

03 Encroachers attack Housing board team at Reasi; MD escapes unhurt

12 Open Carrom C'ship from Nov 27

12 52-member J&K UT team selected for National Bench Press C'ship

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Take steps to prevent new surge in COVID cases: LG tells DCs, health officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday asked the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the Union Territory to take preemptive measures to prevent any new surge in Covid cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Focus on six-fold strategy of Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Covid-Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), Vaccination, and Micro Containment, as the most effective way to tackle the pandemic", Sinha directed while reviewing public health response to tackle the virus at a weekly meeting held at Raj Bhavan.

He said small changes like strict adherence to Covid-Appropriate Behaviour can make a bigger difference.

The Lt Governor also directed the Deputy Commissioners and Health officials to intensify preven-



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing COVID-19 situation in UT.

J&K reports 181 new COVID cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported 181 new positive cases of novel Corona virus -- 26 from Jammu division and 155 from the Kashmir division-- thus taking the tally to 334006 in the Union Territory.

Moreover, 95 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 15 from Jammu Division and 80 from Kashmir Division.

The official said that no new case of Mucormycosis has been reported during the past 24 hours.

On COVID vaccination, the officials said that 77,138 doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours bringing the cumulative number of doses administered across J&K to 1,57,43,545.

According to the daily Media Bulletin , out of 334006 positive cases, 1450 are Active Positive (202 in Jammu Division and 1248 in Kashmir Division), 328108 have recovered and 4448 have died; 2178 in Jammu division and 2270 in Kashmir division.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

tive measures to contain Dengue and work in close coordination and synergy with the civic bodies.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioners apprised the Lt Governor on the covid protocol enforcement efforts, implementation of micro containment zones, testing and contact tracing being undertaken in their respective districts.

Emphasizing on ensuring strict implementation of Covid Containment measures, the Lt Governor asked the DCs, SPs to firmly implement Covid protocols. He further instructed them to increase Information Education Communication (IEC) activities, testing, and sampling to contain the Virus.

The Lt Governor also directed the Deputy Commissioners and health officials to bridge the gap of number of due second doses as per the targets and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Ladakhi leaders announce mass agitation for statehood; call for strike on Dec 6

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Accusing the BJP-led central government of being non-serious towards the issues and concerns of the people of Ladakh, prominent leaders from the union territory on Saturday announced a mass agitation to press for their four main demands including full statehood and constitutional safeguards for the region.

The Leh-based Apex body of People's Movement for 6th Schedule and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) jointly called for a general strike on December 6 followed by public rallies and mass contact programmes in both Leh and Kargil districts in March coinciding with improved weather conditions.

Announcing the programme at a joint press conference after the third round of talks between the two powerful bodies of the region, chairman Apex body and former MP Thupstan Chhewang and co-chairman

of KDA Asgar Ali Karbalai said they decided to step up agitation in support of their demands, which also include one more Lok Sabha seat and two Rajya Sabha seats besides a special recruitment drive for the local youth to fill up over 10,000 vacancies in Ladakh.

Both the Apex body and the KDA, which is a separate amalgam of socio-religious, political and youth organisations of Leh and Kargil districts, were formed after the August 5, 2019 development when the Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into union territories of J-K and Ladakh. The BJP Ladakh was also part of the Apex body but later distanced itself after it raised the demand for the full statehood.

While the people of Leh have welcomed the fulfilment of their long pending demand of the UT status and later formed the apex body in sup-

port of the demand for implementation of the sixth schedule of the Constitution to safeguard their culture and identity, the KDA was not in the favour of the UT status and raised the demand of full statehood to Ladakh.

However, on August 1, the ideologically different representatives of Kargil and Leh districts joined hands to seek full-fledged statehood along with constitutional safeguards for the region -- some eight months after their historic meeting last year.

The entire Ladakh region is united in support of our jointly chalked out four-point agenda the government of India has not shown seriousness to address the desire and demands of the people of Ladakh, prompting us to review our strategy and go for mass agitation, Karbalai said.

He said nearly three months have passed since the delegations of the two bodies met visiting union minister of

state for home Nityanand Rai in Leh on August 28 and raised their demands but there was no headway, barring accepting the demand for issuance of Ladakh Resident Certificate at par with the previously held permanent resident certificate to facilitate recruitment in government jobs.

