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24-A, Shastri Nagar

(at Dr.Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jan

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24 Tarun Chugh lashes out at 3 dynastic **III** families for pushing J&K to morass

War against corruption: Jammu Mayor pulls **Enforcement Officers for illegal constructions**

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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh JKPS Panjtirthi celebrates Eid-ul-Fitr with zest, fanfare

Poonch terror attack: Top security officials visit site, search ops intensified

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: security officials on Saturday visited the site of the April 20 terrorist attack on an army truck in Poonch and reviewed the major search and cordon operation launched in the area as any breakthrough eluded the forces for the second day. Thousands of mourners

including local MPs and MLAs gathered as the five jawans, who were martyred when their truck was ambushed while carrying fruits and other items to a forward village for Iftar to be hosted by the Rashtriya Rifles unit on Thursday evening, were cremated with full military honours in their native villages.

Northern Army Lieutenant Commander General Upendra Dwivedi, BSF Director General S L Thaosen and ADGP Mukesh Singh, besides an NSG team visited the attack site at Bhata Dhurian, an area that has remained a preferred infiltration route for terror-

ists from across the Line of Control because of its topography, dense forest cover and

Dwivedi reviewed the security in the border area and the ongoing combing operation to track down the terror-Northern Command said in a tweet

that he was briefed on the actions undertaken so far and exhorted the troops to be steadfast in their resolve. Officials said that around

15-16 people have been detained for questioning.

A high alert has been sounded in the twin border

districts of Rajouri and Poonch and traffic has been suspended on the Rajouri-Poonch Highway, they said.

"The cordon-and-search operation is going on in large areas of Bhata Dhurian-Tota Gali and neighbouring areas to hunt down the terrorists involved in the attack. Multiple security agencies are engaged in the operation," a senior officer told PTI.

In October 2021, nine soldiers were killed in two major gunfights with terrorists within four days in the Bhata Dhurian forest area during a

Subdued Eid in Sangiote border hamlet

POONCH: Villagers of the border hamlet of Sangiote in Poonch district did not celebrate Eid with much enthusiasm on Saturday as they grieved the martyrdom of five Indian soldiers when an Army truck carrying material for a scheduled Iftar was ambushed by terrorists.

Sangiote has a population of more than 3,500 and over 60 per cent of the men are ex-servicemen.

"We have not celebrated Eid with any pomp and show. We just offered prayers. The people are saddened by the death of jawans, who were bringing material for our Iftar on Thursday evening," Sangiote Sarpanch Mukhtiar Khan told PTI over phone from his home.

Khan condemned the terrorist attack and said the entire village decided to have a muted Eid by offering only prayers. He said special prayers were offered for the fallen soldiers.

Expressing solidarity with the Indian Army and the families of the jawans, he said an Iftar was scheduled in the village on Thursday evening and the jawans were ferrying vegetables, fruits and other material in the truck from Bhimber Gali camp, when they came under attack at Bhata Dhurian.

The soldiers were from a Rashtriya Rifles unit deployed for counter-terror operations.

The whole village stands with the Army, Khan said. "After Eid prayers, we are staying back at ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

search operation, which continued for over three weeks with no trace of terrorists.

The troops involved in the operation are exercising utmost caution as the terrorists may have planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the densely forested area with deep gorges and caves, officials said.

The mortal remains of Havildar Mandeep

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Why was Satya Pal Malik mum when he was Governor: Amit Shah



STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has urged that the credibility be checked of claims made by former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik in a recent interview. Malk had made critical remarks about the BJP-led Centre, especially regarding its handling of Jammu and Kashmir, where he served as the last governor before the erstwhile state was bifurcated into Union terri-

"The BJP hasn't done anything that needs to be hidden. The issue should not be

discussed in a public forum. If he had information about irregularities, he should have spoken during his tenure. Why is he making such claims now? This calls for a credibility check," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said while speaking at the

India Today Karnataka

Roundtable

2023

Saturday. In a recent interview, among other allegations, Satya Pal Malik said the "lackadaisical Centre's approach" had caused the Pulwama tragedy as "the Army was denied air movement of troops by the Central government".

Speaking about Malik's CBI summons following his allegations, Shah said, "It is not the first time that he has been called in. He is being probed in an alleged insurance scam and the probe agency is just doing its duty. There is no relation between the CBI summons and his allegations," he said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has called Satya Pal Malik for questioning in connection with his claim that he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe to clear two files during his stint in J&K.

