

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
Modi sworn in...

neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region -- Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Bhutanese PM Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Affif -- were special guests at the function.

In addition to political leaders and eminent persons from different walks of life, members from the transgender community as well as sanitation workers and labourers, who were involved in the construction of the new parliament building, also attended the swearing-in ceremony of Modi and the new council of ministers.

Nearly 9,000 people were estimated to be present at the forecourts of the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the grand event.

9 pilgrims killed...

Uttar Pradesh," the officer said.

Sharma said they usually remain on high alert and have fully secured the Shiv Khori temple with frequent conduct of area domination patrols in the adjoining areas for the past many days.

"We have also started firing practice for the Village Defence Guards and they all have been put on alert," the SSP said.

This attack marks a significant escalation in violence in the region, as the Reasi district had previously been relatively untouched by terrorist activities compared to neighbouring areas like Rajouri and Poonch.

Locals rushed to the site and started assisting the victims. Eyewitnesses shared harrowing accounts of the attack, with one survivor describing how the bus was barraged with 25 to 30 shots before it plunged down the gorge.

Another witness recalled seeing a masked assailant in a red muffler firing on the bus. The injured pilgrims were rushed to Teryath Hospital for treatment.

"We were supposed to leave at 4 pm but the bus left around 5.30 pm and suddenly came under fire," an injured pilgrim from Banarasi, admitted to Teryath hospital, said.

Jammu and Kashmir police spokesperson said in a statement that a bus carrying yatrīs from Shiv Khori to Katra was targeted "apparently by terrorists using firearms" at about 6.10 PM in the Pouni area of Reasi district bordering Rajouri district. The driver was hit and lost control, resulting in the bus sliding into the nearby gorge.

"With the help of local villagers, police have evacuated all the passengers by 8.10 pm. SP Reasi supervised the evacuation and dispatched the injured to different hospitals.

The 33 injured have been referred to various hospitals -- 13 in Reasi, five in CHC Teryath and 15 to GMC in Jammu.

A joint security force temporary operation headquarters by Police, Army and CRPF has been set up at the site and a multi-dimensional operation has been launched to get at the attackers.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Paul Mahajan also reached the scene to coordinate rescue and search operations.

Security forces from Reasi and the neighbouring Rajouri district were mobilised for a comprehensive search to locate and eliminate the terrorists responsible for the heinous act.

The incident underscores the persistent threat posed by Pakistan-based terrorist elements seeking to instigate unrest and revive militancy in the Jammu region.

Meanwhile, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) strongly condemned the terrorist attack and demanded stern action against terror groups and complete sanitisation of the region to free it from terrorists.

This was the second time terrorists attacked a pilgrim bus in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three decades. Earlier, a bus carrying Anarnath pilgrims was fired upon by terrorists in Kashmir's Anantnag district in July 2017, killing seven pilgrims and injuring 19 others.

Meanwhile, widespread condemnations are pouring in from across the country over the gruesome terror attack, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Even while PM, Narendra Modi and his NDA Government get sworn in and heads of several countries are in the country, a dastardly terrorist attack on a bus carrying pilgrims has resulted in loss of lives."

"We unequivocally condemn this gruesome terror attack on our people and deliberate affront to our National Security," he said in a post on X.

"Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims wish and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. The Government and authorities should provide immediate assistance and compensation to the victims," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the cowardly terrorist attack on a bus carrying pilgrims from Shivkhodi temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district is extremely saddening.

"This shameful incident is the true picture of the worrying security situation in Jammu and Kashmir," Gandhi said in a post on X.

"I express my deepest condolences to all the bereaved families and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured. The entire country stands united against terrorism," the former Congress chief said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "The cowardly terrorist attack on a bus full of pilgrims in Reasi, Jammu and Kashmir is extremely sad and condemnable. Terrorism is a violent act against humanity against which the entire country stands in solidarity."

"I pray for peace to all the departed souls and speedy recovery of the injured. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families," she said in a post.

All those behind...

me to constantly monitor the situation. All those behind this heinous act will be punished soon. Hon'ble PM has also directed that all the injured are provided the best possible medical care & assistance".

Attack aimed at...

not be tolerated and reiterated the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism from the region.

He praised the swift response of the security forces and emergency services, who acted promptly to carry out a rescue operation and attend to the injured. Their quick action undoubtedly saved many lives and prevented the situation from escalating further, he said.

The injured passengers were immediately transported to nearby hospitals, where they received the necessary medical treatment. The local authorities have been working tirelessly to ensure that all the victims receive the best possible care and support, he said.

Chugh said there is need for unity and resilience in the face of such challenges. He called on the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain steadfast and not let these acts of terror divide them.

He urged the community to come together and support one another during this difficult time. The strength and unity of the people are crucial in overcoming the menace of terrorism and ensuring that peace and harmony prevail in the region.

Chugh also stressed that the fight against terrorism is a collective effort that requires the cooperation and support of all sections of society. He acknowledged the role of the security forces, who put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens and maintain law and order.

He said there is need for a robust intelligence network to prevent such attacks in the future. Gathering and analyzing intelligence is crucial in identifying and neutralizing threats before they can materialize, he added.

