Regd. No. JK/346/2019/2021

Court frames corruption charges against Patwari & others

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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **J&K UT Bench Press Championship concludes**

Prominent KP pharmacy owner, 2 other civilians shot dead by terrorists in Kashmir within hours

Dr Jitendra launches state-of-art

Helicopter-borne Survey technology

LG, Omar, Sajad Lone condemn killings

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: There civilians including Makhan Lal Bindroo, a Kashmiri Pandit and the owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy, were shot dead by suspected terrorists in separate incidents here and in Bandipora districts on Tuesday.

The 68-vear-old Bindroo. who ran Bindroo Medicate, was shot at by the assailants point blank at his pharmacy, a police official said, adding he was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Kashmir Pandit, Bindroo, was one of the few from the community who did not migrate out at the onset of militancy in 1990.

He stayed back along with his wife to continue operating his business which grew to become a trusted name in the city for quality medi-

Within an hour, terrorists struck at Hawal area of the

city, killing a non-local street vendor, an official said.

Virender, who used to sell bhelpuri, was also shot at point blank and died on the spot, he said, adding adding further details were being ascertained.

Within minutes of the second killing, terrorists shot dead Mohammad Shafi Lone at Naidkhai in Bandipora district, the officials said.

They said Lone was president of the local taxi stand. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the killing of three civilians by terrorists in separate incidents in the Valley, vowing to bring the perpetrators to justice soon.

"Deeply anguished to hear about the terror attack on Shri Makhan Lal Bindroo, owner of Bindroo Medicate. I strongly condemn this cowardly act. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. Perpetrators of this heinous

very soon," Sinha tweeted soon after the first killing.

"I strongly condemn the killing of civilians Virender Paswan and Mohd Shafi Lone by terrorists," he said about the second killing.

The Lieutenant Governor said the barbaric act of killing innocent people is against humanity.

"Terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs, and those responsible for such heinous acts shall be brought to justice. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," he added.

Bindroo's killing was widely condemned, with BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur describing the deceased as pro-poor.

strongly con-Thakur demned the killing, saying Bindroo was a helpful and sober person who always cared for poor. "Those behind the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Baseer Khan removed as Advisor to LG

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: The govern-

ment on Tuesday relieved Baseer Ahmad Khan of the charge of advisor to the Jammu Kashmir Lieutenant Governor immediate with

effect According to an order issued by the Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department, Khan, a retired IAS officer of 2000 batch, was relieved of the charge, following a communication from the Union

Ministry of Home Affairs, His removal from the post came all of a sudden and the reasons behind i

> were not immedi ately known. Khan was made an Advisor in March last year when G Murmu was the

Lt Governor, and he continued in the post under Murmu's successor Mano Sinha. Prior to his appoint ment as an Advisor, Khan was the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir.

Three DIGs transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Home Department on Tuesday ordered transfer and posting of three DIGs in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an order, consequent upon relieving of Amit Kumar as DIG central Kashmir range on Central Deputation, the transfers and postings of three DIGs were ordered with immediate effect. Sunil Gupta, awaiting orders of posting has been posted as DIG, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range.

"Sujit Kumar, DIG, North Kashmir Range is transferred and oosted as DIG, Central Kashmir Range and Udaybhaskar Billa, DIG Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range has been transferred and posted as DIG, North Kashmir Range," reads the order.

From Apr 2022, individuals have to pay 8 times

Home Minister Amit Shah likely to visit J&K this month

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir later this month as part of the central government's mega outreach programme, officials said on Tuesday.

Shah will visit both regions of the Union Territory --Kashmir and Jammu -- and the tour may take place from October 23 to 25.

The home minister is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir this month as part of the government's mega outreach programme under which 70 Union ministers are visiting the UT, an official from the ministry said.

During his trip, Shah will visit remote areas of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region, and take stock of various development initia-

The home minister also may attend a high-level law and order meeting with senior officials of the UT administratary and the army, another official said. A number of central minis-

ters have already visited the UT while tours of several others are in the pipeline. The nine-week long Public

Outreach Programme II on Jammu and Kashmir had been finalized in the mid July with a list of 70 Union ministers cleared to visit all the districts of the Union Territory to interact with the people and administration and representatives of Panchayat Raj and Development Councils (DDC)in the Union

The Programme was to take place in July but was delayed due to the monsoon session in the Parliament Independence Day celebrations.

Marble Market Extention, Greater Kailash Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jamesu,

Team Dr. Avtar Singh Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon Bone & Joint Replacement Specialis

Maj.) Dr. Rajeev Bhas

6th OCT., 2021

+91-9622965050

The ministers will prepare a report for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Minister's Office (PMO) for action.

Earlier, 36 Union ministers had visited J&K as part of the Centre's outreach programme in January last year.

