

03 Single window created for private participants in Space sector: Dr Jitendra

09 Crime Branch grills Ex-MLA & Apni party leader in forgery case

14 Bid to smuggle liquor into J&K from Punjab foiled; 132 bottles seized, 1 arrested

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Arms recovery case: NIA carries out searches at 9 places in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations in the Kashmir valley in connection with a case related to the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition here, an official said.

Two local "hybrid" militants of proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested in the Chanapora area of Srinagar on May 23, and 15 pistols, 30 magazines, 300 rounds and a silencer were seized from them.

Two more accused were arrested later, and a vehicle was seized.

A spokesperson of the NIA said the searches were conducted at nine locations in Kashmir five in Pulwama district of south Kashmir and four in Srinagar district in the case related to a conspira-



21 Hindus among 118 civilians killed since Aug 2019 in J&K

NEW DELHI: As many as 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the government said Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said in Rajya Sabha that 5,502 Kashmiri Pandits have been provided jobs in different departments of government of Jammu and Kashmir in the valley and no Kashmiri Pandit has reportedly migrated from the valley since August 2019.

Rai said there has been substantial decline in terrorist attacks in last three years - from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021. "From August 5, 2019 till July 9, 2022, 128 security force personnel and 118 civilians were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir: Out of 118 civilians killed, 5 were Kashmiri Pandits and 16 belonged to

cy of carrying out terror activities in and around Srinagar.

The case was registered initially at the Chanapora police station on May 23 and re-registered by the NIA on June 18 for a thorough investigation.

The NIA said the searches were conducted at the premises of the accused and other suspected persons, leading to the recovery and seizure of digital devices and other incriminating materials.

"Further investigations in the case are in progress," the spokesperson said.

"Hybrid" militants is a term coined by the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir to describe those ultras who carry out a subversive task assigned to them by their handlers before slipping back into normal life.

Presidential election: Counting today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday will know who will succeed incumbent Ram Nath Kovind to become the country's 15th President, as counting of votes for the presidential election begins at 11am at the Parliament House here.

Ruling NDA's Droupadi Murmu and Opposition's Yashwant Sinha are pitted against each other in the contest, with votes

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Mukhtar posted as Dy Excise Comm (Executive) Kashmir; Ajaz as Addl Secy Housing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday transferred two JKAS officers while given additional charge of a post to one.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Tahir Ajaz, JKAS, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

13 structures washed away, 20 damaged in flashfloods at Doda

Jammu-Srinagar highway reopened after brief closure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH/JAMMU: Thirteen structures, including a school building, were washed away and at least 20 others got partially damaged in flash floods triggered due to cloudburst in Doda district on Wednesday, officials said.

Top districts officials, including Deputy Commissioner Vikas Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom and Thathri Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ather Amin Zargar reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

Allama Iqbal Memorial Educational Institution, a house, eight 'gharats' (small mills) and three shops got washed away in the flash-floods due to the cloudburst in Tanta area of Kahara tehsil, SDM Zargar said.

A portion of the Kahara tourism reception centre, Bhadarwah Development



Road washed away due to cloud-burst in Tanta area of Kahara Tehsil.

Authority, was badly damaged. More than 20 structures were partially damaged, but no loss of life or serious injury was reported, he added.

DC Sharma said, "We are assessing the loss and relief will be provided as per rules."

He also said some essential items will be provided as quick relief from Red Cross organisation.

Meanwhile, the district administration has issued an advisory in view of inclement weather conditions.

It asked the public to remain vigilant and keep themselves away from River Chenab in view of the rise in water level in the river and apprehension of flash floods in streams and river tributaries. Meanwhile, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CS launches online billing, payment system 'JKPWDOMS' for major processes of PWD

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday launched Online Billing & Payment System? J&K Public Works Department Online Management System (JKPWDOMS) for the major processes of the department.

Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Dheeraj Gupta; Principal Secretary Public Works Department (PWD), Shailendra Kumar; all Chief Engineers of PWD, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers, officers

from NIC, IT Department, J&KeGa and other concerned were present at the launch in physical and online mode.

