

**03** **Udhampur, Kathua, Doda get record number PMGSY roads, bridges: Dr Jitendra**

**09** **Missing woman traced in Budgam; kidnapped girl of Rajouri recovered, accused arrested**

**10** **JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Red Cross Day**

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

## Rijju, Sinha review development of Judicial Infra under CSS Admn has to play key role in overhauling infra dev of court complexes across J&K: LG

### Construction of Jammu Distt Court Complex to start soon

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of Law & Justice, Kiren Rijju and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday reviewed the development of judicial infrastructure in the UTs of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vivek Bhardwaj, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department; G.R. Raghavender, Joint Secretary (National Mission for Justice Delivery & Legal Reforms), Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice; Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Achal Sethi, Law Secretary, J&K; Preet Pal Singh, Secretary Law Department, UT of Ladakh, besides other senior officers.

During the meeting, the



Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana in presence of Law Minister Kiren Rijju, LG Manoj Sinha, Judges of Supreme Court, CJ. Pankaj Mithal during foundation stone laying ceremony of new High Court Complex of J&K and Ladakh.

Minister was briefed on the present status of the infrastructure of the Judiciary under the purview of the High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh. He was apprised on the budgetary allocation, utilization of

funds for the development of infrastructure in court complexes during the previous years, future projects and major projects under execution.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice also

apprised the meeting about the status of works done under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Union Law Minister directed the concerned officers to identify all the gaps

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Two JKAS officers transferred, one gets addl charge

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Saturday transferred two JKAS officers and assigned additional charge to other.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Mohammad Akbar Wani, JKAS, Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation has been transferred

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### PAGD to meet LG over security of KPs in Valley

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has sought an appointment with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to raise the issue of safety and security of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, a spokesperson said here on Saturday.

Briefing reporters outside the residence of the PAGD president Parooq

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## NIA conducts raids at 4 places in Kashmir; arrests 2 overground TRF workers

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at four locations in Kashmir Valley in connection with a terror conspiracy case and arrested two overground workers of The Resistance Force (TRF), a front of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), an official said.

The searches were carried out at four locations -- one each in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Kupwara districts and south Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian districts -- a spokesperson of the NIA said. The official said digital devices such as mobile phones, laptop, SIM cards and memory cards and incriminating material used for fabrication of improvised explosive devices, jihadi literature and posters have been seized during the searches.

The NIA identified the arrested overground workers (OGWs) as Muzamil Mushtaq Bhat of Baramulla



and Fayaz Ahmad Khan of Kupwara and said they were in contact with their Pakistan-based handlers for providing logistic support for terrorist activities, spreading terrorist propaganda, radicalising and recruiting new members of TRF.

The case registered by the NIA on November 18 last year relates to activities of TRF and its self-styled commander Sajjad Gul, who has been actively radicalising, motivating and recruiting youngsters in Jammu and Kashmir for indulging in vio-

lent activities in the Union Territory and other parts of the country, the spokesperson said. The spokesperson said Gul, along with other associate commanders of the LeT, has been recruiting OGWs to conduct reconnaissance of pre-determined targets, coordinating and transporting arms, ammunition and explosives to support the terrorists of LeT and TRF in order to launch attacks on security forces and execute targeted killings. Further investigation in the case was underway, the NIA said.

## J&K SIA submits chargesheet in Nagrota terror-financing case

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir has submitted its chargesheet in a court here in connection with a terror-financing case, in which three associates of terror operatives were arrested from the Sidhra bridge area last year and cash amounting to Rs 43 lakh was recovered from their possession.

The money was being transported from Punjab to South Kashmir.

The case was transferred to the SIA from the Jammu and Kashmir police last year. "State Investigation

Agency, Jammu submitted a chargesheet in a terror-financing case in the court on Friday," an officer said.

According to the case details, a consignment of cash was being transported to south Kashmir from Punjab. A special team was constituted which set up a checkpoint at the Sidhra bridge in the Nagrota area on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on November 17 last year and intercepted a vehicle, the officer said.

The passengers of the vehicle were questioned about their movement but

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Terror angle emerges in Katra Bus Fire: Vaishno Devi pilgrims targeted with sticky bomb

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a massive development, a terror angle has reportedly emerged in the fire incident reported in Katra on May 14 wherein four Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims were killed.

In the incident, it has now come to light that the bus full of pilgrims, heading towards Jammu from Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, was targeted by terrorists.

A sticky bomb was used for the explosion in the vehicle, which claimed lives of 4 pilgrims while many others were injured, sources informed.



NIA team visits Katra bus fire spot, collects samples.

The development comes after the Explosive Expert Unit of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had gone to the spot and carried out an investigation.

The Unit led by a Senior Explosive expert in the said time had collected various samples from the site where the blast took place. Also, where the bus stopped after

catching fire. The experts are studying the nature of the blast that occurred in the bus after which it caught fire.

It is being said that in view of the terror angle now emerging, agencies have once again reached the spot, along with their forensic teams and are looking for more proofs.

