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## Amarnath Yatra: Unfazed by looming terror threat, hundreds of pilgrims arrive in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chants of Bam Bam Bhole and Jai Barfani Baba ki rented the air as hundreds of enthusiastic pilgrims unperturbed by the looming terror threat arrived at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here amid tight security on Tuesday to set out on a journey to cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas on Wednesday.

The devotees said their unflinching faith in Lord Shiva and the security forces has encouraged them to be part of the annual Amarnath Yatra that is being organised this year after a gap of two years on account of the Covid pandemic.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave the Jammu base camp on Wednesday, officials said.

Multi-tier security has been put in place in and around the base camp, lodging centres, and registration and token centres amid deployment of over 5,000 security



First batch of pilgrims arriving at Yatri Niwas Base Camp ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu on Tuesday.

### LG e-inaugurates SASB Yatri Niwas at Chanderkote

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's (SASB) Yatri Niwas at Chanderkote, Ramban through virtual mode from the Convention Centre, Canal road, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that today's inauguration of Chanderkote Yatri Niwas is an important link in the efforts of administration to organize a grand Yatra this year.

"The state-of-the-art facility, with a capacity of 3600 pilgrims, will provide huge relief and comfort to the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra", he added.

The Lt Governor observed that this picturesque Yatri Niwas spread over 23 kanals is an important stop in the journey of Baba Barfani and every effort has been made to equip the facility with all modern amenities. The project completed at a cost of Rs.47.00 crore is one of

### Div Control Room established in Div Com Office Jammu to facilitate Amarnath pilgrims

JAMMU: The Government has established a Divisional Control Room in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu to facilitate the Shri Amarnathji Yatrics- 2022 and notified the list and Contact Numbers of the officials attending the Control Room on rotation basis.

For any query or help, the people/ pilgrims can contact on the Landline Phone

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personnel in Jammu city, the officials said.

"Na chinta na bhay, Baba Amarnath ji kee jai (Neither worry nor fear, as Baba Amarnath Ji with us)," said Vinay Kumar, who was part of 12-member group from Lucknow arrived here for his onward journey to cave shrine of Amarnath in the first batch on Wednesday.

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### NIA arrests two in J&K cross LoC trade, terror funding case

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested two accused persons in a case pertaining to the generation of extra profits through cross LoC trade mechanism between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir and using of those funds for fomenting terrorist activities in the Union Territory.

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### Centre treating Udaipur killing as 'terror' incident, sends NIA team

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Centre is treating the gruesome killing of a tailor in Udaipur on Tuesday as a terror attack and has dispatched a probe team that included officials of the anti-terror agency NIA as initial information suggested that the assailants could have had links with the ISIS, officials said. The officials said the probe team would

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## Pak-based LeT behind series of explosions in Rajouri; two arrested

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit was behind the recent series of explosions in Rajouri district, police said on Tuesday, claiming to have solved the case with the arrest of two of its operatives while the search is on for the main accused.

A huge cache of explosive material, including five improvised explosive devices (IEDs), was recovered at the disclosure of the arrested accused, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh said.

Twin explosions rocked Kotrana town of Rajouri on March 26 and another on April 19, leaving two persons injured.

Two more persons were injured in another blast that took place in Shahpur-Budhal area of Rajouri on April 24.

Working on leads, joint teams of Rajouri Police and 60 Rashtriya Rifles (14

Sector) conducted multiple raids and search operations at various locations in Larkoti, Targain, Jaglanoo and Draaj areas of Rajouri and apprehended two suspects, Mohd Shabir and Mohd Sadiq of Draaj-Budhal village, the ADGP said.

During investigation, he said, it came to the fore that three accused Talib Shah, also of Draaj village of Budhal area, Shabir and Sadiq were involved in these incidents of blasts, he said.

These individuals, working on the directions of their Pakistan-based handlers, received weapons, ammunition, explosives and later used these IEDs to trigger blasts, Singh said.

He said it has surfaced during preliminary investigation that the group is headed by Shah who has collected three consignments of arms, ammunition and explosives from the Lamberi-Kalakote area in the months of January, March and April.

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## No resignation letter of Basant Rath received: Officials

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration or Director General of Police Dilbag Singh's office has not received any resignation letter of suspended IPS officer Basant Rath, a copy of which was posted on his unverified Twitter handle, officials said on Tuesday.

