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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K NOW IN DELHI

RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. JK/346/2016/2018
Vol. 23 Issue 71 • Jammu • Wednesday • March 14, 2018 • Pages 14 • 3.00
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8 CRPF men killed in blast triggered by Naxals in Chhattisgarh
AGENCY
RAIPUR: Eight personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed when suspected Maoists blew up their Mine-Protected Vehicle (MPV) in Chhattisgarh's Sukma District on Tuesday, an official said.
Some jawans were also reported to be injured in the explosion, but there was no official confirmation yet, he said. The blast

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'INCREASED PAK HOSTILITIES IN J&K SECTOR' Army annoyed over defence budget

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Army has said it is reeling under severe fund crunch and struggling to even make emergency procurements when it was dealing with an assertive China along the northern border after the Doklam face-off and increasing hostilities from Pakistan on the Western frontier, mainly Jammu and Kashmir.
The Army told a parliamentary panel that the insufficient allocation to it in the defence budget was going to hit the Army's modernisation at a time when Chinese military was competing to reach the level of the US and Pakistan bolstering capability of its forces.
Vice Chief of Army Lt Gen

SAC adjourns cases listed for March 14, 15

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: State Accountability Commission (SAC) adjourned all cases listed before it for March 14 and 15, 2018.
An order issued by the SAC on Tuesday reads, "The Full Commission of State Accountability Commission could not assemble today

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SC extends March 31 deadline for Aadhaar linkages

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended the March 31 deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to various services and welfare schemes run by the government till its Constitution Bench delivered its verdict on the validity of the 12-digit biometric number and its enabling law.
A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 31.8°C Min: 15.2°C
Humidity
Max: 58 Min: 29
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 18.3°C Min: 08.4°C
Humidity
Max: 75 Min: 50
Sunset: 18:39 Hours
Sunrise: 06:43 Hours

Altaf Bukhari gets Finance; PAO system put in abeyance

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Education Minister Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari was given additional charge of the finance ministry on Tuesday, a day after Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti axed Haseeb Drabu from the post over his remark that Kashmir was not a political issue, officials said.
A notification signed on behalf of the chief minister said Bukhari, one of the founding members of the PDP, was given charge of the Department of Finance as well as Labour and Employment as an interim measure.
In a related development, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has put in abeyance the Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) System till March 31, 2018, soon after the new incumbent was named.
As per an order issued by the Finance Department "The implementation of Pay and Accounts Office System, rolled out vide Government Order No 43-F of 2018 dated February 8, 2018 is kept in abeyance till March 31, 2018 in the first place."
"The readiness of stakeholders as well as foolproof technical platform will be reviewed before the rollout of the sys-



tem early next financial year" the order stated further.
According to a national news agency, former Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu had adamantly held to his view that both e-tendering and PAO system that would dispense with the centuries-old treasury system would have to be implemented now or never.
Hundreds of contractors working for various state government departments including Roads and Buildings, Irrigation and Flood Control and Public Health Engineering, had locked the offices of these departments bring-

ing all developmental works on the hold for nearly a fortnight.
The striking contractors have been demanding their long-pending payments and opposing the e-tendering system on the ground that in the absence of proper system and extensive Internet facility, the shift over to such a system would spell disaster to their profession.
The first order issued by Bukhari putting both the PAO system and e-tendering on the hold for the time being has caused jubilation among striking contractors in both the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region.
Haseeb Drabu was dramatically dropped from the PDP-BJP ministry by the Chief Minister for his statement a few days ago.
"It (JK) is not a political issue as far as I can see. They have been barking up the wrong tree for the last 50 or 70 years by talking about the politics of it; that the political situation has never improved. We seriously need to look at in terms of how it is a society that is in search for itself," Drabu had said at an event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on Friday.

