

# Vol. 27 Issue 226 • Jammu • Wednesday • August 17, 2022 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.00

Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild celebrates UU 76th Independence Day, hoists Tricolour

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

Shivani bags 2 medals for J&K in Climbing

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

# JKPS Kunjwani celebrates finale of year-long Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programme with patriotic fervour

# 7 ITBP personnel martyred, 32 injured as bus falls into gorge near Pahalgam

Prez, VP, Amit Shah, LG Sinha, Mamta, Omar express grief

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Seven ITBP jawans got martyred and 32 security personnel were injured when the bus in which they were returning from Amarnath Yatra duty fell into a deep gorge apparently after a brake failure near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police bus, carrying 37 Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel and two policemen, was on its way to the police control room here from Chandanwari when it. met with the accident at around 9.40 am nearly six kilometres from Pahalgam.

Images from the accident site showed the badly mangled bus lying on the riverbed while rescuers looked for victims on the rocky terrain. Other security personnel in the convoy rushed immediately to help their colleagues



Wreckage of ill-fated bus at accident site.

after the bus rolled down about 60 metres. Locals and tourists in the area also assisted in the evacuation.

While two ITBP personnel died on the spot, five others succumbed to their injuries later, the officials said.

They said it was a major accident and all the other jawans on the bus too have suffered injuries. The condition of eight of them is stated to be critical. They have been

were identified during

investigation and subse-

quently arrested under

various sections of the

Indian Penal Code for

their involvement in issu-

ing SIM cards by using

forged documents and by

way of impersonation for

wrongful gains, the official

Rajshekhar Reddi.

## LG visits injured ITBP personnel, **KP civilian in hospital**



LG Manoj Sinha enquiring about health of injured ITBP Jawans.

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday visited the army hospital here to inquire about the health of Pitambar Nath Pandit alias Pintu who was injured in the Shopian terror attack.

The Lt Governor asked about the well-being of Pandit and instructed the doctors to ensure he gets best possible medical

Sinha also visited ITBP personnel who were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Thirty-two ITBP personnel had sustained injuries when their bus fell into a deep gorge in Chandanwari, while they were returning to the Police control

## Congress continues its race to decimation

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

## **Ghulam Nabi Azad quits Congress'** committees hours after appointment

Vikar Rasool new JKPCC Chief; Raman Bhalla Working President

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI/JAMMU: In a major shake-up of its Jammu and Kashmir unit, the Congress on Tuesday appointed Vikar Rasool Wani as the party's J&K chief and senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad appointed as head of the campaign committee and senior member of political affairs committee. However, on late evening within few hours of the list declaration, Azad resigns from the committees, sources in Jammu said, adding, "many members in the list were appointed without his consent.

The Congress president has appointed Vikar Rasool Wani as President and Raman Bhalla as Working President of the J&K unit and also constituted the campaign committee, political affairs committee, coordination committee, manifesto committee, publicity and publication committee, disciplinary com-



frombasic membership of the party. Senior Congress leader and Ex MLA Shangus Gulzar Ahmad Wani resigns from Election

Committee. Senior Congress leader & former MLA Devsar Mohammad Amin Bhat resigns from newly constituted coordination committee.

committee of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) with

ment said.

"Ghulam Nabi Azad has

# refused to assume the

## 5 held for selling SIM cards on forged documents in Samba

JAMMU: The police have busted a gang and arrested five people involved in

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

selling SIM cards on documents in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Tuesday. The action comes after a

case was registered at Bari Brahmana police station following information that some people were selling SIM cards on fake documents with criminal intentions, a police spokesperson said.

Parveen Kumar, Parveez, Ravinder Singh, Ashker of service providers is also Ali and Sheetal Kumar under scrutiny, he said.

217 new COVID

cases reported in JK

fresh COVID-19 cases on

Tuesday, taking the infection

tally in the Union territory to

4,74,272, officials said here.

The Union territory did not

report any fresh death due to

While 13 cases were report-

ed from Jammu division,

204 cases were reported from Kashmir Valley, the

The death toll due to the

virus was 4,779 as no fresh

death was reported from the

Union territory, the officials

There are 3,757 active

cases of the disease in the

Union territory, while the

number of recoveries has reached 4,65,736, the offi-

The officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of

mucormycosis, or black fungus. Meanwhile, eight more

people tested positive for

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Min: 23.9°C

COVID-19 in Ladakh,

the coronavirus.

officials said here.

cials said.

