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STATE TIMES

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03 PCI panel meets Sawhney, Daluja, others; discusses issues regarding media in State

04 Panic in Batote after man hurt in firing

10 Volleyball referee clinic-cum-refresher course concludes

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Venkaiah Naidu is NDA's vice presidential candidate: Shah
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu, a veteran BJP leader from Andhra Pradesh, will be NDA's vice presidential candidate, party president Amit Shah said on Monday.
Naidu was chosen at the BJP Parliamentary board meeting here attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior party leaders. The 68-year old Naidu currently holds
CONTD ON PAGE 9

Terrorists target army convoy at Bijbehara
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Terrorists on Tuesday attacked an army convoy at Bijbehara in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, an army official said, adding that a man was injured when the forces fired back. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched an operation to track down the militants, the official said. "Terrorists opened fire on the last vehicle of the army convoy near Bijbehara. We retaliated and a man was injured in the incident," he said. Haji Abdullah (60), a resident of Arwani in Bijbehara, suffered a bullet injury.
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LeT 'terrorist' deported from UAE; arrested in Mumbai
AGENCY
MUMBAI: A suspected terrorist of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), allegedly involved in an attack on a CRPF camp in Uttar Pradesh in 2008, was deported from the UAE and subsequently arrested on Monday on his arrival at the city airport, a police official said. Salim Munir Khan alias Abu Amaar alias Arif, a native of Hathgaon in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh, was facing a look-out notice. He was arrested from the international
CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.4°C Min: 22.5°C
Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 68
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.6°C Min: 18.8°C
Humidity
Max: 83 Min: 52
Sunset : 19:39 Hours
Sunrise : 05:38 Hours

Pak violates ceasefire; jawan, girl killed

BSF-Pak Rangers hold flag meet
STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU/SRINAGAR: The BSF and the Pakistan Rangers held a flag meeting on Tuesday in Samba sector along the International Border here and "committed" themselves to maintaining peace on a day when an Indian Army jawan and a minor girl were killed in heavy firing and mortar shelling by the Pakistani side along the LoC.
An Army jawan and a minor girl were killed while four persons injured in heavy firing and mortar shelling by the Pakistan Army along the LoC in Poonch, Rajouri and Baramulla districts.
Naik Muddasar Ahmed
NEW DELHI: In a stern message conveyed by the top army brass, India on Tuesday told Pakistan that it reserves the right to retaliate appropriately against any incident of ceasefire violation along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. In a telephonic conversation, Lt. Gen. A K Bhatt, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), also told his Pakistani counterpart that the Indian Army was sincere about maintaining peace on the LoC. The DGMO made it explicitly clear that the Indian Army reserves the right to retaliate against any ceasefire violation, but "is sincere in its effort of maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LoC provided there was reciprocity", Army
CONTD ON PAGE 9

We reserve right to retaliate: India to Pak on LoC firings
The Indian Army retaliated, triggering heavy exchanges.
"The Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked firing on Indian Army posts in Rajouri sector and Poonch district at around 7:30 AM. The Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively," a Defence spokesman said. In the fire exchange, Naik Muddasar Ahmed was grievously injured when mortar shells landed on his bunker, the spokesman said, adding that he was evacuated to the MI room where he succumbed to injuries. The 37-year-old
CONTD ON PAGE 9

RSS apex body meets in Jammu after 92 years today
AARYAN SHARMA
JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the highest apex body of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is scheduled to meet in the 'city of temples' tomorrow for the first time in past 92 years.
The timing of the annual meet is significant, as it is taking place in the backdrop of sudden shift in India's foreign policy vis-a-vis China and diplomatic offensive against beleaguered Pakistan. Prevailing tensions along the Line of Control is also expected to take centre-stage during intensive discussions.
Since the deliberations are scheduled to take place away from the media glare inside Ved Mandir Complex, speculations were rife whether or not RSS think tank, which had previously met here to thrash out the agenda of the crucial meet, would be sending signals to the BJP led NDA government at the Centre on how to deal with China and to what extent India can go to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, Dattatreya Hosabale, Suresh Soni and Dr Krishna Gopal, General Secretaries (Joint General Secretaries) besides veterans Indresh Kumar and Arun Kumar are all set to attend deliberations in the
CONTD ON PAGE 9

