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## Terrorism breathing last breath, neighbour desperate: LG

## NEET-UG row: CBI takes over probe; 17 more students debarred

‘Recent terror acts sign of enemy's desperation’



LG Manoj Sinha at the the Passing out Parade of JKP's 16th BRTC Batch at STC Talwara, Reasi on Sunday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said terrorism is breathing its last breath and this has made our neighbour, exporter of terror, desperate. "The recent terror acts are sign of our enemy's desperation. Our aim is complete elimination of terrorism. We must hunt down the terrorists and their aides, who are

harbouring them," the Lt Governor said while addressing pass outs after attending the Attestation cum Passing out Parade of 16th BRTC Batch of J&K Police at Subsidiary Training Centre, Talwara, Reasi.

A total of 860 new recruit constables of border battalion have completed their rigorous training today at the STC. An oath was adminis-

tered to the passing out cadets for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

The Lt Governor congratulated the passing out cadets of the Border Battalion for becoming the integral part of the Jammu Kashmir Police.

Subsidiary Police Training Centre in Reasi is an esteemed institution dedicated to training and imparting

policing values and professional skills to meet the challenges of terrorism and Law and Order. I am confident that these brave personnel will discharge their duty with utmost responsibility, sensitivity and dedication and carry forward the rich legacy of Jammu Kashmir Police, he said.

Paying tributes to the JKP bravehearts, the Lt Governor lauded the Jammu Kashmir Police for its valour, sacrifice and selfless service to the nation.

"J&K Police have always shown high level of professional excellence under extremely challenging circumstances. Since several decades, this elite Police Force is working with dedication to preserve the integrity and security of our country and kept the wheels of J&K's progress moving,"

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### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Sunday took over the probe into alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG following a reference from the Union education ministry, while the National Testing Agency cracked the whip against more students as it debarred 17 from centres in Bihar after detection of "malpractices".

With a section demanding the cancellation of the May 5 exam, the ministry officials reiterated the government's earlier stand that the incidents of malpractices were "localised" or "isolated" and it was not fair to jeopardise the careers of lakhs of candidates who cleared the exam rightfully.

In an optional retest held for students whose grace marks were scrapped after the matter reached the Supreme Court, only 813 of the 1,563 such candidates



appeared on Sunday.

These candidates were awarded grace marks by the NTA to make up for the loss of time at six centres due to a delay in the start of the examination on May 5. There were allegations that it led to inflation of marks and contributed to six of the grace mark candidates from the same centre in Haryana scoring a perfect 720 marks along with 61 others.

"At least 52 per cent -- 813 out of 1,563 candidates -- appeared for the retest on

Sunday. While no candidate appeared in Chandigarh, the number of candidates appearing from Chattisgarh (291), Gujarat (1), Haryana (287) and Meghalaya (234)," a senior National Testing Agency (NTA) official said.

Over 13 lakh candidates out of around 25 lakh qualified the NEET-UG this year and they will compete for around 1.8 lakh MBBS/dental seats.

Amid allegations of irregularities as well as "bunching of high scorers", the NTA

stated that the top one lakh candidates are spread across 4,500 centres all over the country.

Moreover, nearly two third of these are from rural or semi-rural areas, it stated. The Bihar Police's Economic Offences Unit (EOU) handed over a report to the Education Ministry on Saturday following which the probe was handed over to CBI for comprehensive investigation.

"Based on the inputs received 17 candidates who appeared from centres in Bihar were debarred. This takes the number of total candidates debarred from the exam this year to 110," an NTA official added.

The agency had earlier debarred 63 candidates for adopting unfair means in the exam. On Saturday, 30 additional candidates from Gujarat's Godhara were also debarred.

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## WCC recognises Srinagar as World Craft City

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Srinagar has been officially recognised as a World Craft City by the World Crafts Council (WCC).

This prestigious honour underscores the city's rich heritage and the exceptional skills of its artisans, whose dedication and artistry have earned global acclaim.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed his heartfelt congratulations on this monumental achievement, stating, "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and exceptional talent of our artisans. It validates their dedication and

highlights the cultural richness of Srinagar. We are committed to supporting our artisans and ensuring that this accolade translates into tangible benefits for the community."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown steadfast support for Jammu and Kashmir's handicraft and handloom sector. He actively promotes the region's handicrafts by presenting souvenirs crafted by J&K artisans to world leaders, thereby enhancing global awareness and appreciation for the craftsmanship and cultural heritage of the region.

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## Supporters of foreign terrorists will be trialled under Enemy Agents Ordinance: DGP

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Locals who are found supporting foreign terrorists will be dealt with under the Enemy Agents Ordinance, which is much harsher than Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police RR Swain said on Sunday.

The Jammu region will be cleared of all foreign terrorists within the next few months, he claimed.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, the police chief said the National Investigation Agency has taken over the



DGP R.R. Swain during inauguration of newly constructed building of Cyber Police Station in Jammu on Sunday.

investigation in the June 9 terror attack on a pilgrim bus in Reasi district.

He said police here had also arrested six people in connection with the firing incident

in Kathua district on June 12 and the case was handed over to the State Investigation Agency.

Ten people, including seven pilgrims, returning from Shiv

Khori temple and a CRPF jawan were killed and scores of others injured in four terror incidents between June 9 and 12 in Reasi, Doda, and Kathua districts. Two Pakistani terrorists were also killed in one of the encounters in Kathua.

