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Regd. No. JK/346/2019/2021

Five killed in road mishaps

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh JKPS Panjtirthi students shine in 12th

Dhammika Kai Cup Karate C'ship 2021

J&K Bank half-yearly profit jumps over four-times YoY to Rs 215.41 Cr

Suicide bomber among 3 terrorists LG calls for firm stance against killed in 2 encounters in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three terror ists, including a 'fidayeen' (suicide bomber), were killed in two separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Friday, taking the number of ultras killed so far this year to 133.

A 'Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind' terrorist who was assigned to carry out a 'fidayeen' (suicide) attack in Srinagar was killed, while a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) district commander was among the two ultras slain in an encounter in Kulgam, the police said.

As many as 133 terrorists. including several top commanders, have been killed this year so far, they said.

The 'fidayeen' terrorist was a relative of one of the accused in the February Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, police

A police spokesman said



Suspected ultra arrested in Khann Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: Security forces have arrested an alleged terrorist from Ganderbal district, police said on Friday.

The accused was arrested at a police check point erected near Khann in Ganderbal district on Thursday, the police spokesperson said.

The suspect, identified as Arshad Ahmad Mir, was booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and section 7/25 of the Arms Act as preliminary investigation revealed he was a close associate of terror group Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Police also found the Mir was involved in recruitment of his brother Latif Ahmed Mir in the group.

According to the spokesperson, Latif Mir was earlier arrested under section 13 and 39 of the UAPA and Arms Act at Kheer Bhawani Police Station.

about a possible terrorist attack and the movement of terrorists in the Bemina area of Srinagar, a checkpoint was established on Thursday to thwart such evil designs.

In the meantime, terrorists attacked a checkpoint established near Bund Bemina which was retaliated leading to an encounter, he said, adding further reinforcement was rushed to the spot.

In the ensuing gunfight, one terrorist of proscribed terror outfit Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter, the spokesman

He identified the slain ultra as Amir Riyaz, a resident of Khrew Pampore and a relative of one of the accused in the February 2019 suicide Pulwama's Lethpora in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

The preliminary investigation indicated that he

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Narco-Terrorism in J&K

Union Minister announces special aid distribution camps for specially-abled at Jammu, Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: Saving that malicious attempts are being made to push J&K's Youth into the menace of drugs keeping them away from the main-Lieutenant stream, Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday called for taking a firm stance against drug abuse to give a befitting reply to Narco-Terrorism and bring back the misguided youth into mainstream arena.

"UT Government is making dedicated efforts through its action plans, innovative prevention & rehabilitation strategies, besides creating supportive infrastructure, and continuous awareness dissemination to eradicate drug menace from Jammu & Kashmir, the Lt Governor said while addressing the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan awards ceremony held at SKICC Srinagar, through



LG Manoj Sinha addressing Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan awards ceremony at SKICC Srinagar.

The award ceremony aimed at acknowledging the contri-District Administrations, NGOs, and Volunteers in eradicating the menace of drugs, where Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar conferred Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan awards under dif-

gratitude to Union Minister Dr Virendra Kumar for his cooperation and support to the mass movement against drug abuse in 10 districts of Drug abuse has emerged as

He extended his sincere

one of the most serious social problems across the globe tearing apart our social fabric and posing a threat to mankind, the Lt Governor

The active participation of 3 lakh youth, 2.7 lakh women and more than 500 educational institutions have strengthened the government's efforts to combat drug abuse in J&K, he added.

Marbin Market Extention, Greater Kallash Chewk, National Highway-1A, Janesu.

The Lt Governor advised vouth to move ahead, participate in the development process and be role models for others.