JCB driver among 5 killed in Doda mishaps
STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADARWAH: A JCB driver among five persons were killed on Monday in two separate road mishaps in hilly Doda district.
"A Tata Sumo (JKO6-3392) this evening rolled down into 200-feet deep gorge due to negligence of the driver in Jangalwar area when the vehicle was on way to Thathri from Cheera village," police said.
The accident occurred at 6:20 PM on Cheerah-Thathri link road near Jangalwar village, 7 Km from Thathri town.
They said that three occupants died on the spot while one of the injured succumbed in Community Health Centre
CONTD ON PAGE 9

NIA ropes in tax officials to probe trade at LoC
AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has roped in tax officials to probe trans-LoC trade and alleged receipt of money by separatist groups in the Kashmir Valley, believed to be the main source of terror financing, officials said today.
The Centre has allowed the deputation of officers of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) in the NIA to help the investigators probe the multi-layered trade transactions, they said.
The federal agency to probe terrorism-related cases had in December registered a case to look into the barter trade at the Line of Control (LoC) through Salamabad in
CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Police save 8 boys from joining militant groups

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Timely intervention of the Jammu and Kashmir Police saved eight minor boys from joining militant groups and reunited them with their families in the past one month in Kupwara District, an official spokesman said today. Four minor boys of Gulgam village were rescued and their plans to join militants were
CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt slashes fee by 50 pc for Nursing, Architecture courses

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The government on Monday accorded sanction to 50 per cent reduction in fee for Nursing and Architecture courses in Nursing Colleges at Srinagar and Jammu with additional 50 per cent rebate for BPL category students.
According to an order
CONTD ON PAGE 9

SC asks J&K police to file fresh report in cop's death

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Jammu and Kashmir Police to file a fresh report within a week giving details of a probe conducted so far into the death of constable Sameer Bhat who had allegedly gone missing on May 14.
A bench of Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice D Y Chandrachud, after perusing the report filed by the police, said there was nothing in it except a confessional statement of an accused.
"There was nothing in the report except a confessional statement. File a fresh status report within a week," the bench said. The SC
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Talks with separatists cannot be held at gunpoint: Dy CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Dialogue with separatists cannot be held at gunpoint, and they should help to create a conducive atmosphere by dissociating themselves from the ongoing violence in the Valley, Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh said on Monday.
Singh said the PDP-BJP Agenda of Alliance (AoA) spoke of facilitating talks as "dialogue" is the only way.
"But talks cannot be held at gunpoint. Talks cannot happen by exerting pressure, by killing innocents, attacking pilgrims or police officers of J&K."
"People who want to talk should come forward and say
CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three LeT terrorists killed in 'chance encounter' in Anantnag

Terrorists travelling in Maruti car were reportedly involved in killing 6 Policemen, including SHO Feroz Dar, in an ambush in June
AHMED ALI FAYYAZ
SRINAGAR: Three terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba were killed in a dramatic encounter with Police and security forces at Watrigam, between Brakpora and Bulbul Nowgam, on outskirts of the district headquarters of Anantnag in South Kashmir late on Monday night.
Knowledgeable sources told STATE TIMES that men of Special Operations Group of Anantnag District Police, CRPF and troops of Rashtriya Rifles 19th battalion, probably lying in ambush, opened indiscriminate gunfire on a Maruti car that was on way towards Anantnag at 9.00 PM. All the three men in the car got killed. One AK-47 rifle, one SLR and one pistol were recovered from their possession. Two of them were later identified as Shaukat Ahmad Lohar alias Jibran of Kanipora Arwani and Mudassar Ahmad Hajam alias Sa'ad of Kokernag.
Director General of Police, Dr Shesh Paul Vaid flashed on Twitter that all the three were terrorists of LeT who got killed in a chance encounter with Police and security forces.
IGP Kashmir, Munir Khan, as well as DIG South Kashmir, Swayam Prakash Pani, claimed that the three armed terrorists died in a chance encounter with
CONTD ON PAGE 9

Major reshuffle in judiciary; 39 District & Sessions Judges transferred

Chatterjee Prpl Distt & Sessions Judge Jammu; Akram Kathua; Wattal Samba; Azeem Rajouri; Zubair Poonch; Suneet Leh; Kattal Kishtwar; Sonia Addl Distt Judge Anti-corruption, Jmu; Bala Jyoti Addl Distt Judge Bank Cases, Jmu
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Consequent upon the promotion of Rupali Ratta, Suneet Gupta, Masarat Shaheen, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, Mehmoos Ahmad Chowdhary, Kamlesh Pandita, Ranbir Singh Jasrotia and Sarfaraz Hussain Shah, Sub Judges as District Judges, in terms of Government Order No. 1962-LD(A) of 2017 dated June 1, 2017 and in the interest of administration, Registrar General Sanjay Dhar of J&K High Court on Monday issued an order regarding transfers and postings of 39 District & Sessions Judges.
According to the aforesaid order, Vinod Chatterjee Koul, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua has been transferred and posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, against available vacancy. The services of Puneet Gupta, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption for CBI Cases, Jammu are placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice for his adjustment in the Registry, Mohan Lal Principal District and Sessions Judge, Samba has been transferred and posted as Special Judge, Anti Corruption (CBI Cases), Jammu, vice Puneet Gupta.
CONTD ON PAGE 9