On speculations of Malik joining hands with a rival party, he said, "He made the claims after separating himself from us and hence, his claims are doubtful."

"Malik ji has been a part of the party for a long time. People change from time to time. Voters should judge carefully," he said. The CBI has asked former

BSF DG visits LoC in Rajouri, Poonch; reviews security



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The director general of Border Security Force (BSF) S L Thaosen on Saturday visited forward reviewed security situation and challenges along the Line of Control

SC seeks reply from J&K on

jailed Dutch national's plea for

proper medical treatment

Supreme Court has sought

the response of the Jammu

and Kashmir administration

to a plea filed by a Dutch

national, lodged in a jail in

Jammu and suffering from

paranoid schizophrenia.

seeking direction to the

authorities for providing him

proper medical treatment for

his ailment at a specialised

The petitioner, 53-year-old

Richard De Wit, who was

arrested in April 2013 in

Srinagar in connection with

a murder case and is cur-

rently lodged in Jammu dis-

trict jail, has said in his plea

that he has been in jail for

nearly 10 years and his medical condition is deteriorating as no proper medical

treatment for the disease is

His plea came up for hear-

ing before a bench of

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available in the prison.

DELHI: The

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW

hospital.

(LoC) in twin border districts of Jammu and

> The DG also had securityrelated discussions with Director General of

Kashmir, officials said.

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Eid celebrated across Jammu; people pray for peace, prosperity

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Eid-ul-Fitr was

celebrated across the Jammu region on Saturday as people congregated in large numbers at mosques, praying for peace and prosperity of the

Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramzan, is being celebrated across India after crescent Moon was sighted on Friday evening.

The biggest congregation took place at Eidgah and Macca Masjid in Jammu, where hundreds of devotees performed Namaz-e-Eid and prayed for peace, development, and prosperity of



Jammu and Kashmir as well

"In Jammu, brotherhood is

otherreligions greet each other. We wish and pray that we live together

Jammu's first shelter for **Urban Homeless STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The first shelter

In addition to a roof over their heads, they are provided three meals a day, medical check-ups and other basic

Urban Homeless -- has been Municipal under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission, Jacriti

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this way peacefully and hap-Mufti Ainayatula Qasmi told reporters after prayers here.

Eid Namaz was also offered at other mosques of Kishtwar. Doda, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and Kathua districts in the Jammu region.

The district administrations had made elaborate security and other necessary arrangements for the festi-

"On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I convey my good wishes to all the people of the world and I pray that Eid bring happiness with it every

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Ex-Guv Satya Pal Malik, Khap leaders protest at Delhi police station; cops deny his arrest around 3 pm.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former governor Satya Pal Malik, who has been called by the CBI over an alleged insurance 'scam' in Jammu and Kashmir, and some Khap leaders staged a protest at a police station here on Saturday after not being allowed to hold a meeting at a south Delhi park as they lacked requisite permission, officials said, but rejected reports he was detained or arrested.

Sagar Preet Hooda, Special Commissioner of Police (Law & Order-Zone II), however, said 24 people who refused to leave the park

Questioning the police action, Malik said he and his supporters had gone to the R K Puram Police Station to protest as he was stopped from giving food to Khap leaders at the park. According to police, they all left the police station around $2.30 \; \text{pm}.$

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m the}$ Special Hooda, Commissioner of Police, said the local police received information about 10 am that an "unknown tent" has been installed at the MCD Public Park, Sector 12, R K Puram. "SHO, RK Puram, along with staff reached the spot and enquired,

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India conducts successful trial of BMD interceptor missile

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has successfully conducted a maiden flight trial of a seabased endo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the coast of Odisha.

The missile test was conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy on Friday.

"The purpose of the trial was to engage and neutralise a hostile ballistic missile threat thereby elevating India into the elite club of nations having Naval BMD capability," the Ministry

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No citizen should be discriminated for employment to any office under State or Union: DB

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri has observed that no citizen should be discriminated against for purpose of employment to any office under the State or Union. The prohibited grounds of discrimination under Article 16(2) of the Constitution of India, inter alia, are religion, race, caste, place of birth and residence. The only exception that is carved out by clause (3) of Article 16 of the Constitution is in relation to

requirement as to residence within a State or Union Territory prior to employment or appointment of a candidate to an office under the State or Union Territory or any local or other authority within such State or Union Territory etc. and this exception can be made only by law made by the Parliament prescribing such requirement as to residence

DB further observed that the Parliament has not made any such law prescribing any requirement as to residence within a State or Union Territory in regard to any class or classes of employ-

ment or appointment under the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. That being the position, neither the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, nor the High Court can prescribe any such requirement as to residence in regard to any class or classes of employment or 23 appointment under it. Clause 3(A) of the Advertisement Notification (supra), therefore, flies on the face of clauses 1 and 2 of Article 16 of Constitution of India. Clause 3 (A) of the Advertisement Notification impugned in this petition ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

housing over 50 people

for the homeless in Jammu is housing more than 50 people, mostly women, who had been living in inhuman conditions on footpaths or under flyovers for years.

