

03 DC Jammu sensitises officers regarding 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme

4,800 pilgrims leave for Amarnath cave shrine from Jammu
■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 20th batch of over 4,800 Amarnath pilgrims left the base camp here for the twin base camps of the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas on Tuesday, officials said.

A total of 4,898 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 159 vehicles amid heavy security of the

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Ballot boxes of presidential polls brought to Delhi

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: 'Mr Ballot Box' carrying votes cast by the lawmakers in the presidential election in all states and Union territories reached the strongroom of Parliament on Tuesday evening.

The team from Manipur deposited the ballot box around 8 pm Tuesday.

With this, polled material from all 30 stations including Delhi legislative

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SIA conducts raids in Baramulla in narco terror financing case

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday conducted raids at multiple locations in Baramulla district as part of its investigation into narco financing of terror activities in the Union territory, officials said.

"Today, the State Investigation Agency (SIA), Jammu with the help of district police and civil administration of Baramulla district conducted well coordinated raids at multiple locations of Baramulla, including Nambal in Uri, in connection with a terror funding case

registered at Gandhi Nagar police station," a spokesman of the SIA said.

During the raids, the SIA found a number of evidences with regard to smuggling of narcotics from across the border and generating the funds from the same for financing the terror modules, separatists, underground workers of terror outfits, and families of killed terrorists, the officials said.

"It has been found that the money generated from the narcotic substances has also been used to finance some fake journalists for creating fake/wrong narrative

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GST on daily use items: Sitharaman says decision taken with all states onboard

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Facing criticism over GST on daily use items, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the 5 per cent tax is being levied on wheat flour and other items after nod from all states, including non-BJP ruled states.

Non-BJP ruled states of Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala had agreed to imposing the 5 per cent levy, she said. In a series of tweets, Sitharaman said states levied sales tax or VAT

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Narrow escape for bank recovery team as loanee opens fire; PDP leader among 3 detained, 2 absconding

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Members of recovery team of Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank on Tuesday escaped unhurt when a man fired two gunshots to threaten them in Kunjwani area of Jammu city.

Police sources said that the bank recovery team had gone to the house of a defaulter identified as Mohammad Hussain allegedly after he failed to honour the debt after dozens of repeated reminders and requests from the bank.

"When the recovery team reached his house, the



Ganeshamurthi.

The minister said the government had constituted a delimitation commission, which has notified orders on March 14 and May 5 on the delimitation of the parliamentary and legislative assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.

Thereafter, the EC has initiated the process to revise the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to another question, Rai said the government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has

improved significantly.

There has been a substantial decline in the number of terrorist attacks, from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021, he added.

The minister said the government has taken various measures to restore normalcy in the Kashmir valley, including putting in place a robust security-and-intelligence grid, proactive operations against terrorists, intensified night patrolling and checking at "nakas", security arrangements through appropriate deployment and a high level of alertness maintained by the security forces.

Moreover, he said the government has taken several steps for the all-round development of Jammu and Kashmir, including the implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package 2015. Flagship programmes, the establishment of an IIT and an IIM,

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Nearly 30,000 recruited in public sector in J&K since 2019: Govt

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Nearly 30,000 people have been recruited in the public sector by the Jammu and Kashmir administration since 2019, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said employment for 5.2 lakh people is estimated to have been created through self-employment schemes

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Govt mulls proposal seeking extension of PM housing scheme in urban areas by 2 years

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A proposal seeking extension of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) up to March 2024 is under consideration to complete all houses sanctioned under the scheme till March this year, the government has told Rajya Sabha.

In a written reply to a question on Monday, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs

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'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign in J&K UT

LG directs for organising 'National Anthem Singing' competition

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a meeting of senior officials to review the preparations for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in J&K UT.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, HUDD; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Information and Higher Education Departments; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor;



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing preparations for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in J&K.

besides other senior administrative officers, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Lt

Governor was briefed by Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj department, Mandeep Kour about the arrangements being made and coordination at district,

municipal corporations, Panchayat level for public participation in Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Interacting with the Senior Officials, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, the Lt Governor said the celebration from 13 to 15 August 2022 is a matter of pride and invokes the feelings of patriotism in the heart of every citizen.

