

Vol. 29 Issue 198 • Jammu • Thursday • July 18, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24 Some 'Smartness' can be added to Jammu UU City even without extra financial inputs

Dr Jitendra to inaugurate 54th Pre-Retirement Counseling workshop on July 19 at Jammu

Suryakumar holds 2nd spot, Jaiswal make gains in ICC T20I batting rankings

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

Brief exchanges of fire between SFs, terrorists in Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces and terrorists exchanged fire twice briefly within a span of four hours in a forest area in Doda district, officials said on Wednesday.

Village Defence Guards (VDGs) also opened fire on observing suspicious movement outside their village, while two explosive shells were recovered from Gandoh

The exchange of fire was first reported at Kalaan Bhata at 10.45 pm on Tuesday and then near Panchan Bhata at 2 am during the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in the Desa forest area, where four Army personnel were killed in the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

There are no reports of any casualties in the latest exchange of fire. Taking advantage of the darkness. difficult terrain and thick foliage, the terrorists man-



Police cracks down on OGWs network; 4 arrested

JAMMU: Police have launched a major crackdown on the network of overground workers (OGWs) in connection with a series of terror attacks in Doda district, resulting in the arrest of four OGWs, police said.

Four Army personnel, including an officer, were martyred in an encounter with terrorists in the Doda district on Monday. "Police have intensified their crackdown on the OGWs' network in response to the recent attacks in June and July," a

On June 12, an FIR was filed under various sections of the IPC, Arms Act, and the UAPA at the Gandoh police station. This led to the arrest of OGWs Mubashir Hussain, Safder Ali, and Sajad Ahmed on June 18 and 20, he said. They are cur-■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 aged to slip away, the officials said.

Troops of Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police had launched a joint cordon and search operation at Dhari Gote Urarbagi in the Desa forest belt, some 55 km from Doda town, late on Monday evening following information about the presence of

Despite the challenging terrain and weather conditions, efforts are underway to track down and neutralise the terrorists who have links with the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-eterror group Mohammad (JeM), the officials said.

The Army, along with para commandos and aerial sunport from drones and helicopters, is intensifying its search operation to eliminate the terrorists who have infiltrated from across the

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Dozens of Village

Defence Guards (VDGs),

armed with .303 rifles, are

helping security forces in the

Desa forest of Jammu and

Kashmir's Doda district in

their search for the terrorists

who martyhred four soldiers

The VDGs have vowed not

to let the terrorists escape

the area, but say their slower

bolt-action weapons must be

replaced by more sophisticat-

ed automatic rifles to counter

on Monday night.

Might be his personal view: ADGP on police chief's remarks

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A senior police officer on Wednesday said DGP R R Swain's statement on regional parties hobnobbing with terrorist leaders might have been his personal opinion as Jammu and Kashmir Police is an apolitical force.

The Director General Police (DGP) had on Monday claimed that Pakistan infiltrated

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Justice N Kotiswar Singh meets LG

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Bhawan.

The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to Justice N. Kotiswar Singh on his appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court of



CJ High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh meeting with LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath yatra

JAMMU: A fresh batch of 3,700 pilgrims left for the Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas on Wednesday amidst tight security measures.

The 20th batch of pilgrims left at 3:05 am in 127 vehicles under CRPF escort from Bhagwati Nagar base camp. The group included 2,734 men, 952 women and nine

Of these, 2,305 pilgrims



opted for the traditional 48-1,435 chose the shorter but km Pahalgam route, while

The 52-day yatra, which commenced formally on June 29 from Baltal and Pahalgam base camps in Kashmir, will conclude on August 19.

Officials said that over 3.40 lakh pilgrims have already paid obeisance at the shrine. Security measures have been intensified around the base camps and along the vatra route following

Ashura procession taken out on Muharram in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Thousands of

mourners Wednesday took out Ashura procession in the city here to martyrdom anniversary of Prophet grandson Muhammad's Hussain Imam Muharram.

procession started from Bota Kadal in Lal Bazar area of the city and culminated at \mathbf{Z} adibal Imambara, officials said.