At the outset, Chief Secretary was briefed about the e-Governance initiative by PW(R&B) Department in collaboration with CDAC & J&K e-Governance Agency, IT Department Union Territory of J&K.

It was informed that the system would computerize major processes of the departments by developing a Web based online system for its Infrastructure Management, Bill

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Over 4,300 pilgrims leave for Amarnath from Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 30th batch of 4,355 Amarnath pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the twin base camps of of Pahalgam and Baltal in Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

The pilgrims left in a convoy of 166 vehicles amid heavy CRPF cover;

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9


18 injured in separate road accidents in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As many as 18 people were injured in two separate road accidents in Reasi and Rajouri districts on Wednesday, police said.

In Reasi, 14 people, including four children, were injured after a minibus collided head-on with a truck on the Katra-Reasi road, they said. The injured have been hospitalised, they said. In Rajouri, four people

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 29.1°C Min: 24.7°C

Humidity

Max : 90 Min : 86

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 32.6°C Min: 21.5°C

Humidity

Max : 68 Min: 55

Sunset : 19:38 Hours

Sunrise : 05:39 Hours

Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya Dream of J&K citizens for 24x7 power supply being fulfilled with remarkable improvement in power sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Over the past many years, the determined effort of J&K Government has ensured that every citizen of J&K realizes the dream of electricity despite weather vagaries and difficult terrain.

The UT administration has ensured that common citizens get access to basic necessities of quality roads, electricity and water on priority basis. The aim of the administration is to provide quality electricity to all citizens and businesses and these augmented facilities

will address the important need of the growing economy.

To address the current power deficit, J&K has initiated a large-scale capacity augmentation programme. In 70 years, J&K was able to

2,451 MVA capacity added in last 3 years

harness only 3500 MW, and now generation capacity is set to be doubled in four years and tripled in seven years.

Currently, Transmission & Distribution projects worth Rs 2000 crore are being completed, and an additional amount of Rs 6000 crore has

been allocated by the central government to strengthen the Sub-Transmission & Distribution network across the UT. This will help the administration to bridge the basic infrastructural gap

between cities and villages. Since August 2019, 2451 MVA has been added to the total capacity as compared to the 8394 MVA capacity achieved in seven decades. J&K Government launched various initiatives to strengthen and improve power infrastructure in the

UT which had remained dilapidated for the last several decades.

The decade-long overdue up-gradation of power infrastructure which was ignored by successive regimes is being done in a sustained manner. According to a senior official, the present administration is eliminating the legacy of delays and all the languishing projects hanging for long are being completed in a record time.

Jammu & Kashmir is bestowed with an estimated hydro-power potential,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sonia to appear before ED, Congress to stage protests

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Congress will hold protests across the country against the questioning of its chief Sonia Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday, while one more person died due to the viral disease, officials said.

The infection tally in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 4,57,951 while the death toll stands at 4,761, they said.

Of the new cases, 248 were reported from Jammu and 186 from Kashmir, officials said.

Providing district-wise breakup, a Health Bulletin

434 new COVID cases in J&K; mask mandate reimposed in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir continued to see substantial rise in new Covid cases as 434 fresh infections were reported on Wednesday, while one more person died due to the viral disease, officials said.

The infection tally in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 4,57,951 while the death toll stands at 4,761, they said.

Of the new cases, 248 were reported from Jammu and 186 from Kashmir, officials said.

Providing district-wise breakup, a Health Bulletin

issued by the government informed that Jammu reported 154 cases, Srinagar 147, Kathua 31, Udhampur 19, Baramulla 16, Budgam 11, Doda and Ramban reported 09 cases each, Rajouri, Samba and Kishtwar 06 cases each, Kupwara 04 cases, Ganderbal 03, Bandipora and Pulwama 02 cases each, Shopian 01, while as no other district across the Union Territory reported any fresh ase.

There are 1,724 active cases of the disease in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has

reached 4,51,466, officials said.

There are 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus).

Amid the spike in new cases, the Union Territory administration has made wearing of face mask mandatory in Jammu district, officials said.

