

03 SAC's power curtailed to make it toothless: Justice Singh

04 Congress will form next Govt in J&K: Manjit

10 VJK delegation calls on Secretary Sports Council

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Two civilians injured in clash with security forces

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Two civilians were injured in a clash with security forces during a cordon and search operation against terrorists in Shopian District on Friday, police said.
Security forces launched a operation at Tangwari Tukra village early this morning after receiving information about the presence of militants there, a police official said. As they started the search operation, a large

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Govt accepts resignation of 10 medicos

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Government on Friday accepted resignation of 10 doctors forwarded by the Director Health Services, Jammu.
The doctors whose resignation have been accepted include Dr Pankaj Gupta, Consultant Anesthesia; Dr Naveen Bhagat, Medical Officer; Dr Musarat Jabeen, Medical Officer; Dr Anet, Medical Officer; Dr Himanshu Sharma

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269 pilgrims leave for Amarnath Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A group of 269 pilgrims left for the Holy Amarnath Cave Shrine from the base camps here, on Friday, officials said.
The Yatra, which commenced from the twin routes of Baltal in Ganderbal and Pahalgam in Anantnag District on June 28 has so far seen 2,77,215 pilgrims pay their obeisance at the 3,880-metre high Cave Temple in south Kashmir, Himalayas. On the 44th day of the ongoing

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Two DySPs transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Police Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir on Friday transferred two Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs). According to order, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, DySP (S), Private Secretary to ADGP Armed J&K has been transferred and posted as Private Secretary to DGP J&K and Syed Sajad Hussain, DySP (S), Private Secretary to ADGP Hqs PHQ has been transferred and posted as Private Secretary to ADGP Armed J&K.

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DRI seizes Pak-smuggled heroin in Kashmir

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested three smugglers in Srinagar with 627 grams of high quality heroin which was being smuggled from Pakistan, officials said on Friday.
The drug was to be transported to Punjab from Kashmir, they said.
Acting on intelligence inputs, the DRI officials intercepted a vehicle at Batwara area in Srinagar on Wednesday and arrested three Punjab-based smugglers, a statement issued by the agency said.
"Rummaging of the

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.5°C Min: 23.6°C
Humidity
Max: 95 Min: 67
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 32.0°C Min: 18.6°C
Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 84
Sunset : 19:22 Hours
Sunrise : 05:54 Hours

Increase vigil along LoC: Governor to SFs

Army Commander reviews situation in forward areas

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Governor N.N Vohra on Friday directed the security apparatus along the Line of Control to heighten vigilance in view of the recent reports of infiltration in the Valley.
At a security arrangements review meeting here, Vohra reiterated the need to constantly maintain a close watch on the ground situation, an official spokesperson said.

The Governor said real-time coordination between the security forces and the civil administration was paramount.
The meeting was attended by Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, Advisor Vijay Kumar, Chief Secretary B.V.R Subrahmanyam, DGP S.P Vaid and other officials from police, CRPF, Army, BSF and intelligence agencies.

Taking into account the infiltration bids made in the last four weeks, the Governor stressed on the need for heightened vigilance along the International Border and

Line of Control, adding that safety of protected persons, important establishments and installations was to be not to be overlooked.
The Governor was given a sector-wise assessment of the prevailing security situation, the spokesman added. Vohra called for uncompromising adherence to procedures, which ensures zero collateral damage while delivering effective counter-terrorism responses.

At the meeting, security arrangements of Shri Amarnathji Yatra and the forthcoming elections to urban local bodies and panchayats were also discussed, the spokesman said.
Meanwhile, Concluding his two-day Kashmir visit,



Governor N.N Vohra chairing security review meeting at Raj Bhavan.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army's Northern Command Lt Gen Ranbir Singh visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the prevailing security situation.

Lt Gen Singh was accompanied by Chinar Corps Commander Lt Gen A.K Bhat as he visited the frontier districts of Uri and Baramulla, wherein he was briefed on the counter infiltration grid and operational preparedness of the formations, Srinagar-based defence spokesman Col Rajesh Kalia said in a statement here.

"On the second day of his visit, the Northern Army Commander visited the forward areas of Kashmir region to review the pre-

vailing security situation along the LoC," he said.
The spokesperson said the Army Commander was appreciative of the measures and standard operating procedures instituted by the units and formations to meet the challenges posed by the inimical elements. During his interaction with soldiers, Lt Gen Singh lauded them for their morale and the round-the-clock vigil they maintain to thwart infiltration bids by terrorists, he added.

The Army Commander exhorted them to continue to work with the same zeal and dedication to defeat the enemy's hostile designs so as to maintain a safe, secure and peaceful environment in Kashmir, the spokesman said.

Move officials and even a category of political leaders on the excuse of security.
Proximity to the office of the then Chief Minister, who happens to be the in-charge of Estates Department, allows senior IAS officers to choose private homes as per their own taste and style. The general liking for rented private accommodation of their own choice in posh areas has allowed a big army of ex-legislators, political and social workers, retired government employees to lay their hands on the government accommodation in posh areas of both Jammu and Srinagar.