"Locals found supporting foreign terrorists will be dealt with by the enemy agents ordinance which carries a minimum sentence of life imprisonment or death. This act, introduced to counter Pakistani raiders or invaders in 1948, is much harsher than UAPA," the DGP

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## Anti-infiltration operation: Terrorist's body recovered in Zurich



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Sunday recovered body of a terrorist killed in an anti-infiltration operation along the Line of Control in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

"One terrorist has been killed in the ongoing anti-infiltration Operation that was launched on 22 Jun in the Uri Sector; Operations are continuing," Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said

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## Omar should have contested from Srinagar: Karan Singh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Sunday said Omar Abdullah made a "mistake" by contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Baramulla instead of Srinagar -- a bastion of the National Conference that was won by its candidate Aga Ruhullah Mehdi.

Omar Abdullah would have been an asset in Parliament had he won, Singh, 93, said as he termed as "dramatic" Engineer Rashid's win from the Baramulla seat by more than two lakh votes despite he being in jail under provisions of the UAPA and contesting the polls as an Independent.

Karan Singh, the son of the last Dogra ruler of Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh, said he was not sure if Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as 'Engineer Rashid', would be released from jail but his win has sent a message that the people are not happy with the BJP. "Omar made the same mistake

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## 1985 Kanishka bombing one of worst acts of terrorism in history: Jaishankar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The 1985 Montreal-New Delhi Air India Flight 182 was blamed by 'Kanishka' flight is one of the "worst" acts of terrorism in history, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday.

His comments recalling the bombing on its 39th anniversary came amid strain in ties between India and Canada over increasing activities of Khalistani extremists from Canadian soil.

The bombing of the

Montreal-New Delhi Air India Flight 182 was blamed

why terrorism should never be tolerated.

"Today marks the 39th anniversary of one of the worst acts of terrorism in history," Jaishankar said on 'X'.

"Pay my homage to the memory of the 329 victims of AI 182 'Kanishka' who were killed this day in 1985. My thoughts are with their families," he said. "The anniversary is a reminder why terrorism should never be

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## HADP emerges as game-changer for J&K's agriculture-allied sector: Sinha

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) has emerged as the game-changer for Jammu and Kashmir's Agriculture and Allied Sector.

Inaugurating the Litchi Festival and Agriculture Exhibition, organized by the Horticulture Department, here, he said 29 projects of HADP hold the potential to address the challenges faced by farmers and it will diversify income source.

The Lt Governor extended his felicitations to the progressive farmers, growers and all the stakeholders.

He said the unique initiative is a testimony to the unwavering commitment of the UT Administration to farmers' welfare and our determination to explore the new avenues to



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after inaugurating Litchi Festival in Jammu on Sunday.

bring prosperity in their lives.

The Lt Governor highlighted the progressive reforms and policies of the UT Administration, under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, to tap the potential of agriculture and horticulture sectors.

The Lt Governor called for collective efforts from all stakeholders for the effective on-ground implementation of HADP, especially in Jammu Division.

He asked the Agricultural

Universities to make dedicated interventions that can contribute to increase the farmer's income in the Litchi plantation sector.

Jammu Kashmir administration has set a target to convert about 160 hectares of litchi cultivation into high density plantation in the coming few years, the Lt Governor observed.

He assured all the necessary support and assistance from the administration to the farmers in market-

## Mortar shall defused near IB in Kathua

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 51-mm mortar shell was found and subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion near the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Sunday, officials said.

The rusted mortar shell was noticed by a villager in his fields at Paharpur village near Haria chak police border post area, the officials said.

They said a bomb disposal squad was rushed to the scene and the explosive was safely destroyed in a controlled explosion without causing any damage.

## Major fire breaks out at Trikuta Nagar; 2 children trapped amidst flames rescued

### Over two dozen hutments gutted in fire



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A mysterious fire broke out at Trikuta Nagar near Jammu Railway

Station, engulfing at least 30 shanties in its path.

The blaze, initially reported around 6:50 PM, originated

from wooden shanties located at East Colony of the Station and quickly spread to nearby areas.

According to local authorities, the fire razed 25-30 hutments to ashes. Two children who were trapped amidst the flames were successfully rescued by emergency responders.

Efforts to extinguish the fire completely were underway till late night with fire tenders deployed to the scene, though challenges persisted while containing the blaze.

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## Chinese telecom equipment meant for Pak army ends up in hands of terrorists in J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Encounters with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir have led to the seizure of highly encrypted Chinese telecom gear "Ultra Set", an equipment used by the Pakistani army that has ended up in the hands of terror groups, officials said.

This has also raised concerns over undetected infiltrations from across the Line of Control and terrorists potentially residing in the outskirts of cities and villages, they said.

The seizure of the mobile handsets used by foreign terrorists, primarily from Pakistan and its occupied Kashmir, indicate that terror groups are receiving training, weapons and ammunition from state actors in Pakistan, said the officials

aware of the matter.

These specialised handsets, exclusively customised by Chinese companies for the Pakistan army, were seized after a gunfight in the intervening night of July 17-18 last year in the Sindaroh top area of Surankote in Jammu region's Poonch district and in April 26 this year after an encounter at the Check Mohalla Nowpora area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

While four foreign terrorists were killed in the Surankote encounter, two were gunned down in Sopore. The "Ultra Set" handsets, which have also been found in the south of the Pir Panjal region, combine cell-phone capabilities with specialised radio equipment

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 41.0°C Min: 27.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 34 Min: 31

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 29.5°C Min: 15.7°C

Humidity  
Max: 69 Min: 45

Sunset : 19:41 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:23 Hours