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### Terrorism breathing last...

the Lt Governor said. Reiterating the resolve of the administration, police and security forces to root-out terrorism from J&K, the Lt Governor asked the new recruits to work as a force multiplier in neutralizing the terror threats.

Referring to the emerging threats of drug trafficking, cybererime, and radicalization, the Lt Governor emphasised the need to ensure high level of motivation and professionalism in police to keep a step ahead of the adversaries.

"I have great faith in J&K Police, army and our security agencies. They are not only responsive to safety and urgent needs of citizens but also effectively tackling terrorism in cyberspace," he said.

The Lt Governor also commended the Jammu Kashmir Police for its civic action programmes. We are committed to the modernization of the Police force and the welfare of the police and security personnel and their families, he further added.

At the outset, the Lt Governor took the Rashtriya Salute, inspected the parade, and took the salute at an impressive March Past by the contingents. He also felicitated the cadets and handed over awards and certifications to the outstanding achievers.

RR Swain DGP, speaking on the occasion, extended his best wishes to the new recruits and asked them to work with honesty and dedicate themselves in the service of the people.

Jameel Ahmed, Principal STC Talwara informed about the training program and various activities conducted during the Basic Recruit Training course.

Saraf Singh Nag, DDC Chairman Reasi; Sh RR Swain, DGP; Sh Vijay Kumar, ADGP Law & Order; Sh Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; serving and retired army & police personnel, and family members of the passing out cadets were present on the occasion.

### NEET-UG row...

Amid countrywide protests and litigation by aspirants, the CBI filed the FIR in connection with alleged irregularities in NEET-UG under IPC sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating) among others.

Officials said the ministry alleged in a complaint, now part of the FIR, to the agency that "certain isolated incidents" occurred in a few states during the conduct of the examination.

"The ministry of education has requested the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities, including conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust and destruction of evidence by candidates, institutes and middlemen," a CBI spokesperson said.

The role of public servants, if any, connected with the conduct of the examination and also into the entire gamut of events, and the larger conspiracy will also be under the scanner, according to the officials.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) questioned two teachers who run a private coaching centre in Latur district in connection with the alleged irregularities.

The Centre had on Saturday night removed NTA DG Subodh Kumar Singh and put him on "compulsory wait" till further orders.

The opposition stepped up its attack on the government over the issue, with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Sunday demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the buck stops at the doorstep of the top echelons of the Modi Government and shuffling the bureaucrats is no solution. Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleged the Modi government has handed over the entire education system to the "nafaa" and the "corrupt" after the Centre cancelled UGC-NET and postponed NEET-PG and CSIR-UGC-NET.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said the cancellation of exams was not a one-off event "but the final nails in the coffin of an incompetent and broken system of centralised selection".

The BJP, however, asserted the government has taken on the NEET issue "head on".

"It notified the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, appointed a high powered committee to look at streamlining exam process and eliminating lose ends, sacks NTA DG, orders CBI probe in NEET (UG), besides postponing several exams, preempting possible compromises, to safeguard student interest," BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said.

He alleged that the Congress' ally RJD was linked to the paper leak in Bihar and its leaders should not use the issue for their "dirty politics".

The Union education ministry's high-level panel for suggesting exam reforms and reviewing functioning of the National Testing Agency will meet on Monday, sources said.

The ministry had on Saturday notified the seven-member panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Radhakrishnan to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through the NTA.

On Sunday, the NTA also clarified that its website and all its other web portals are fully secure, and reports that these have been compromised and hacked are wrong and misleading.

"NTA website and all its web portals are fully secure. Any information that they have been compromised and hacked is wrong and misleading," a senior official said.

The NEET-UG was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates appeared. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4.

The NEET-UG examination is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

### Anti-infiltration operation...

in a post on X. The security forces had launched an operation in Gohallan area of Uri sector on Saturday after noticing suspicious movement of two men near the LoC. Sources had said two terrorists were believed to have been killed. However, only body of one terrorist has been recovered so far.