It was informed that intensive IEC activities shall be organised by Departments of Information, Culture, Higher Education, School Education and

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Go First's aircraft rejects take off as dog comes on Leh airport runway

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A Lashkar-e-Taiba aircraft, which was heading to Delhi, rejected take off on Tuesday as a dog came on the runway of Leh airport, officials of aviation regulator DGCA said.

The DGCA officials called it a routine incident.

On Tuesday itself, Go First's Mumbai-Leh flight and Srinagar-Delhi flight faced engine snags and both planes were grounded by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The aviation regulator is investigating the incidents and both the planes

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10 Bioeconomy key to India's future economy: Dr Jitendra

COVID spike: Masks made mandatory in 4 J&K districts

UT reports 333 fresh cases, one fatality

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Amid a spike in Covid cases, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has made face masks mandatory in four districts of the Union Territory, officials said on Tuesday.

The number for active Covid cases, which had dropped to just below 50 towards the end of May, rose to nearly 1,200 on Monday. While Srinagar has 390 active cases, Jammu has 519.

According to officials, wearing of face masks has been made compulsory in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Ramban districts in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19, they said.

During the past 24 hours, the Union Territory reported 333 fresh COVID-19 cases, a nearly 120 per cent jump over the previous day's count, and one fatality due to the disease, officials said here.

The tally of the infections in the Union territory now stands at 4,57,517, while the death toll is at 4,760, they said.

While 187 cases of the disease were reported from Jammu division, 146 cases were from Kashmir valley, the officials said.

There are 1,402 active cases of the disease in the Union territory at present, and the number of recoveries has reached 4,51,355, they said.

According to an order issued by Ramban District Magistrate Massarat Alam, face mask is mandatory for everyone visiting government offices, health institutes, banks and financial institutions in the district to contain the spread of Covid.

"In view of rise in the number of covid cases in Ramban, it is hereby ordered that all the persons visiting government offices, health institutes, banks and financial

institutes across the district shall compulsorily wear face-masks, failing which no entry shall be allowed to them," the order issued on Tuesday night said.

The order enjoined upon the authorities of educational department and institutes to ensure wearing of face mask by teaching members, staff and students without fail.

The administration also sought the ramping up rapid antigen testing on the highway at Banihal, Nashri tunnel and the railway station at Banihal to prevent the spread of Covid spread, it said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh recorded 13 fresh Covid cases that pushed the infection tally to 28,648, officials said.

All the new cases were recorded in Leh, they said.

So far, 228 people have succumbed to COVID-19 in Ladakh. Of these, 168 deaths were reported

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Prophet remarks row: SC protects Nupur Sharma from coercive action

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma protection from coercive action in connection with FIRs/complaints filed against her in several states over her remarks on the Prophet made during a TV debate show.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala, while taking note of the alleged threats to life extended to Sharma after its July 1 order, also protected her from coercive action in the FIRs/complaints which may be registered or entertained



in the future about the May 26 telecast.

Observing that it never wanted Sharma to visit every court for relief, the bench issued notices to the Centre and several states including Delhi, West Bengal,

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LeT module brings 4 terrorists from Kashmir to Pir Panjal area in Jammu; teams dispatched for crackdown

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A Lashkar-e-Taiba module has brought four of its terrorists to the Pir Panjal belt of Jammu region from Kashmir, prompting the police and security agencies to send teams to hunt them down, officials said on Tuesday.

The security forces unearthed this information while interrogating the members of the twin modules busted by the police in Rajouri recently.

"Three to four terrorists have been brought to Pir Panjal belt (Rajouri-Poonch districts) from Kashmir (recently by a module). They have been kept there (in hideouts)", Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Mukesh Singh said.