The visiting minister was not initially willing to meet the KDA and the Apex body but was forced to review his decision after people of Ladakh observed a strike on the call of the leaders of the two bodies, he said, adding attempts are continuously being made to break the alliance between the two districts.

We have decided to go for mass agitation and are calling for a complete strike on December 6. It will be followed by mass public rallies in the twin district headquarters of Leh and Kargil and public mobilisation

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army Colonel, wife, son among 7 martyred in attack at Manipur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Colonel of the Indian Army, his wife and eight-year-old son, and four Assam Rifles soldiers were martyred in an attack in Manipur's Churachandpur on Saturday, officials said. Colonel Viplav Tripathi was the Commanding Officer of the 46 Assam Rifles.

The officials said four others sustained injuries in the attack that happened around 3 km from Deheng locality.

Describing it as a cowardly attack, Singh said the perpetrators will be brought to justice soon.

"The cowardly attack on an Assam Rifles convoy in Churachandpur, Manipur is extremely painful & condemnable. The nation has lost 5 brave soldiers including CO 46 AR and two family members," he tweeted.

"My condolences to the bereaved families. The perpetrators will be brought to justice soon," Singh said.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said the state forces and paramilitary troops are already on their job to track down the militants. "The perpetrators will be brought to justice," the chief minister said on Twitter.

PM chairs meet on cryptocurrency; concerns raised over money laundering, terror financing risks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid concerns over misleading claims of huge returns on cryptocurrency investment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a meeting on the way forward on the issue, with government sources asserting that such unregulated markets cannot be allowed to become avenues for "money laundering and terror financing".

It was strongly felt in the meeting that attempts to mislead the youth through over-promising and non-transparent advertising should be stopped, the



sources said, signalling that strong regulatory steps are in the offing.

"The government is cognizant of the fact that this is an evolving technology; it will

keep a close watch and take proactive steps. There was consensus also that the steps taken in this field by the government will be progressive and forward looking," a source said.

The government will continue to proactively engage with experts and other stakeholders, sources added, noting that since the issue cuts across geographical borders, it was felt that it will also require global partnerships and collective strategies.

The meeting on the way forward for cryptocurrency and related issues was a very comprehensive one.

"It was also an outcome of a consultative process as RBI, Finance Ministry, Home Ministry had done an elaborate exercise on it as well as consulted experts from across the country and the world. Global examples and best practices were also looked at," the source said.

The RBI has repeatedly reiterated its strong views against cryptocurrencies saying they pose serious threats to the macroeconomic and financial stability of the country and also doubted the number of investors trading on them as well their

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Divisional DPC promotes 81 Revenue employees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner's office on Saturday conducted Divisional Level DPC, under the Chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole in which 81 revenue officials were promoted by the committee to the next level.

The committee members of the DPC included DC's of all the ten districts of valley, Additional Commissioner Kashmir(S), Additional Commissioner(C) with Div Com and representative of Administrative Department.

The committee promoted 69 Patwaris as Girdawar

Qanangoo, 02 Head Assistants as Sectional Officers, 5 Mohasibs as Sader-e- Mohasibs, 03 Senior Assistants as Head Assistants, and one employee as Senior Assistant while another as Junior Assistant.

All the staff members on the occasion expressed their gratitude to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole for the promotion. The employees said that the promotion will give them motivation and encouragement to work with more enthusiasm and dedication. On the occasion, Div Com underlined that the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three JKRTC employees terminated for 'dereliction of duties'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) were on Saturday terminated from service for alleged dereliction of their duties.

Managing Director of JKRTC Angrez Singh Rana issued the orders for termination of conductors Abdul Majid Dar and Sham-us-Din besides helper Rouf Ahmad Shah, an official spokesman said.

Earlier, on October 30 Rana had terminated the services of 15 employees for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of the revenue.

The Managing Director warned all the employees to refrain from causing losses to the corporation either by misappropriating the funds or due to incompetence while performing their duties, the spokesman said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 26.7°C Min: 12.2°C

Humidity

Max : 76 Min : 68

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 15.6°C Min: 0.1°C

Humidity

Max : 96 Min: 73

Sunset : 17:32 Hours

Sunrise : 07:01 Hours

Over 9,000 vacancies filled up through fast-track recruitment in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over 9,000 vacancies in different departments have been filled up under fast track recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

The selection for 5,000 more posts would be finalised by the end of this year, they said.

