Regd. No. JK/346/2019/2021

Rs 100 cr heroin recovery case: Police

UL returns empty handed from Punjab

Pulwama on trajectory of dev, prosperity: Kansal

> Winter Session: Govt to bring bill to repeal farm laws today

> ■ STATE TIMES NEWŠ NEW DELHI: The Winter

> Session of Parliament is set to begin on a stormy note on

> Monday, with the govern-

ment listing a bill to repeal

the three contentious farm

laws on the first day itself

even as the Opposition plans

to push for a law on mini-

mum support price on agri-

The Farm Laws Repeal

Bill is slated to be introduced

Thousands of farmers have

been protesting for the past

one year against the three

legislations and demanding

Several farmer unions have

pressed for a law on mini-

mum support price (MSP).

Various opposition parties

on Sunday raised the issue of

legal backing for MSP at an

all-party meet called by the

government ahead of the ses-

The opposition also raised

the issue of compensation for

family members of farmers

who had died during the

year-long protests

in Lok Sabha on Monday.

culture produce

they be repealed.

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

real power of modern society: Dr Darakhshan **WORLD ON ALERT! COVID variant**

sequencing and

Abla-Nari myth has broken & Women are

spreads to more countries GoI lists measures to be followed by States/UTs

genome

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

LONDON: The new potentially more contagious omivariant of Coronavirus has popped up in more European countries, just days after being identified in South Africa, leaving governments around the world scrambling to stop the spread.

In view of the possible threat that the new COVID-19 variant can pose to the nation, the Government of India (GoI) has asked all states and UTs to focus on intensive containment, active surveillance, enhanced testing, monitoring of hotspots, increased coverage of vaccination and augmentation of

health infrastructure. Listing a series of measures which states and UTs should undertake, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan also stressed on rigorous surveillance of international passengers, ensuring prompt effectively manage this Variant of Concern (VoC). As a proactive step, the government has already placed nations, where this

strict enforcement of Covid-

appropriate behaviour to

VoC has been found, in the category of 'at risk' countries for additional follow-up measures of international travellers coming into India from these destinations, he said in a letter dated November 27. "In view of the possible threat that this VoC can pose

to the nation, it is imperative that the intensive containment, active surveillance, increased coverage of vaccination and Covid- appropriate behaviour must be enforced in the field in a very proactive manner to effectively manage this VoC," Bhushan said.

The health secretary said it is essential that the disease

country is geared up for rigorous follow-up of international travellers from all countries, especially those designated as 'at risk'.

Chowk, National Highway-1A, January. ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Team Dr. Avtar Singh D.Ortho, MS, MCh Ortho, Chief Orthopsedic Surgeon Bone & Joint Replacement Specialist

+91-9622965050

There is already a report ing mechanism for obtaining past travel details of passengers coming through international flights, he said, adding this should be reviewed and the protocol provided by the ministry should be strictly ensured, including testing on disembarkation of travellers coming from 'at risk' countries and sending all positive samples for genome sequencing to INSACOG labs in a

prompt manner. Emphasising that ample testing infrastructure need to be operationalised to tackle any surge due to this mutated virus, Bhushan said it has been observed that the overall testing as well as the proportion of RT-PCR tests have declined in some states.

"In the absence of ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

should be on skilling and the Lt Governor called for NC ready for assembly polls; no issue with

delimitation based on 2011 census: Omar **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU:

Lieutenant

moving

Governor, Manoj Sinha on

Sunday called for fast-tracking the implementation of

National Education Policy-

(NEP) 2020 and laid broad

towards formulation of

courses and curriculum

Interacting with Vice

Chancellors of Universities in

J&K and while reviewing the

programs undertaken by the

varsities under the 'Azadi Ka

Amrit Mahotsav', the Lt

Governor also called for com-

pleting the modalities of

transfer to Choice Based

Credit System (CBCS), Exit

option provision and prepar-

ing an action plan to promote

course modules on cultural

values, professional ethics,

Indian Knowledge System,

innovation, entrepreneur-

ship, industry 4.0 skills and

Sinha said that focus

communication skills.

based on the new policy.

guidelines on

JAMMU: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Sunday said he supports a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 census data "rather than one driven by political motives" even as he asserted his party was ready for assembly elections, which are yet to be announced.

He also said his party never believes in provoking the public and added that people get annoyed when there is a mistake on part of the gov-

"Getting ready for elections or holding elections is the responsibility of the election

Kashmir continues to reel under cold wave STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir dropped on Sunday as cold conditions returned across the valley and mercury settled below the freezing point, met department officials said.

The temperature last night dropped across the valley except in the Kokernag town in the south, they said.

They said Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius last night -- down from 0.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius.

