 2019, and Abu Arsalan alias Khalid, who was present since 2021.

However, the recoveries from the encounter site included two Aadhaar cards bearing an address in Jammu.

Subsequently, the police carried out a thorough

search and found that the Aadhaar numbers were genuine but the cards had their passport-sized pictures superimposed on them, an official said.

A genuine Aadhaar card contains picture clicked on webcam, he added.

Such camouflaging attempts by the Pakistan-based terror groups and their masters in the ISI are aimed at painting the terrorism in Kashmir Valley as an indigenous movement, the officials said.

Alarmed by the blatant misuse of Aadhaar cards, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has decided to write to UIDAI requesting it to include more safety features, the officials said.

Privacy guidelines of Aadhaar are very stringent, thereby preventing the law enforcement agencies from verifying any particular

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Amarnath Yatra: NDRF, SDRF personnel getting special training to join mountain rescue teams

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: With the Amarnath pilgrimage starting from June 30 after a break of two years, NDRF and SDRF personnel are getting specialised training to be part of the Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to ensure the safety and convenience of devotees, officials said on Monday.

The MRTs comprising personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will be deployed at nearly a dozen identified critical spots on the twin routes to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine, they said.

The 43-day yatra is scheduled to start from the traditional twin routes 48-km trek from Nunwan to the cave shrine from Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag



and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

The administration is preparing to welcome about eight lakh pilgrims during the yatra this year.

The officials said NDRF and SDRF personnel are presently undergoing the specialised mountain rescue training at the Jammu and Kashmir Police facility at Nud in Samba district and some of the NDRF personnel deployed in the Union Territory will be part of the MRTs.

We are presently imparting training to a joint NDRF and SDRF batch consisting of 70 personnel. The training course is of 15 days to help them serve in high-altitude areas and natural disaster-hit regions, Inspector Ram Singh, who is functioning as in-charge of the MRT, told PTI.

Singh, who created history by becoming the first person from Jammu and Kashmir Police to scale Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, on May 22, 2008,

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Govt declares JeM 'commander' Nengroo as a designated terrorist

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ashiq Ahmed Nengroo, a commander of banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), was designated as a terrorist by the Centre on Monday for his involvement in various terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nengroo is the fifth individual to have been designated as a terrorist by the Centre in the last fortnight.

In a notification, the Union home ministry said Nengroo has been involved in the infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir and has also been responsible for perpetrating various terror incidents in the Union

Territory.

Nengroo (34) is running a terror syndicate in Kashmir and is now 'engaged in a perilous campaign to orchestrate terror in Jammu and Kashmir', remote controlled from Pakistan, the ministry said.

In view of the danger that Nengroo poses to the security of India and in order to deter him from perpetrating terror acts, he has been designated as a terrorist under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the ministry said.

Nengroo, who was born on November 20, 1987, hails from Pulwama in Jammu

and Kashmir.

His brother Abbass Ahmed Nengroo was an active terrorist of the JeM and was killed in 2013. In February 2020, after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) summoned Nengroo, he along with his family went missing.

Nengroo was involved in cases related to the killings of a police personnel in Pulwama in 2013 and a civilian in 2020. He has allegedly been funding terror acts and illegal supplies of weapons to terrorists.

The Centre believes that Ashiq Ahmed Nengroo alias Nengroo is involved in terrorism and is to be notified as a

terrorist under the UAPA, the notification said.

With the declaration of Nengroo as a terrorist, the law-enforcement agencies can now attach his properties, besides booking any person associated with him.

Nengroo is the 36th individual to have been declared as a designated terrorist by the Centre.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the central government hereby makes the following amendment in the Fourth Schedule to the

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Suraj Singh appointed as Govt Advocate in HC Jammu wing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant move towards ensuring equal opportunities of growth and development to specially-abled who are integral to societal progress and prosperity, the government on Monday appointed Suraj Singh, a visually impaired Advocate, as Government Advocate for defending government cases before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir at Jammu. There has been, since long, a persistent demand of specially-abled persons to give them due representation in government assignments.

MHA mulls to re-designate 'second-in-command' rank in CAPFs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs has sought comments from central security forces on a proposal received from the CRPF to re-name the officer rank of 'second-in-command' as 'Additional Commandant' and end the "embarrassment" these personnel suffer in explaining their designation, officials said.

A second-in-command rank officer of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and the Assam Rifles is an analogous post to the superintendent rank in the regular police establishment.

Officers are inducted in CAPFs like CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB and CISF in the entry rank of Assistant Commandant and with the first promotion, they are designated as second-in-command (2IC in short) and subsequently as commandant which is equal to senior SP rank of the police.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), country's largest paramilitary with about 3.25 lakh personnel on its rolls, has recently written to the home ministry, stating officers of this rank find it "difficult to explain their rank and profile in civil society".

