

02 Mobile phone recovered from District Jail; probe ordered

03 Rana slams Congress for playing murky games in J&K since 1947

10 Div Com reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024

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DGP vows to go against criminals

Sub Inspector martyred; Rs 1 lakh each reward announced for absconders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A police sub-inspector was martyred while a wanted gangster was killed and a special police officer was injured in a gunfight on the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital premises in Kathua, officials said on Wednesday.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain paid rich tributes to slain Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma. The DGP pledged to go "hammer and tongs" against criminals, saying attempts are being made to set up a "Punjab-type" criminal syndicate in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma (32), who was posted at the Ramgarh (Samba) police station, suffered head injuries during the encounter that broke out on Tuesday night outside the GMC hospital building in Kathua and subsequently, succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Pathankot, the officials said, adding that Special Police Officer (SPO) Anil Kumar (40) also sustained injuries in the incident.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of officials went after gangster Vasudev, a key accused



DGP R R Swain and others carrying the coffin of Martyr PSI Deepak Sharma.

in a murder case registered at the Ramgarh police station, leading to an exchange of fire near the Kathua GMC around 10:30 pm on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said.

Vasudev was killed in the encounter while one of his associates was injured, he added. Vasudev was the leader of the notorious Shunoo group, sources said.

Earlier too, in a similar case, PSI Deepak had led the operation at a hotel in Amritsar in which one constable received bullet injuries though two gangsters were arrested.

Yesterday again at GMC Kathua, Deepak showed exemplary courage but shot at from point blank range during scuffle.

A wreath-laying ceremony

for PSI Sharma, who hailed from Sangoor village in Udhampur district, was held at the District Police Lines in Samba. It was led by the DGP, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Anand Jain and Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba Vinay Sharma.

"The Jammu police has taken its fight against narcotics and gangsters to a

Nation stands in solidarity with martyr's family: LG

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the PSI Deepak Sharma, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

The Lt Governor tweeted: "I salute the valour & indomitable courage of PSI Deepak Sharma, who made supreme sacrifice while valiantly fighting & neutralising a most wanted gangster in Kathua. His supreme sacrifice will remain etched in our hearts. Deepest condolences to the family of martyr Deepak Sharma."

The nation stands in solidarity with martyr's family & @JmuKmrPolice, whose dedication, resilience & courage in battling variety of challenges & adversaries continue to inspire us. Every drop of blood of our martyr will be avenged and we are committed to create a fear-free J&K".

new level in the recent past.... We will go at it hammer and tongs to finish the menace as attempts are being made to set up a Punjab-type criminal syndicate," Swain told reporters in Samba.

He said Sharma's sacrifice will not go in vain and the force will intensify its drive against narcotics and gangsters.

"A strategy is being chalked out and we will get to its roots. They (criminals) are getting involved in land deals, narcotics and bovine smuggling to encash on the growing economic activities in the region where develop-

ment has been taken to a different level with the setting up of industries, an AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) and educational institutions," the DGP said.

Describing Sharma's killing as unfortunate, the police chief said an operation was planned on getting specific information about the movements of Vasudev, who was on the police radar since a murder case was lodged around three months ago.

"We are not in a position to divulge further details of the incident as it will hamper our investigation. Our effort

WANTED

LUDDAN SANSIYA
S/o Peey R/o Kalyana, RS Pura district Jammu

Age 24 Yrs
Complexion Fair
Height 5'10"
Hairstyle Black
Color Whitish
Body Well-built

Whoever provides any information leading to the arrest of above mentioned accused person shall be rewarded

REWARD ₹ 1,00,000/-

(Identity of the informer will be kept secret)

Contact: PCR Samba: 9541649001, SSP Samba: 01923-246100
Email ID: dpsamba@jkpolice.gov.in

WANTED

ROHIT KUMAR @ MAKHAN
S/o Bodh Raj R/o Kottli Riyen, RS Pura district Jammu

Age 24 Yrs
Complexion Fair
Height 5'10"
Hairstyle Black & Long
Body Well-built

Whoever provides any information leading to the arrest of above mentioned accused person shall be rewarded

REWARD ₹ 1,00,000/-

(Identity of the informer will be kept secret)

Contact: PCR Samba: 9541649001, SSP Samba: 01923-246100
Email ID: dpsamba@jkpolice.gov.in

was to arrest the accused," he said, adding, "Police do not open fire on seeing a criminal and the surprise remains with the opponent. It was he who attacked first because we are bound by the laws of the land and they take advantage of it."

