

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Brief exchanges of...

border and taken refuge in the forest area. The officials said Village Defence Guards opened fire on observing suspicious movement near their Melan village in Desa area during the intervening night. Police along with Army have reached the village and a thorough search of the area was launched this morning, they said. The officials said two explosive shells were recovered during a separate search operation in Sinoo forest area of Gandoh in Doda district. Sinoo forest witnessed a day-long encounter on June 26, resulting in the killing of three foreign terrorists and recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a US-made M4 carbine.

Police cracks down...

the Bhaderwah District Jail. Another FIR was registered at the Gandoh police station on June 26, and Showket Ali was apprehended on July 14, he said. He remains in police custody, with further arrests expected as the investigation progresses, the spokesman added.

Might be his...

all aspects of civil society in Jammu and Kashmir during the peak of militancy and that regional parties had cultivated terror leaders for political benefits. Swain's remarks provoked sharp reactions from political parties, with the PDP calling for his sacking over the huge losses suffered by security forces in the past 32 months. Speaking to reporters here, Additional DGP Vijay Kumar said, "J&K Police is a professional, apolitical and impartial police force. The statement of the DGP might be his personal view."

Kumar, who has played a key leadership role in combating terrorism over the past four years, was in Zadibal to oversee the arrangements made for the Muharram procession on the day of Ashura. He expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and lauded the civilian volunteers for their contribution in ensuring smooth passage of the procession.

Another batch of...

recent terror incidents, including an ambush in Dessa area of Doda district that resulted in the death of four security personnel. Comprehensive arrangements, including three-tier security, area dominance, route deployments, and checkpoints, have been implemented to ensure a smooth yatra.

Won't let terrorists...

On the Doda attack, Ramesh Gopia, a local resident, said the presence of terrorists in the area after a gap of more than 17 years has caused a fear among the local populace. "There was firing in the night as well but we feel secured because we have VDGs. In case of an attack, they can take on terrorists till the army and police come," he said, supporting the VDGs demand for better weapons. Gopia said the VDGs were neglected with the normalisation of the militancy situation in the Jammu region but now the groups are being revived and "we are sure that the terrorists will not be allowed to gain a foothold in the forest areas".

VDGs came in focus following a series of attacks by terrorists in Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua and Doda districts in the Jammu region this year that killed 22 people, including 11 security personnel and a VDG member. Five terrorists were also killed in two encounters in Kathua and Doda district last month. According to the annual report of the home ministry for 2022-23, a total of 4,153 VDGs and 32,355 SPOs were engaged in Jammu and Kashmir in different responsibilities for the protection of civilians and anti-terrorists operations under the direct supervision of district superintendents of police or senior superintendents of police.

Ashura procession taken...

observance of Muharram procession, officials said. Security forces were deployed all along the route while police and volunteers had set up stalls to distribute water among the mourners, they said. The officials said doctors and paramedical staff were also deployed along the route to attend to any emergency. For the second consecutive year, the authorities had allowed the eighth day procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate on Monday.

Protests across Jammu...

forests of Doda district in the past three weeks. Captain Brijesh Thapa, Naik D Rajesh, Sepoy Bijendra and Sepoy Ajay lost their lives in the encounter. In Samba and Rajouri districts, the Congress and Youth Congress units respectively staged anti-Pakistan protests, urging the government to initiate decisive anti-terrorism operations and restore confidence among the local population. They also demanded assurances for the safety of minorities in the Valley. In Doda and Bhaderwah, the traders and civil society members also held similar protests, burning effigies of Pakistan and calling for 'Operation All Out' against terrorism. They also advocated for equipping village defence groups with modern weapons to protect remote hamlets in the Jammu hills. Expressing their discontent, the workers from Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal protested the Doda terror attack, lamenting security breaches reminiscent of the 1990s. They urged the government to take stringent action against Over Ground Workers (OGWs) involved in facilitating terrorist activities.

