

**03** IIM Jammu inaugurates sixth batch of CBP on Small Business Development Units

**09** Sanctity of NEET-UG breached, decision on re-test to be based on extent of paper leak effect: SC

**10** JKCA to host a galaxy of national matches this season; 3 Ranji Trophy after a gap of 6 yrs

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

## JCO among 5 army personnel martyred as terrorists ambush army truck in Kathua, 5 injured

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Five army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were martyred and as many were injured on Monday when heavily armed terrorists ambushed a patrolling party on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar road in district Kathua.

The terror attack, the fifth in Jammu region in a month, evoked widespread condemnation with political leaders including three former chief ministers expressing concern over the growing terror incidents, especially in the Jammu region where militancy has returned after being wiped out over two decades ago.

The terrorists targeted an army truck, part of a routine patrolling party, with a grenade and gunfire on the Machedi-Kindli-Malhar road near Badnota village in Lohai Malhar, approximately 150 km from Kathua town, at around 3:30 pm, the officials said.

After the ambush, the terrorists fled into the nearby forest, as the army, assisted by police and paramilitary personnel, retaliated.

The army vehicle, carrying ten



occupants, bore the brunt of the attack, resulting in fatal injuries to five soldiers, including a JCO. Five others have been shifted to Pathankot military hospital for treatment.

An exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces ensued, with reinforcements quickly dispatched to the area to neutralise the attackers - believed to be three in number and heavily armed - who may

have recently infiltrated from across the border.

Kashmir Tigers, a shadow outfit of the banned Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), has claimed responsibility for the attack.

It is the second major terror incident in Kathua district within one month, following a similar confrontation on June 12 and 13 that left two terrorists and a CRPF jawan dead.

A massive search operation is on despite heavy rains, the officials said.

Director General of Police R R Swain is personally overseeing the anti-terrorist operation in the dense forest area, connected to Basantgarh in Udhampur district, where several encounters have occurred in the past.

The forest area is connected to Basantgarh in Udhampur district. A village defence guard Mohd Sharief was killed in an encounter with terrorists on April 28 in Panara village of Basantgarh.

The officials said there were apprehensions that this route was used by terrorists to reach the hinterland after they managed to sneak in from across the border.

The Jammu region, known for its peaceful atmosphere, has been shaken in recent months by a series of ambushes and attacks by terrorists, particularly in the border districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, and Reasi.

The recent escalation in terrorist activities has been attributed to attempts by Pakistani handlers to reignite terrorism.

Security agencies have been on high alert following a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Attention pensioners, family pensioners

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pensioners and family pensioners of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been requested to forward their pension-related grievances, if any, in person to the Principal Accountant General (A&E), J&K, and the Deputy Accountant General (Pension) on all working days (Monday to Friday) between 2 pm and 4 pm. The move aims to expeditiously resolve the pension related issues of pensioners before resorting to other options.

### Landslide blocks Mughal Road

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A massive landslide on Monday blocked Mughal Road, an alternate link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, in the Poonch district, officials said. The landslide hit the road near Panar bridge in the Surankote area, snapping connectivity

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## LG participates in 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign



■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on

Monday participated in 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drive, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Lt Governor planted a sapling of Golden Cypress at Raj Bhawan Srinagar as a part of the campaign. He urged the people to join the campaign and plant a tree as a mark of respect and honour for their own mother and dedicate themselves towards protecting environment and Mother Earth.

Senior officials of Lt Governor's Secretariat also participated in the plantation drive and planted tree saplings in the Raj Bhawan premises.

## CS for formulating robust entrepreneurship plan to generate large scale employment



CS Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Monday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday had a detailed discussion with experts over a vision document formulated by the Department of

Labour & Employment to create an environment for development of entrepreneurship to generate large scale employment in the Union Territory.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Stronger ties between our nations will greatly benefit our people: Modi in Moscow

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MOSCOW: In his first trip since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday travelled to Russia to hold summit talks with President Vladimir Putin -- a visit that is being seen as having a wider geopolitical context and signalling.

Shortly after landing in Moscow, Modi said he is looking forward to deepening bilateral partnership in futuristic areas and that stronger ties between India and Russia will "greatly benefit our people".

India seeks to play a "supportive role" for a peaceful and stable region, the prime minister said in his departure statement.

Modi was received at the Vnukovo-II



airport by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. The Russian first deputy minister also accompanied the Indian prime minister to his hotel from the airport, officials said.

Manturov had received Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Russia as well.

On Tuesday, Modi will co-chair the 22nd India-Russia annual summit with President Putin, interact with the members of the Indian community and visit the Rosatom pavilion at an exhibition.

The prime minister is also scheduled to lay a wreath at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'.

The focus of the 22nd India-Russia annual summit is likely to be boosting bilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, security, trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges. The Ukraine conflict is set to figure in the discussions.

In the talks, Modi is expected to urge the Russian side

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### DM Jammu initiates process to declare two land grabbers as absconders

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has initiated the process of declaring wanted land grabbers Abdul Majid alias Bittu Teli, and Talib Hussain as absconders in view of their prolonged absence. Prior to this, the Public Safety Act (PSA) had been invoked against the duo.

The PSA was invoked as a consequence of their involvement in unlawful land conversion activities, specifically the conversion of forest land into regular parcels and the subsequent sale of these parcels to unsuspecting buyers.

As their activities posed a potential threat to public order, the PSA was slapped against Abdul Majid and Talib Hussain. Given their current absence, the district administration has taken the proactive step of declaring them absconders and will simultaneously initiate the process of attaching their properties.