On Tuesday, face masks were made compulsory in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Ramban districts in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19, they said. According to a Srinagar based news agency,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Yet another police officer, Lady SI, fall prey to bovine smugglers

Mafia won't lie down until fear instilled among criminals

Around the time, the mining mafia mowed Gurugram's Dy SP Surender Singh to brutal death for daring them to stop their nefarious economic offence; the nation woke up to yet another shocker from Ranchi. A bovine smuggler mowed down a lady Sub Inspector of Jharkhand Police Sandhya Topno when she along with her team was waiting for the cattle laden pick-up van at a check post following a tip-off.

The two incidents-one from Haryana and the other from Jharkhand-expose the vulnerability of law enforcing agencies at the hands of powerful mafia and smugglers. With impunity, they keep committing crimes and getting away too after mild hullabaloo by some netizens and sections of the media. Then everybody forgets till the next episode unfolds.

The brazen attacks on the police personnel are a mute reminder to the khaki hierarchy itself to ponder what has actually gone wrong, that the fear of uniform is fast waning. Criminals, law breakers, smugglers and mafia regime are getting emboldened beyond proportion. While having introspection, the rot of politico-administrative-criminal nexus will unfold its ugly head.

Organized crime by the mafia has become a security

threat in every part of the country. It easily adapts to new environments and propagates its power, using dirty money as its weapon of choice. The beneficiaries of crime include unscrupulous politicians, bureaucrats and police ranks. Their active connivance and patronage is solely responsible for criminals becoming law unto them. The bonhomie between mafia and corrupt politicians and public officials has eroded the entire edifice of the governance system. The mafia world is replete with examples of gangsters thriving with the help of the police. Their links are only strengthened by politicians and bureaucrats who use these criminals for their own ends besides making hay while the sun is shining. Alarmed by growing crime rate in public space, the government had appointed a committee in the nineties, headed by N N Vohra, then a serving bureaucrat, later Governor of Jammu and Kashmir; to suggest ways and means to deal with this menace. The panel, in its report, had highlighted how many criminals were running a parallel government and blamed the criminal justice system for failing to effectively prosecute goons. The panel had

suggested several measures to break the nexus. The apex court has also passed several orders but they have not had any salutary effect. Looking to the other side and not acting on recommendations suggested from time to time unfortunately speak volumes about lack of politico-administrative will.

The Ranchi mayhem of bovine smugglers or Gurugram mowing is not a new phenomenon in the Indian landscape. These do happen because the law breakers know where the weaknesses in the politico-administrative set up lie. Had there been any fear of law enforcing agencies, the law breakers would be thinking twice before attempting to commit crime. They have become hardened, be it Ranchi, Gurugram, Jammu or anywhere else in the country. The mafia will keep calling the shots till they enjoy the support of the politicians, bureaucrats and police rankers.

Jammu has almost become a safe haven for bovine smugglers and minor mineral mafia. The bovine cattle operators have turned so ruthless and ferocious that on

May 29, 2022 smugglers under the garb of nomads attacked a police party in the Madhera village of Samba, leaving four personnel including a Sub Inspector and ASI injured. Few days earlier, on May 17, a local newspaper hilariously and sarcastically reported that 'brave' J&K policemen managed to flee from Ban Toll Plaza when attacked with stones and sticks. Six police personnel including SDPO and SHO were injured. Similarly, on February 15, 2021, SHO Bishnah suffered head injuries when his team was attacked by cattle smugglers, who managed to escape, taking advantage of darkness. The chronic bovine smugglers damaged several police vehicles on February 8, 2020 when three cattle laden trucks were stopped in Village Maggar Khad Lakhampur and attacked the policemen.

These are few of the many incidents involving the cattle smugglers and mining mafia, who keep challenging the police. The scenario will continue and brave officers like Haryana Dy SP and Ranchi Lady SI will keep laying down their lives unless a fear is instilled among the criminals. This will happen only when the police, administrative officials and politicians will rise above their nefarious vested interest.

(Concluded)