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Amit Shah reviews...

entered a wine shop at Baramulla in North Kashmir and threw a grenade, killing one person from the Jammu region and injuring three others. Policeman Saifullah Qadri was shot dead outside his residence in Srinagar on May 24 while television artiste Amreen Bhat was gunned down in Budgam two days later. The high-level meeting chaired by Shah was the second such exercise in less than a fortnight.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Arvind Kumar, Director General of Central Reserve Police Force Kuldip Singh, Border Security Force chief Pankaj Singh, and Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh among other key officials took part in the meeting. Earlier, Shah had an informal meeting with LG Manoj Sinha, Arvind Kumar, Secretary of RAW Samant Goel and DGP of Jammu and Kashmir Dilbagh Singh.

Govt directs departments...

the Government account in the revenue generating departments shall only be through digital payments. For the above purpose QR Codes, UPI IDs, Account numbers should be made readily available on the cash counters. Hospital charges including registration, clinical and other examinations shall only be through digital payments" reads the Govt circular issued by Vivek Bharadwaj, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department. According to circular departments shall raise awareness regarding digital payments via campaigns, festivals and events. The Administrative Secretaries are requested to direct the concerned Department(s)/Agencies to shift to full-fledged Digital receipts/payments and avoid cash transaction in any manner for the transactions undertaken by the Departments. The Departments are further advised to approach DBT Cell of Finance Department and Vikas Sirohi, Nodal Officer, NPCI for UT of Jammu and Kashmir, (Email: Vikas.sirohi@npci.org.in, phone: +91-9582224642) in case of any query or clarification.

Govt forms UT...

Union Territory of J&K," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department. As per order, the committee will be headed by Administrative Secretary, Home Department as its Chairman while Director General of Police, J&K as Vice Chairman and Administrative Secretary, School Education Department as its Member-Secretary. Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sport Department, Administrative Secretary, Transport Department and Administrative Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department will be the Members of the Committee, it added. "The committee shall lay out broad policy objectives and operational guidelines and to monitor the progress of the programme besides to initiate implementation of the programme in the Government schools either in urban or rural Panchayats," it stated and added, "The Committee may take a decision with regard to number for Schools to be covered in each such area, subject to the allocation of funds being made for the purpose."

No shifting of...

themselves for the annual pilgrimage, they said. The terror groups working at the behest of "countries fomenting terrorism" are worried by the return of normalcy in the Valley and therefore, soft targets are picked up to instil fear among the masses and create chaos, they said. The JK administration is not going to be bogged down by this, they said, exuding confidence that the security forces would put an end to these targeted killings like they did in October 2021 when terrorists carried out a spate of targeted attacks including on prominent chemist M L Bindroo and a Sikh teacher. The officials said the Amarnath Yatra was a symbol of Kashmir's composite culture and will go on despite some threat perception which will be handled. They said these targeted killings show that terror groups' ability to strike at protected targets has shrunk, and therefore soft targets are being approached. They said there was an evil design behind these targeted killings and cautioned that the attacks were not to create a division between Hindus and Muslims but to establish one "nizam" in the Valley. For this they can kill anyone who doesn't follow their line, they said, pointing out that Muslims have also been killed by these groups. The officials, while talking about prospects of holding elections in the union territory, said this was a decision that would be taken by the Election Commission only.

Several PM package...

of 4000 accommodation units. An environment of apprehension is prevailing in Kashmir in the wake of the selective killings in different parts of the valley. We lost our colleague Rahul Bhat who was shot dead inside his office in Budgam district on May 12 and decided to leave for Jammu, Deepankar Raina said. He said the majority of the PM package employees were reluctant to stay back but the government sealed the transit camps with barbed wire and did not allow the occupants to leave. Our only demand is our relocation outside Kashmir which, we believe, is not safe for us. The government is talking about our relocation to secure places but Bhat was working in a well secured office and so was the banker Vijay Kumar who was gunned down inside his office in Kulgam district on Thursday, Raina said. He said they have to move out of the secured accommodation to attend their duties and buy daily use items like vegetables and milk. Another employee Amit Koul said he has decided not to return to Kashmir and put his life and his family in danger.