Decision to drop me surprising, shocking: Drabu

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Former Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu on Tuesday broke silence on his unceremonious exit from the Mehbooba Mufti government saying the decision was a "surprise" and the manner in which it was conveyed "shocking".
The 57-year-old issued a three-page statement minutes after Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti gave additional charge of finance and labour to the state's Education Minister Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari.
In the 21-point statement, Drabu said the decision to "drop me did come as a surprise but what was shocking was the manner and method of communicating it."
"While I understand and accept the decision of the party, to talk to media before talking to me, was painful. I was not accorded the opportunity to explain the context and the content of my



speech," said Drabu, who was a key architect of the alliance between PDP and BJP.
A former journalist, Drabu, said "even as I issue this statement, I have no formal or even personal communication either from the government or from the party about my being dropped from the Cabinet on March 12. I stand informed by the media first as a speculation then as a fact."
Drabu was axed from the state Cabinet on Tuesday over his statement in a function organised by the PHDC-CI in New Delhi that people

were "barking up the wrong tree" for decades as the Kashmir issue was not a political one.
"It (JK) is not a political issue as far as I can see. They have been barking up the wrong tree for the last 50 or 70 years by talking about the politics of it; that the political situation has never improved. We seriously need to look at in terms of how it is a society that is in search for itself," he had said.
Justifying his remarks, Drabu said he was speaking to a select gathering of Ambassadors and industrialists, who could be possible investors in peace in Jammu and Kashmir.
"I tried to make the point that Kashmir was not only a political issue to be resolved by the nation state of India and the successive governments at the centre and the state, but that there is a social issue that needs to

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Three TV journos, RTI activist attacked in Rohingya Market; 2 arrested

VIVEK SHARMA
JAMMU: Even as various State government agencies continue to remain in deep slumber, unmindful of the threat posed by illegal immigrants from Myanmar in huge numbers, reporting from ground zero has become hazardous for working journalists in Jammu.
Ironically, the brazen attack in the Rohingya market is being underplayed by the police with an avowed objective of shielding and insulating the illegal immigrants, whose presence in the temple city is widely seen as an attempt to unleash demographic change in Jammu.
According to sources, the presence of journalists sent shock waves among illegally settled Rohingyas who sought replenishment of their supporters in Bathindi and Sunjwan areas through cell phones, the SIM cards which have been illegally procured.
The journalists and an RTI activist were in fact investigating the source of SIM cards procured without required authentication.
Sources said that police inaction is motivated by political intervention as the issue of Rohingya

settlers and attack on working journalists in the 'upcoming settlements' had potential to hog international headlines.
Interestingly the Kashmir centric so called main stream political parties have developed soft corner for the Rohingyas while BJP is feeling hapless in countering the political onslaught.
On Tuesday afternoon when a group of journalists were busy doing their story in Kiryani Talab area of Bathindi near Burmese Market, a group of youth targeted them with wooden logs and hurled abuses on them without any provocation.
As TV journalists present on ground zero tried to save one of their colleagues, they too were targeted by the local youth. Some of the TV crew members also received injuries in the scuffle. Timely intervention of few other locals present on the spot saved the situation from taking an ugly turn.
As journalists moved out of the area, they lodged a formal complaint with the Trikuta Nagar Police Station with details of sequence of events leading to the deadly attack on them.

According to police, TV journalists Tejinder Singh Sodhi of Republic TV, Ajay Jandyal of News X, his cameraman Neeraj Sharma and RTI activist Rohit Choudhary were injured in the attack.
Moving swiftly in the matter, police apprehended two local boys, identified as Mohd Ashraf and Sher Mohd and later arrested them after lodging a formal FIR in the matter.
According to Inspector General of Police SD Singh Jamwal, "A group of journalists was attacked by local youth in Bathindi area of Jammu on Tuesday afternoon". He said an FIR (77/18) under Sections 341,323,382,34 RPC has been registered at Police Station Trikuta Nagar.
Earlier, SSP Jammu Vivek Gupta told media persons in Trikuta Nagar Police Station, "They have apprehended two local youth on the basis of complaint filed by journalists".
He said the police has started investigation in the case and efforts are on to ascertain the exact reasons why journalists were attacked by the local youth.