The government has initiated the largest ever recruitment drive in the union territory in a transparent manner, they said, adding an accelerated committee was constituted for identifying gazetted, non-gazetted and class 4 posts.

Under the fast track recruitment, 20,323 posts stand advertised by J&K Service Selection Board (SSB) since July last year and presently the selection process has been completed with respect to 9,205 posts. Around 5,000 more selections will be finalised up to December 31, an official spokesman said.

He said the selection process of remaining posts has reached various stages like skill test, CBRT (Computer Based Written Test) and document verification.

A meeting was chaired by

Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Manoj Kumar Divedi here to review the progress of different recruitment being done by J&K Public Service Commission (PSC) and SSB, the spokesman said.

In order to expedite the selection process on a fast track recruitment basis, he said government instructions were reiterated to refer all vacancies as on December 31, both Gazetted and Non-Gazetted, to the PSC and SSB by January 15, next year. The recruiting

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Entire Kishtwar town under CCTV watch: Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday said the Kishtwar town is fully under CCTV surveillance and no one can get scot-free after any incident.

Kishtwar Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Satish Kumar said the police in coordination with the general public have installed CCTVs in grey areas for security setup.

"We can say with confidence that the entire Kishtwar town is fully under CCTV surveillance", the DSP said. He said if anyone is found involved in any

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two dead, 12 injured as Sumo rolled down at Digdol

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Two dead and four minors among 12 others received injuries when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into gorge near Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar NHW-44.

According to police, a sumo vehicle bearing registration number Jk03A 6391 carrying 14 passengers, while coming from Jammu to Banihal lost control and the vehicle fell into deep gorge at Samadhi Morh, Digdol area of Ramban on Saturday.

Police, CRPF, SDRF and QRT Ramban rushed to the spot and shifted all 14 passengers to District Hospital Ramban, where doctors declared two of them as brought dead.

CMO Ramban Dr Fareed Ahmed said that we received total 14 persons here, out of which two were brought dead and other 12 were



Wreckage of ill-fated vehicle at accident site.

injured. Out of 12, six are seriously injured and are being shifted

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Jammu won't accept second fiddle role anymore: Rana

Era of injustice, discrimination against Jammu must end



BJP leader Devender Rana addressing a public gathering in Jammu.

Jammu and its people, irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

He said the Jammu Declaration emanating from Jammu, by Jammu will be for inclusive Jammu & Kashmir, which should get a fair deal on all counts.

Rana said that the firm and visionary leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds promise for the people to live with honour and dignity with no one in the Union Territory nurturing the apprehension of being discriminated against deprived and dominated politically.

This will be in consonance with the concept of Sabka

Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. For getting their rightful share in every sphere, he said the onus lies now on the people to close their ranks and unite under the banner of the BJP, which will make Jammu, J&K and the nation strong.

Referring to the challenges confronted to

Jammu and Kashmir, Rana exuded confidence that given the grit and determination of the Central leadership these will be surmounted with courage and fortitude. He said nation comes first and no attempt to weaken its sovereignty and integrity can be tolerated by orchestrating anti-national sentiment or unleashing terror.

Those believing and supporting the vicious sentiments better shun their machinations as there is no room for promoting or sustaining activities against the Nation. He said the terror mentor Pakistan too understands and realizes about the strong leadership in New Delhi, which cannot tolerate any misadventure

against national security.

Rana recalled the political developments of August 5, 2019 and said this has changed the perception about Jammu and Kashmir in the country with compatriots feeling satisfied about total integration. He dwelt upon the history of Jammu and Kashmir going back to Dogra Rule and said this has to shine and prosper as a single entity.

Those present were Kali Dass Verma, Pt. Sham Lal, Ved Parkash Sharma, Raj Pal Kesar, Sunil Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Ankush Sharma, Sachin Kesar, Ramesh Verma, Bua Ditta, Sunil Verma, Saddam Hussain, Parshotam Kumar, Tarsem Sharma and Balinder Singh.