### Supporters of foreign...

said. He said the foreign mercenaries have no locus standi to be here and that they only come to kill civilians, trigger civil strife, destabilise the government, and force their ideology on the people.

"These fighters do not fall in the purview of investigation and only deserve kinetic action ... I have always said that we will win this fight with the help of the people, with village defence guards, special police officers and in support of central armed forces," he said.

Swain said terrorism was wiped out from Jammu in 2005, 10 years after it spread its tentacles to the region, and vowed to eliminate it again. "We are determined and confident of eliminating all the terrorists within the next two to three months."

He said special courts will be set up for trials of those arrested under Enemy Agents Ordinance.

"There are two angles to it - one is, all I have to prove is that there was a foreigner and the person has assisted him," he said.

Asked about the presence of Pakistani regulars among the terrorists operating in Jammu region, he said, "It hardly makes any difference. It is a matter of tactics, for us he is an enemy whether he has come from a uniformed background, a jail or a terror factory."

He added, "We will try to minimise such losses with the help of training, determination and tactics. We will defeat the enemy and if they think we are shying away just from the fear of losses, they are mistaken."

Asked about the terror attacks in Jammu region, he said police have made six arrests from Kathua and also made a breakthrough by arresting a conspirator in the Reasi terror attack case.

"Reasi terror attack case was handed over to NIA and similarly, the Kathua case was given to SIA. We actively consider handing over terror attack cases to professional agencies so that the investigation is carried out in a sustained way to unveil the conspiracy, identify those who facilitated, aided and abetted the crime and bring the culprits to book," he said.

On two attacks in Doda district that left seven security personnel, including two policemen, injured, he said the incidents happened during a seek-and-destroy action and investigation of the incidents is on.

### WCC recognises Srinagar...

The recognition as a World Craft City is a testament to Srinagar's longstanding tradition of excellence in handicrafts and handlooms. This acknowledgement will have a transformative impact on the sector, fostering growth, sustainability, and innovation. With increased global recognition, Srinagar's crafts will gain enhanced visibility on the international stage, opening up new markets and opportunities for artisans. The sector is likely to attract greater investment and funding, aiding in infrastructure development and introducing modern techniques while preserving traditional methods. Artisans will have access to advanced training programs and workshops, further honing their skills and fostering innovation in their craft. The increase in demand for Srinagar's unique crafts is expected to boost production,

leading to job creation and improved livelihoods for artisans and their families.

Tourism in Srinagar is also set to benefit significantly from this recognition. The city is expected to draw more tourists interested in cultural and craft heritage, providing them with immersive experiences of the vibrant artisan communities. The city's cultural and craft heritage will attract tourists seeking authentic experiences, including visits to artisan workshops and cultural events showcasing Srinagar's vibrant crafts.

This achievement is a heartfelt recognition of the extraordinary efforts of Srinagar's artisans. Their unmatched skill, creativity, and commitment to preserving traditional crafts have sustained these arts through generations and placed Srinagar on the world map. The city's crafts, ranging from Pashmina shawls and Kashmiri carpets to intricate woodwork and papier-mâché, reflect the region's cultural soul and artistic genius.

The Director of the Department of Handicraft and Handloom also emphasised the significance of this recognition, saying, "We are incredibly proud of our artisans and their remarkable contributions. Being recognised as a World Craft City is a dream come true and a motivation to continue our work with even greater passion and dedication."

The designation of Srinagar as a World Craft City marks the beginning of a new chapter for the city's handicraft and handloom sector. The Department of Handicraft and Handloom remains dedicated to supporting this vibrant industry and ensuring that the artisans receive the recognition and opportunities they deserve. Srinagar's crafts continue to flourish and captivate the world with their beauty and craftsmanship. Notably, this success follows Srinagar's recognition as a UNESCO Creative City for Crafts in 2021.