"We are hopeful to nab

them soon," he added. The ADGP said according to records, only three terrorists are active in Jammu as most of those operating in the region have been arrested.

The forces have also identified three other top terrorists belonging to Jammu region but are operating from Pakistan as Qasim, Kubair and Bashir.

The two modules busted in Rajouri were instrumental in bringing the four terrorists to Kashmir, he said.

Run by Pakistan-based LeT commander Qasim, the two modules operated in Rajouri-Reasi belts in the Pir Panjal belt during at least the last one year. They were instrumental in five terrorist attacks, collection of weapons dropped

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Horrendous minor mineral mafia makes inroads in J&K too

JAMMU: With political slugfest hogging the primetime slots on the national television as per chronic routine, chilling news from Haryana's Gurugram area sent shock waves across the country. Tauru Dy SP Surender Singh was crushed to death by the illegal mining mafia which mowed him down near Nuh's, close to the upcoming IT city of Gurugram. As if it was not enough a premier channel reported yet another shocking story this evening about a dumper at Palai Toll Plaza in Uniara of Tonk district of Rajasthan breaking the barrier at high speed, razing the plaza into pieces. Interestingly, the incident was not reported by the Plaza operators and nobody could say why the police were chasing the dumper.

While no words are enough to condemn the barbaric and tragic mowing down of a police officer by the mining mafia despite being escorted by a five-member team of uniformed personnel, the question arises how the hardcore criminals dared to go this far. The answer is not beyond the imagination of even a common man, who knows the amount of patronage being enjoyed by criminals, gang-

sters and unscrupulous elements engaged in various vocations and economic offences. They feel themselves above law-in fact law unto themselves. Had it not been so, how could the mining smugglers have committed the cold blooded murder in presence of the police personnel? Another question that worries the law abiding citizens of this country remains how the armed policemen preferred to remain mute spectators to watch their officer being brutally moved down.

The arrogance of the mineral mining mafia is the same across the country. Those engaged in this illegal pursuit seem to be enjoying huge clout because of the administrative inertia or the administrative connivance. In Jammu, for example, the minor mineral mafia has gained strong roots which is impossible to be uprooted in the foreseeable future-the reason being active nexus between the smugglers and black sheep in the administration and the law enforcing agencies because a lot of money is

pouring in from this sector. Of course, the police are on the job to contain this menace but one cannot oversee the prevalent culture of complacency and nexus of some black sheep. True that some brave-hearts keep challenging the mafia, like the Dy SP in Gurugram did, but one sparrow does not make it a summer. Ultimately it is the police that have to brave the brunt.

Last year, the mining regulations stirred a nexus between unscrupulous smugglers and those in the administration thus breaking the backbone of all those investing in raising their dream houses in this part of the country. The people were making their nests with the construction material like sand, stones and bajri available at affordable prices but the new regulations left them at the mercy of looters in the form of black-sheep in the administration and the police hierarchy with active connivance of the mining smugglers. Ironically some cops used to seek posting in cities earlier but then they wanted to be placed in the mining rich areas.

Astonishingly, many tipsters of the Kashmir valley and Punjab were also operating in Jammu. For what they used to be here in Jammu is a million dollar question. The reason is obvious which speaks volumes about the large scale nexus and vested interest. Reports do come about seizure of trucks, tipsters or dumpers being seized with illegal minor minerals like sand, bajri and stones but the number of these making it to their destinations in dead of the night on whopping prices is far far higher.

According to sources, hardly any fines are imposed on the defaulting load carriers or challans produced in courts. Majority of the tipsters and trucks are operating without valid permissions from the designated authorities and No Objection Certificates from the Pollution Control Board. Above all, the major players supervising the illegal mafia are from outside Jammu and Kashmir. Nobody seems to be interested in treating the malady. And the results of complacency are obvious like how DSP Surender Singh lost his life.

(To be continued)



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