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Army Colonel, Major, DySP martyred in gunfight with terrorists



Three young bravehearts Col. Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhonack of 19 RR and DySP Humayun Muzamil Bhat, son of retired IGP Ghulam Hassan Bhat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An Army Colonel commanding a battalion, a Major of a unit and a Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police were martyred in a gunfight with terrorists in the higher reaches of Kokorenag area in the south of the valley, officials said here on Wednesday.

Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonack, and Deputy Superintendent Humayun Bhat were critical-

ly injured in the gunfight with terrorists that ensued in the Garol area of Anantnag district in the morning hours.

The officers succumbed to their injuries during the treatment, the officials said.

Bhat, father of a two-month-old daughter and son of retired Inspector General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Ghulam Hassan Bhat, died due to heavy blood loss, they added.

The banned Resistance Front, believed to be a shadow group of Pakistan-based

LG pays tributes to Martyrs



LG Manoj Sinha paying tributes to martyr DySP Humayun Bhat on Wednesday. (More pics on pg-3)

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday paid homage by laying wreath on the mortal remains of DySP Humayun Bhat who laid down his life during an operation in Anantnag district today. The Lt Governor also paid tributes to Indian Army's brave martyrs Col Manpreet Singh and Major Ashish Dhonack. He said the entire nation stands firmly with their families in this hour of grief. Later, the Lt Governor met the family members of martyr DySP Humayun Bhat and expressed his deep condolences and stated that the nation is proud of police officers like him.

Lashker-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Officials believe that it is the same set of terrorists who

had carried out the attack

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AC gives nod to installation of vertical lift from Peerkho to Mubarak Mandi

Approves construction of 125-bed hospital at Reshipora, Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, accorded the administrative approval for Installation of vertical lift from Peerkho Station of Jammu Ropeway Project to Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, at Jammu. The project shall be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 27.00 crores.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, IAS Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, attended the meeting.

The installation of the vertical lift will connect the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex with Peerkho Station of Jammu Ropeway Project and other tourist/pilgrim places, providing a com-



LG Manoj Sinha chairing Administrative Council meeting at Srinagar on Wednesday.

plete tourist/pilgrim circuit. The circuit shall be of huge convenience to the tourists and pilgrims visiting nearby spots such as Jammu Ropeway Project, Peerkho Temple, Mahamaya Temple, Bahu Fort, Bagh-e-Bahu and Bhawe Mata Ji Temple.

The Lift shall provide easy connectivity from Mubarak Mandi Complex to other three Pracheen temples and other tourist-related places in Jammu District. It will also attract the pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and provide them a

complete religious circuit. The project will boost the heritage/pilgrim tourism, enhance the revenue earnings of the Jammu Ropeway Project along with generation of employment opportunities.

The project will be divided into two sections, each with a vertical rise of 38 and 30 meters and two footbridges with spans of 34 and 30 meters, respectively. The project will have a Base Station, an Intermediate Station, an Upper

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Tax officials resolve to firmly deal with fraudulent deductions to claim TDS refunds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Income Tax (IT) officials attending a conference here have resolved to firmly deal with fraudulent deductions by some salaried taxpayers to claim TDS refunds, officials said on Wednesday.

The All India Annual TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) Conference, a gathering of senior tax officials, also discussed how to enhance capacity of those administering TDS provisions across the country, according to a press release.

The issue of fraudulent deductions to claim TDS refunds was also discussed in the conference and it was

resolved to deal with this firmly, it said.

Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman Nitin Gupta emphasised on better taxpayers' services in the country and urged all officers to follow the taxpayers' charter scrupulously. CBDT Member H B S Gill lauded the efforts of the Income Tax Department, Srinagar in effectively dealing with the fraudulent refunds by some salaried taxpayers. The participants engaged in policy-oriented discussions on available best practices, sharing knowledge and expertise to explore innovative solutions in tax deduction, according to a statement.

Cabinet approves Rs 1,650 cr for 75 lakh LPG connections under Ujjwala scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday approved the release of Rs 1,650 crore to oil marketing companies towards a scheme for providing 75 lakh LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The decision was taken at the meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired

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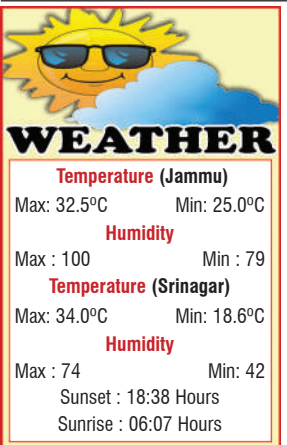
Terrorism has not ended in J&K: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said militancy in Jammu and Kashmir will not end until India and Pakistan hold a dialogue to find a lasting solution to all conflicts.

