

**02** Woman among two nabbed with over 42 Kg poppy straw

**03** Sukhnandan appreciates role of BSF in effectively guarding borders

**12** Indian U-18 Women Volleyball team leaves for Asian meet

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## Hizb ‘commander’ killed in encounter at Anantnag IED blast outside Udhampur court complex: LeT terrorist, 2 associates arrested

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: A self-styled commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit was killed while three soldiers and a civilian were injured in an overnight encounter in Anantnag district, police said on Saturday. "Terrorist Commander of proscribed #terror outfit HM Nisar Khanday killed. #Incriminating materials, #arms & ammunition including 01 AK 47 rifle recovered. #Operation in progress," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar tweeted.

The encounter began on Friday evening in the Rishipora area of Anantnag, a police spokesman said.

He said three soldiers and a civilian sustained injuries in the early exchange of firing with the militants.

"All the injured were immediately airlifted to 92 base



ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh briefing media on Udhampur blast case.

hospital Srinagar for treatment and are stated to be stable," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist and his two associates in connection with the low-intensity IED explosion outside a court complex in Udhampur district in March in which one person was killed and 14 were injured, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh told reporters here that a number of suspects were questioned before the investigators zeroed in on and arrested Mohammad Ramzan Sohil, a resident of Halla Bohar Dhar in Ramban district.

The other two arrested accused were identified as Khurshed Ahmed of Motla Dessa in Doda and Nisar

Ahmed Khan of Bhaderwah.

Sohil confessed to planting the IED on the directions of his handler Mohammad Amin, alias Khubaib, a resident of Kathawa Thathri in Doda who is currently based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the police officer said.

The improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place on March 9 outside the court complex in Slathia Chowk where fruit and vegetable vendors put up their carts.

Sohil's father Mohammad Ishaq Sohil was a trained terrorist of the LeT and was neutralised in 2003, the ADGP said.

"Sohil was in contact with...Khubaib through social media. He was instructed to fix one sticky bomb IED at Slathia Chowk and keep another at a safe place for future use," he

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SIA Jammu conducts searches, seizures in Poonch border areas

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: State Investigation Agency (SIA), a Specialized Agency has been constituted by the Government of Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases. On Saturday, a special team of SIA Jammu visited the border district of Poonch, J&K in connection with

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Six dead, 7 injured in road accidents at Poonch, Ramban

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Six people died and seven were injured when two vehicles skidded off roads and rolled down gorges in Poonch and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

Four people died and seven sustained injuries in the accident that took place in Saujiyan village of Poonch, they said.

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## Series of efforts made to boost pro-people governance: Modi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday shared details of various initiatives of his government, and asserted that it has made a series of efforts to boost pro-people governance which helps the poor, youth, farmers, women and the marginalised.

Modi shared articles from his website that had details of the government's reforms in defence sector, humanitarian and people-centric measures on foreign soils to help Indians, and initiatives to boost self-reliance.

He has been highlighting various measures of his government to mark its eighth anniversary, which fell on May 30.

A tweet from MyGovIndia, retweeted by him, noted surgical and air strikes aimed at Pakistan-based terrorists in response to terror attacks in

India, repeal of Article 370, six times increase in defence exports, evacuation of over 1.83 crore Indians from abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic and 52 per cent reduction in terror attacks



since 2014 as among the national security and foreign policy highlights of the government.

He said, "Inspired by the Mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' our Government has made a series of efforts to boost pro-people governance which helps the poor, youth, farm-

ers, women and the marginalised. #8YearsOfSushasan." He also shared an article on his app which highlighted a series of reforms in the defence sector with focus on

indigenisation, making of defence corridors and boosting defence exports among others.

"Ours is a Government which cares for each and every Indian," he said in another tweet, adding that it is driven by a people-centric and humanitarian approach.

He shared an article which detailed various operations launched by the government to rescue Indian nationals from countries like Ukraine, Yemen and Afghanistan when they were hit by war. Foreign nationals were also evacuated by India.

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## Reshuffle in J&K Police: 6 IPS officers transferred

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Saturday transferred six IPS officers.