The initiative -- Shelter for

by the Jammu Corporation Mahila Udyog Kendra,

Rahul Gandhi vacates official bungalow



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi handing-over keys of bungalow to CPWD official at New Delhi on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he was paying

the price for speaking the truth and vowed to continue to raise people's issues

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Pauper Pakistan at verge of ending up as Sri Lanka



The rogue country in India's backyards is at the verge of economic debacle, akin to what Sri Lanka witnessed last year. The neighbor that had been vowing and threatening thousands of years of war with India is grappling with the dissent of

ers like Narendra Modi to bail them out of the grim situation. The political instability, economic bankruptcy and intermittent radicalised campaigns by drug addicted Jihadis have made Pakistanis realize that they were perhaps better off with India. They are publicly eulogizing Modi and condemning all their Prime Ministers, from Benazir Bhutto to Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan to Shahnawaz

its own people, who want lead-

Islamabad is reeling under such a crisis on all the fronts that the Prime Minister had to say on camera that he will 'sell his clothes but not let his people sleep hungry.' He made a real mockery of himself. The opponents, as also professionals and women mocked their Prime Minister for his hilarious actions.

On the contrary, the Indian economy is not only stable despite the pandemic but the nation has achieved the distinction of being the fifth economy of the world. Over 81 crore Indians are getting free rations since the outbreak of pandemic in early 2020, apart from various other pre-requists for dignified living. This is inspirational for Pakistanis, who are struggling to even get a bag of atta whatever the cost. Television screens remain full of public reactions over scarcity, shortage and erratic utility services. Footages of consumers hackling each other to get the essentials is normal feature with almost all the television channels. The people are taking to the streets in staggering mass protests, chanting slogans against the government and demanding minimum possible availability of essential commodities.

Pakistan's problems have accumulated due to misgovernance, political slugfest and above all foreign debts besides refusal of the International Monetary Fund to rescue the crashing country. All weather Arab friends besides China are also witnessing the Pak misery at the fence. Nobody seems to be interest-

ed in rescuing Pakistan from the obtaining crisis. Thus the attention of Pakistanis is currently on India, which is treading the path to becoming the world leader.

According to media reports, the week-on-week inflation in Pakistan has jumped to 2.89 percent from 0.17 percent a month ago. Of the 51 items tracked, the prices of 34 items increased, five items decreased, whereas those of 12 items remained unchanged.

The price of petrol has been moved up to Pakistan Rs 272 per litre after an increase of Rs 22.20, to appease the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for unlocking the critical loan tranche, hours after unveiling a tax-loaded 'mini-budget'.

Inflation is sky high with middle and poor segments braving the main brunt. The prices of chicken rose from PKR 300 in January this year to about PKR 700 February. They are expected to go further up, official sources were quoted as saying by reports. In what has irked the Pakistan Poultry Association, Federal Food Security Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema, recently asked people to quit eating chicken saying that it was not good for their health. The current wheat flour crisis in Pakistan is triggered primarily by the incorrect estimates by the Punjab and Sindh governments in the country. According to estimates projected by local media reports, Pakistan needs 4 lakh sacks of wheat in order to meet its immediate internal demand. The debt-struck country is importing wheat from Russia in order to meet the deficit.

While onions cost PKR 215 per kilogram, the price of one kilogram wheat is PKR 160, rice 145, beans 195, tomato 122, mutton 1100, desi ghee 2000, eggs per dozen pkr 400, edible oils per litre PKR 488 These are the rates prescribed by Pakistan Directorate of Food, Khyber Pashtunistan. The actual prices on ground zero are alarmingly higher Reports suggest three to four fold black marketing of the essentials against the official rates.

How Pakistan charts its path of economic recovery amid political instability, security challenges and large scale protests is worth watching, lest the sce nario takes the turn Sri Lanka witnessed last year Challenges are numerous and the response appears to

Max: 57 Max: 14.2°C

Sunset: 19:07 Hours

Sunrise: 05:54 Hours

Max: 77