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STATE TIMES

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

SFs given free hand to bring perpetrators to justice: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Shopian and Pahalgam, saying that free hand has been given to the Security Forces (SFs) to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and Security Forces will hunt down the terrorists and those aiding and abetting them.

In a statement, the Lieutenant Governor said "I am deeply shocked at the terrorist attack and the brutal killing of former Sarpanch, Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh. He was an exemplary grassroots leader and will be remembered for his selfless service to the people. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and admirers. We stand in solidarity with the family at this difficult hour. The heinous attack on

Ex-Sarpanch killed in Shopian, BJP protests

SRINAGAR: Terrorists struck at two places in Kashmir on Saturday night, killing a former sarpanch in Shopian and injuring a tourist couple from Rajasthan in Anantnag, two days ahead of Lok Sabha elections in Baramulla.

The first attack took place on an open tourist camp near Pahalgam and the second on the former sarpanch at Hirpora in south Kashmir, officials said.

"Terrorists fired upon and injured a woman, Farha, a resident of Jaipur (in Rajasthan) and her spouse Tabrez at Yannar in Anantnag. The injured were evacuated to a hospital for treatment. The area has been cordoned off. Further details shall follow," the Kashmir Zone Police posted on X.

In another attack, within half-an-hour, terrorists shot dead former sarpanch Aijaz Sheikh in Shopian's Hirpora around 10.30 pm, the officials said. Sheikh, who was associated with the BJP,



Relatives consoling Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh's son as body of the former Sarpanch is taken for burial at a local graveyard in Shopian.

tourists at Pahalgam is also distressing. I have already instructed the Administrative and Police officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured couple. Praying for

their speedy recovery. The government has given free hand to the J&K Police and Security Forces to crush terrorists and their associates. I have complete faith in the bravery of our personnel and

the perpetrators of this attack will be punished soon. Our security forces will also hunt down those elements, who are helping the terrorists and trying to disrupt J&K's developmental journey."

Jail-break case: Former J&K spokesperson surrenders

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A former spokesperson of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami who faced multiple cases has surrendered before police in connection with an attempted jailbreak in 2019, police said on Sunday.

They said Ali Mohammad Lone alias Zahid Ali surrendered before the police in Srinagar. A police spokesman said,

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SC to hear plea against new criminal laws today

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a petition challenging the enactment of three new laws that seek to overhaul India's penal codes claiming that they suffer from many "defects and discrepancies".

A vacation bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mishra is likely to hear the matter. The Lok Sabha, on December 21

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'PoK belongs to India, we will take it back' Need strong PM to give befitting reply to Pakistan: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
PRAYAGRAJ/JAUNPUR (UP): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) belongs to India and "we will take it back".

Addressing rallies in Prayagraj and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh to seek votes for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates, he also said "we need a strong prime minister who can give a befitting reply to Pakistan".

Accusing the Congress of "preserving" Article 370 of the Constitution for 70 years, Shah hit out at the president of the party, Mallikarjun Kharge.

Slamming Kharge for saying people in other states have nothing to do with Kashmir, he said, "Khargeji, you are aged above 80 years, but you have not been able to understand this country. Every child of Allahabad is



ready to give their lives for Kashmir.

"(NC chief) Farooq Abdullah and (Congress leader) Mani Shankar Aiyar say give respect to Pakistan because it has the atom bomb. Rahul baba, today, from the sacred land of Prayagraj I will say that PoK is ours, will remain ours and we will take it back."

In a video clip that has gone viral on social media, Aiyar is purportedly heard saying India should give respect to Pakistan as it is a sovereign

country and engage with it as it also possesses the atom bomb.

While Aiyar has said the video was old, the Congress has distanced itself from the remarks made by him some months ago.

Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Jaunpur's Machhlishahr constituency, Shah said, "The Congress, SP and the INDI Alliance threaten us, saying give respect to Pakistan, do not ask for PoK because

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Extreme hot weather: 8 AM to 12 Noon School timings from today

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As maximum temperature crosses 41 degrees Celsius-mark in Jammu, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday ordered change in timings of schools of summer zone from May 20.

As per order issued by the School Education Department (SED), all concerned chief Education officers (CEOs) are instructed to revise timing in consultation with concerned deputy commissioners in view of intense heat wave.

It has directed to observe class work from 0800 hours to 1200 hrs in summer zone

areas of Jammu region from Monday (tomorrow).

"Due to intense heat wave, all schools falling in the Summer Zone shall observe timing from 8 AM to 12 Noon from May 20 till further orders," SED posted on X (formerly Twitter).

It further read "regarding the winter zones in the Jammu Division, requests have been received to adjust school timings. Chief Education officers (CEOs) are instructed to revise the timings in consultation with the respective deputy commissioner, following past practices, where

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Election Deptt takes action against 40 Govt employees for MCC violation

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Election Department has taken action against 40 government employees for violation of Model Code of Conduct in the Union Territory.

"Four employees have been suspended, disciplinary action has been initiated against one besides one employee has been disengaged from services and inquiry has been started against thirty four employees", read a communique received here on Sunday in this regard.

The swift action against these employees of different departments of J&K has been initiated in response to the daily online reports being furnished by the concerned District Election Officers of different districts and offline complaints received on the official E-mail id of J&K Chief Electoral Officer, lodged by general public, office bearers of different political parties and Panchayati Raj Institutions regarding MCC violation.

The move was aimed to ensure free and fair conduct of ongoing general elections

while adhering to zero tolerance policy of Election Commission of India against such violations.

The two employees have been placed under suspension in Kupwara, one in Ganderbal and one in Doda district with initiation of enquiry against them. Disciplinary action has been recommended against one employee whose involvement in political activities was proved while one chowkidar has been disengaged/dismissed from services for proved involvement in political activities.