"Encounters will keep on happening. To say that militancy has ended will be wrong. These things happened yesterday and are happening today... these will keep on happening till both the countries do not come

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.5°C Min: 25.0°C

Humidity
Max: 100 Min: 79

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 34.0°C Min: 18.6°C

Humidity
Max: 74 Min: 42

Sunset : 18:38 Hours
Sunrise : 06:07 Hours

Mufti, Abdullah, Priyanka Gandhi misleading apple growers: Chugh

"Modi Govt takes decision in national interest"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also party incharge for J&K, on Wednesday slammed former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah and senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi for deliberately misleading the apple orchardists by misinterpreting the Centre's decision on additional duties on imported apples.

In a scathing attack on the opposition leaders, Chugh pointed out that there was no reduction on the Most



negative impact on domestic apple, walnut and almond producers. Rather, it will result in competition in the premium market segment of apples, walnuts and almonds, thereby ensuring better quality at competitive prices for our Indian consumers, he added. Chugh said the opposition leaders were raising misleading fears in the minds of traders just to gain political points by foul means.

He said the Modi government has always taken all decisions in the national interest, to protect the interest of national consumers.

Intermittent firing was reported during the night, creating fear among locals who demanded permanent security posts, they said.

The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the forested Patrada area on Monday and fired a few

Govt calls all-party meeting on Sep 17 ahead of Parliament session

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A meeting of the floor leaders of all political parties has been convened on September 17, a day before the start of a five-day Parliament session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

The invitation for the meeting has been sent to all concerned leaders through e-mail, Joshi posted on social media platform X.

On August 31, Joshi had announced a "special session" of Parliament for five days from September 18, but did not spell out any

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President launches 'Ayushman Bhav' Campaign

My highest obligation is health of common man: Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUJARAT/ SRINAGAR: President of India, Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday launched the 'Ayushman Bhav' Campaign and the 'Ayushman Bhav' portal. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the launch ceremony, virtually, from Raj Bhawan.

The event was followed by a UT-level programme organized by the J&K Administration. The Lt Governor expressed his grat-

itude to the President of India for the launch of the



nationwide campaign which aims to saturate critical health care services in every village.

The guidance of the President will motivate stakeholders to achieve the target of Health for All, he added.

He said the three components of Ayushman Bhav campaign - Ayushman Apke Dwar, Ayushman Melas at Health & Wellness Centres, Community Health

Centres and Ayushman Sabhas will enhance awareness and saturate

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JCF seeks installation of Smart Meters inside premises, rollback of inflated bills

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Citizens Forum (JCF) on Wednesday urged the administration to consider installation of Smart Power Meters inside the residential premises and business establishments instead of electric poles for larger consumer satisfaction and to dispel their genuine apprehensions on over-charging.

The Forum, at its meeting this afternoon, felt that the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) must take consumers into confidence by expanding public outreach and clear the confusion on overbilling besides pre and postpaid tariff bills, especially in the wake of a significant segment of people either not being tech savvy or having no access to inter-



Members of Jammu Citizens Forum holding a meeting on Wednesday.

net. Also, the widespread complaints about inflated bills compared to actual consumption of power need to be addressed on priority and course correction undertaken to instill confidence among the con-

sumers. The JPDC should not shy away from withdrawing such bills that do not match with the actual consumption, as there are complaints that even the dwelling units, having dwellers out of station, have

been slapped with whopping power bills.

The Forum expressed concern over frequent and unscheduled power cuts during the ongoing humid monsoon season notwithstanding the administration

assuring that metered areas would get uninterrupted power supply. The supervisory and field staff of the Power Development Department must address the public concerns on priority basis, which calls for a robust redressal mechanism, it stated.

The Jammu Citizens Forum also called for a multi-pronged awareness campaign on Smart Power Meters in the backdrop of genuine public apprehensions through mass and social media and suggested this to be area specific, keeping in view peculiar situations faced to the people of a particular area. The Forum felt that the trust deficit has been a major source of consumer dissatisfaction, leading to widespread public resentment.

In its next meeting, the Forum will have discussions on the Jammu Smart City Project to suggest measures to the government for further streamlining the initiative as per aspirations of the people.

Present in the meeting included K. B Jandial, former Member J&K Public Service Commission, Jagmohan Sharma, Ex-Chairman JPDC, Raj Daluja, Soujayana Sharma, Ex-Commissioner, JMC, Daya Sagar, renowned columnist, Prof Ashok Aima, former Vice Chancellor, Central University Jammu, S. M Sahini, Ex-Director Tourism, Adarsh Pal Gupta, Senior Journalist, Adv H. C Jalmeria, Narinder Rohmetra, former Chief Engineer PHE and others.

Union Cabinet passes resolution to congratulate Modi on G20 Summit success

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday passed a resolution congratulating and thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of the entire country for making the G20 Summit a huge success, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said.

Thakur also said the prime minister has emerged as a "man of global alliances", referring to the launch of Global Biofuels Alliance after earlier successes related to International Solar Alliance and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

Briefing media after a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Modi, Thakur said the resolution relate to G20 Summit

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