

TRF claims responsibility; over 1,000 detained Cop martyred in Anantnag terror attack, major operation launched

Heinous act won't go unpunished: LG; CM Omar condemns terrorist attack

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In the first terror attack targeting police personnel in the Kashmir Valley this year, a lone terrorist, believed to be a Pakistani, shot dead a policeman on Shri Amarnathji Yatra security duty in South Kashmir's Anantnag town on Wednesday.

The attack on Head Constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi occurred around 12:30 pm at Lal Chowk in Anantnag.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow group of the



Soldier dies in accidental fall at Rajouri

JAMMU: An Army personnel lost his life after accidentally slipping from a height near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, officials said. Rifleman Sukhpreet Singh (27) was on official duty in forward Mahadev post in Sunderbani sector when he lost balance and fell down from a height, resulting in his death, the officials said. They said the body of the

Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the targeted attack in a social media post shortly after the incident, officials said.

Qureshi, a resident of Beerwah in central Kashmir, was posted in the Jammu and Kashmir Police's IRP 3rd Battalion. He was critically injured and rushed to the Government Medical College Hospital in Anantnag, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Unaware of the terrorist's evil designs, a shopkeeper, from whom the deceased was making some purchases, had asked the unidentified man whether he wanted to buy anything, as he had been standing outside the shop for quite some time holding an assault rifle wrapped in cloth, the officials said.

The attack has sparked outrage within police

Govt approves two Unity malls at Rs 255 crore

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government has approved construction of two Unity malls at a cost of Rs 255 crore to provide a platform for local artisans and entrepreneurs, chief minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday.

"The Government has approved the construction of two Unity Malls, one each in Srinagar and Jammu, at a cumulative cost of Rs 255 crore," Abdullah said in a post on X.

PM Ekta Mall or Unity Mall were announced in the Union Budget 2023-24, for the promotion and

NEET Paper Leak Govt offers discussion in Parliament, accuses Oppn of disallowing debate



NEW DELHI: The issue of NEET paper leak and police crackdown on protesters at Jantar Mantar and neighbouring areas rocked both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday.

The government offered an elaborate discussion on

the issue and accused the opposition of not allowing a debate by disrupting proceedings.

In the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government is willing to hold a discussion on the NEET

Nadda, Dr Jitendra meet Wangchuk at Gurugram hosp

NEW DELHI: Union ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh on Tuesday met activist Sonam Wangchuk at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram, sources said.

Wangchuk was discharged from the Safdarjung Hospital earlier in the evening and was shifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram for further treatment in compliance with

Air Chief bats for joint 'warfighting' doctrine

KARWAR: Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Wednesday said future wars cannot be fought by individual military services, underscoring the need for greater jointness among the armed forces.

Speaking after the commissioning of INS Malvan, the second of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), Singh said military technologies must be developed at a pace that keeps them relevant as "technology delayed is technology denied".

He also called for faster progress towards self-reliance in the aviation sector, particularly referring to the Indian Air Force (IAF). "No future war is



going to be fought by an individual service. All of us, whether we are in blues (IAF), whites (Navy), or OGs (Olive Green of the Army), or whichever colour, whether we are in allied services, we all have to fight together

Nawaz Sharif sets sights on PoJK PM's post

LAHORE: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has expressed his desire to become the prime minister of Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK).

Sharif, who is the chief of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, said this will help him "personally oversee" development of the region, where elections will be held between July 27 and August 10.

He made the remarks during an election rally in Muzaffarabad on Tuesday.

India maintains that the entire Union Territories of Jammu &

LG Sinha visits Voluntary Medicare Society, interacts with para athletes



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SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS), which has been tirelessly serving Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh for over five decades through healthcare, education, livelihood, and community inclusion.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor held key discussions with officials of the organisation and Para Athletes regarding the holistic empowerment, rehabilitation, and sports development for Divyangjan across Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

The VMS office bearers and its President/Founder Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool and Vice President Prof Masooda Yasin, urged the Lieutenant Governor for building a robust and structured ecosystem for adaptive sports. Several key initiatives and requirements including Robotic appliances for

Border peace key to normal India-China ties: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: Peace and tranquillity in the border areas is a "pre-requisite" for normal relations between India and China and the ties must be anchored in mutual respect, interest, and sensitivity, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during a meeting in Manila on Wednesday.

In the talks, Jaishankar also flagged New Delhi's concerns over issues relating to market access, trade imbalance and uncertainties over supply chains.

The two ministers are in the Philippine capital to participate in high-level discussions under the framework of

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In the last few months New Delhi and Beijing unveiled a series of measures to normalise their ties that came under severe strain during the over four-year eastern Ladakh border standoff.

"We believe that a stable and cooperative relationship can best be developed on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks at the meeting.

"Such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world."

Police barriers keep BJP, Cong leaders apart during face-off Cong spreading anarchy, misleading youth: LoP

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JAMMU: Despite heavy rain, BJP and Congress workers came face-to-face at Shaheedi Chowk near the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) headquarters on Wednesday, prompting massive police deployment and the erection of barricades to prevent any confrontation.

Police formed a security cordon and kept the rival groups apart with barbed wire as both parties raised slogans within proximity to each other.

The BJP protest was led by the Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Leg-



islative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, who, along with sen-

ior party leaders and workers, marched towards the JKPCC

headquarters despite heavy downpour, raising slogans

against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress workers led by JKPC president Tariq Hameed Karra and working president Raman Bhalla came out of the party headquarters and staged a counter-protest, chanting slogans demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and against alleged hoodliganism of the BJP.

Sharma accused Gandhi of abandoning parliamentary debate and attempting to incite unrest among the youth.

"We are marching to the JKPC office to convey one clear message that India believes in democracy, not in political theatrics,"

Omar pouring acid over J&K's hopes on Art 370: Mehbooba

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah "ruling out" the reinstatement of Article 370 was like pouring acid on the hopes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, trying to instil a sense of defeat among them.

"Stating that (Article) 370 will not return is like throwing acid on the hopes of the people of J-K, which should not be done. He (Abdullah) wants to instil a sense of defeat among people, which I don't think any leader should do... It is not right," Mehbooba told re-

porters when asked about the issue.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Abdullah said, "Some people tell us to talk about (restoration of) Article 370 and J-K's special status first... I want to ask them, what does Article 370 or 371 mean without statehood?"

He argued that clubbing the demand for statehood with the restoration of Article 370 only gave the BJP-led Centre an excuse to delay restoring statehood to J-K.

"To expect the BJP government to restore Article 370 will be foolishness. What we can get

SC bats for raising judges' retirement age

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday asked the states and union territories to consider raising the age of superannuation of judicial officers from 60 to 61 years.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymyalya Bagchi and V Mohana passed the direction while hearing a petition seeking uniform enhancement of the retirement age of district judiciary judges from 60 to 62 years across the country.

"All state governments and union territories (UTs) are directed to take a decision, in consultation with their respective