### Major fire breaks...

Police said, the officials said the fire and emergency services personnel rushed to the scene to control the raging fire within few minutes.

No loss of life was reported in the fire, the officials said, adding the cause of the blaze was not known.

### 1985 Kanishka bombing...

tolerated," he added.

The 'Kanishka' flight exploded 45 minutes before it was to have landed at London's Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people on board, most of them Canadians of Indian descent.

Jaishankar's comments came two days after India strongly objected to Canadian parliament observing "one minute silence" in memory of Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in British Columbia in June last year.

In an unusual move, the Canadian parliament observed "one minute silence" to mark one year of the killing of Nijjar.

Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in British Columbia on June 18 last year.

Meanwhile, paying homage to the victims of 'Kanishka' flight bombing, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri wrote on 'X', "This dastardly bombing on June 23, 1985 remains one of the most reprehensible acts of terror committed against India."

Actions anchored in such extremism have no place in a sane and civilised world, he said.

"Unfortunately, the systems and mindsets that condoned the Kanishka bombing and subsequent acts of terrorism continue to find forces and sympathisers violating international norms and commitments to combat violent extremism and terrorism," Puri, a former diplomat, added.

India has been insisting that the Canadian authorities must take action against those advocating violence.

The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing.

New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd".

In a statement on Friday, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Assistant Commissioner David Teboul called the bombing the "greatest terror-related loss of life involving and affecting Canadians" in the country's history as he offered "deepest sympathies, understanding and support to the families of the victims".

'Operation Bluestar' was an India Army operation that was carried out in June 1984 to flush out militants including their leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

### Chinese telecom equipment...

that does not rely on traditional mobile technologies like Global System for Mobile (GSM) or Code-Division Multiple Access (CDMA).

The device operates on radio waves for message transmission and reception, with each "Ultra Set" linked to a control station located across the border, the officials said and added that the two "Ultra Sets" cannot reach out to each other.

They said Chinese satellites are used to carry these messages that are compressed to bytes from the handset to the master server in Pakistan for its onward transmission.

This is yet another help being extended by China to its key ally Pakistan, the officials said.

Beijing has been actively enhancing the defence capabilities of the Pakistani army along the LoC for quite sometime now.

This support includes the construction of steelhead bunkers, provisioning of unmanned aerial and combat aerial vehicles, installation of encrypted communication towers and laying of underground fibre cables.

In addition, Chinese radar systems such as those of the "JY" and "HGR" series have been deployed to improve target detection capabilities, while advanced weaponry like the SH-15 truck-mounted howitzer has been observed at various locations along the LoC.

These efforts are perceived as reinforcing China's strategic interests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), particularly in connection with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Though the presence of senior People's Liberation Army (PLA) officials at forward posts was not detected, intercepted communications suggest that Chinese troops and engineers have been involved in infrastructure development along the LoC, including the construction of underground bunkers and tunnels in PoK's Leepa Valley.

These actions are believed to support the establishment of a direct route between the Gwadar Port in Pakistan and the Xinjiang province in China through the Karakoram Highway, a region under Chinese occupation.

### Omar should have...

that I did by moving from Udhampur (Lok Sabha seat) to Jammu. He moved from Srinagar to Baramulla. He should not have done that. He should have fought from Srinagar," he said during an interview with PTI on Saturday.

"We needed him in Parliament. It would have been useful if Omar would have been in Parliament. He would have been an asset," Singh said.

The Congress leader had won from the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat on a ticket from his party in 1967, 1971, 1977 and 1980. He lost the parliamentary elections when he moved to Jammu to fight as an Independent in 1984.

On Awami Ittehad Party leader Rashid, Singh said, "He made his foray into politics very dramatically. I do not know whether he will be released but the fact that he won from jail is sending a message that people are not entirely happy with the existing party (the BJP at the Centre). Is it not?"

Singh, who was the "Sadr-i-Riyasat" of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 1952 to 1965, also called for the restoration of statehood and conducting assembly elections in J-K.

