

E BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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1 India no longer follower, beckons others to follow her: Dr Jitendra

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J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee appointed Chairman of JKB Financial Services Ltd

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PAHALGAM ATTACK: Full freedom to armed forces to decide on targets, timing of response: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told the top defence brass that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, government sources said.

During a high-level meeting, which was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services, Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, they said. Modi expressed complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the



PM Narendra Modi chairing high-level meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, CDS Anil Chauhan and all armed forces chiefs.

armed forces.

"They have complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets and timing of our response," a source quoted Modi as saying.

Chief of Defence Staff

General Anil Chauhan was also part of the meeting, which was held amid India weighing its options for countermeasures following the Pahalgam terror attack which left at least 26 civil-

ians, mostly tourists, dead. Modi has vowed to pursue the terrorists behind the attack and their patrons, a clear reference to Pakistan which has a history of sponsoring terror strikes in India.

ment on them "beyond their imagination". Terrorists had gunned

to the "ends of earth" and

inflict the harshest punish-

down tourists, who were from different parts of the country, in the popular destination of Pahalgam in Kashmir exactly a week ago on April 22. This most brutal attack on civilians in a long spell of time in the region has sparked a wave of outrage across the country and a demand for retaliatory action against the perpetrators and their handlers.

The prime minister's tough assertions coupled with his government's avowed muscular stand on the issues

Centre notifies appointment of Sanjay Parihar, Shahzad Azeem as Judges of J&K and Ladakh HC

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JAMMU: Central Government has notified the appointment of two senior most Judicial Officers, Sanjay Parihar, presently posted as Judicial Member Special Tribunal Jammu and Shahzad Azeem, presently Registrar General of J&K and Ladakh High Court as Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended their elevation on April 16.

Born on December 19, Parihar 1968. Sanjay obtained his early schooling from Horna Palmar Tehsil Kishtwar, HSS from Kishtwar, did college from

Shahzad Azeem Saniav Parihar Poonch and did Law from

Jammu University. He was enrolled as Advocate in 1993 and joined the Chamber of Advocate Ashok Parihar. He was appointed as Munsiff in 1997 and posted as Mobile Magistrate Doda; promoted as Sub-Judge in the year 2000 and remained posted in

various Courts and appointed as District Judge in the year 2008. He was also appointed as Registrar Supreme Court for more than 18 months. During his tenure as Sessions Judge, he remained posted as Addl. District Judge, Rajouri,

in scholarship funds of

Pahari Speaking and Gujjar-

Baramulla, a verification

was conducted by ACB dur-

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embezzlement of scholarship

funds in different education

zones of District Baramulla

Bakerwal students

Education

Chandanwari,

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district

SC refuses to quash FIRs against 2 for 'praising' Afzal Guru, commenting against judges

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: The Supreme Court has refused to quash FIRs against two Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamath members accused of praising Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru aside from commenting on UP Minister Yogi Adityanath clothes and using unparliamentary language against apex court and the high court judges.

bench of Justices Nath and Sandeep Mehta clubbed three FIRs registered in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu against them

In its verdict on April 22, a Vikram

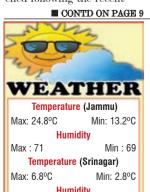
NSG, police conduct joint security mock drill in Jammu STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Security Guard (NSG) and police conducted a mock security drill at the ancient Aap Shambhu temple complex and surrounding areas in Jammu on Tuesday as part of efforts to enhance security preparedness, an official said.

Backed by security equipment and unmanned surveillance systems, the exercise was conducted to proactively improve security measures and ensure public safety, he "It is a routine exercise. We

have conducted similar mock drills at GMC Hospital and the railway station. Such drills also occur regularly at vital installations," said a police officer.

He said that security preparedness has been strengthened following the recent



Sunset: 17:27 Hours

Sunrise: 07:23 Hours

Max: 94

and said Rahamathulla and Jamal Mohammed made "highly objectionable" hate

speeches in a protest rally on March 17, 2022 in Madurai. "We must note that the language used by the petitioners in their speeches is highly objectionable and definitely discloses the necessary ingredients of the offences alleged.

Hence, there is no scope for the exercise of writ jurisdiction of this court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India so as to quash the impugned FIRs," the bench said. The bench made note of

the averments in the

Solidarity in wake of Pahalgam attack testimony to international community's zero tolerance for terrorism: India

UNITED NATIONS: India said that the "strong, unequivocal" support and solidarity extended by global leaders in the wake of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam is a testimony to the international community's "zero tolerance" for

"The Pahalgam terrorist attack represents the largest number of civilian casualties since the horrific 26/11Mumbai attacks in 2008," India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel, said.

"Having been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades, India fully understands the long-lasting impact such acts have on victims, their families and soci-



launch event for the 'Victims of Terrorism Association Network' (VoTAN) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism at the world body's headquarters on Monday.