HUDD holds workshop...

engineers and officers/officials of all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the area of saturation of toilets and management of used water so that planning, designing and development of related infrastructure is done in urban areas of the UT in line with the CPHEEO and Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 guidelines. VK Chaurasia, Advisor and Satish Kumar, Assistant Advisor, Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) and other experts from the National PMU, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) GoI made detailed presentations on Toilet coverage in ULBs, implementation gaps, preparation of DPRs for Used Water Management and declaration of towns as Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar. The experts shared their insights with the participants and there were healthy discussions during the workshop on different aspects of Used Water Management. Besides, guidance was provided on progressing of ULBs towards ODF+ and ODF++ certification in the forthcoming third party assessment to be conducted by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, GoI. The experts also advised the ULBs to ensure that all

community and public toilets in all urban areas are functional, clean, and inspected at least once a week. They also laid emphasis on renovating & revamping of existing Community and Public Toilets, besides moving further towards construction of more Community and Public toilets especially Aspirational Toilets. The workshop covered various techniques for treating wastewater through Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), as per the population categories of Urban Local Bodies. It also highlighted the Safai Mitra Surakshit Shehar Protocol, focusing on the safety of sanitation workers involved in cleaning septic tanks or sewers, besides using modern equipment for safe desludging operations and desilting of drains. Mandeep Kaur conducted detailed deliberation on the presentations made during the workshop. She asked all stakeholders to prepare comprehensive Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) incorporating advanced technologies, including nature-based solutions for used water treatment. The participants were instructed to identify land for wastewater treatment plants in coordination with district administration. They were also asked to collaborate with consultants and engineers during preparation of DPRs for these plants. All officers were also advised to put up their vehicle/equipment requirement in addition to PPE kits and safety gears for safaimitras to achieve adequacy so that all the ULBs are declared as 'Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar'. The Commissioner Secretary also impressed upon the participants to update the progress of all the ULBs on the Swachhata portal of MoHUA for monitoring. The participants who attended the workshop included Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Vice Chairman LCMA Srinagar, Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir, Director Urban Local Bodies, Jammu Chief Engineer J&K UEED, Chief Town Planner Kashmir, Chief Executive Officers/Executive Officers of Municipal Councils/Committees, engineers from UEED, PHE & Srinagar Municipal Corporation and experts from State PMU Housing & Urban Development Department J&K.

SC to hear...

by the top court on July 8 that it may order a re-test if there were large-scale malpractices in holding the exam. The Centre's fresh affidavit has said experts from IIT-Madras have found that the marks distribution follows the bell-shaped curve that is witnessed in any large-scale examination, indicating no abnormality. A bell curve describes the shape of data conforming to a normal distribution. The affidavit said for 2024-25, the counselling process for undergraduate seats will be conducted in four rounds starting from the third week of July. The NTA has also filed a separate additional affidavit on the similar lines and said it has carried out an analysis of distribution of marks at the national, state and city level. "This analysis indicates that the distribution of marks is quite normal and there seems to be no extraneous factor, which would influence the distribution of marks," the NTA said in its affidavit, which also gave details of the system in place for ensuring confidential printing of question papers, their transportation and distribution. While hearing the pleas on July 8, the top court had observed that the sanctity of the NEET-UG 2024 has been "breached".

Saying that a re-test may be ordered if the entire process was affected, the bench had sought details from the NTA and the CBI, including the timing and manner of the alleged paper leak, besides the number of wrongdoers to understand the extent of irregularities claimed by the petitioners. More than 23.33 lakh students had taken the test on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including in 14 cities overseas. The Centre and the NTA, in their earlier affidavits filed in the apex court, had said that scrapping the exam would be "counterproductive" and "seriously jeopardise" lakhs of honest candidates in the absence of any proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality. The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

Owners of Shakuntla...

Modern Hotel Pvt. Ltd. But the said loan account turned NPA. Thereafter, J&K Bank issued possession notice warning the mortgagers, borrowers, guarantors and the public in general not to deal with the mortgaged property. Despite of this these accused persons hatched a criminal conspiracy and executed an agreement to sell with the complainant Director Sh. Sita Ram Industries Pvt. Ltd. Bari Brahmana, Samba dishonestly/deliberately and got transferred Rs. 1.75 Crore from the account of M/s Shree Sita Ram Industries Pvt. Ltd. Bari Brahmana, Samba into the account of M/s Modern Hotel Pvt. Ltd at Jammu. But the accused persons neither handed over possession nor the documents of the said property to the complainant Tapann Dubey. Earlier also the accused persons have dishonestly and fraudulently executed an agreement to sell with Tajinder Singh Manocha and duped his hard earned money to the tune of Rs. 60.00 Lakhs (Sixty Lakhs) from him against the same Plots/Property. The above named accused persons by adopting this modus operandi have cheated the complainant & others in connivance with each other and caused wrongful loss to them and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves. The commissions on the part of accused persons namely Rahul Mahajan, his father Romesh Chander Mahajan and mother Renu Mahajan prima facie constitute offences punishable under section 420 and 120-B RPC as such a formal case has been registered with EOW Crime Branch, Jammu against these accused persons. For in-depth probe, the investigation has been entrusted to DySP Sureenjeet Singh, Investigation Officer Crime Branch.