"I have full faith in the potential of the youth of J&K. We are committed to connect the present and future generations with the hopes and aspirations of their progress and build a society in which the Youth is the key driver of the development and prosperity of

J&K", the Lt Governor said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paved the way for combating drug abuse through the National Action Plan for Drug

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Govt directs HoDs to switch over to e-office mode before Nov 20

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir today directed left-over Heads Departments to switch over to e-office mode before November 20.

terms Government Order No. 820-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated September 2, 2021 and Circular No. 37-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated September 20, 2021, all Heads of the Departments were directed to switch over to e-office mode of working with assistance/ handholding from the Technology Information Department within a week's

time. In pursuance of these directions, all HoDs, inclusive of move as well as nonmove offices, situated outside the Civil Secretariat, have been provided necessary assistance, by way of provisioning of the VPN connections, creation of domain IDs (jk.gov.in email IDs) and admins/Master Trainers etc by Information Technology Department," reads the circular issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department. Accordingly, it is hereby reiterated that

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Kashmir: NIA arrests two more in terrorism conspiracy case, 27 held so far

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday arrested two more people in connection with its ongoing probe into a terrorism conspiracy case in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The fresh arrests took to 27 the number of people arrested from different parts of Kashmir in connection with the case in the past one month.

Rashid Muzaffar Ganaie and Nasir Mir, both residents of Sopore township of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, were arrested during raids conducted by the NIA in the valley on Friday, a spokesperson of the agency

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested accused persons are terror associates/Over Ground Workers of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to terrorists, the NIA said.

The NIA registered the case on October 10 with regard to a conspiracy to undertake violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities by

cadres of terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and their affiliates such as the Resistance Front (TRF) and the People Fascist Forces Against (PAFF)

The spokesperson said the case relates to conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent terrorist acts and the agency arrested 27 people in the case till now.

terrorists and "These cadres have effected several terrorist acts including killings of numerous innocent civilians and security personnel, unleashing a reign of terror in the valley of Kashmir, thereby challenging the writ of the state, the NIA said. Three days after the registration of the case, the NIA carried out searches at 18 locations in Kashmir Valley and arrested nine terror associates. Four more arrests were made during searches at 11 locations on October 20. On October 22, eight more terror operatives were arrested during searches at 10 locations, while two arrests each were made in multiple raids on October 29 and 30.

IAF chopper makes 'precautionary landing' in Samba



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On a routine sortie, an Indian Air Force chopper made a 'precautionary landing' in Samba district on Friday after the detection of some technical snag in it, defence sources

A Chetak helicopter was routine sortie when its pilots

noticed some technical snag in it and made a precautionary landing safely in the Purmandal area of the district, they said. The entire four-member crew led by a squadron leader were safe after it landed at the sports ground. The chopper later took off and landed in Jammu, they said.

ARTO, two MVIs suspended on corruption charges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: The government

on Friday suspended an Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) and two Motor Vehicle Inspectors (MVIs) charges of corruption.

"Pending enquiry, ARTO Mohammad Kupwara Mukhtar and two

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

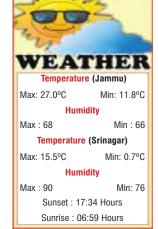
Srinagar records season's coldest night

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of the season as the mercury started its southward slide in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius. It was also the coldest recorded place in Kashmir. Kupwara in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



J&K's underground water resources categorised as safe

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All the districts in Jammu and Kashmir have been categorized under the 'Safe' category with less than 70 per cent of groundwater extraction.

This was stated at a meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, to discuss the findings of the report on Dynamic Ground Water Resources Estimation of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir

The report recommends judicious use of underground water through suitable scientific interventions for optimal agricultural and domestic use of available water, besides recommending a review of subsidized electricity policy to farmers, suitable water pricing policy, and crop rotation for judicious cultivation of water extensive-non-

extensive crops. Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Department, Monitoring Commissioner Secretary, Jal Department, Regional Director, J&K Ground Water Board, Chief Shakti Engineers, $_{
m Jal}$ Department, Kashmir and Jammu, and all Deputy Commissioners of Jammu

and Kashmir participated in the meeting.