"Even in various government organisations, the rank of second-in-command is difficult to be explained. It goes without saying that a CAPF officer should take pride in his rank, but the rank of 2IC fails to add to the pride of the officers and rather becomes a matter of embarrassment," the CRPF proposal accessed by PTI said.

The paramilitary force has sought re-designating the 2IC rank as additional commandant, following which the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to

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Lt Gen Manoj Pande to be next Army Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Lt Gen Manoj Pande will take the reins as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff after incumbent Gen MM Naravane's tenure ends on April 30.

Lt Gen Pande, currently serving as the vice chief, will become the first commander from the Corps of Engineers to take charge of the 1.3-million-strong force as the position has been held so far by officers from infantry, artillery and armoured regiments. Before taking charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on February 1, he was heading the Eastern Army Command tasked with guarding the Line of Actual



Control (LAC) in the Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors.

Officials said the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Lt Gen Pande as the next Army chief.

Lt Gen Pande also served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, which is India's only tri-services command.

"General MM Naravane #COAS & All Ranks of #IndianArmy congratulate Lieutenant General Manoj Pande #VCOAS on being appointed as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff #COAS of the #IndianArmy. Lt Gen Manoj Pande will assume the appointment of #COAS on 01 May 2022," the Army tweeted.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he

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Top Army commanders begin deliberations on national security challenges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Top commanders of the Army on Monday began deliberating on India's national security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan as well as the implications of the Russia-Ukraine war for regional security at a five-day conclave.

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane is chairing the conclave in the national capital. It will conclude on April 22.

The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event that is held in April and October every year. The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the

Indian Army. Officials said detailed deliberations have been planned to assess the possible implications of the war in Ukraine for regional security as well as various military aspects of the conflict.

The commanders are also carrying out a comprehensive review of India's military preparedness along the 3,400-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the lingering military standoff with China in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the overall situation in the Union Territory are also being reviewed extensively at the conference,

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Controversial Bungalow of ex-Dy CM at Nagrota Plea of whistleblower dismissed, main appeal to come up for final hearing on June 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant order, the Member (Judicial) Rajesh Sekhri of J&K Special Tribunal Jammu on Monday announced orders on application of the whistleblower Advocate Muzaffar Ali Shah whereby he had sought his impleadment as party respondent in an appeal filed by Mamta Singh, wife of Dr Nirmal Singh, Ex-Dy CM against the order of demolition issued by JDA for raising a palatial house at village Ban (Panjgrain), Nagrota, Jammu allegedly without seeking any building permission from JDA. As arguments on the impleadment application were completed by all

parties on March 22, 2022 and the matter was listed for orders on April 6, 2022, no order was passed/ pronounced on the previous date of hearing. When the matter was taken up today by the Bench headed by Rajesh Sekhri, Member (Judicial) J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, Advocate Rahul Sadotra appearing for Appellant Mamta Singh, wife of Dr Nirmal Singh, ex-Dy CM whereas Adv Muzaffar Ali Shah and Chaksu Sawhney, Legal Officer, appeared on behalf of JDA, the court announced its order on the application of the whistleblower Adv Muzaffar Ali Shah that application is dismissed for reasons that it is for the authority passing the order or taking any action against a violator to defend its action on the basis of material on record and as such, a person cannot be allowed to intervene merely because he is a complainant and the prescribed authority initiated action on his complaint only. The subject matter of appeal on hand is a notice issued by JDA to the appellant and the issue is whether it is justified or not. It is for the respondent JDA to defend the notice on the basis of material on record." With these observations and directions, J&K Special Tribunal dismissed the application for impleadment filed by whistleblower Adv Muzaffar Ali Shah and further fixed the main appeal for final hearing on June 9, 2022.

Tribunal observed, "It is manifested from the case that a person cannot be allowed to intervene merely because he is a complainant and the prescribed authority initiated action on his complaint only. The subject matter of appeal on hand is a notice issued by JDA to the appellant and the issue is whether it is justified or not. It is for the respondent JDA to defend the notice on the basis of material on record." With these observations and directions, J&K Special Tribunal dismissed the application for impleadment filed by whistleblower Adv Muzaffar Ali Shah and further fixed the main appeal for final hearing on June 9, 2022.

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Srinagar Tulip Garden shut after welcoming 3.60 lakh visitors this season

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Deficient rainfall and warm temperature in Srinagar have forced the closure of Asia's largest tulip garden, which attracted 3.60 lakh visitors this spring, an official said on Monday.

The garden, overlooking the famous Dal Lake, was closed for public on Monday owing to shrinking bloom, its in-charge Inam Rehman Sofi told PTI.

The garden has been closed as the tulip bloom shrunk after around 26 days. "We tried our best to extend the bloom, our employees worked very hard and they used to sprinkle water even during the night. But, with deficient rainfall and unusually warm temperature,

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