Our only demand is relocation of PM package employees out of the valley. We are ready to serve anywhere else till the situation returns to normal, he said. Jagnesh Kumar said fear psychosis has gripped the community who are presently living in the valley and many of them who were living in rented accommodations in Kupwara, Baramulla, Anantnag and Budgam have already left for Jammu. We are watching the developments from Srinagar to Delhi where a high-level meeting is under progress. Kashmir belongs to us and we are ready to serve there but the government needs to provide a secure atmosphere, he said. He said the repeat of the 1990-like situation is on cards due to the failure of the security agencies to check the targeted killings. Kashmiri pandits left enmass for Jammu in 1990 and the ground realities are forcing the miniscule community to leave the valley again, he said. A woman employee, accompanied by her husband and a minor child, said since the killing of Bhat, every day was a nightmare for the family. We had sleepless nights in our rented accommodation over the past few weeks and thinking of going back to the valley is impossible, she said. Though the exact number of pandit families who have returned from Kashmir to Jagti township could not be ascertained officially, social activist Sunil Pandita claimed that dozens of families have come back from the valley over the past two days. The spurt in violence is the reflection of the failure of the government and exposed the false claims of normalcy returning to the valley in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. Heads should roll at the highest level in the Union Territory, he said.

3 soldiers, civilian...

said, "In the initial exchange of fire, three army personnel & one civilian got injured. All the injured were immediately airlifted to 92 base hospital #Srinagar for treatment & are stated to be stable. #Operation going on."

Janipur girl held...

graphs to number of persons resident of Ransoo, Reasi including brother, fiancé and relatives of the complainant belonging to Ransoo. "The obscene videos/pictures were later on circulated to number of persons in Ransoo and other Reasi resulting harassment and loss of reputation of aggrieved complainant belonging to Ransoo and her family," the police said, adding that the accused girl, belonging to Lakkar Mandi, Janipur area, repeatedly posted that obscene content on social media which led to depression for the complainant girl and her family. Accordingly, notices were sent to Facebook/Instagram, USA / Concerned Telecom Service Providers to obtain the details of fake IDs. During technical analysis data received from Facebook/Instagram and IPs used, it was established that the profile of complainant was opened using mobile numbers belonging to accused girl and her mother. Accordingly, under the supervision of DySP Cyber Vasim Ahmed, a team of Cyber Police Station Jammu headed by Investigating Officer, Inspector Gagandeep Singh accompanied by Inspector Rakesh Sharma and some other Police personnel including lady Police Officials was deputed to arrest the accused girl and subsequently the accused girl was arrested from her relatives house at Chinore, Jammu. Presently, the said accused girl is under Police custody and further investigation of the case is going on. Police is still working on identifying other accused persons of Ransoo and other areas who have either shared or kept those obscene videos/photographs in their mobile phones/ other devices. SP Cyber Naresh Singh, warned all those fraudsters/cyber criminals of dire consequences/strict action under the provisions of law, who are involved in the harassment of the general public especially innocent females by way of luring/blackmailing/threatening/publishing obscene content on social media. SP also cautioned the general public to keep their social media accounts private after applying best possible privacy options and not to take friend requests of unknown persons, to stay safe from the menace of sextortion related crimes. SP further suggested to double sure about the credentials of any social media friend before accepting a video call request.

BSF developing counter...

to cheek drones and underground tunnels," he said. Singh was speaking during an investiture ceremony and the annual 'Rustamji Memorial Lecture' of the border force. The about 2.65 lakh personnel strong force was raised in 1965 and it is primarily tasked to guard Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. Minister of state for home Nityanand Rai delivered the keynote speech and also honoured a total of 16 personnel, including two posthumously, with the police medal for gallantry. Those decorated include second-in-command rank officer Deepak Kumar Mandal who laid down his life in 2017 while stopping cross-border cattle smuggling in Tripura. Mandal, commanding the 145th battalion of the border guarding force, was grievously hit by a four-wheeler by the smugglers on October 16 that year and he succumbed to his injuries four days later. Thirteen BSF personnel were also awarded the gallantry medals for killing three terrorists who attacked the Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) airfield on October 3, 2017. Those awarded for this operation include Assistant Sub Inspector Brijkishor Yadav (posthumously) and deputy inspectors general S S Guleria and Hari Lal among others.

CJ administers oath...

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Mohan Lal and Justice Rahul Bharti participated in the oath taking ceremony virtually from Jammu. The proceedings of the ceremony were conducted by Registrar General of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Gupta, who read the contents of the notification received from Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice,

Department of Justice, the Warrant of Appointment issued by President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to administer the Oath of office to the newly appointed Judge. The oath taking ceremony was also telecasted live on Youtube Channel. The ceremony was also attended by former Judges of High Court, Advocate General, Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Srinagar, President Bar Association, Jammu, Chairman/Convenor Bar Association Srinagar, Principal District Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar, Officers and staff of the Registry. With elevation of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal as Additional Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the strength of Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has risen to 16 Judges including the Chief Justice, against the sanctioned strength of 17.