Estates Deptt pays Rs 2.5 Cr rental annually for cozy comfort of Babus, top cops

AARYAN SHARMA

JAMMU: To satiate the inflated ego and to maintain the so-called stature of politicians, senior 'Babus' and even the men in 'uniform', the Jammu and Kashmir government has been hiring dozens of private houses at hefty rentals apart from luxury furniture and furnishing at the cost of poor tax-payers' hard earned money in both the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar. While Srinagar offers cozy environs in the magnificent Cheshma Shahi huts, there is no option but to go for private houses in the winter capital to realize their dream of 'home sweet home' in the absence of decent government accommodation.
For hiring these prime properties, the State exchequer doles out hefty amount,

ranging from Rs 2 crore to Rs 2.5 crore annually, towards house rent only.
Last year around 200 private houses were hired by the State Estates Department across different residential colonies



to accommodate senior officers in the winter capital.
Besides this the State government is spending hefty amount on renovation and face-lift of official residences of ministers, legislators and bureaucrats every year in both the capital cities. For lower rung employees, several hundred hotel rooms are also rented out to provide decent accommodation to Darbar

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According to sources in the State Estates Department, top politicians and former ministers continue to enjoy rented accommodation

Shortage of doctors: DB grants 4 more weeks to Sr AAG to file response

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench (DB) of the State High Court comprising Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur and Justice Sanjay Kumar Gupta on Friday granted four more weeks to Senior Additional Advocate General (AAG) H.A Siddiqui appearing for Chief Secretary J&K, Commissioner/Secretary to Government of J&K Health and Medical Education Department, Director Health Services Jammu and Secretary J&K Public Service Commission to file

their response to the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the State Government to provide duly sanctioned staff in all the Health Institutions in Jammu Province as out of 259 PHCs, NPHCs and CHCs in the hilly and remote areas of Jammu Province, 184 are running without doctors and lacking the staff including Medical Officers/ Consultants and Para-Medics in Sub-District Hospitals, District Hospitals of entire Jammu Province as disclosed from the informa-

tion furnished by PIO Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

When this PIL filed by Balwinder Singh, a renowned RTI Activist and Convener of Sangarsh RTI Movement seeking directions to the State Government to detach the additional/surplus staff posted in various health institutions in Jammu City including Directorate of Health Services Jammu came up for hearing, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed with Advocates

High Court and sought the reply of the state government and the lawyers who had filed a PIL before the high court within four weeks.
Appearing for the petitioner -- the Multiplex Association of India that has challenged the High Court order -- Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi said if the order was implemented across the country, these business entities would face a breakdown.
"Can I be allowed to carry my whisky and chips into Willingdon Club and ask for soda there," Rohatgi said as he sought an immediate stay of the High Court order.

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Free distribution of books, uniforms

Rajouri ZEOs asked to submit status report by today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After penalising one dozen Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and over 1300 heads of primary and middle schools for causing undue delay in distribution of free uniforms and text books to the school children in district Rajouri the District Development Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad has fixed a deadline for these officers to submit their reports by August

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SC stays J&K HC direction allowing people to carry food inside cinema halls

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Jammu and Kashmir High Court direction to the cinema hall and multiplex owners of the State not to prohibit moviegoers from carrying own food and water inside the theatres.
Besides the relaxation on carrying food items inside the theatres, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had on July 18 passed a number of directions related to cinema halls.
A Bench of Justices R.F Nariman and Indu Malhotra, as an interim relief, stayed only one direction of the

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Justice Gita Mittal to take oath as Chief Justice of J&K HC today

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Gita Mittal will take oath as Chief Justice of J&K High Court on Saturday at Srinagar. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the name of acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Gita Mittal, for the appointment as the Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. Justice Mittal was the senior-most Judge from the Delhi High Court and was functioning as the acting Chief Justice in that High Court since April 2017.

Justice Mittal was confirmed as a permanent judge of the Delhi High Court on February 20, 2006, after she was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court on July 16, 2004.

An alumna of Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, Justice Mittal began practicing in 1981.

In 2008, the Lady Shriram College (LSR) for Women in



Delhi awarded her the Distinguished Alumna Award. Mittal received the prestigious award from the then Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari.

She has written on various issues and topics including protection of human rights, impact of religion and culture, death penalty, environmental laws and issues.

Justice Mittal, who took over as Acting Chief Justice after the retirement of Justice G Rohini in April last year, introduced many wel-

come changes in the functioning of the Delhi High Court.

She is the first woman from the field of law and justice to be conferred the Nari Shakti Puraskar, India's highest civilian honour for women. She received the award from President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018. The Nari Shakti award is presented for exemplary service to the cause of upliftment of women.

The awards were conferred on 30 eminent individuals

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Carry driving license, RC on your phone! Govt validates digital copies

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: States have been asked to accept driving licence, registration certificate or other documents in 'electronic form' presented through DigiLocker or mParivahan platforms, the government said.

It also said that impounding of documents will be reflected electronically through 'eChallan' system.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued an advisory to states to accept Driving Licence.

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