2,646 pilgrims leave for Amarnath from Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Another batch of 2,646 pilgrims on Monday left Jammu for the Amarnath Cave Shrine of Lord Shiva in south Kashmir Himalayas, amid tight security.
Escorted by the CRPF and police, the batch comprises 1,913 males, 583 females, and 150 Sadhus and Sadhis left in a convoy of 106 vehicles for Baltal and Pahalgam Base-Camps this morning, officials said.
With today's batch, 56,277 pilgrims and sages have left Jammu for Amarnath in 16 batches since the Yatra began from here on June 28.
Today, on the 19th day of the Yatra 8,024 Yatris
CONTD ON PAGE 9

Drabu sets mid-August deadline for traders to switch to GST

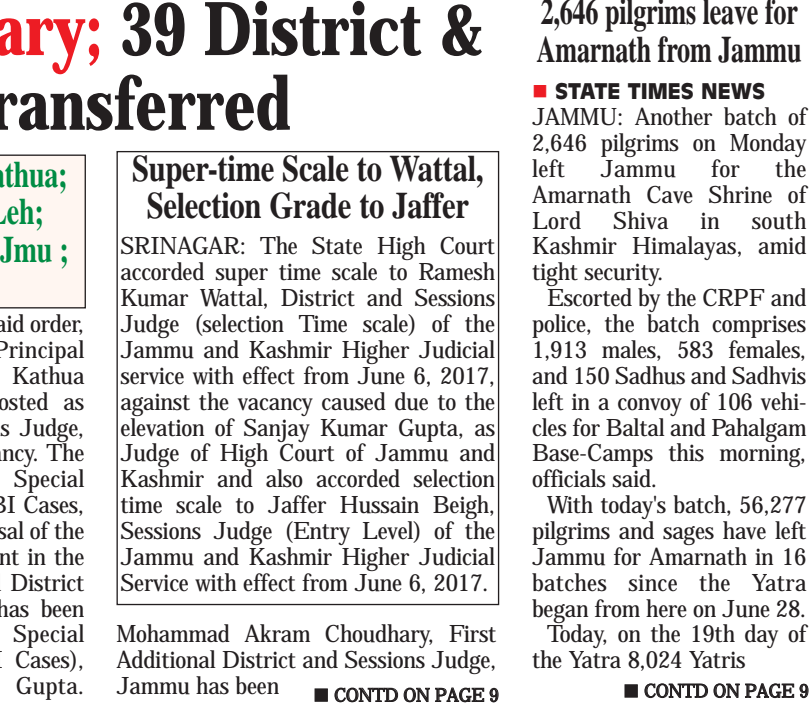
STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu on Tuesday set mid-August as the operational target for traders in the state to migrate to the GST as he directed the administration successfully implement the new tax regime.
"The biggest deterrent in the implementation of GST was the apprehension within the business community about erosion of the state's fiscal autonomy which has been taken care of," he said during a meeting here.
"Now, the government functionaries at district level must take traders, businessmen, small scale industries and consumers on board for smooth transition from VAT to GST and they should achieve these targets by mid-August," he added.
Drabu set the immediate operational target to achieve cent percent registration of businesses under GST and directed the district administrations to work towards successful implementation of the new tax regime in the state which will be beneficial for the consumers.
"All stakeholders should register for the GST which is not just a tax number but business identification number that will strengthen the trade and establish them within their respective sectors, market places and
CONTD ON PAGE 9



Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti casting her vote for Presidential election at Srinagar. (Details on page-3)



Three LeT terrorists killed in 'chance encounter' in Anantnag. Terrorists travelling in Maruti car were reportedly involved in killing 6 Policemen, including SHO Feroz Dar, in an ambush in June



Major reshuffle in judiciary; 39 District & Sessions Judges transferred



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Drabu sets mid-August deadline for traders to switch to GST