The international community also has a role to play in combating terrorism, Chugh said and called for greater cooperation and collaboration between countries to tackle this global threat.

"Terrorism is not confined to any one region or country; it is a worldwide issue that requires a concerted and coordinated response. Sharing intelligence, best practices, and resources can significantly enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts," he added.

Govt modifies holidays...

11, 2024 and Government Order No. 1583-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 11, 2024, it is ordered that restricted holiday on account of Martyr's Day of Guru Arjun Dev shall be observed on 10th June 2024 (Monday) instead of 16th June, 2024 (Sunday), in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and public holiday on account of Guru Hargobind Ji's Birthday shall now be observed on 22nd June, 2024 (Saturday) instead of 05th July, 2024 (Friday), in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department.

KVK Reasi farmer receives 'IARI Innovative Farmer Award 2024'



Progressive farmer of KVK Reasi Tilak Raj receiving award.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Progressive farmer of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Tilak Raj, resident of Sirah village in Reasi district(J&K) has been honoured with the 'IARI Innovative Farmer Award 2024' by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), PUSA, New Delhi for taking a lead in the cultivation, product development and value addition in the lemongrass farming and agricultural/horticultural crops during the Innovative Farmers Meet held recently at Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), PUSA, New Delhi. KVK, Reasi is working under the dynamic

leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J. The meet was chaired by the worthy Deputy Director General (DDG), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, Dr.Udham Singh Gautam who congratulated Sh.Tilak Raj for achieving the coveted award. The award was presented by the IARI, New Delhi for the exceptional contribution and innovations of Sh.Tilak Raj in lemongrass farming and agricultural/horticultural crops. It is worthwhile to mention here that Tilak Raj has established lemongrass crop and horticultural crops units in his farm and inspiring the other farmers of the area for the

cultivation of lemon grass, agricultural/ horticultural crops production etc. He is also the President of Farmer Organization (FPO) formed on lemongrass by SKUAST-J. By observing successful results of Tilak Raj, many other farmers from other villages are also showing keen interest towards the cultivation of lemon grass, agricultural/horticultural crops production, organic and natural farming etc. According to Dr.Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi lemon grass is promoted in the monkey prone areas of the district as this crop is not damaged by the monkeys and farmers can fetch more farm returns by commercially growing it. He emphasised on the value addition in lemon grass farming so as to increase the income and employment among the farmers. Tilak Raj thanked KVK, Reasi for the timely and necessary support and guidelines on the scientific cultivation of lemon grass farming, horticultural crops production, organic and natural farming.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Social welfare Department Ramban under the overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary organised a 3 Kilometers Marathon to generate awareness among masses regarding ill effects of drug addiction and encouragement in education and participation of girl child under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).

The Marathon was held under the supervision of District Social Welfare officer Ramban Rahul Gupta. He reiterated that the Department is committed to work for the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign. He said that such events are necessary to promote Healthy life style in Youth and also act as an agent for generating awareness among the masses.

The 3 KM run started from Ramban Petrol Pump and culminated at District Administration

Notorious bike lifter arrested, stolen bike recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police has arrested an accused person involved in the theft of a scooty in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and recovered stolen scooty from his possession.

On June 8, a written report was lodged at Police Station Bari Brahmana by one Anies Mohd S/o Mohd Rashid R/o Prem Nagar, Jammu regarding theft of his scooty (Hero Maestro) bearing registration No. JK02BG-4985 from Bari Brahmana when he went to his relative house.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 73/2024 U/S 379 IPC was registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, police arrested the accused namely Sohan Singh S/o Sandeep Singh R/o Rajeev Colony Telli Basti Bari Barhmana who upon sustained questioning confessed his involvement in the instant case. On his disclosure, the stolen scooty has been recovered from his possession.

Further on thorough interrogation, three more stolen bikes have been recovered from the possession of said accused which includes Scooty (Hero Destini) bearing registration No.JK02CR-7587, Scooty (Activa) bearing chasis No.ME4JF507GH7254778 and Motercycle (Bajaj Discover) bearing chasis No .MD2A52CZXDP24663. Investigation of the case is going on.

5 vehicles for illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing crackdown on illegal mining, Police has seized five vehicles in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba and Police Station Ramgarh which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Samba and SHO Police Station Ramgarh, while performing patrolling duty in its jurisdictional areas, have seized five tractor trolleys bearing registration Nos.JK21H-3393, JK21K-0765, JK21H 2495, JK02AP-1308 & one without registration No. for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further action.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 9 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Police in successive day has foiled bovine

smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur, rescued nine bovines and seized vehicle.

A Police team of Police Station Vijaypur headed by SHO PS Vijaypur while performing vehicle checking duty at naka AIIMS Vijaypur, intercepted a Bharat Gas Canter bearing registration No. PB10HY-1587 for checking. During checking of the vehicle, nine bovines were found laden inside which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the rescued bovines have been shifted to a safer place.

A case FIR No. 81/2024 U/S 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation started.

