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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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RNI No. : 66908/96

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Vol. 29 Issue 191 • Jammu • Thursday • July 11, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

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**03** One may ask from whom President has to preserve, protect & defend constitution in terms of Art-60

**09** Interrogation of Reasi terror attack accused points towards Pak-based LeT handlers: NIA

**11** Swimming trials on July 13

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

## Reviews preparations for inaugural edition of 'Kashmir Marathon' UT Admin committed to put J&K on global tourism map: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to put Jammu Kashmir on the global tourism map and developing the Union Territory as an ideal destination for adventure tourism and a hub of running events.

Chairing a meeting to review the preparations for the inaugural edition of 'Kashmir Marathon', at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor said that the eyes of the world will be on Jammu Kashmir as we conduct this marathon event and people especially those associated with trade and tourism will have an opportunity to present our unique culture and warm hospitality to participants from India and abroad.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing preparations for inaugural edition of Kashmir Marathon on Wednesday.

Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism Department and other senior officials.

Padma Shri Chewang Motup Goba, Founder & Race Director Ladakh Marathon also attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the roadmap, timelines and promotional strategies for the event which is likely to be held in Srinagar in October. The prime objective of the Kashmir Marathon is to showcase J&K's potential internationally and promote eco-friendly tourism and encourage health and wellness. The local communities

will also be involved in planning and running the event to foster pride and a sense of belonging, besides showcasing Kashmir's rich heritage and scenic beauty. Runners from across India and Abroad are expected to participate in two running disciplines: marathon (42 km) and half marathon (21 km).

## Asaf Mahmood appointed as Member JKPS

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Wednesday appointed Asaf Mahmood Sagar, IFS, as Member of the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the Jammu and Kashmir. "In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 93 of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019, read with S.O. 3937 (E) dated 31st October, 2019,

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## Five JKAS, 20 Jr JKAS officers transferred

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Wednesday transferred five JKAS officers. According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Reetika Arora, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner, Relief Organization (Migrants), Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary, Skill Development

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## Modi meets Austrian President; discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
VIENNA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen here and the two leaders discussed ways to further expand bilateral cooperation in several sectors, including environment and combating climate change. "Had a very good meeting with Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and discussed ways to expand India-Austria cooperation," Modi said in a post on X after the meeting. They deliberated ways to strengthen India-Austria relations in a host of sectors, the prime minister's office said. "The two leaders discussed bilateral and global issues. They also exchanged views on environmental sustainability, global warming and climate change action," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir



Jaiswal said in a post on X. President Van der Bellen thanked Modi for visiting Austria, saying the two countries have a long friendship and strong bilateral relations, especially in the economic area. "We now want to expand these further," he said in a series of posts on X. As the world's most populous country and a global economic power, India plays

an important role in the fight against climate change. "We need India as a partner in a structurally sustainable transformation towards climate neutrality," he said. He said the two sides also talked about current geopolitical challenges, especially the Ukraine conflict and they agreed that they will support efforts in restoring peace.

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## Panel formed to identify foreign nationals illegally staying in J&K for past 13 years

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has formed a seven-member panel to identify foreign nationals who have been illegally overstaying in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 13 years, aiming to facilitate their deportation. The panel has been tasked with gathering biographic and biometric details of illegal migrants and maintaining an updated digital record regularly. "Sanction is hereby accorded to the re-constitution of the committee to identify foreign nationals illegally overstaying in the Union

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since 2011", Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti said in an order. The Administrative Secretary of the Home Department will chair the panel. Other members include the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) of Punjab, the Criminal Investigation Department (Special Branch) of the Jammu and Srinagar headquarters, and all district SSPs and SPs (Foreigners Registration), along with the state

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## Kathua ambush: Truck driver, 50 others detained

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The manhunt for the terrorists responsible for the ambush in Kathua district, which resulted in the tragic death of five army personnel, has led to the detention of a truck driver and 50 others for questioning, officials said on Wednesday. According to officials, the truck, which was initially close behind the ill-fated army vehicles on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar mountainous road, slowed down near Badnota village in Lohai Malhar when the terrorists opened fire from two different directions. Five army personnel including a Junior Commissioner



Security personnel stand guard near terrorist attack site in Kathua on Wednesday.

Officer, were killed in the ambush on Monday. Suspicion has been cast on the civilian tipper driver, with authorities investigating whether he intentionally delayed the convoy by

requesting a pass on the culvert. "The role of a civilian tipper, which slowed down the speed of this convoy, has come under investigation

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## Soldiers fired 5,189 rounds, forced terrorists to retreat

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Taken by surprise when heavily armed men ambushed their convoy but quickly gathering themselves, jawans of the 22 Garhwal regiment fired more than 5,100 rounds to protect their injured colleagues and forced the terrorists to retreat into Kathua's wooded hills, officials said. "Two days after the terror attack that martyred five Army personnel and injured five in Kathua district, officials began piecing

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## Tarun Behl arrested; sent on 4-day police remand

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu police has arrested Tarun Behl who is running WhatsApp groups 'The Sree times' and 'Aasman news paper' under Official Secrets Act. Jammu SSP Vinod Kumar said, "Police Station Channi Himmat, received an information through reliable sources that a secret document issued by Police Headquarters containing details with regard to security is in circulation in WhatsApp group, 'The Sree times' and 'Aasman news paper', handled by one Tarun Behl with malafide intention to spread misinfor-



mation." On this, FIR 80/2024 under section 3/5 Official Secrets Act 1923,49/353 BNS was registered in Police Station Channi Himmat and investigation taken up. Tarun Behl was earlier running a college and recently he has opened a school also. During the investigation the accused Tarun Behl

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## 5 CPOs, 11 Sr PPs among 22 officers reshuffled

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Wednesday transferred five Chief Prosecutor Officers (CPO), eleven Senior Public Prosecutors (Sr PPs) among 22 officers. "In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18 & 19 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the Government appoints the 22 officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Prosecution Service as Public Prosecutor(s) (PPs)/Additional Public Prosecutor(s) (APPs) and Assistant Public Prosecutor(s) (Asstt. PPs) for conducting criminal cases in the Courts," read S.O 359 notification issued by Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department.