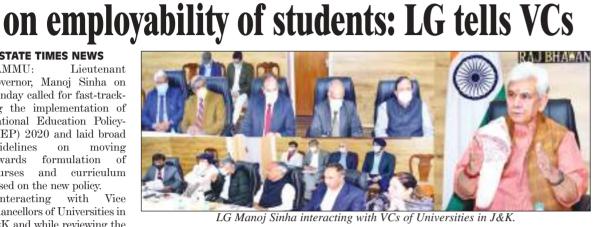
Gulmarg resort town in north Kashmir's Baramulla district also recorded a minimum temperature of minus

1.5 degrees Celsius. Mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunrise: 07:14 Hours



besides promotion of local programmes undertaken, besides sustained efforts to languages and culture. At the outset, all the Vice highlight the contribution of our freedom fighters. Chancellors and Director,

Colleges gave detailed pre-

sentations on the activities

and programs undertaken by

their varsities and the

Higher Education depart-

ment under the 'Azadi Ka

Amrit Mahotsay' and briefed

the chair about the proposed

activities to be organized in

run up to the celebrations of

75th year of Independence.

While chairing the meeting,

Fast-track NEP-2020 implementation; focus

"Universities should invest more in Innovation and Incubation, providing our youth with prospects for the future and strengthening the position of young women in the society", he added.

Calling on academia to lead the journey of development & prosperity of J&K, the Lt Governor said that research must flow from Labs to He impressed on Agriculture Universities to

focus on developing innovative ways to reduce the input cost of farmers, besides providing continuous handholding to increase production.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor observed that Vocational courses, Co-curriculum activities and Student exchange programs should be made an integral part of the education system.

Underscoring the need for increased synergy between the Universities and Higher Education department of UT administration, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 **COVID** containment: Night curfew timing revised in J&K

Two deaths, 145 new cases reported in UT

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: With the new

COVID variant Omicron scaring the world, the night curfew timing in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been reviewed and revised on Sunday amid peak of the wedding season. Department of Disaster

Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in its latest communication on restrictions for Covi9d containment has stated, "Whereas it was observed that there is a need to continue with the existing COVID containment measures in all Districts in view of the uneven trend observed in daily Covid cases as well as rising positivity rate." According to a

Government Order, "Night Curfew shall continue to remain in force in all districts from 9 pm to 6 am but for those districts with positivity rate below 0.2 and weekly case load below 250 where it would be from 11 pm to 6

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 145 fresh COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, taking the number of those infected to 3,36,531, while two new deaths due to the virus raised the toll to 4,475, officials

Eighteen of the fresh cases were from the Jammu division and 127 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials They said Srinagar district

new COVID-19 cases followed by 31 cases in Baramulla district. There are 1,658 active cases in the UT, while the number of recoveries stands

recorded a maximum of 61

at 3,30,398, the officials Twenty seven people tested positive for Covid-19 in

ing the overall virus tally in the Union Territory (UT) to 21.494 and active cases to 249, an official statement Ladakh has registered 213

Covid-related deaths -- 155

Ladakh in last one day, tak-

in Leh and 58 in Kargil -since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. Of 2,366 people tested for Covid-19 on Saturday, 25 were found infected in Leh

and two in Kargil. coronavirus Twenty patients were discharged from a hospital in Leh and

one in kargil, taking ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Gambhir gets another death threat by 'ISIS Kashmir'; 3rd in 6 days tigating the matter.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former cricketer and BJP MP Gautam Gambhir on Sunday received another death threat allegedly from 'ISIS Kashmir', the third in six days, police said.

"Your Delhi Police and IPS Shweta (DCP) cannot uproot anything. Our spies are also present in the police. All the information is being received about you," the email, which Gambhir received fromisiskashmir@yahoo.com at

1.37 am, read. A senior police officer said they had received the content

of the e-mail and were inves-

The cricketer-turned-politi-

cian had received death threats on Tuesday and Wednesday. According to a police com-

plaint filed by Gaurav Arora, Gambhir's personal secretary, the MP received the first death threat on his official e-mail ID at 9.32 pm on Tuesday. The e-mail, allegedly from ISIS Kashmir, read. We are going to kill you and your family."

"On receiving the complaint, the district police increased (Gambhir's) personal security as well as the security of his residence

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Finish terrorism but try to protect lives of

'Nearly all terrorists involved in civilian killings in J&K last month neutralised'

STATE TIMES NEWS

commission. Our (assembly)

elections have already been

delayed for a long time as the

last polls were held in 2014

and seven years have already

passed," the former chief

minister told reporters in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Doda. He said his

NEW DELHI: Nearly all the terrorists involved in the killings of civilians in Jammu and Kashmir last month have been neutralised and the armed forces are now focussing on intelligencebased "surgical operations" involving smaller teams to deal with terror activities in the Union Territory, sources in the security establishment said on Sunday.