Senior officials in the Jammu and Kashmir administration said it was possible that Rath, a 2000-batch IPS officer, had only intended to float the idea of seeking voluntary retirement by posting a resignation letter on his unverified Twitter handle, "KangriCarrier".

Rath, who has been under suspension since July 2020, is facing disciplinary proceedings for "repeated instances of gross misconduct and misbehaviour, which have been brought to the notice of the government", officials said.

In the order of his suspension, the Union Home Ministry had said that "...during the period of suspension, Rath's headquarter shall be Jammu and he will not leave it without obtaining permission of Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police." Efforts to seek reaction from Rath

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### Two suspected OWGs of terrorists killed in Kupwara

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two suspected underground workers (OGWs) of terrorists were on Tuesday shot dead by the Army near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district, police said.

The deceased were identified as Majid Chechi and Shamsudin Beigh. They are believed to have come to receive a cache of arms and narcotics and facilitate infiltration of militants, they said.

"As reported by the Army, at approximately 0015 hours on 28th June, some suspicious movement

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## 3,000 illegal backdoor engagements in J&K Bank HC refuses to quash FIR against former Chairman J&K Bank

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court dismissed petition filed by one Parvez Ahmad Nengroo seeking quashment of FIR registered by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the much publicized alleged 3,000 illegal backdoor engagements in J&K Bank.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, while dismissing petition observed that counsel for the petitioner that offences, which are subject matter of two FIRs, have arisen out of a single conspiracy which commenced with tenure of the then

Chairman, Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad and it continued even after he demitted the office and was replaced by the petitioner as the Chairman of the Bank. On this ground, it was urged that offences arising out of two FIRs form part of the same transaction and, as such second FIR is not competent. The argument, at first blush, appears to be attractive but when facts narrated in the two FIRs and the charge sheets arising out of the first FIR are scrutinized carefully, the argument does not stand the test of sameness and the conse-

quence test which are necessary for quashing the subsequent FIR. In first FIR although the allegations regarding a general conspiracy of making illegal appointments in J&K Bank Ltd have been made but then it specifically focuses on illegal appointments of certain individuals, namely Iqbal Wani, Mehraj Magray, Feroz Ara, Waseem Bhat, Mushtaq Mir and Faizan Chowpan in J&K Bank Branch Dangiwaacha and several such fraudulent appointments of various persons including the

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### GST Council removes tax exemptions on some items

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: The GST Council on Tuesday approved changes in the tax rates on some goods and services with a view to rationalising the levy even as non-BJP ruled states set the stage for a possible confrontation with the Centre over the issue of a larger share in tax revenues.

On Day 1 of the two-day meeting of the panel headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman and comprising of representatives of all states and UTs, a host of procedural compliance-related issues for GST-registered businesses

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LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the 7th Convocation Ceremony of SKUAST-Jammu on Tuesday.

production, value addition and marketing in the last two years for sustainable income to the farmers.

"The pace of transforming rural economy will be accelerated by adopting modern Agricultural strategies and

environment-friendly technologies in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I am confident with dedication and determination the students will change the face of agriculture & horticulture, which is the soul of J&K's economy," he said while addressing the 7th convocation ceremony of Sher-i-Kashmir University of agriculture science and technology (SKUAST) here.

The Lt Governor lauded the university for rendering service to the nation by

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## SIA books SIM card vendor in Kupwara

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In the face of ever increasing misuse of SIM cards by terrorists, their OGW associates, narcotics smugglers and other criminals, SIA of J&K Police, on Tuesday conducted searches at two locations in Kupwara district of UT of J&K in connection with case FIR No. 14/2022 U/s 13 UA(P) Act, 120-B, 420,468,471 IPC of Police Station SIA/CIK, Srinagar.

The two premises belonged to Javid Ahmad Bhat, son of Ali Mohammad Bhat, resident of Mohalla Gunwari Gugloosa, Kupwara, who is the proprietor of "Bhat Telecom" who sold these SIM cards in violation of depart-

ment of Telecom regulations and in a manner that amounts to forgery and cheating.