According to order issued

**Vikramjit Singh posted as IGP Traffic J&K; Vivek Gupta posted as DIG Traffic with addl charge of DIG Jammu-Kathua; Dr Mughal as DIG Rajouri-Poonch**

by R.K Goyal, Financial Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, T. Namgyal Kalon, IPS (RR:95), ADGP Traffic, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Director SKPA, Udhampur; Vikramjit Singh, IPS (RR:2004), awaiting orders of adjustment, has been post-

ed as IGP Traffic, J&K; Vivek Gupta, IPS (RR:2007), DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, holding additional charge of DIG

Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range, has been transferred as DIG Traffic Jammu. He shall continue to hold the additional charge of the post of DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range.

Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal, IPS, SSP PCR Jammu, has been transferred and

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## Employees posted in Kashmir hold protests in Jammu, refuse to join duties in Valley

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government employees, belonging to Hindu community, staged a sit-in and blocked Tawi bridge on highway here for the third day on Saturday and refused to join their duties in Kashmir following a string of targeted killings by terrorists.

They demanded that they should be transferred from Kashmir to their home districts in the Jammu region.

Employees serving in Kashmir have returned to Jammu after their colleague, Rajni Bala, was shot dead by terrorists at a school in south



Government employees staging protest at Tawi Bridge in Jammu.

Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday.

Under the banner of 'All

Jammu-based reserved categories employees association', the protesters took out

a march from the Press Club and blocked Tawi bridge on highway by sit-in in the area in the heart of the city.

Raising slogans 'give us justice', 'Rajni Bala Amar Rahay', they refused to join their duties in Kashmir due to chain of target killings of Hindus.

Rashpal Singh, who was part of the protest, said that they will not return to Kashmir to resume their duties in the prevailing alarming situation following the targeted killings.

"We prefer to die here rather than go back," he

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### Declaration of new born dead; report submitted

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The committee formed by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman to conduct enquiry into the matter in which a new born baby was wrongly declared dead, has submitted its report.

According to the recommendation of the enquiry committee and its findings, BMO Banihal Dr Rabia Parveen has been attached at DH Ramban.

Similarly, Dr Robina Akhter has been attached at CHC Gool and Junior Staff Nurse EH Banihal Samina Begum has been attached with BMO Office Gool.

Moreover, Consultant Gynecologist EH Banihal Dr Girdhari Lal Manhas and Medical Officer EH Banihal, Dr Sakib Khan (MD Paediatrics) have been issued warning to remain careful and punctual towards their duties in future. Pertinently, news had gone viral on social media

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## Transfer of PM Package, Jammu-based employees to safer places reviewed

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and Divisional HoDs of all the civil departments to review the status of transfer of employees of PM Package, Migrant and Jammu to safer places in view of recent attacks on employees.

On the occasion, Div Com reviewed the District and Department wise status of PM Package, Migrant and

Jammu based employees working in different government departments.

Besides, he also reviewed the status of applications received by these employees to the place of their choice in secure areas.

All the officers informed the meeting regarding the progress achieved in addressing the service matters of PM Package employees including seniority and couple transfers.

Meanwhile, Div Com stressed on officers to contact every such employee and enquire about their interest of transfer. He said

those who give consent to transfer should be posted at District headquarters or in Municipal Towns or within the radius of 3 kilometers of municipal town.

Moreover, Div Com appreciated all District and Division officers for the prompt action regarding transfer of the employees to ensure their safety.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division and the Directors, Managing Director, Mission Directors, Divisional HoDs of all civil departments.

Five fresh COVID cases reported in J&K, 2 in Ladakh

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported five fresh COVID-19 cases and zero fatality due to the disease on Saturday, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,54,276.

Four cases were reported in Jammu district and one in Kathua district, officials said here.

There are 58 active cases of the disease in the union territory at present, and the number of recoveries has reached 4,49,466, they said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory stands at 4,752, the officials said.

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## Man booked for posting video justifying killing of Amreen Bhat

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A man has been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act for allegedly uploading a video in which he justified the killing of Kashmiri television artiste Amreen Bhat by terrorists, police said on Saturday. "Acting tough on anti-social elements, police in Budgam booked a hatermonger under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for spreading hate and justifying the killing of a woman artiste by uploading a video on social media," they said. The accused has been identified as Mohammad Irfan Bhat, a resident of Takiya Wagoora in Baramulla. Amreen Bhat was

assassinated by terrorists at Hashroo-Chadoura in Jammu and Kashmir on May 25.