Apart from the visit of the Union Ministers, the Centre had also detailed several parliamentary panels to the Union Territory to have on-the spot assessment of the situation as also functioning of administrative apparatus.

In all, 13 Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs) comprising around 300 Members of Parliament (MPs) have visited J&K and Ladakh. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was also on a week-long tour of Ladakh and Kashmir which

ACB files chargesheet against revenue official in bribery case in Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption (ACB) Tuesday filed chargesheet against a revenue official who was caught accepting a bribe in Kathua district last year, an official said.

The chargesheet was filed against the then patwari of the Bhaddu area of Billawar, Romesh Chander. before the Additional Sessions judge, anti-corruption, Kathua, for judicial determination, a spokesman of the ACB said.

the chargesheet after

Petrol, diesel prices surge

to record-high levels

diesel prices on Tuesday

surged to all-time high levels

as rates were increased again after international oil prices

hit the highest mark since

Petrol price was hiked by

25 paise a litre and diesel by

30 paise, according to a price

notification of state-owned

This sent the petrol price in

Delhi to its highest-ever level

of Rs 102.64 a litre and to

Rs 108.67 in Mumbai.

Diesel rates too touched a

record high of Rs 91.07 in

Delhi and Rs 98.80 in

Prices differ from state to

The sixth increase in fuel

rates in a week's time has

sent petrol prices above Rs

100 in most major cities of

increase in prices in less than

two weeks has shot up

the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ninth

state depending on the inci-

dence of local taxes

fuel retailers.

Mumbai.

the country.

Similarly,

STATE TIMES NEWS

sanction

wari was caught in the presence of independent witnesses while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from complainant Hukam Chand, a resident of Beral village, on January 16 last year for the issuance He said the ACB filed of 'fard intikhab' (revenue extract).

completion of the investigation and obtaining prosecution against the accused public servant.

The next date of hearing in the case has been fixed on November 17, the spokesman said.

He said the accused pat-

more money for renewing 15-year-old cars **STATE TIMES NEWS** NEW DELHI: From April

next year, car owners will have to shell out eight times more amount at Rs 5,000 for renewing registration of cars that are more than 15 years old as the central government steps up efforts to phase out old and polluting vehicles.

The road transport and highways ministry has issued a notification for the renewal of the certificate of registration of old vehicles and this new rule is part of the government's overall plan to roll out the National Automobile Scrappage Policy.

According to the notification, renewal of certificate of fitness for a bus or truck older than 15 years will cost nearly eight times higher charges than owners of the commercial vehicles current-

While charges of registration renewal of a 15-year-old car would be Rs 5,000 compared to the current fee of Rs 600, the charges of registration renewal of old bikes would be Rs 1,000 compared to the current fee of Rs 300. Similarly, a fitness renewal

certificate for a 15 year-plus bus or truck would cost Rs 12,500 from the current fee of Rs 1,500; while in the case of medium goods or passenger motor vehicle, it would cost Rs 10,000. Renewal of registration for

imported bikes and cars will

cost Rs 10,000 and Rs 40,000, respectively. According to the notification, these rules may be called the Central Motor Vehicles (23rd Amendment) Rules, 2021, and shall come

into force with effect from April 1, 2022. The notification said an additional fee of Rs 50 for each day of delay after the expiry of certificate of fitness shall be levied.

fee of Rs 200 shall be levied if the certificate of registration is a smart card-type issue. As per the notification, in

It also said an additional

case of delay in applying for renewal of certificate of registration, an additional fee of Rs 300 for delay of every month in case of private vehicles and Rs 500 for delay of every month in case of commercial vehicles shall be Under the the National

Automobile Scrappage Policy launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August this year, mandatory

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Body of one of the 19 missing cloudburst victims recovered in Kishtwar by rescuers who continued the

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Body of one of the 19 missing cloudburst victims was recovered from a stream in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar on Tuesday, over two months after the natural calamity hit a remote village in the hilly district, officials said.

The decomposed body was

recovered from downstream Donagrari, one kilometre from Honzar village of Dacchan tehsil which was devastated by flash floods triggered by the cloudburst during the intervening night of July 27 and 28, the officials said. Seven persons were found dead and 17 others rescued in an injured condition

search for 19 other missing residents for over a month before calling off the operation. At least 21 houses and as many cow sheds besides a ration depot, a bridge and a mosque were damaged in the incident.

The officials said the body recovered from the stream was later identified as that of Bashir Ahmad (45) who was one of the 19 persons reported missing after the cloudburst. Ahmad was an employee of the Wildlife Department and his body was handed over to the next of his kin for last rites after the completion of legal formalities, the officials said.