She said that "India deeply appreciates and values the strong, unequivocal support and solidarity extended by leaders and governments across the world in the wake of the recent terrorist attack at Pahalgam, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a testimony to the international community's zero tolerance for terrorism.

The horrific April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam killed 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen. The victims were mostly tourists from all across India.

Global leaders. President Donald Trump, US Vice President J D Vance, Russian President Vladimir Putin, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. CONTD ON PAGE 9

ACB presents charge-sheet against ZEO, Jr Asstt for misappropriation of Rs 27 lakhs tions of fraud/embezzlement

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) presented charge-sheet before Court of Special $_{
m Judge}$ Corruption Baramulla, against ZEO Chandanwari, Baramulla and Assistant

Misappropriation/Embezzle ment of over Rs 27 lakh of scholarship Funds meant for Gujjar Bakerwal & Pahari speaking students.

"On receipt of a complaint titled Ghulam Qadir Mir versus Education Zone Boniyar through State Vigilance Commission J&K for conducting probe into the allega-

levelled in complaint were substantiated," ACB official said. Accordingly on the basis of findings and recommendations of the Enquiry Officer,

official said, three

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96 JKAS officers transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday transferred 96 JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Rakesh Magotra, JKAS, Member, J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Department of Ecology Environment; Naseer Ahmad Wani, JKAS, Special Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, as Special Secretary, Public

(R&B) Department, vice Ghulam Rasool Mir, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD; Vir Krishan Dhar, JKAS, Secretary, Joint Regulatory Electricity Commission, J&K, as Secretary, Additional Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; Dhananter Singh, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Forest. Ecology and Environment, as Additional Secretary, Health and Medical Education

Gupta, IKAS, Joint Director, Industries and Commerce (M&P), Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages; Atul JKAS, Gupta, Information. Director, Jammu, as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Authority, Development Billawar Duggan vice Rajesh Lakhan, JKAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD; Jagdish Chander, JKAS, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board as

Additional Secretary Housing Urban Development Department; Harbans Lal, JKAS. Secretary, Additional Housing Urban Development Department, as Additional Secretary, Department; Finance Mohammad Ashraf, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Kathua, as Secretary, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, J&K; Rajeev Magotra, IKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD. Additional Secretary, Housing and

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Pahalgam attack: Union Home Secretary chairs high-level security meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting which was attended by chiefs of three paramilitary forces and senior officers of two other security organisations, sources said.

The meeting was held amid the charged atmosphere following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Director General (DG) of Border Security Force Daljit Singh Chaudhary, DG of National Security Guard Brighu Srinivasan and DG of the Assam Rifles Lt Gen

Vikas Lakhera attended the meeting, the sources said.

Additional Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal Anupama Nilekar Chandra were among the other attendees in the meeting. It was not immediately known what transpired in the meeting. The BSF guards India's international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. the SSB secures the borders with Nepal and Bhutan, the Assam Rifles protects the border with Myanmar and the NSG is a commando force specialising in anti-ter-

J&K SIA arrests key accused in drug syndicate from Punjab

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) has achieved a breakthrough in its probe into a major drug trafficking case involving the recovery of 33 kg of heroin, with the arrest of a key accused from Punjab.

Harjit Singh, son of Sukhwinder Singh and a resident of Kasel in the Tarn Taran district, was apprehended by a team of the SIA, it spokesperson said. He has been identified as a crucial link in a trans-national

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Reviews summer preparedness for Jammu Div CM emphasizes proactive approach, minimising response time to exigencies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday underscored the importance of robust inter-departmental coordination to ensure uninterrupted essential services and swift response mechanism during the upcoming summer season Jammu division.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister assessed the readiness of various departments to address challenges likely to emerge during the summer months. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary



Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, ACS to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of

departments, various Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Managing Director JPDCL, Commissioner JMC. Deputy Commissioners of all dis-

tricts of Jammu division, representatives from BRO and other concerned departments attended the meeting both in person and virtually. During the meeting, the

Chief Minister conducted a department-wise review of summer preparedness, covering Jal Shakti (PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control), Health & Medical Education, Development Department (PDD), Public Works (R&B), Fire & Emergency Services, Forest, JPDCL, JMC, and others.

Highlighting the need to minimise public inconvenience during heatwave conditions, the Chief Minister said, "Coordination between all line departments is vital to ensure uninterrupted essential services to citizens during summer months."

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Pakistan resorts to unprovoked firing in Baramulla, Kupwara, Akhnoor sectors



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir for a fifth consecutive night, expanding the arc of violations to the Akhnoor sector of Jammu district, an

official said on Tuesday. This was the fifth consecutive night that Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing along the Line of Control (LoC) amid heightened ten-

sions between New Delhi

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