"The act of uploading such a hateful video and justifying the killing of artiste Amreen Bhat on a YouTube channel has not only caused alarm and fear amongst the class of people performing art, but also their family members.


Moreover, this act also amounts to supporting terrorist acts besides having the tendency to make more people vulnerable to such attacks," the police spokesman said. Police added that Mohammad Irfan Bhat has been detained and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail, Jammu.

KP employees' transfer list goes public, BJP demands action

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The BJP on Saturday took strong objection to making public the transfer list of Kashmiri Pandit employees and demanded action against the officials responsible for the leak, terming it a breach of security.

According to the list, 177 Kashmiri Pandit teachers employed under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package have been transferred. The transfer list is being circulated on WhatsApp and other social media platforms. "Making the transfer list public

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 42.8°C Min: 27.9°C

Humidity

Max : 21 Min : 19

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 29.2°C Min: 12.8°C

Humidity

Max : 57 Min: 27

Sunset : 19:36 Hours

Sunrise : 05:25 Hours

**■ VIVEK SHARMA**

JAMMU: Strange it may sound but fact it is that the School Education Department has gone public in seeking objections for promoting teachers as Incharge Lecturers in the Botany stream notwithstanding some of the 'eligible' incumbents, figuring in the list circulated this week, ceasing to be staffers of education department and holding very important positions in the police and civil administration in Jammu and Kashmir.

Will anybody take the responsibility of not having updated the records of the J&K School Education Department for over two decades? Some of the staffers in the list have got selected or appointed in the various other

departments long time back, as back as late nineties.

The seniority list of teachers for proposed promotion as Incharge Lecturers in Botany in School Education Department include a Senior Superintendent of Police, two Directors, Joint Directors, Special Secretaries to Government, Under Secretaries, inferring that the School Education Department has no clue about who's who of its human resource, despite having a full-fledged wing equipped with whopping staffers, drawing hefty salaries.

Didn't any of the staffers used common sense to find out the authenticity of the list? Why did they chose to push forward the obsolete list as a piece of paper

but not a valid document? Is it job of the public or the stakeholders to update the outdated department?

These are the questions that should bother the administration as accountability and efficiency of Deptt is at stake.

Sources told STATE TIMES that the School Education Department has been very casual in its working. It has allegedly become an organisation of parasites and an establishment to mint money due to active presence of some black-sheep.

Making the mockery of the education system in J&K, it is no more a secret that the postings, promotions and top placements in

the department remain subservient to considerations and exclusive domain of the blue-eyed. Mismanagement, favouritism and corruption has allegedly become tagline for the department that is unfortunately charged with the responsibility of shaping the destiny of youth, the future of the nation.

Shockinglly, the School Education Department has sought the verified service details of the prospective Incharge Lecturers vide No: Edu-HRM/2022 dated May 18, 2022, signed by the Under Secretary to Government School Education Department (H&M Section) Civil Secretariat Mayank Sharma,



JKAS, Under Secretary to Government, which reads "...I am directed to enclose herewith the list PG Masters/Teachers in the discipline of Botany regarding the subject cited above (Placement of PG Master/Teachers in the discipline of Botany) with the request to verify the service particulars of the incumbents and provide information regarding Present Place of Posting, Expired/Retired, Left the Department case/joined other discipline and drop out , if any. The information should this office within two days".

Tracing some records pertaining to the past two decades, STATE TIMES found that in the list of 150 incumbents, Senior Superintendent of Police Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB)

Sandeep Wazir, stands at serial number 121 of the seniority list for proposed promotion. Director Finance ARI & Trainings Suresh Kumar Koul, ( S No 68), Joint Director, ICDS, Social Welfare Department Devinder Singh Katoch, ( S. No122), Jatinder Singh, Director, Floriculture, Jammu, ( S.No 75) ceased to be the members of the J&K School Education Department since the year 1999. Didn't anyone in the department bother to update the list from time to time?

Similarly, many Special Secretaries and Under Secretaries also are in the proposed promotion list of Botany Lecturers.

According to well-placed sources, the computerization of the data of teachers,

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