Centre asks J&K...

toilets throughout the approach roads to the shrines. The move comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address to the nation on May 29, expressed his concern regarding the heap of filth in Kedarnath. According to a statement issued by the ministry on Friday, the advisory suggests that plastics and SUPs (single use plastic items) should be stopped at the base-camp level for Kedarnath and Amarnath yatris at the time of registration itself. "All eateries along the approach roads will need to be sensitised about garbage collection, in-situ processing of the food waste through waste to compost/waste to bio-gas units in their premises, usage of bio-degradable cutlery and bags," the statement stated. In order to prevent indiscriminate littering by visitors, segregated litter bins will have to be placed along the approach roads along with regular emptying of the same, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) said. "Most importantly, the advisory stresses on large scale people participation, whereby all local NGOs/CSOs/voluntary organisations, self-help groups from all villages and towns on the approach roads are to be identified, sensitised and tagged to work in designated area to ensure that cleanliness is maintained at every step," it stated. The ministry said "local swachhata brand ambassadors" should be identified and designated for the swachh yatra', and spread the messages of cleanliness to motivate visitors to behave responsibly and help in maintaining cleanliness. According to the statement, national teams from MoHUA are being deputed to Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha, starting this week, to take stock of the preparations underway and also to provide inputs for improving sanitation and garbage management. Video-conferencing meetings have been scheduled early next week to discuss with state, city and district officials to discuss the preparedness, it added.

ACB arrests SIDCO...

spokesperson said adding that a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught Fayaz Ahmad Khan, State Manager SIDCO Sanat Ghar, Bemina, Srinagar red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant. He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team and the bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses, spokesperson said adding that the further investigation is going on.

Four arrested for...

organised gang headed by Thakur, a website developer and B.Tech student, who designed the website for cheating religious travellers. They used several fake accounts for siphoning off the cheated amount, the DCP said. The gang operated via a fake website, similar to that of government's, for booking helicopter tickets. After receiving the booking amount in bank accounts, they used to immediately withdraw the sum, police added.

I'm in...

In his address, President Kovind thanked Modi for visiting the village and for backing him for the post of president. "Uttar Pradesh realised the dedication of the PM towards democracy when he initiated to make a person like me the president of the country," said Kovind. "The credit for making a person from UP the president of the country goes to the prime minister," he said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Governor Anandiben Patel along with ministers, MPs and MLA of nearby area attended the event. In his address, Adityanath said, "The president and the prime minister by being together in a small village of Kanpur Dehat are also giving a message of 'gram swaraj' envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and encouraging the people to join with the Amrut Mohotsav to celebrate 75 years of Independence." Adityanath said that Paraunkh village has become an example of ideal village in the state. "Whatever we are able to do in the state, the support of the Prime Minister is essential. With his support and guidance, UP has been able to move towards a new era of development," said the CM. Before their address at the public function, the dignitaries visited the Pathri Mata temple at Paraunkh village. They also visited Dr B R Ambedkar Bhawan which was to be followed by a visit to Milan Kendra (community center). The Kendra is the president's ancestral house that has been donated for public use.

Amarnath Yatra: UAPA...

questioning and disrupting sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. "Besides, such activities are likely to cause disturbance of peace and public order in the UT of J&K," he said. An FIR has been registered on the basis of this information and for the purpose of identification of such groups and persons, he said, adding relevant sections under the UAPA and Indian Penal Section have been invoked. An investigation is underway, he added.

Northern command holds 3-day conclave on 'grayzone warfare', its impact on J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The northern army command held a three-day conclave on 'grayzone warfare' and its impact on Jammu and Kashmir, with senior officers stressing the need to take a relook at the technology-enabled human resource management to meet future challenges. Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi described 'grayzone warfare' as the exploitation of the space between peace and war, also referred to as 'no war no peace', and said this is what the forces have to deal with in J&K and Ladakh. The three-day strategic and



Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and others during the conclave.

brainstorming conclave organised by the northern command headquarters at Udhampur concluded Friday, a defence spokesman said. The officials who participated in the conclave said the Northern Command faces

the unique challenge of "two-and-a-half fronts" with live phenomenon of 'grayzone warfare'. The eminent speakers at the event included three former Army Commanders - Lieutenant General Praveen Bakshi,

Lieutenant General DS Hooda, Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan. Former foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale and senior serving military officers also participated in the event. The 'grayzone warfare' will manifest itself in a range of activities that are traditionally considered beyond the scope of military actions, yet the armed forces have to respond with clear eye on the escalatory matrix, the spokesperson said. The Army Commander remarked that the conclave also intended to address the issues of civil-military jointness in decision-making.