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FIR registered over BGSBU sloganeering

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Taking cognisance of last night incident of anti-national sloganeering in Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), FIR has been registered in Police Station Rajouri and investigations set in motion.
As reported by STATE TIMES, the students of university assembled in the campus late night, after performing Gaybana Nimaze Jinaza during the day, and kept chanting anti-India slogans as a mark of solidarity

with slain terrorists, the university drop-out.
Some university students living in hostel along with some supporting staff raised these slogans under darkness in night hours.
Taking note of these anti-national and pro freedom sloganeering, FIR 120/2018 under Sections 153-A/120-B and 124-A RPC has been registered in Police Station Rajouri.
So far, names of six to



JKSSB declares 38 selection lists for 380 posts

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on Tuesday declared 38 Selection Lists for 380 posts at the 136th meeting of the Board convened here on Tuesday under the chairpersonship of Simrandeep Singh, Chairman, JKSSB.
The meeting was attended by the Members of the Board including Rahul Sharma, Musheer Ahmad Mirza, Anil Koul, Dr Nirupa Rai, Mohammad Saleem Malik, Ajay Sharma, Nawab Din, Vivek Sharma and Rachna Sharma. Secretary of Board and Controller Examinations, Tassaduq Hussain was also present at the meeting.

seven students have come to fore who were involved in leading provocatively the other students and raising slogans. Besides legal action their names shall also be shared with university authorities for disciplinary action.
Similarly, police is also probing involvement of some employees of university whose names have been shared with university authorities for action.
Today senior police officers also camped near university campus to prevent any law and order problem.

Drabu's sacking right decision: Farooq

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Opposition National Conference (NC) President Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's decision to sack Haseeb Drabu from the Council of Ministers was right.
It is an internal decision of the party, what can I say. Yes, we condemned the statement he (Drabu) gave that this (Kashmir) was not an (political) issue. The party (PDP) saw that this is an issue. All the parties here condemned the statement.

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Justice Ramalingam appointed acting CJ of J&K HC

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar has been appointed acting Chief Justice (CJ) of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court (J&K HC) after the retirement of Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed.
The Ministry of Law and Justice issued the notification on Tuesday stating that the President has signed off on the appointment of Justice Sudhakar in exercise of powers conferred under Section 100 of the



Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.
Justice Sudhakar, who is the senior most judge of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, will assume office on March 16.

Govt project for J&K children, youths for psychological rehabilitation

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: More than 3,000 children and youths from Jammu and Kashmir have been taken to various parts of the country as part of a project for psychological rehabilitation of children affected by terrorism, the Lok Sabha was informed Tuesday.
Union Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir said the Home Ministry has been conducting Watan Ko Jano and other similar programmes with various

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DB cancels ongoing KAS exam, directs PSC to hold afresh

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Division Bench (DB) of the State High Court comprising Justice Janak Raj Kotwal and Justice Sanjeev Kumar on Tuesday directed Public Service Commission (PSC) to cancel the KAS Mains 2016 and hold the examination afresh.
The court direction came in a Letter Patents Appeal (LPA) filed by Public Service Commission (PSC) against the judgment of the Writ Court allowing 429 candidates to appear in the KAS Mains.
The PSC earlier debarred aforesaid candidates from sitting in the KAS Mains after reevaluation of pre-

lims results on account of alleged discrepancies in the answer key as these did not fall under revised merit.
Considering the piquant situation, the DB directed the appellant to hold the aforesaid examination afresh by permitting the candidates who have been shortlisted to participate in the preliminary examination on the basis of their merit determined upon re-evaluation, the candidates numbering 429 who were shortlisted in the first result of the preliminary examination but could not make it to participate in the Mains on the basis of their merit determined in the process of re-evaluation and all those candi-

dates (PSC puts their number as 2,365) who have obtained merit in the preliminary examination determined in the process of re-evaluation equal to or more than the marks secured by the last candidate amongst aforesaid 429 candidates.
The judgment written by Justice Sanjeev Kumar for the Division Bench observed that since the examination in question has been delayed due to litigation, it is hoped that the appellant would take immediate steps to hold the Main examination and complete the whole process culminating into declaration of result without any further wastage of time.

Pak has to create conducive atmosphere for talks: Govt

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: India will continue to take firm and decisive steps to respond to cross-border terrorism, and any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan can be held only in an atmosphere free of terror and violence, the government told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.
The onus is on Pakistan to create a conducive atmosphere for dialogue between the two countries, Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said.
"It has been made clear to Pakistan that government seeks to have normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and peace-

fully."
"However, any meaningful dialogue can be held only in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence. Onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere. India will continue to take firm and decisive steps to respond to cross-border terrorism," he said in a written reply to a query.
Ahir said Pakistan has been asked to abide by its commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used against India in any manner, to respect the sanctity of the International Boundary and Line of Control and to adhere to the 2003 understanding on ceasefire along

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