Girl dies after falling into roadside ditch in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/JAMMU: A 12-year-old girl drowned when she slipped into a roadside ditch in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Sunday, officials said.

The girl, Aroshi, accidentally fell into the water storage, constructed by a private road construction company, at Sakta Chak along the Jammu-Pathankot highway this afternoon, they said. This incident triggered protest by the villagers.

As the deceased's body was fished out by the rescuers, the angry villagers blocked the highway and protested against the construction company for keeping the trench open and not taking adequate safety measures.

The protesters demanded necessary measures at the construction site for the safety of people and requested for registration of an FIR against the company for the minor girl's death.

They also sought adequate compensation to the bereaved family, the officials said.

The protesters lifted the roadblock after an hour on the assurance of senior civil and police officers that the incident would be probed and those found guilty of negligence will be dealt with as per law.

1 dead, 14 injured as vehicle falls into gorge in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: One person was killed and 14 others injured when a mini-bus skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Udhampur district on Sunday, police said.

The passenger vehicle was on its way to Nagrota from Manwal when its driver lost control near Battal around 3.45 pm, a police officer said.

An unidentified person was found dead at the scene by the rescuers, while 14 others were rushed to a hospital for treatment.

BMO Thathri reviews implementation of RKSK programme



BMO Thathri Dr Shafqat Javed Zargar chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: To carry out the different activities and in order to ensure holistic development of Adolescent population under Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), the Block Medical Officer Thathri Dr Shafqat Javed Zargar convened a meeting with the staff of CHC Thathri.

The meeting which was attended by Dr Bishen Singh (Consultant Orthopedic), Jonson Chandail (Divisional ASHA Coordinator), BMO NHM, Block Accounts Manager Thathri, Block Coordinator Adolescent Health and AF's held deliberations on various aspects of the scheme and discussed the different activities to be covered under the scheme for the financial year

2024-25 which includes Adolescent Health Day, Adolescent Friendly Club meeting, ASHA Incentives for mobilizing Adolescent & Community, Workshop and different Trainings covered under the programme.

The chair (BMO Thathri) passed necessary directions to all the participants and stressed upon them to work in a cordial atmosphere, so that the target fixed under the programme shall meet in a time bound manner and to implement the programme at gross root level.

The BMO also directed the Coordinator concerned and other participants to coordinate with RBSK teams for making necessary field visits to visit schools, AWCs and facilitate counselling to adolescent groups on RKSK on priority.

Army organises awareness lecture on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI : Gender parity in terms of survival and education is essential to equitable economic development and a cornerstone for ensuring basic human rights. Woman constitute almost half of the population of the world. Education for a woman is the best way to improve the health, nutrition and economic status of a household that constitute a micro unit of a nation economy. The importance of women in overall development of the society and in taking country to future glory cannot be ruled out. Indian Army in its efforts to generate awareness about Government welfare schemes intended for girls, organised a lecture on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' at Govt Higher

Secondary School Chakalsalta. The emphasis of the lecture was to understand the importance of women and providing the opportunities and equal rights to them not only in terms of career growth but also in personality building. The overall growth of the society is equal to the opportunities provided to the women. Various programmers of the Central Government focusing on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' were also briefed to the attendees. To further motivate the audience, the achievements of popular women from India, who have left an indelible mark on the world arena was also highlighted. The awareness drive encouraged the students to strive for excellence to become independent and confident members of the society.



Army officials along with children during the event.

India beat arch-rival Pakistan by six runs in low-scoring thriller

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW YORK: Indian bowlers, led by an outstanding Jasprit Bumrah, were collectively brilliant, firing their team to a thrilling six-run win over Pakistan in a low-scoring T20 World Cup match here on Sunday.

Bumrah (3/14) and Hardik Pandya (2/24) gave nothing away while defending a paltry 120, and India restricted Pakistan to 113 for seven.

Earlier, pacers Naseem Shah and Mohammad Amir produced wonderful spells as Pakistan bowled out India to 119 after a couple of rain interruptions.

Shah (3/21) and Amir (2/23) exploited a slightly two-paced pitch to apply break on India's batters, except Rishabh Pant (42, 31b, 6x4), who played a few breathtaking shots.

Brief scores: India: 119 all out in 19 overs (Rishabh Pant 42, Axar Patel 20; Naseem Shah 3/21, Mohammad Amir 2/23, Haris Rauf 3/21) beat Pakistan: 113/7 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 31; Hardik Pandya 2/24, Jasprit Bumrah 3/14) by six runs.

NGO Anmol Cultural Club organises Shabeel in Baba Nar Singh road Kalideh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: A shabeel was organized by executive members of NGO Anmol Cultural Club Sunderbani where in sweet cold water and chana Puri was served hundreds of the people.

Hundreds of people in passengers vehicles and labourers of concerned area quenched their thirst by sweet / cold water in the scorching heat. President of NGO Anmol Cultural Club Zorawar Singh Khalsa while speaking on occasion said that such shabeels should be frequently organized at various places in different places of district Rajouri during the hot summer days so that the passers do not worry about drinking water. People of this areas thanked to president of NGO Anmol Cultural Club for this great social work.