Muslim population in...

In a seathing attack on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Sarma accused him of turning Jharkhand into a "mini-Bangladesh". "The infiltrators come to Jharkhand and marry tribal girls to grab their land. I call for a law in Jharkhand that should have a provision that tribal girls cannot marry infiltrators," he said. He also alleged that no development took place during the regime of the JMM-led alliance government. "In past five years, no university or engineering college opened in the state. Development work came to a halt. Youths were neither given jobs nor unemployment allowances," he claimed. Sarma said that the NDA won nine out of 14 seats in Jharkhand, and took lead in 51 assembly segments in the Lok Sabha polls.

DC Poonch, SSP participate in Ashura procession

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: With religious devotion and sanctity, Muharram processions were taken out on Wednesday throughout Poonch district in commemoration of lofty sacrifice of Imam Hussain. The Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M.Choudhary, Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch, Youghal Manhas, Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, ASP Mushim Ahmed , DySP Hqr, Pankaj Sudan , DySP Operation, Aijaz Ahmed, Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid besides other officers and all religions heads took part in the procession. In Poonch town "Ashoor" procession (10th day of Muharram) was taken out under the patronage of Anjman-e-Jaffria president



DC Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary participating in Ashura procession.

Poonch. Besides large number of men and women mourners renowned ulemas of Shia sect participated in the procession. The speakers highlighted various aspects of Karbla carnage and the great sacrifice of Imam Hussain. Procession was taken out from Takya Pehalwan Shah and culminated at Inam Bargah Poonch in the evening after passing through main market of Poonch town in which thousands of mourners participated. District Administration and respective tehsil administration had made elaborate arrangements for sanitation on procession routes, security, traffic arrangement, first aid medicare equipped ambulances, water tankers besides additional provision of ration, sugar, K.Oil etc.

Rafting in Poonch set to become a premier adventure destination

District Administration Focuses on boosting Tourism in the Border Region

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a move to promote tourism and adventure activities in the border district of Poonch, the district administration has once again launched a rafting campaign this year. The initiative aims to position Poonch as a prime destination for adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts. The campaign was flagged off on Wednesday by Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Sandesh Kumar Sharma. The ADDC said this rafting initiative will undoubtedly boost tourism in Jammu and



Cong to launch stir against terror activities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress will on Friday launch an agitation against the alleged failure of the BJP-led government to check growing terror activities and its decision to give unbridled powers to the Lt Governor ahead of the assembly polls in the Union Territory. Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani on Wednesday said, "The agitation will start at the state level and be taken to the district and block levels in the coming days." "We will also press for the restoration of statehood before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for the holding of Assembly elections," Wani told reporters here. Criticising the BJP for "destroying the historic state" over the last 10 years of its rule at the Centre, Wani said Jammu was cleared of militancy during the Congress-led UPA government but the BJP has completely failed to provide security to the people who are gripped by fear due to the revival of terrorism. "When they (BJP) were out of power before 2014, they were asking Congress that you have an army, paramilitary and police and why you are not able to wipe out terrorism. Today, I am asking the same question as terrorism is back in Jammu region," he said. While campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls that concluded recently, the BJP made tall claims about ending terrorism



Senior AICC leader and in-charge of J&K, Bharat Singh Solanki talking to reporters.