## India has emerged as global hero under PM Modi's leadership: Chugh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary and Incharge J&K Ladhak Tarun Chugh on Monday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, saying that India has emerged as a global hero under his guidance.

Chugh highlighted various achievements and reforms implemented during Modi's tenure, which have significantly elevated India's stature on the world stage.

In a statement, Chugh referred to the Modi gov-



ernment's initiatives, such as infrastructural development, economic reforms, and welfare schemes, saying these have positioned India at par with developed nations.

Chugh complimented the successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, India's rapid economic recovery, and its advancements in technology and manufacturing, including becoming the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer.

Additionally, he pointed out the peaceful and democratic progress in regions like Jammu and Kashmir, following significant political changes such as the abrogation of Article 370, which have led to increased voter participation and stability.

## Police officials afraid of anti-national, anti-social elements, don't deserve to be in belt force: HC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjay Dhar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Monday observed that if officers and officials of the police force, who are assigned the task of protecting the life and property of the common people, feel afraid of anti-national and anti-social elements, then they do not deserve to be the part of the belt force.

While hearing a petition, the court observed that if the guardians of security of the common people abdicate their duties, then only God can save this Country.

The order has been passed in a petition filed by Aijaz Rashid Khandey, who challenged order No.125 of 2019 dated March 27, 2019, whereby his services as Special Police Officer (SPO) have been disengaged on account of his unauthorised absence from duty with effect from October 3,

2018.

It is case of the petitioner that he was engaged as an SPO in the year 2014 in terms of order No.355/2014 dated July 8, 2014 issued by respondent No.4. The petitioner was allotted belt No.526/GRP-K and in terms of order dated August 19, 2014, he was posted at GPRS, Anantnag. According to the petitioner, he performed his duties to the satisfaction of his superiors.

It has been submitted that in 2016, law and order situation in Kashmir Valley, particularly in South Kashmir, became precarious and the police personnel, particularly the SPOs started receiving threats to their life from terrorists and they were asked to give up their jobs.

It has been averred that in September, 2018, the petitioner received life threats and he was under continuous surveillance of some

unknown armed persons, as a result of which he could not attend his duties. It has been further contended that in February, 2019, due to ease in situation, the petitioner proceeded to resume his duties but was not allowed to do so. Therefore, on the recommendations of respondent No.5, impugned order came to be issued whereby services of the petitioner were disengaged on account of his unauthorized absence.

The petitioner challenged the impugned order primarily on the ground that the same is in clear violation of principles of natural justice as neither any enquiry has been held against the petitioner nor any opportunity of hearing has been afforded to him.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, after hearing both the sides, observed that it is clear that the petitioner, who was engaged as an SPO, was not entitled

to any right of hearing or enquiry keeping in view the nature of his engagement. Therefore, it was not incumbent upon respondents to hold an enquiry or give an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner before disengaging his services as an SPO.

Even otherwise, such an enquiry was not necessary at all in the facts and circumstances of the present case because, admittedly, the petitioner was absent from duty from October 3, 2018 upto February 19, 2019 when he approached the respondents for resuming his duties. The explanation tendered by the petitioner for not attending his duties is that he was threatened by terrorists and was asked to give up his duties. The explanation given by the petitioner for his unauthorized absence from duty is not tenable at all. If officers/officials of the police force, who are assigned the task of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### PSI Deepak Sharma murder case

## CB files first chargesheet against 3 Punjab based gangsters; three still at large

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday filed the first chargesheet against three Punjab based gangsters who were involved in the gruesome murder of PSI Deepak Sharma of J&K Police at GMC Kathua.

PSI Deepak Sharma, who was posted at Police Station Ramnagar Samba, was part of a trap team which was deployed at GMC Kathua on April 2, 2024, attained martyrdom fighting the gangsters involved in Akshay

Murder case of police station Ramnagar.

While the main accused Vasudev alias Shunnu was killed in the same encounter but his five associates succeeded in fleeing from the spot.

The initial investigation was conducted by Police Station Kathua for about one month and thereafter the case was transferred by PHQ J&K to SCW Crime Branch Jammu.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted by Special DGP Crime Deepak Kumar, IPS under

the chairmanship of Sandeep Mehta, SSP, SCW CB Jammu to probe this case.

After hectic efforts the team succeeded in arresting three hardcore gangsters from Punjab namely Himanshu Bassi of Nawashaher, Teja of SBS Nagar and Jasvir Singh alias Baba of SBS Nagar Punjab.

The team remained in close contact with their Punjab Police counterparts and with the leads provided by SCW Jammu Punjab police could track another dreaded accused in this case from Jalandhar namely Rohit

Kumar alias Makhan, resident of RS Pura Jammu who was evading arrest in half a dozen cases. His custody will be taken shortly by SCW Jammu from Punjab Police for further questioning.

Preliminary chargesheet was filed today in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Kathua against the three accused persons as the investigation has been completed in respect of these three accused and the offences against these accused were proved. These three accused are

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Over 24,000 pilgrims visit Amarnath Shrine, total crosses 2 lakh 5,800 Yatris depart from Jammu for Kashmir



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The number of pilgrims who paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir crossed the two lakh mark on Monday.


"As many as 24,879 pilgrims performed the yatra on Monday and had darshan of Baba Bholenath on the

seventh day of the annual yatra," the officials said.

They said the number of pilgrims who have been to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine has now reached 2,07,016.

The officials said 16,826 male pilgrims, 5,345 female pilgrims, 398 Sadhus

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 36.2°C Min: 25.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 67 Min: 52

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 32.5°C Min: 16.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 69 Min: 32

Sunset : 19:41 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:29 Hours