The basic allegation that has triggered the criminal investigation is that the proprietor of "Bhat Telecom" as a part of criminal conspiracy hatched with OGWs, sympathizers of terrorist organizations, and narcotic smugglers are involved in preparing and selling of SIM cards of various telecom companies by using fraudulent and dishonest methods. Prima facie evidence has become available to show that forging of records has taken place wherein photos of a single person has been used

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### UN Ocean Conference

## India committed to protect 30 pc lands, waters by 2030: Dr Jitendra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LISBON: India on Tuesday assured the world community that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi it is committed to protect at least 30 % of "our" lands, waters and oceans, and thus adhere to its commitment of 30X30 by 2030.

Addressing the Plenary Session on behalf of India at the UN Ocean Conference here, India's Minister for Earth Sciences, Dr-Jitendra Singh said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all efforts are going on to achieve the 30x30 target in a mission mode as per the COP resolutions. He said, he is here at the UN forum to

present before the world, Modi's vision for conservation and sustenance of ocean



and ocean resources.

It may be recalled that India joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which was initiated at the "One Planet Summit" in Paris in January 2021, which aims to promote an international agreement to protect at

least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030.

Dr Jitendra assured the Ministers, Delegates and Representatives from more than 130 Countries participating in the 5-day conference that India will also provide science and innovation based solutions for the implementation of SDG-Goal 14 through partnerships and environmentally friendly solutions. Goal 14 calls for Conservation and Sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Dwelling on the theme of the conference "Scaling up Ocean Action based on Science and Innovation for the implementation of

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## Emotions don't give right to riot; time to expose instigators

In the immediate backdrop of Larson, loot, plunder and mayhem unleashed by the so-called prospective 'army men or Agniveers' against the Agnipath scheme rolled out by the Indian Air Force, 94,000 patriotic, energetic and disciplined young boys and girls have applied for 3,000 vacancies in just four days. The registration will come to close on July 5 and, therefore, the number of applicants is likely to surge manifold. Though the protests have simmered down considerably, those in the forefront of the violence must be cooling down their boots under the shadow of conspirators. For sure, none of them must have applied for the vacancies because they had not to. Most of them must be the 'well-paid muscle men' of the inimical forces, which are commandeered to take to streets to destabilize the nation and the democratically elected government.

Such a mega response after the nation was rocked by a well orches-

trated but violent protests, targeting rail network in particular, raises a pertinent question as to who all are instigating people to resort to mayhem on one and every issue-be it Farm Laws, Common Civil Code, National Citizen Register or Hijab row. The country has undergone a worst phase of destruction. More is feared yet to come-all on the excuse of emotions getting trampled. But do emotions give anyone the right to riot?

Seen in hindsight, it is amply clear that the protests beginning from Shaheem Bagh to Jahangirpuri, the modus operandi had been the same. In one or the other protests, the hidden hand of the Peoples' Front of India remained omnipresent. This must have worried the perpetrators, who feared the majority community getting consoli-

dated, which it did. So the 'politics of violence' was given diversion by raking up the Farm Laws and Agnipath-the issues not pertaining to any particular community. Ironically, the Agnipath witnessed large scale arson of public transport, especially the railways.

Does the current politics of fire have any connection with the arsons the country witnessed horrendously? **PART-I** **N e h r u -** Gandhi scion and senior Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had on May 19 'warned' during the Chintan Shivar of his party, "The fight has just begun, and in the coming days you shall see how India will be set on fire". The Congress warning echoed again with Priyanka Gandhi telling the Agnipath protesters on June 19, "...This scheme will kill the youth of the country, will finish the Army... Please see the intent of this

Government and topple it. Bring a Government that is true to the nation, protects the country's assets". It is a classic crusade of the Congress to dislodge the Narendra Modi government since its inception in 2014. The nation has not forgotten how a senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar had sought for the removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to solve the Kashmir dispute when he begged of Pakistan, in a television interview during his visit to Islamabad on November 17, 2015, Hamein Le Aaiye, Inheim (Modi) Hataiye (Bring in Congress, remove him). This is the political bankruptcy of the nation. Those finding themselves very uncomfortable out of power resorting to dirty tricks, not only to dislodge the opponents but to destabilize the nation as well. This 'Jai Chand' culture has encouraged the proponents of 'Gazwai-e-Hind' to intensify their tirade by putting the nation

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