to mislead the people and get their votes, he said, adding that "nearly a dozen terror attacks have taken place in the Jammu region this year." Congress wants terrorism to end so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can live in peace, he added. Senior AICC leader and in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Bharat Singh Solanki said the Congress wants restoration of full statehood before the holding of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the Supreme Court set deadline. "There is a difference between saying and doing in BJP. They are utilising power to remain in power so that they can exploit the people and the resources of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "We are concerned about the prevailing security situation. The prime minister, home minister and defence minister have no words to express grief over the loss of lives including that of civilians and pilgrims," he said. He said all the claims of wiping out terrorism by the BJP after coming to power in 2014 have fallen flat as it has completely failed to tackle the security situation. "Prime minister, home minister and defence minister made a beline to J&K to address public rallies in parliament elections which were held in a peaceful atmosphere. As the days for assembly elections come near, there is a spurt in terror activities creating doubts in the minds of the people," he said. "We appeal to the government to end terrorism and create a conducive atmosphere for the coming elections," he said. Solanki also criticised the BJP government for giving unbridled powers to Lt Governor ahead of the assembly elections and said such an elected government would be like a municipality with the chief minister having virtually no powers.

CRIME REPORT

Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals 3 vehicles seized, drivers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: In a significant crackdown on illegal mining and transportation of minerals, authorities in Baramulla took decisive action resulting in the seizure of three vehicles and the arrest of three individuals. Led by a police team supervised by SDPO Pattan & Kreeri, with support from Incharge Police Post Palhallan & Wagoora, the operation targeted illegal activities at Hamrey & Mirangund in Baramulla. The seized vehicles included one tipper, one tractor, and one excavator; all allegedly involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. The drivers arrested during the operation were identified as Suhail Ahmad Yatoo, Basharat Firdous Malik, and Aamir Rasool Wani, residents of Markipora, Poshwari Naidkhai, and Singhpora Kalan respectively. Following the operation, cases have been registered under relevant sections of the law at Police Station Pattan & Kreeri, and investigations have commenced into the matter. Authorities emphasized that individuals engaging in illegal mining activities will face strict legal consequences.

Cyber Cell recovers, returns funds to cyber fraud victim

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: The Cyber Cell Pulwama has managed to recover Rs 76,528 out of Rs 88,252 that was initially defrauded from a victim. The prompt action taken by the Cyber Cell, including freezing the fraudulent transactions and following through with legal procedures, has resulted in the successful return of a substantial portion of the stolen funds back into the victim's account. The Cyber Cell Pulwama continues to emphasize the importance of victims promptly initiating and completing legal formalities necessary for the retrieval of their funds in cases of financial fraud. This proactive approach underscores their commitment to assisting victims and ensuring justice in cybercrime cases. In addition to their efforts in recovering lost funds, the Cyber Cell urges the public to adhere to general cyber safety practices to prevent falling victim to such scams in the first

place. They encourage residents of Pulwama to report cybercrimes promptly through designated channels such as the email address cybercrime-pulwama@jkpolice.gov.in or by calling 9541943103. The Police reaffirms its dedication to safeguarding citizens in the digital realm, actively working to prevent cybercrimes and secure the financial well-being of the community. This successful recovery stands as a testament to their ongoing efforts and commitment to combating cyber fraud effectively.

Missing person traced out, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pooni Chak Police on Wednesday traced out missing person and reunited him with his family. A report received regarding the disappearance of Rinku Singh, aged 40 and a resident of Kukrian Kothey and case lodged under DD No.013, dated 25th June, 2024. Responding swiftly, a team from PP PooniChak, under the leadership of the Incharge, utilized both technical resources and traditional investigative methods to locate Rinku Singh. Their diligent efforts led them to trace him to the Banihal area. Following all necessary legal procedures, including verification and completion of formalities, Rinku Singh was safely reunited with his family. The closure of the missing person's report signifies the successful conclusion of the case. General public has appreciated the swift action of police in tracing out the missing person.

Two notorious criminals arrested with sharp-edged weapon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu police have taken decisive action against two individuals accused of threatening Mahinder Kour, resident of Chak Jaffar, with a sharp-edged weapon known as a Toka. Upon receiving Mahinder Kour's written complaint, the police team from Police Station Kanachak swiftly registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter. The accused individuals, identified as Gorav Singh and Pankaj Kumar Sharma, both residents of Marh, were promptly arrested during the course of the investigation. Additionally, the police successfully recovered the sharp-edged weapon allegedly used in the incident. As of now, both Gorav Kumar (son of Kapil Singh) and Pankaj (son of Rajkumar) are in custody, and further legal proceedings are underway as part of the ongoing investigation.