The study which computed the total groundwater availability in Jammu and Kashmir assessed the health of groundwater by studying the water recharge from rainfall, canals, surface water irrigation, tanks, ponds, water conservation structures, and subsurface inflow from hydraulically connected streams, as well as gross groundwater extraction and water loss due to evaporation and transpiration. Regarding the quality of the underground

J&K reports 158 new COVID cases, Ladakh 15 **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 158 COVID-19 cases and zero daily deaths due to the disease on Friday, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 3,33,825, officials said.

Of these fresh cases, 26 are from Jammu division and 132 from Kashmir division. they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 73 new cases, followed by Baramulla with 31. There are 1.364 active cases of the disease in the union territory at present, and the number of recoveries

stands at 3,28,013, they

Over 111 Cr vaccine doses administered in India so far

NEW DELHI: The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 111 crore on Friday, the Union Health Ministry said.

Over 52 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Friday till 7 pm. The tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day 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 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic stands at 4,448, the officials said.

They said there were 49 confirmed cases of mucormy-(black fungus) in Jammu and Kashmir at present

Meanwhile, Ladakh has recorded 15 COVID-19 new cases, taking its tally of infections to 21,098, while the count of active cases of the disease in the union terri-

tory rose to 130, officials

Ladakh has registered 209 Covid-related deaths -- 151 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

Ten more patients have been cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, pushing the number of recoveries to 20,759, they said.

All new cases were reported in Leh, the officials said.

No death due to Covid was reported in Ladakh on Thursday.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in

Ladakh has gone up to 130 126 in Leh and four in

PM launches RBI's scheme to ensure retail participation in gilts, strengthen financial inclusion

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Narendra Modi on Friday launched two customer-centric schemes with a view to strengthen financial inclusion by ensuring participation of small retail investors in the government securities market as well as to improve grievance redressal mecha-

The launch of these two schemes --Reserve Bank's Retail Direct Scheme and Integrated Ombudsman Scheme -- will expand investment opportunities in the country and ensure easier access to capital markets with simple and secure mechanism, he said while launching schemes through video conferencing.

At the same time, he said, Retail Direct Scheme will also help in garnering funds for development works. Retail direct scheme has given small investors in the country a simple and





Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launching the RBI Retail Direct Scheme & Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme through video conferencing in New Delhi.

safe medium of investment in government securities. Similarly, One Nation, One Ombudsman System has taken shape in the banking sector with the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme today, he said.

The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme seeks to merge other ombudsman schemes making it a

Nation, One Ombudsman

System for the entire financial sector. Observing that one of the biggest touchstones of any democracy is the strength of its grievance redressal system, he said, the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will go a long way in that direction.

"Similarly, the Retail Direct Scheme

will give strength to the inclusion of everyone in the economy as it will bring in the middle class, employees, small businessmen and senior citizens with their small savings directly and securely in government securities. As government securities have the provision of guaranteed settlement, this gives assurance of safety to the small investor," he said.

Stressing that a strong banking system is essential for an economy, Modi said the government has taken several measures to strengthen the financial health of the public sector

Highlighting that banking sector reforms ranging from inclusion in the financial sector to technological integration have been carried out in the past few years, he said, we have seen their strength in this difficult time of COVID. The decisions of the RBI also helped in ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Indian, French armies to carry out military drills from Nov 15 to 26

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: India and

France will carry out a 12day military exercise beginning Monday in the French port town of Frejus with a focus on counter-terror operations. A platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion will represent the Indian Army while the French side will deploy troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade at the exercise, according to the defence ministry.

Shakti will "Exercise focus on counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop semi-urban terrain under United Nations mandate with an aim to enhance military coopera-

tion and interoperability between the two armies," it said.

The last edition of the exercise was conducted at Mahajan field firing ranges

in Rajasthan in 2019.

The Indian Gorkha Rifles has a rich heritage marked by its military valour and supreme sacrifices with a glorious history of 68 vears. The French Army regiment has an illustrious operational history of more than 120 years and has participated in all the major wars involving the French Army.

The regiment specialises in amphibious warfare and has varied operational experiences in Africa, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Mali.