## Employment generation touches new high under Modi Govt: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday said that during the tenure of the Modi government, employment generation has touched new heights. Talking to media persons, Chugh said the figures released by the RBI have strongly debunked the false and misleading propaganda of the Opposition parties as the rate of employment generation has nearly doubled during the past two years. At a time when the economy of many other coun-

tries has been struggling to fight the crisis, the Modi government has in fact excelled the economy. This, he said, registered a six percent growth in employment generation, which is almost double the rate of the preceding financial year. Much against the malicious propaganda by the Opposition parties, Chugh said, the youth in the country are infused with new enthusiasm and optimism under the Modi government. This is reflected in the industry as well as in the service sectors where the growth has been phenomenal, he added.

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## Govt waives off Rs 53.11 Cr late payment surcharge to KPDCCL consumers

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: In a major relief to domestic consumers, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) has till date waived off Rs. 53.11 crore on account of late payment surcharge under Government's Power Amnesty Scheme. So far, 1.02 lakh domestic consumers have availed waiver benefit by paying their principal amount due to KPDCCL under the Scheme which was announced in 2022 and later extended by the Government this year till March 31, 2025.

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## CJ administers oath to Justice Rajesh Sekhri as Addl Judge of HC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh administered the Oath of office to Justice Rajesh Sekhri as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, on Wednesday in the Chief Justice's Court Room at Jammu. The Oath taking ceremony was physically attended by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sindhu Sharma,



Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh administering oath to Justice Rajesh Sekhri as Addl Judge of HC.

## Martyrdom of soldiers in Kathua demands high-intensity crackdown on terror network in J&K



**ANCHOR**  
DOST KHAN

The whole nation is outraged over the martyrdom of five soldiers in the July 8 terror attack in Kathua, and it has been promised by the government that perpetrators of this heinous crime will be punished soon. Terrorists and their mentors sitting in Pakistan would pay a heavy price for the martyrdom of five brave hearts. Kathua is at core of the national discourse about terrorism, as focus has riveted on counter-terrorism ways and means. The July 8 attack in Kathua is not the first attack. Since June 9, the day Reasi terror attack took place, killing nine pilgrims, there have been serial terror attacks in Doda and Kathua districts even when the region was recovering from the deadly onslaught in twin border districts of Rajouri-Poonch. This is a serious situation and it calls for an adequate and stringent response both in short and long terms. It is expected that terrorists involved in Kathua terror attack are traced and neutralized. This is important to deliver a message to them and the likes of them in Jammu and Kashmir that they cannot escape even in the thickest of jungles the wrath of the security forces. The forces are duty-bound, as the whole nation stands with them in solidarity, to finish off enemies of the nation. This is what is required immediately. President Droupadi Murmu underlined this in her statement on X on Tuesday morning. She said: "The attack on a convoy of Army personnel in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir by terrorists is a cowardly act that deserves condemnation and firm counter-measures. My sympathies are with the families of the brave hearts who laid down their lives in this ongoing war against terror in its all forms. I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured."

President of India represents soul of the country. She symbolizes collective thinking of the nation. When she makes a statement, it is representation of the will of the nation. She characterized the attack as a "cowardly act," because the terrorists ambushed a moving of the unsuspecting troops from a hillock. It was not a direct fight. It was surreptitious. That's what made it cowardly act. This cowardice has hit soldiers, and five brave hearts were sent home in coffins wrapped in National Tricolour. President Murmu understood all the dimensions and addressed them when she condemned the attack and stressed for firm counter-terrorism. The immediate task has been assigned, to neutralize the terrorists and the structure in which they operated. This has been promised by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is responsi-

ble for governance in Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring safety and security of all citizens. He has also asked for severe punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. In the long-term, there are many options before the country and it will have to think about them and act accordingly. One thing that is profoundly clear that Pakistan has not learnt any lessons, it deserves punishment for doing what it is doing in Jammu and Kashmir, sending terrorists from across the Line of Control and international border, using drones to send money and arms and ammunition, and a concerted misinformation campaign against India at the international for a, which it also uses to indoctrinate young minds in J&K. These acts cannot go unpunished, the lives and future of soldiers, their children and the whole of the nation have been challenged. To tackle this cross-border terrorism, India has listed support of many countries, including the United States.

Russian President Vladimir Putin too has come out in support of India's stand on dealing with cross-border terrorism. Putin joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi in condemning the dastardly terror attack on soldiers in Kathua. A joint statement in Moscow on July 9, specifically mentioned Kathua terror attack and condemned it. That means that the world knows what Pakistan is doing, and if Islamabad is punished for all these acts of terror on Indians, it has no one to defend it. This attack and the future threats that Pakistan holds for the country should invoke high intensity crackdown on all the elements supporting terrorism, as severely as the terrorists. These threats have to be eliminated with fresh counter-terrorism strategy so that the peace and development of J&K moves on unhindered. Counter-terrorism has to be normalized not a quick fix response in retaliation to the attacks that Pakistan keeps on staging in J&K.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 33.3°C Min: 25.1°C

Humidity  
Max: 81 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 29.8°C Min: 19.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 60 Min: 43

Sunset: 19:41 Hours  
Sunrise: 05:30 Hours