Max: 93

Max: 90

Max: 28.5°C

STATE TIMES NEWS

on spot have been identified as HC/GD -Dula Singh; Ct/ Tele-Abhiraj Singh; Ct./GD-Subhash; Ct./ Cook -Amit Kumar; Ct./GD-Sandeep Ct./GD-Dinesh Kumar: Kumar Bora and Ct./GD-D

specialised treatment.

the officials said.

The remaining injured are

being treated at the

Anantnag district hospital,

Those who lost their lives

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Terrorists gun down KP in Shopian, injure brother Ultras responsible for barbaric act won't be spared: Sinha

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists shot dead a Kashmiri Pandit and injured his brother on Tuesday at an apple orchard in Shopian district, which had seen similar attacks on the minority community in April.

A driving licence, two election cards and one brother CPU, which were used for Pandit alias Pintu to his preparing false docuorchard in Chotigam village of Shopian along with their ments, were seized from cattle when they were accused, attacked with AK-47 assault spokesperson said. The role of some officials

tweeted.

The victim Sunil Kumar Pandit had gone with his Pitambar Nath

"Terrorists fired upon civilians in an apple orchard in Chotipora area of #Shopian. One person died and one injured. Both belong to minority community. Injured person has been shifted to hospital. Area #cordoned off. Further details shall follow," a police spokesperson

According to police officials, two terrorists came to the orchard in the forenoon. While one started firing with his AK-47 rifle on the brothers, the other captured the act on his mobile phone cam-

Sunil Kumar, who leaves behind four daughters and his wife, died on the spot, and

life at an army hospital here. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that he was "pained beyond words on the despicable terror attack on civilians in Shopian. My thoughts are with the family

of Sunil Kumar. Praying for

a speedy recovery of the

injured. The attack deserves

the strongest condemnation

his brother was battling for

from everyone. Terrorists responsible for the barbaric act will not be spared". Terrorists had struck in the same village in April when

they opened fire on Kashmiri Pandit chemist Balkrishen Bhat alias Sonu Kumar, who

#### miraculously escaped death. injured and remained in hospital for a long period.

After the incident, the administration had assured that the presence of security forces where minorities were living would be increased.

There has been a sudden spike in attacks on minorities, labourers and police personnel in the valley since the beginning of this year. The death toll in targeted attacks has gone up to 21 this year which includes two Kashmiri Pandits. Anobscure Kashmir Freedom Fighter

CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### news banned in Ramban<sup>3</sup> STATE TIMES NEWS News, News Verse India. RAMBAN/JAMMU: More

'Several portals peddling fake

than six portals allegedly peddling fake news and maligning the image of Jammu and Kashmir government were banned in Ramban district on Tuesday, an official order said.

District Magistrate Mussarat Islam ordered the ban after verifying the credentials of their operators from police and information department following large number of complaints from people and public servants regarding harassment by

The portals banned included United News Urdu, VD

Current News of India, News Bureau of India, Today News Line and CHRT News Sangaldan and were operating without any registration or permission from the competent authority, the order said.

"It is the paramount duty of the district administration to ensure peace and maintenance of law and order within the territorial jurisdiction of district Ramban by preventing operation of illegal news portals peddling fake news and maligning the image of the government," it

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Rajnath hands-over indigenous military equipment to

## Over 75 pc of 37 bridges, 97.6 pc tunnelling work on Katra-Banihal railway link completed: Officials the Katra-Banihal section

#### SRINAGAR: Jammu and **STATE TIMES NEWS** Kashmir registered 217

JAMMU: More than 75 per cent of the total 37 bridges and 97.6 per cent tunnelling work on the vital Katra-Banihal railway link stands completed, officials of the northern railways said, expressing hope that Kashmir will be connected to rest of the country via train next year.

The Katra-Banihal stretch is part of the prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project which has missed several deadlines in the past amid huge cost escalations since 1997, when the

then Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda laid its foundation at Udhampur.

In view of the importance of the USBRL project in providing seamless and hasslefree connectivity, the 272-Km-long railway line project was declared as a 'national project' in 2002.