The chest-beating and wailing mourners passed through the city roads, eulogising Hussain's sacrifice in the fight between good and evil.

Muslim population in Assam

now 40 per cent, demographic

change big issue: Himanta

RANCHI: Assam Chief

Minister Himant Biswa

Sarma on Wednesday

claimed that the Muslim

population in his state has

now risen to 40 per cent,

contending that demograph-

ic change is a "big issue" in

Sarma, who is also the

BJP's Jharkhand election

co-in charge, made the com-

ments on the sidelines of a

"I come from Assam and

demographic change is a big

issue for me. Muslim popula-

tion in my state is 40 per

cent now, which was 12 per

cent in 1951. It is not a polit-

ical issue for me, but a matter of life and death," he told

reporters. Earlier, addressing party workers, he alleged that the number of Bangladeshi infiltrators is

rising in tribal areas of

The BJP would include a

strong action plan against

infiltrators in its manifesto

for the upcoming Jharkhand

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assembly election, he said.

the northeastern state.

party meeting here.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Ashura procession taking out in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Authorities had made ade-

ensuring incident-free

"We have not slept for 14hours," said Sudarshan

the heavily armed ultras.

Singh, a member of a VDG group patrolling the Gai and the Banda areas to hunt down the terrorists linked to the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

"They escaped (from the scene of the gunfight in Desa forest on Monday night) but for how long will they keep running, they will die as we are not going to allow them to escape," he told PTI. The groups, earlier known

Village Defence Committees (VDCs), comprising 10-15 members, were formed in the Jammu region in 1995 to offer self-defence

capabilities to villagers in view of terror threats.

security forces track ultras in Doda

Won't let terrorists escape: VDGs assisting

Officials said between $10:45~\mathrm{pm}$ Tuesday and $2~\mathrm{am}$ Wednesday, security forces and terrorists engaged in gunfights at Kalaan Bhata and near Panchan Bhata. respectively, in the Desa for-

VDGs also opened fire on observing suspicious movement, while two explosive shells were recovered from the Gandoh area, they said. Sudarshan Singh said they were getting inputs about the movement of terrorists for

the past few days but could M4 carbine," he said.

not ascertain their location. "The terrorists are on the run and we will not allow

them to leave this area alive," Sanjay Singh, another VDG member, said and added that VDGs will continue to fight terrorists with or without automatic weapons. Sudarshan Singh said the

.303 rifle is no match for an automatic weapon.

"We know the topography of the area and need automatic weapons to counter terrorists who are equipped with the most sophisticated weapons like the US-made

"The government should frame a proper policy for us (VDGs). We want ex-servicemen, whether from the army, police or the paramilitary forces, to head our groups, Sudarshan Singh said. In 2022, the policy for

VDCs, which were headed by Special Police Officers (SPOs), was revamped by the Union Home Ministry and VDGs were introduced. In the VDC scheme only SPOs were paid but after 2022, all members of VDGs are being compensated financially by the government.

SC to hear today pleas related to controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday a batch of petitions related to the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam NEET-UG 2024 which was held on May

According to the cause list of July 18 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra would hear more than 40 pleas, including those filed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) seeking transfer of cases pending

against it in various high courts on the NEET-UG row to the Supreme Court to avoid multiplicity of litiga-

On July 11, the top court had adjourned till July 18 the hearing on the pleas, including those seeking cancellation of the exam, re-test and probe into alleged malpractices in the conduct of NEET-UG 2024, as the responses of the Centre and the NTA were yet to be received by some parties.

The bench had observed that it has received a status report from the Central

(CBI) on the progress made in the probe into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the exam.

In an additional affidavit filed in the apex court last week, the Centre has said data analytics of the results of NEET-UG 2024 was conducted by IIT-Madras which found there was neither any indication of "mass malpractice" nor a localised set of candidates benefiting from it and scoring abnormally high

The government's assertion assumes significance in view of the observations made

HUDD holds workshop on toilet saturation,

used water management

SRINAGAR: Housing & Urban Department (HUDD) on Wednesday organized a Capacity Building Workshop on Toilet Saturation and Used Water Management for all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees of

The workshop was organ-

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Development J&K here.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, chaired the

ised with the objective to build capacity of the

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Protests across Jammu region against ambush of Army jawans; demand for 'Operation All Out' raised

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Several parts of

the Jammu region witnessed protests on Wednesday following the martyrdom of four Army personnel in an encounter with the terrorists in Doda district and demanded the launch of 'Operation All Out' for a robust government response.