In 2019, the Centre had abrogated Article 370, which granted special status to the state of J-K, and bifurcated it into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

"Today's Jammu and Kashmir is totally different from that of the Maharaja's. We had a very special position which has disappeared now. Not only that but now as a Union Territory, we are even junior to (states like) Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which is really not acceptable," Singh said.

"I would say one of the first things that is needed now is the restoration of statehood and elections. To elect for the Union Territory is like electing for a glorified municipal council. The Union Territory does not have any power," he said.

Praising the Congress for its performance in the Lok Sabha polls, he said the INDIA bloc is taking shape and the Uttar Pradesh results are a testament of that.

In the 2024 polls, the Congress increased its tally of seats from 52 to 99. In Uttar Pradesh, it won six seats and its INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party (SP) 37 of the 80 seats in the state, restricting the BJP to 33. The BJP had won 62, the SP five and Congress one in the 2019 polls.

"It is not only the Congress now, the INDIA alliance is also taking shape. What happened in Uttar Pradesh in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls? The collaboration between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress ended up in getting a majority of seats. I think, it will take a little more time for the INDIA formation to gel but it will gel definitely," Singh said.

On National Conference founder and Omar Adullah's grandfather Sheikh Abdullah, Singh said though he was a "great leader" and the people of the Kashmir Valley will never see a leader like him again, he had "demonised" the glorious era of

the Dogra dynasty by running a "polarised political campaign" in the then princely state.

Singh said, "Sheikh Abdullah, during his rule (as prime minister and chief minister of J-K), took discriminatory and radical decisions including the land reforms...He was a Kashmiri leader who was not able to convert that leadership even into Jammu or Ladakh or anywhere else."

On the outbreak of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir in the early 1990's, Singh said the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits was a terrible tragedy and it will take a long time for those wounds to heal.

"I think people are realising now that they have to move on with their lives and not just look into the past. I have never looked back, neither in anger nor in regret," he added.

Expressing concern over the spike in terror incidents in the Jammu region, Singh underlined the importance of thwarting nefarious designs of the enemies of the nation to create a communal divide.

Ten people, including seven pilgrims going to a temple on a bus, were killed and scores injured in four terror incidents in Reasi, Kathua and Doda in the Jammu region this month.

"The biggest threat of course is terrorism and any kind of communal division within the state. That is to be avoided at all costs. My ancestors founded this state. Do not forget. It is a Dogra State. It did not exist before (first Dogra ruler) Maharaja Gulab Singh," he said.

Singh said even though today, Jammu and Kashmir may have been reduced to a Union Territory but it is still the Dogra state.

"It is a composite state; a mix of Gilgitis, Ladakhis, Kashmiris, Gujjars, Punjabi Muslims and Dogras. It has never been a single entity state and that must be maintained. More or less, I must say that in 100 years of Dogra rule, we were able to maintain harmony and peace in the state," he added.

### Biker dies in mishap

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A biker was killed in road mishap on Sunday at Poonch.

As per details, at about 5.20pm a bus hit a motorcycle bearing in which biker got injured and was shifted to district hospital poonch where doctors declared him as brought dead. Deceased was Pujari of Radha Sham Mandir and was identified as Bhagwan Dass, son of Diruh Bawa.

### Woman kills eight month old daughter

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: A woman killed her own eight month old daughter and threw her body in a water pond to implicate her husband in a murder case.

According to police sources, Sharifa Begum, wife of Mohammad Iqbal, resident of Prat Tehsil Sunderbani, was having a quarrel due to her husband's second marriage and irked over it she killed her eight month old child. Local people told that a few months ago Mohammad Iqbal did his second marriage. On receiving information, Sunderbani police immediately reached the spot and took the body into their custody. The girl's body was handed over to the family after post-mortem. Police Inspector SHO Sunderbani Shiv Dev Singh arrested Sharifa Begum wife of Mohammad Iqbal and registered an FIR No 41 under section 302 IPC.