The concerned authority has issued warning to one employee to remain careful in future who has pleaded to have committed the mistake unknowingly. In addition, the enquires are underway against thirty four employees including six gazetted employees which will be taken to logical conclusion as per the instructions of Election Commission of India.

The highest number of violations have been reported from Srinagar district followed by Kulgam

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Over 500 centenarians among 17 lakh voters in Baramulla

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: More than 500 centenarians are among the 17.37 lakh voters eligible to exercise their franchise in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, with political observers expecting a high turnout on the back of the huge crowds that thronged election rallies and roadshows.

The first major political battle post the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 will decide the fate of Omar Abdullah, the National Conference vice-president and a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and

Kashmir state, and 21 others in the fray.

Fourteen Independent candidates -- two of whom are women -- are among the hopefuls from the north Kashmir seat, which has traditionally returned a higher turnout compared to areas in central and south Kashmir.

The constituency goes to the polls on Monday.

Abdullah faces the biggest challenge from separatist-turned-politician and former minister Sajad Lone, who heads the People's Conference. The blazing campaign trail witnessed the rivals going full

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Three NC workers injured during poll rally

STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR: Three National Conference (NC) workers were injured when unidentified persons attacked them with knives at an election rally in Mendhar in Poonch district on Sunday, officials said.

NC president Farooq Abdullah was present at the rally organised by the party in support of its Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat

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Bodies of two missing youths recovered from Tawi river

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bodies of two youths were fished out from the Tawi river here, two days after they were reported missing, police said on Sunday.

The belongings of Rajinder Singh and Abhikash Singh were found on the banks of Tawi river near their village at Kishanpur-Manwal on Friday, shortly after they went for a bath in the water body, they said.

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 41.5°C Min: 25.7°C

Humidity
Max: 29 Min: 21

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 26.3°C Min: 13.8°C

Humidity
Max: 69 Min: 57

Sunset : 19:24 Hours
Sunrise : 05:29 Hours

DGP promises tough crackdown on OGWs, local ultras helping foreign terrorists

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Director General of Police R.R Swain on Sunday promised a tough crackdown on the real OGWs and a handful of local terrorists who have been helping foreign terrorists in various ways.

"Force of the law shall be brought upon these elements very severely and interests of the community protected at all costs", the DGP said during his visit to District Police Headquarters in Shopian. He held a meeting with senior officers of army, CRPF and police.

He said the facilitators who



DGP R R Swain during visit to District Police Headquarters in Shopian on Sunday.

provide accommodation, transport, food, medicine, phone facility to the

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International bodies must take cognisance of human rights violations in PoK: Rajnath

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBALPUR/KEONJHAR/KHURDA (ODISHA): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that international bodies should take cognisance of human rights violations in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

Addressing an election rally in Odisha's Khurda, he said, "Human rights are being violated in PoK... international human rights agencies should take cognisance of the happenings in PoK."

He claimed that the people of PoK now desire to join India instead of remaining under the Pakistani administration.

"I had earlier said we need

not attack anyone, they will come on their own. Two days ago, I saw a video in which people of PoK were seen uprooting a Pakistani flag-international bodies should take cognisance of the happenings in PoK."

He said that barring a few stray incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism has been reduced to zero under the NDA rule, while



post," he said.

"PoK is and will remain an integral part of India," he asserted.

He said that barring a few stray incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism has been reduced to zero under the NDA rule, while

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Sinha interacts with Apex Committee members on Agri development

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with the members of Apex Committee for Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied sectors in the UT of J&K. The committee is headed by Dr. Mangala Rai, former Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The Lt Governor discussed with the members about area specific interventions and projects under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Apex Committee Members lauded the committed efforts of the UT Administration for the effective on-ground imple-



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with the members of Apex Committee for Holistic Development of Agriculture & Allied sectors at Srinagar on Sunday.

mentation of HADP in Jammu Kashmir. The members of the apex committee also interacted with Khuram Mir, Horticultural Entrepreneur from Shopian who briefed them about his endeavours and the private investment he brought in horticulture sector of the district.

Dr Mangala Rai; Dr

Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Dr PK Joshi, Secretary NAAS; Dr HS Gupta, former Director IARI; Dr BN Tripathi, VC SKUAST Jammu; Dr Nazir Ahmed Ganai, VC SKUAST

Kashmir and Dr JP Sharma, former VC SKUAST Jammu were present.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Yasha Mudgal, Mission Director HADP were also present during the meeting at Raj Bhawan.

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Regional parties neglecting crucial public issues: Azad

STATE TIMES NEWS
ANANTNAG: Chairman, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Sunday criticized regional parties for neglecting crucial public issues in their election campaigns.

During a series of road shows in Bijbehra Anantnag, Azad expressed his discontent with the current political discourse, saying that these parties claim the election is not about fundamental issues like water and electricity.

"Why are these parties contesting elections if they are



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing the gathering at Bijbehra, Anantnag.

not addressing the real problems faced by the people?" Azad questioned.

"Are they here to exploit the innocent people once again?" he asked and highlighted

pressing concerns that affect everyday life, noting a significant rise in electricity bills, lack of water facilities in rural areas,

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Search operation launched after suspicious movement near IB

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Security forces have launched a massive search operation after picking up movement of three suspicious persons, believed to be terrorists, near the International Border in Kathua district, officials said on Sunday.

A Special Police Officer (SPO) reported the movement of suspected persons in Tarnah nallah near Jangichak in Hiranagar sector during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, the officials said.

An alert was immediately sounded in the entire area of the border police post Sanyal and reinforcements from the police, army and BSF were rushed for a joint search and cordon operation, they

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