They said a "refined" approach to deal with terrorism has been put in place under a more nuanced framework of better coordination among the Jammu

and Kashmir police, the intelligence agencies and the Army with an aim to minimise collateral damage.

After a spell of relative calm, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a spate of killings of innocent civilians last month, triggering apprehensions of an intense cycle of violence and turmoil in the

The sources said a major focus of the anti-terror drill has been to achieve "zero loss" of innocent lives and all wings of the security forces have been trying to achieve

That is why the focus has

been on "intelligence-based surgical operations" involving smaller teams, with a focus on drawing support from the local population to such actions, they added.

According to intelligence inputs, Pakistan-based terror handlers have instructed their proxies operating in Kashmir to ensure at least 10 civilian deaths whenever the security forces undertake counter-terror operations, the sources said.

They said 24 civilians were killed and 49 injured in various counter-terror operations

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

innocent civilians: Azad to security forces

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Praising security forces in combating terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, former Chief Minister of erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir and senior Congress leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad advised them to try their best to avoid civilian killings during encounter with terrorists.

"We lost thousand of youth and security force personnel in Jammu & Kashmir due to terrorism for the last three decades which was a big loss and can never be fulfilled," Azad said while addressing a public rally at Kokarnag in district Anantnag.

"We will support our security forces in their endeavour to finish terrorism in J&K and saving lives of lakhs of people from terrorists but also feel sad when



Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public rally at Kokarnag on Sunday.

any civilian dies in encounter," he said, adding that armed forces must finish terrorism but at the same time they try their best to protect lives of innocent civilians besides taking effective measures to remove prevailing sense of fear from their hearts.

Azad said the people of the Valley are against the killing of innocent civilians. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Science blended with Creative Innovation brings 'ease of living': Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Union

Minister (Independent Charge) Technology; Science & Minister State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; PMO. Public Personnel. Grievances. Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday that science blended with creative innovation brings "ease of living" for

common man. Dr Jitendra said in Narendra Modi's India, science is not only a subject of research, but has assumed the dimensions of festivity and there is a need for celebrating Science Festival in every city and village of India to inspire the youth in critical thinking. He was speaking at



Raiser event of IISF-2021 at New Delhi on Sunday.

the Curtain Raiser event here for the seventh edition of India International Science festival (IISF- 2021) to be held at Panaji, Goa from December 10 to 13, 2021.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the theme of HSF 2021 is 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' -Celebrating Creativity, Science, Technology and Innovation for a prosperous

He said, this year twelve programs will be conducted in this mega event based on this theme

He said, India is celebrating the 75th year of its independence and it is time to lay

down the road map for the next 25 years before independent India turns 100. The Minister said, it is a

proud privilege and opportunity for the youth of India today to be able to contribute to the making of India when it turns 100 in 2047 and stands as a frontline nation in the world community.

Dr Jitendra said that the series of India International Science Festival (IISF) is an integral part of India's longterm vision in developing and widening the spectrum of scientific temper for sustainable development and new technological innovations in India.

He said, it also aims to build a strategy for rural India through the advancement of Science and Technology.

The Minister informed that IISF will provide a platform to young students, scientists and technocrats from across India for exchange of knowl-

edge and ideas and also supporting flagship programmes like 'Swach Bharat Abhiyan', Swasth Bharat Abhiyan 'Digital 'Make in India'. Villages'. India', 'Smart 'Smart Cities' Gange', 'Unnath Bharat Abhivan' initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last seven years. He said, the main aim of the Science Festival is to bring into use the innovations by the people and develop technology that is affordable to the masses.

Dr Jitendra said that this year India is celebrating 75th year of Independence as Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the ideas of five pillars to celebrate it, which will be

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

RSS not a military organisation: Bhagwat



STATE TIMES NEWS

GWALIOR: Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the Sangh is not a military organisation, but a group with family atmos-

"Sangh is not an all-India music school. Martial arts programmes do take place (in it), but Sangh is neither an all India gym nor a martial arts club. Sometimes, the

Sangh is described as a paramilitary (force). But Sangh is not a military organisation," he said.

Sangh is a group with family atmosphere, the RSS chief added. He was speaking here at

the closing event of the fourday Ghosh Shivir (musical band camp) of the Sangh's Madhya Bharat Pranth. "Western countries consider music as entertainment. It is

played for thrill there. But in India, music is meant to soothe the soul. It is an art that calms down the mind,' he added. Bhagwat had reached

Gwalior on Friday midnight to address and guide the ghosh shivir that began here on Thursday.

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