The DGP said criminals earlier avoided direct confrontations with security personnel. "The incident shows that they have become more daring and dangerous

with weapons. Our meaningful and purposeful action against them will be stronger than earlier," he added.

Earlier in the day, as Sharma's body was brought to the District Police Lines in Samba, the DGP laid a wreath on the coffin. The wreath-laying ceremony was attended by Sharma's parents and wife. The body was later taken to Sharma's home town for the last rites.

LG chairs 72nd meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board



LG Manoj Sinha chairing 72nd Board meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the 72nd Board Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) at Raj Bhawan.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Board - Mahamandleshwar Shri

Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Baleshwar Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Dr Neelam Sareen; K K Sharma; Suresh Kumar Sharma and Raghu K. Mehta. Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Anshul Garg, CEO,

SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

The Board reviewed the progress of its various past decisions, progress of different developmental initiatives and held extensive deliberations on crucial aspects of pilgrim facilitation,

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Modi Govt connected Doda's remote villages with Highway: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and BJP Candidate for Udhampur, Doda, Kathua Lok Sabha constituency said here on Wednesday that whereas for nearly six decades the successive Congress and its allied governments including the UPA government from 2004 to 2014 could not provide a decent road connectivity even between the two premier towns of Doda and Bhandarwah in district Doda, it was only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014 that the government headed by him connected even remote villages of the district with the National Highway.

Addressing a series of pub-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a public meeting at Gandoh on Wednesday.

lic meetings during his election tour of some of the peripheral hill villages of the district in areas like Marnat, Gandoh, Kastigarh, Bulandpur, Goha, Dhara etc., Dr Jitendra Singh said that even his own native village Kalota did not have a very comfortable road con-

nectivity but the same village now is going to get linked to the new National Highway 244 which is under construction in double shift from Khilani to Sudhmahadev and will be complete in the next few months. Along with Kalota, the other neighbouring villages like Humbal and

Bergana etc., will also get linked with this highway, he informed.

Describing this as a revolutionary transformation, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that these are some of the far flung villages where many of our ancestors would

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MCC Distt teams, FSTs remove 12,963 defacements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After imposition of MCC on March 16, 2024 pursuant to announcement of Lok Sabha Elections 2024 by Election Commission of India, the election machinery in Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of Chief Electoral Office J&K swung into action and ensured that the guidelines by ECI regarding implementation of MCC are followed in letter and spirit.

As a part of action taken in this regard, 12963 defacements from Government, Public and private properties were removed by Flying Squads and MCC teams in a mission mode.

Giving a detailed breakup in this regard,

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Decided to contest LS polls to press for complete restoration of J&K's statehood: Azad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said he decided to contest the Lok Sabha elections only because he wanted to press for the complete restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Addressing reporters here, he compared the bifurcation of the erstwhile state to "political lightning" that hit the region and said that his fight for the complete



restoration of statehood needed to reach a logical conclusion.

"While I have been selecting

candidates to contest from other seats, I decided that I should also lead from the front. I am not the one who directs but likes to lead from the front," he said.

Azad, who formed the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) after parting ways with the Congress in 2022, said he would take up the issue of complete restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and remind

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

PDP, NC to contest against each other in Kashmir; Mehbooba, Omar trade blame

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The PDP and the National Conference -- the two INDIA bloc partners in Jammu and Kashmir -- will be taking on each other on the three Lok Sabha seats in the valley.

Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP accused National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah of leaving them "no option".

Abdullah, however, hit back saying the PDP was going back on the understanding

reached between the constituents of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the District Development Council (DDC) elections in 2020.

Mufti told reporters here that the NC has left her party with no other option other than to contest the election on the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir.

The party's parliamentary board would take a final call on the candidates, she added.

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Farooq Abdullah won't contest LS polls due to health reasons: Omar

SRINAGAR: National Conference president and sitting MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah would not contest the Lok Sabha polls owing to his health, the party said on Wednesday.

The announcement was made by his son and NC Vice President Omar Abdullah at a party function

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