While the 161 km was commissioned in phases with phase 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009 followed by 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014. "The intervening stretch of

(111 km) is in progress. This is, perhaps, the most difficult new railway line project undertaken in the Indian subcontinent. This section predominantly involves tunnelling of 164 Km (97.57 kmmain tunnel and 66.4 km of escape tunnel), in addition to construction of 37 bridges on Chenab river and its tributary Anji Khad," an official

At present, he said 160.52 Km of tunnelling (95.47 km of main tunnel and 65.05 km of escape tunnel) and 28 bridges, out of total 37

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### GoI approves ASHAs for serving tribal population of J&K STÂTE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a signifi-

J&K has a unique blend of diverse climate conditions, cultures, languages, economic practices and other identities. The tribal population in itself is a classic example of heterogeneity.

Affairs Department,

cant move to strengthen the grass root level health services in J&K, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on Tuesday approved ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) for serving the Tribal/ nomadic population

In June 2021, the Tribal

## Army to boost combat capability in Ladakh STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday handed over to the Army a wide range of indigenous military equipment including unmanned aerial systems and quick reaction fighting vehicles to crank up its combat capabilities in eastern Ladakh in the backdrop of the prolonged border face-off with China.

The other key equipment that the Army received included surveillance hardware, patrolling boats, 'Future Infantry Soldier as a System', a new anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', infantry

protected mobility vehicles, rugged and automatic communication system, upgraded sights system for tanks advanced thermal imagers

The handing over of the new equipment was part of the government's efforts to enhance the combat readiness of the armed forces in view of the military standoff with Chinese troops in several friction points for over two years

The new boats --Landing Craft Assault(LCA)-equipped with advanced surveillance gadgets and other equipment are

deployed to keep a strict vigil over the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh.

The 134-km-long lake at an altitude of 13,900-feet is considered strategically significant. China controls around two-thirds of the lake. Last year, the Army had ordered 12 LCA boats to strengthen its existing fleets of vessels.

"The LCA is much more versatile and has overcome the limitations of launch, speed and capacity. It has enhanced the capability to operate across the water obstacles in eastern Ladakh, the defence ministry said.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# LG Sinha hoists Tricolor at Srinagar



LG Manoj Sinha taking salute at the march past in Srinagar on Monday.

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha hoisted the Tricolour at the function on the momentous occasion of 76th Independence Day, at Srinagar on Monday morning

The Lt Governor inspected the parade and took salute at an impressive march past.

The Independence Day parade consisted of various contingents of BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, JKAP IRP, women contingents,

SDRF, Fire and Emergency services, J&K Police, Civil Defence, Forest Protection Force, National Cadet Corps, School Students, besides Brass Bands of JKP, BSF, and JKP Pipe band. Evoking the spirit of patri-

## LG hosts 'At Home'; meets families of JKP martyrs SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha hosted an

'At Home' at the SKICC, here on Monday afternoon, to celebrate the 76th Independence Day. The Lt Governor interacted with the invitees and exchanged

Independence Day greetings with them. On the occasion, the Lt Governor handed over appointment letters on compassionate grounds to the Next of Kins of secu-

rity personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police, who made the

supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. While meeting the family members of the martyrs of Jammu Kashmir Police and Security Forces who were among the special invitees, the Lt Governor expressed his deepest gratitude and saluted the sacrifices of the family members of the gallant

security personnel. The nation will forever be indebted to the bravery, courage & supreme sacrifice of the brave hearts who laid their lives in the service of the nation, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also enquired about the well-being of the family members of the martyrs and assured them that J&K Government will always stand by ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

otic ethos, students and culcolourful cultural items. tural artists presented

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Advisor Bhatnagar hoists Tricolor at MA Stadium Jammu



Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar taking salute at march past in Jammu

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** The JAMMU: 76th

Independence Day was celebrated with patriotism and fervour across Jammu region on Monday with Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Bhatnagar hoisting the tricolour at main function held

at M A Stadium here. The Advisor on the occa sion also inspected the parade and took the salute from the contingents of JKP, BSF, CRPF, JKAP, SSB, ITBP, IRP, Women contingent, Forest Protection Force, NCC as well as

**■ CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

Sunset: 19:16 Hours Sunrise: 05:56 Hours