Earlier in an exclusive conversation with a national TV news channel, the victims had narrated the incident. One victim, Shiv Chaudhan, resident of Uttar Pradesh Ghazipur said,"Me and my wife as well as one of children were on the seat

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Jammu records season's hottest day as mercury hits 43.5 deg C

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu recorded its hottest day of the season so far with the mercury touching 43.5 degrees Celsius on Saturday as the heatwave intensified engulfing most parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The maximum temperature in Jammu city was 6.6 degrees above season's average, forcing people to stay indoors especially in the afternoon.

Jammu recorded a minimum temperature of 23.3 degrees Celsius which is almost near normal during this part of the season, an official of the Meteorological department said.

He said Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, was the second hottest recorded place in the region with a high of 40.4 degrees Celsius and a low of 23.9 degrees Celsius. The mercury is also on the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 43.5°C Min: 23.3°C

Humidity

Max : 39 Min : 29

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.3°C Min: 14.2°C

Humidity

Max : 56 Min: 27

Sunset : 19:23 Hours

Sunrise : 05:32 Hours

## Amit Shah briefed about concerns of KP employees after killing of Bhat: Raina

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the BJP facing the ire of Kashmiri migrant employees serving in the valley after their colleague was killed by terrorists, the party's J-K unit chief Ravinder Raina on Saturday said he has briefed Union Home Minister Amit Shah about their "concerns and problems".

Raina said he had also spoken to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and is again leading a party delegation to meet him at Srinagar on Sunday as it is the responsibility of the government to provide a secure and safe environment

### Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for J&K launched

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for States including the UT of Jammu and Kashmir was launched by Ashwani Vaishnav, the Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways on Saturday.

The launch of the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal marks a paradigm shift in the manner of processing of Right of Way applications in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. In sync with the vision of 'Broadband for all', the online processing of RoW applications though the portal would go a long way in imparting pace to the setting up of digital infrastructure in the UT of Jammu

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



to the nationalists, whether Muslims, Sikhs or Hindus who are upholding the tricolour.

The B-JP leader along with his colleagues was heckled by the Kashmiri migrant pandit

community at the cremation of Rahul Bhat here on Friday.

Bhat, who had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 2010-11, was gunned down by terrorists inside the tehsil office in Chadoora town of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday.

Others who have got employment under the scheme are now holding protests, accusing the administration of failing to provide them adequate security and demanding that they

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### J&K reports 8 fresh COVID cases, Ladakh 3

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/LEH: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported eight fresh Covid cases-all from the Jammu Division, thus taking the total number of positive cases to 454139.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 454139 positive cases, 58are Active Positive (44in Jammu Division and 14 in Kashmir Division), 449330 have recovered and 4751 have died; 2328 in Jammu division and 2423 in Kashmir division.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases, the Bulletin states that

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Army Chief visits forward areas in eastern Ladakh

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande visited some of the most difficult and inhospitable forward locations in eastern Ladakh and reviewed India's overall military preparedness during his three-day tour of the region amid the lingering border row with China, officials said on Saturday.

They said the Chief of Army Staff interacted with the troops in multiple locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the high-altitude region and took stock of the ground situation. Gen Pande concluded his three-day visit to Ladakh on Saturday.

The Army chief, accompanied by senior commanders, visited some of the most difficult and inhospitable forward



Army Chief General Manoj Pande during visit to forward areas in Ladakh to review operational preparedness.

locations in eastern Ladakh to have first-hand knowledge about the prevailing situa-

tion, the officials said. "General Manoj Pande #COAS visited forward

## Will continue struggle for rights of J&K people: Omar Expresses concern over 'dangerous game' of polarisation in country

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reiterating his stand that the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 was "unconstitutional and unlawful", National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his party is not ready to accept defeat and will continue its peaceful struggle for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former chief minister pooh-poohed the claims of the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders about normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 that gave special status to the erstwhile state,



saying "except BJP-linked people, everyone else is disappointed".

"Some people are in a hurry to remove the word 'state' from everything as if J&K was never a state or its statehood will not be restored. While coming from Srinagar

through Mughal Road, I saw some State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) trucks where the word state was removed using paint.

"They have changed the name of the company from JKSRTC to JKRTC even as the government is promise-bound to restore statehood... We are not ready to accept defeat. Let them try their best, we will continue our struggle in a peaceful manner for the restoration of our rights, respect, identity and honour," Abdullah said addressing party workers in the border district of Poonch.

He said the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Over 100 trapped civilians rescued by Army in Kishtwar

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Army on Saturday said over 100 civilians trapped in a remote village due to the washing away of a footbridge were rescued while work is in progress to construct a new bridge to enable regular movement across the river.

The wooden bridge over a river at Chisoti village in Machail area was washed away due to a sudden increase in the flow of water on Thursday evening, leaving over 100 people trapped on the other side, a defence spokesman said in a statement here.

He said the Army responded swiftly when approached by the civil administration. "Necessary items and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9