Led by Rashtriya Bajrang Dal chief Rakesh Kumar, the activists rallied against the killings and Pakistan's alleged support for terrorism in the region. They burned effigies and chanted slogans condemning Pakistan.

"We strongly condemn this



Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists protesting against Pakistan

cowardly act. The government must launch 'Operation All Out' to eliminate foreign mercenaries targeting army personnel and civilians,

The encounter, which began on Monday evening, marked the third major clash between the security forces and terrorists in the

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Owners of Shakuntla Theatre booked for around Rs 10 Cr J&K Bank loan fraud

VIVEK SHARMA



Shakuntla Theatre situated at B C Jammu have been booked by

JAMMU:

Economic Offences Wing (EoW) of Crime Branch (CB) Jammu for their alleged involvement in around Rs 10 Cr J&K Bank loan fraud and cheating with few Jammu based business establish-

The accused Rahul Mahajan, his father Romesh Chander Mahajan and mother Renu Mahajan, owners of Shakuntla Theatre, Directors of Mordern Hotels Pvt. Ltd, B C Road, resident of 72 A/D, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, have been booked under FIR 33/2024 registered under sections of 420.

According to FIR, initially, a complaint was lodged by Tapan Dubey, Director Shree Sita Ram Industries Pvt. Ltd, resident of Bari Brahmana, Samba against Rahul Mahajan, his father Romesh Mahajan and mother Renu Mahajan, all residents of 72 A/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu stating that his company had bought Plot No.1 & 2 measuring 4015 sqft and 1840 sqft at Rehari, B.C. Road Jammu from J&K Bank Ltd from Renu Mahajan, Romesh Mahajan Directors of Mordern Hotels Pvt. Ltd and Rahul Mahajan vide tri-party agreement dated March 28, 2019. On insistence of Bank and Renu Mahajan, the complainant Tapan Dubey also entered into an "Agreement to Sell" with Renu Mahajan, Romesh Mahajan and Rahul Mahajan, Directors of Modern Hotels Pvt. Ltd on March 27, 2019. This



property was already mortgaged and was in the possession of the bank and he came to know about the property from Bank Notice

published in a Jammu based newspaper on March 7, 2019.

Since, Tapan Dubey also had banking relations with J&K Bank,

the senior managers of J&K Bank including J P Sharma, the then President Law, J&K Bank, assured him that the property is clean, with its lien and possession including original papers are in possession of bank and it is going to be auctioned before March 31, 2019 under the Sarfeasi Act.

A deal was struck with all the parties concerned to buy the property from the bank and the owners. However, after the payments was done to the bank, the complainant Tapan Dubey got to know that the bank did not hold original papers of the said property. It also came to light that the accused Renu, Romesh and Rahul Mahajan had already entered into another agreement to sell with one Tajinder Singh Monocha to sell the same property.

It was understood that Bank along with suspect persons entered into a conspiracy to safeguard

them from bank as their other properties were also attached by them by defrauding the complainant and selling to him a property which J&K Bank did not have the authority to sell and the suspects had already entered into agreements to sell with other parties before entering into deal with

After receipt of complaint an enquiry was conducted, it came to fore that Rahul Mahajan his Romesh Chander Mahajan, and mother Renu Mahajan directors of M/s Modern Hotel Pvt. Ltd. have created an equitable Mortgage with J&K bank without depositing any document of property that is Plot No.1 & 2 of JDA at BC road Rehari Jammu. However, J&K Bank Branch Town Hall Jammu sanctioned the loan around Rs 10 Crore and disbursed the same in favour of directors of M/s

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Max: 62 Min: 40 Sunset: 19:38 Hours Sunrise: 05:34 Hours