### Burglary case solved, accused arrested

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Police in Baramulla have solved a burglary case by arresting an accused person involved in the commission of crime.

Police Post Delina received a complaint from Bashir Ahmad Pandith son of Ghulam Nabi of Santhnagar Srinagar stating therein that some unknown persons barged into his showroom located in Chennad Baramulla and has took away his Personal Computer, Sofa, Table etc during the intervening night of 19-20/06/2024.

Regarding the incident, a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Baramulla and investigation was initiated.

In the course of investigation, by means of technical analysis, the accused was identified as Mudasir Ahmad Mir son of Ghulam Mohd resident of Khushalpora Chennad and was subsequently arrested. During questioning he admitted his involvement in the commission of crime. On his disclosure, stolen property has been recovered from his possession.

### Male body found

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARI BRAHMANA: A male body was found in suspicious circumstances at Bari Brahmana on Sunday.

As per details, an information received in Police Station Bari Brahmana from reliable sources that one male body age about 35 years is lying near Data Talab Birpur Bari Brahmana Distt. Samba in suspicious circumstances. On this information inquest proceedings under section 174/CRPC has been initiated. The body was shifted to mortuary room at GMC Jammu for identification and post-mortem. The D/R of deceased person include as under wheatish complexion, age about 35 years old, wearing pink coloured sweet shirt and black colour white/red strapped trousers, height about 5'8".



### 16 vehicles seized for illegal mining

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Police has seized five vehicles across the district Samba which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO PS Ghagwal, SHO PS Samba, SHO PS Ramgarh and Incharge Police Post Mansar (PS Samba) while performing patrolling duty in their respective jurisdictional areas, have seized two dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK08K-8007, JK21G-5779 and three tractor trolleys without registration Nos. which were being used 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 Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

In a drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators, Jammu Police has initiated strict action against the criminals involved in illegal mining & minting money out of the public resources.

In an operation which was carried out at different locations in South Zone of District Jammu, PP Belieharana detained 03 dumpers, PP Phallain Mandal detained 04 tractor trolley loaded with sand seized under illegal mining.

In all, 07 vehicles have been seized in jurisdiction of PS Satwari of South Zone by JKP.

After detaining of these vehicles District Mining Officer was informed for necessary legal actions.

Baramulla: Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals at Kunzer Baramulla, Police seized 04 vehicles and arrested 03 drivers.

A Police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg assisted by SHO PS Kunzer seized 04 vehicles (01 Tipper & 03 Tractors) & arrested 03 drivers identified as Aijaz Ahmad Bhat son of Ab Ahad resident of Batpora, Bilal Ahmad son of Mohd Ramzan resident of Karhama & Gh Mohd son of Gh Mohiuddin resident of Kawoosa.

They were found involved in illegal extraction/ transportation of minerals and accordingly a case FIR under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Kunzer and investigation has been initiated.

### Three missing women including girl traced, reunited with families

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police has traced three missing females including a girl from different areas and reunited them with their families whose missing reports were lodged at Police Station Bari Brahmana, Police Station Vijaypur and Police Post SIDCO.

The family members of missing females hailing from Bihar A/P Barjani Bari Brahmana, Chhattisgarh A/P Kothi Vijaypur and Bihar A/P SIDCO Phase 1 Samba areas respectively had approached police and lodged their missing reports at PS Bari Brahmana, PS Vijaypur and PP SIDCO.

Accordingly, missing reports were entered vide DD No.30 dated 13.12.2023, DD No. 07 dated 02.06.2024, and DD No.09 dated 16.06.2024 and search started to trace the missing persons.

With continuous strenuous efforts, police teams of PS Bari Brahmana, PS Vijaypur and PP Sideo have succeeded in recovering the missing females from different areas and reuniting them with their families.

The said missing reports have been closed accordingly.