J&K records 102 fresh COVID cases, no new death

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Petrol and

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday recorded 102 fresh coronavirus cases, taking the total number of infected people to 3,29,991, while no fresh death was reported, officials said Out of the 102 fresh cases,

23 were from the Jammu division and 79 from the Kashmir division, the officials said. They said Srinagar district

recorded the highest number of 41 cases, followed by nine in Baramulla district. There are 1,074 active cases

in the union territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,24,493, the

The death toll in the union

Over 92 Cr vaccine doses administered in India so far

NEW DELHI: The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 92 crore on Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry said.

Over 54 lakh vaccine doses have been administered on Tuesday till 7 pm and the tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports by late in the night, it said.

The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level, the ministry underlined.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started on February 2. The next phase of

territory remained at 4,424 as no fresh death was reported in a 24-hour span.

The officials said, there were

confirmed

Mucormycosis (black fungus)

in the union territory as no

fresh case was reported since

cases of

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported three fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 20,825 while the active cases in the Union Territory came down to 50, officials said.

last evening.

Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. Five patients of coronavirus infection were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the tally of cured patients to 20,658, they said. Of the three new cases, all were reported in Leh, they

There was no death reported due to Covid in Ladakh on

Procurement of 114 fighter aircrafts would be under Make in India initiative: IAF Chief



STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Air Chief

Marshal VR Chaudhari on Tuesday said the Indian Air Force (IAF) is taking forward the proposed procureFighter Aircraft (MRFA) and that it would be carried out under the Make in India

In April 2019, the IAF

Information), or initial tender, to acquire 114 jets at a cost of around USD 18 billion. It was billed as one of the world's biggest military procurement programmes in recent years.

issued an RFI (Request for

Addressing a press conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, the IAF Chief said the response to the RFI has been received from several aerospace firms and that the acquisition process is taken forward to the next

"The project would be

under the Make In ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt hikes rates of procedures under Ayushman Bharat, black fungus

NEW DELHI: The government has revised the rates of around 400 procedures under the Avushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and added a new medical package related to black fungus management, moves that "will strengthen the empanelled hospitals to provide better

In the revised Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2), National Health Authority (NHA) which implements the AB PM-JAY scheme has raised the rates of packages by 20 per cent to 400 per cent.

Under medical management procedures, the rates for ICU with ventilator support has been revised by 100

tor by 136 per cent, while the rates for HDU (High Dependency Unit) has been revised by 22 per cent and the prices for routine ward has been revised by 17 percent, it said. "In the revised version of

Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2), rates of some health packages have been increased by 20 percent to 400 per cent under PM-JAY. Around 400 procedure rates have been revised and one new additional medical management package related to black fungus has also been added," the ministry said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "I am glad that the revised ver-

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Drug peddler held with 2.3 Kg cannabis

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police arrested an alleged drug peddler with over two kg of cannabis in Rajouri district on Tuesday, officials said.

As per the details, a party Police Station Thanamandi while on Naka checking duty Thanamandi stopped one Tata Mobile (JK 11F- O644) for checking. On search, around 02 Kg and 300 gm of Charas like substance was recovered from the possession of one person named Munawar Hussain, son of Noor Hussain, resident of Choudhary Nar, Rajouri. The accused was arrested and FIR No. 209/2021 under sections 8/20/21 of the NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Thanamandi.

SC asks Centre about exercise undertaken to justify quota in promotions for SCs/STs

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre as to what exercise it has undertaken to justify decisions to grant quota in promotions to the employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) on counts such as they have inadequate representation in jobs and the reservation will not adversely impact the overall administrative efficiency

A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said if a judicial challenge is made to the quota in promotions to the SCs and STs in a particular cadre of a job then the government will have to justify it on grounds such as that they are inadequately represented in a particular cadre and granting quota will not adversely impact the overall administra-

tive efficiency. Please do not argue on principles. Show us the data. How do you justify



exercise have you undertaken to justify the decisions. Please take instructions and let us know that, said the bench which also comprised justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai.

At the outset, Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, referred to the apex court judgements right from the Indra Sawhney verdict of

Commission case to the Jarnail Singh verdict of 2018. The Mandal judgement had ruled out

quota in promotions. What is relevant is that the Indra Sawhney judgement concerned the backward classes and not the SCs and

STs, the law officer said.

This judgement deals with the question of whether every category should be given reservation proportional to their population. It then says 'no it should not be so given' because then it will far exceed the 50 per cent cap, he said.

Article 16 of the Constitution requires equality in matters of public employment and if merit alone is the criteria then the SCs and STs, who are disadvantaged socially, might not be able to compete, he said.

The law officer said that till 1975, 3.5 per cent SCs and 0.62 per cent of STs were in government ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

management added under scheme **STATE TIMES NEWS** per cent and without ventila-

healthcare services".

sion of Health

Temperature (Srinagar) Max: 25.0°C Min: 12.0°C Max: 73 Min: 54 Sunset: 18:12 Hours Sunrise: 06:29 Hours

Max: 71 Min: 59