COVID: 9 new cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported nine new Covid cases on Friday that took the infection tally to 4,54,271, officials said. Of the new cases, eight were reported from Jammu district while one was detected in Srinagar district, they said. There are 61 active cases while the overall recoveries have reached 4,49,458, officials said. The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,752. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said. There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), they added.

Verma's play 'Do Duni Chaar' to stage by second year students of NSD today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yet another artist of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory outshined at the National level. This time it is Rohit Verma whose play Do Duni Chaar written by him has been presented in Goa which will be presented tomorrow in New Delhi by Second Year Students of National School of Drama, New Delhi at Abhimanch Auditorium of National School of Drama. At the very outset Rohit Verma said that this is a proud moment for me as well as Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory as this is the first of post independence



that a writer of Jammu and Kashmir has got some space for the production with NSD students. "The profession of a writer is very tough and to reach to National level as a playwright is something big for me. I have been writing for the last 8 years in which I have written and adapted over twenty plays," he said.

Born to Ramesh Chandra Verma and Kanta Verma in the year 1987, Rohit Verma started his journey in the field of theatre in the year 2003 with the theatre group Natrang and acted in over 70 plays within and outside the country under the guidance of well known theatre practitioners like PadmaShri Balwant Thakur, PadmaShri Motilal Kemmu, Ravi Kemmu, Prof Mangesh Bhansod, Vijay Kenkre , Shaafat Khan, Govind Namdev, Ranjeet Kapoor, Faroz Abbas Khan, Milind Inamdar, Rajshri Shirke, Himani Shrivastava, Neerajant Sharma, Sanjeev Gupta, Ashish Nijhawan etc. Performed in over 60

National and International Theatre Festivals, Rohit Verma is also having the credit to perform in Frankfurt International Theatre Festival, Year of India in Russia) International festival, Bharat rang Mahotsav, Nandikar International Theatre festival, Jash-ne-Bachpan, Vivechana's National theatre festival etc. organised by the prestigious organisation of India viz. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, North Zone Cultural Centre, Indian People Theatre Association (IPTA) and Nandikar etc. Things aren't finished over here for him, after having showed the acting skills by him, he started writing plays which include Laa- Rani { a musical play }, Painguest (Guest in Pain), Corporate Chanakay, Exit Please, Kisi Ke Intzar mein (Solo for Male), Modern Kunju Chanchalo, 18 hours and many more. As a director he directed numerous plays like Qaid E Hayat, Dhooop Ka Ek Tukda, Zakhm, 18 Hours, Juliet Ke Intzar Mein, Gudia Azad and Hamid. His production Gudiya Azad has been awarded as second best production in the Annual Drama Festival organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages(2018-19).

Irked over unscheduled power cuts Ghagwal residents protest against PDD, block highway



Protesters staging protest on National Highway at Samba.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Irked over unscheduled power cuts, residents and shopkeepers of Ghagwal town staged protest against PDD and blocked Jammu Pathankot

National Highway on late Friday night. Protesters alleged that for the last several days, electricity of Ghagwal is providing only 5 to 6 hours electricity throughout the day.

Anu Khajuria, who was leading the protest, said after repeated requests to department nothing was done in this regard which forced them to come on road against PDD. Shopkeepers namely Rohit Raina (Chotu), Sunny Choudhary, Anu Khajuria and many more said businessmen also suffering heavy losses due to lack of electricity in Ghagwal town. They warned that if the problem of power cut is not resolved by Saturday, then they will once block highway in a big way.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The work remain suspended in the District & Sessions court Kathua and other subordinate courts including revenue Courts, ALC, Office of Registrar etc. on the call given by the Executive Committee of the District Bar Association Kathua led by Bar President Ajat Shatru Sharma Advocate on the main issue of recent target killings in the Kashmir valley and various other local issues of

public interest.

The members of the Bar in one voice strongly condemned the series of recent target killings of innocent & unarmed State Minorities & other non-local citizens especially Hindus & peace loving Muslims in the Kashmir Valley by coward & unafraid terrorists operating on the direction of ISI of Pakistan. Others who present in press conference includes Vice President Devinder

Singh, General Secretaries Adv. Kamaljeet Singh and Adv. Rahul Khajuria, Spokesperson Adv. Gaurav Singh, Joint Secretaries Adv. Amit Sharma and Adv. Keshav Verma, Executive Members Adv. Saurav Mahajan, Adv. Rajesh Kumar, Adv. Panakaj Kumar, Adv. Neeraj Sharma, Adv. Upasana Gupta, Adv. Amarjeet Singh, Adv. Mohit Singh, Adv. Swapnil Jasrotia and others etc.