

03 It is our firm resolve to remove developmental imbalances: LG

08 Court rejects pre-arrest bail plea in PDD wire theft case

09 Two gangs of vehicle-lifters busted; 2 arrested, 13 vehicles recovered

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COVID: 706 new cases, 4 fatalities in J&K

9 Jammu areas declared micro containment zones; famous restaurant fined in Jammu, several coaching centres sealed in Bandipora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday recorded 706 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the infected number of persons to 3,45,358 while four fresh deaths due to the virus were reported from the union territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

In a related development, nine areas in the Jammu capital city have been declared as micro-containment zones in view of surge in infections.

"There is sufficient ground for proceeding under Section 144 of CrPC for immediate prevention or speedy remedy is desirable to prevent danger to human life, health, and safety," reads the order of the District Magistrate, Jammu, Anshul Garg.

In two separate orders, the District Magistrate declared



Admn officials along police personnel during market checking in Jammu.

areas in and around Hostel Sainik School, Nagrota; Lane near Meridian Palace, JDA Plot New Rehari, Jammu; Lane near H. No 09, