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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

02 Bishnah shoot-out: 3 arrested; arms, 2 cars recovered, 2 absconding

03 Golf: PGTI's J&K Open 2022 to begin today at JTGC

09 Modi Govt reaching out to remotest of remote: Dr Jitendra

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

Post 2019 transformation empowered every segment with access to all constitutional benefits: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that the transformation post 2019 has empowered every section of Jammu and Kashmir society with access to all benefits provided by the constitution.

"A large population of Jammu and Kashmir was deprived of it for a long time", the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing a seminar on 'Society, Culture and Social Change: Kashmir and Beyond' organised by Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and Indian Sociological Society here.

The Lt Governor observed that deliberate attempts were made to keep Jammu Kashmir, the land of spirituality and wisdom, away from progress and prosperity due to Article 370 and 35-A. The lack of access to benefits brought stagnation to growth. "Discrimination was a norm and social welfare



LG Manoj Sinha addressing seminar on 'Society, Culture & Social Change Kashmir & Beyond' organised by IUST & Indian Sociological Society.

was an exception. However, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all the progressive laws were implemented and reforms were introduced to bring J&K at par with other developed states," he said.

Sinha said that the socio-economic and cultural sector of the Union Territory is witnessing transformation, adding, "We aim for higher economic growth, fast infra-

structure development while preserving and promoting our cultural ethos".

Referring social transformation taking place in different sectors in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three years, the Lt Governor said that accelerated pace of development, participative, transparent and accountable governance system, massive investment flow, easy accessibility of public service,

empowerment of women and deprived section of the society is being ensured to end social-inequality.

The unprecedented change taking place in Jammu and Kashmir is also helping to promote cultural activities. A cinema hall is opening this month after three decades. The Culture of organizing literary festivals, art camps have picked up across the UT. Local Handicrafts and

handlooms sectors have been revived and a new dawn has been witnessed by the tourism sector, he added

The Lt Governor congratulated VC, IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo and Convener of the event, Prof Abha Chauhan for facilitating an open academic dialogue which brought together experts, sociologists, academicians from India and abroad to discuss change in the backdrop of accelerated development and globalization.

The Lt Governor said the two-day seminar will generate actionable recommendations that have the potential to accelerate the means of welfare of the general populace. He further observed that all such recommendations will be incorporated in the policy making by the UT administration and implemented on ground for the welfare of the common man of Jammu Kashmir.

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Around 250 terrorists waiting across LoC; Army ups ante to counter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KERAN SECTOR/LOC: With intelligence reports suggesting presence of around 250 terrorists across launch pads in PoK, the army along the Line of Control (LoC) has upped its ante to counter any nefarious design from across the border.

Maintaining a high vigil at the forward post in Keran sector, the northern most part of Kashmir along the LoC, troops are maintaining a birds-eye vigil despite ceasefire between the two countries since February last year.

For the soldiers at this frontier, it's a battle that has to be fought on two fronts -- hostile neighbour and harsh winter, which is approaching.

Though the claims of the army that infiltration has reduced in the past few years, officials, who spoke to a group of visiting journalists, said there were intelligence inputs about the presence of about 250 terrorists

at various launch pads waiting across the LoC to sneak in.

"So, we cannot let our guard down," one of the army officials said.

Besides infiltration of terrorists, the army is also worried about the flow of drugs from across the border. Recently, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh had said smuggling of drugs from across the border is on the rise and Pakistan is using it to fund terrorism in Kashmir.

The army officer said "we are keeping a close eye on the smuggling of narcotics as well apart from infiltration of terrorists and arms and ammunition. The enemy has its ways, but we are firm and ever ready to defend our motherland."

And with the winter not far away, the battle is about to get tougher.

"It is a tough fight. Life in these terrains is very difficult," a soldier guarding one

of the posts here, in Keran Sector in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir told PTI.

These Army posts - some at the highest altitude of about 12,000 feet - are the first line of defence against the intruders in these infamous, traditional routes of infiltration. These infiltration routes converge at the mighty Shamsabari range.

The range with its mighty peaks, rugged mountains, thick forests with dense vegetation, and several streams, poses a difficult challenge, to the forces, of both the kind - the nature as well as of the man.

"Apart from the topography, the weather here is very harsh, it is extreme. We have too much cold here when it snows. The snow can accumulate up to 20 feet and remain there for about three-four months," an army officer said. The soldiers and officers as well as the

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Operation of 14 medical establishments suspended for violations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation to its efforts to curb the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances, sleuths the Drugs & Food Control Organization on Tuesday carried out surprise checks of Drug sales establishments (Retail/Wholesale) across the Jammu Province.

During the drive, operations of fourteen establishments were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 for violation of conditions of licenses particularly for not maintaining the sales as contemplated under relevant provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act,

1940 and the rules thereunder.

Statutory drug samples of more than 200 fast moving/commonly prescribed lesser known drug formulations viz Ant diabetic , Antihypertensive , Cardiovascular etc were lifted from the supply chain for determination of strength and purity. These samples were referred to Drug Testing Laboratories located within and outside the U.T of J&K for framing legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters.

Moreover, 1150 tablets of Alprazolam have been

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Two HM terrorists killed in Anantnag; IED recovered in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district on Tuesday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Poshkreeri area of Anantnag district following information about presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened firing at the security forces who retaliated.

"Killed terrorists identified



as Danish Bhat @ Kokab Duree & Basharat Nabi, both affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM. Both were involved in killing of one TA soldier Saleem on 9 April 2021 & killing of two

civilians on 29 May 2021 in Jablipora." Additional DGP, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar tweeted.

As per the police records, both the killed terrorists were categorized terrorists and

BSF, Pakistan Rangers hold flag meeting along IB in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hours after an incident of ceasefire violation, Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers Tuesday held a flag meeting along the international border here and agreed to respect the "existing norms", an official said. The Company Commander level meeting at 1.45 pm on border ended in a cordial atmosphere, Deputy Inspector General of BSF S P S Sandhu said. Earlier in the day, Pakistan Rangers violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing at BSF troops along the international border (IB) in Arnia sector of



BSF men during the flag meeting.

Jammu district. However, no one was injured in the ensuing exchange of fire, officials said. "The issue of unprovoked firing was discussed and both sides agreed to exer-

cise maximum restraint on the border. Both sides agreed to respect the existing norms in future," the public relations officer, BSF Jammu, said.

58 new COVID cases reported in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir registered 58 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,78,415 with no fresh death due to the coronavirus, an official said here.

While seven cases were reported from Jammu division, 51 cases were reported from Kashmir valley, the official said.

The death toll due to the virus was 4,783 as no fresh death was reported from the union territory, he said.

There are 733 active cases of the disease in the union territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,72,899, the official said.

The official said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus).

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: From aggrieved people seeking his intervention for redressal of their issues to political and social activists coming forward to extend their support, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad is having a busy schedule in attending people visiting him in Jammu.

The 73-year-old leader, who quit the Congress last month and is slated to form his own national party in the coming days from Jammu and Kashmir, meeting delegations from different parts of the Jammu region since



Delegation from Sunderbani led by BDC Chairman Arun Sharma meeting with Ghulam Nabi Azad in Jammu.

Monday.

The delegations start arriving at Azad's Gandhi Nagar residence at around 8:00AM. Addressing his first public meeting after returning from

Delhi on Sunday, the veteran politician spelled out the agenda of his yet-to-be-named party and the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, protec-

tion of land and job rights of its residents tops the list.

"Every 15 minutes, a new delegation is meeting Azad to extend their support...We had delegations from Pir Panjal's Rajouri and Poonch and Chenab valley's Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban and various delegations from Kathua, Reasi and Samba districts since this morning," said Balwan Singh, who, along with former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, was present alongside Azad.

A delegation from Sunderbani led by BDC Chairman Arun Sharma

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Circulating obscene video on social-media: Court rejects bail plea of accused

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Munsiff Reasi Aarti Devi has rejected bail application of one Manjeet Singh who circulated obscene video of girl on social media.

According to police case, Police Station Reasi registered FIR on the complaint of complainant alleging therein that accused prepared false and fake nude video of complainant and screen-shot of same was shared to him by some unknown person from an unknown whatsapp number and on enquiry, the person disclosed his name as Manjeet Singh. Thereafter, complainant after stating that video does not belong to her, blocked his number. After a few days, the accused

contacted her again from another Whatsapp number and asked her that video belonged to her. Complainant tried her best to convince accused that video doesn't belong to her and asked him to stop torturing her. After a few days, the complainant came to know that her fake nude video was circulating on social media, as an attempt by accused to defame her.

Munsiff Reasi Aarti Devi after hearing both the sides observed that the prima facie accusation of offences alleged against accused person under sections 354-D of IPC, 66-E, 67-A, 67 of IT is under investigation and same is at initial stage. "Accused is in police custody since August 31, 2022. During the investi-

gation, statements of some of the witnesses including the complainant are also recorded. Without commenting much on the merits of case and giving any finding on the truthfulness or falsity of allegation will amount to pre trial findings which is not permissible under law but the allegations as already said above are prima facie established which pertains not only to complainant but same has its wide impact on the society as a whole. Especially, where technology is used as a tool of committing alleged crime and then in modern digital world same gets spread in public within no time and damage to a victim has already been done

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SIA searches multiple locations in J&K to 'dismantle terror ecosystem'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Tuesday carried out searches at multiple locations across Kashmir with an aim to dismantle the terror ecosystem working at the behest of Pakistan-based masterminds who have been "identified", an official said.

The searches were carried out at the residential premises of suspected people in Awantipora, Shopian, Pulwama and Anantnag in south Kashmir and Baramulla in north Kashmir in connection with the investigation of a case registered under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



and Indian Penal Code this year, the official said.

He said the case pertains to a terrorist grid active in the Valley and the searches are aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem by identifying over ground workers supporting and abetting terrorism. "Details that are being

investigated into at the initial stage include masterminds in Pakistan who with active support of Pakistani Intelligence Agencies and in connivance with proscribed terrorist organization(s) of JeM based in Pakistan have been activating their upper ground workers for initiating,

organizing and executing terror activities in J&K," the official said.

The Pakistani masterminds have been "comprehensively identified", the official said, adding their particulars, however, are being kept confidential because other agents connected with them are not alerted.

During the searches, the official said incriminating material, mobile phones and other articles important for the investigation have been recovered and seized.

He said an analysis of the data would follow and the emerging leads would become the basis for further investigation.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 33.4°C Min: 22.1°C

Humidity

Max: 79 Min: 57

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 30.0°C Min: 15.6°C

Humidity

Max: 87 Min: 47

Sunset : 18:51 Hours

Sunrise : 06:10 Hours

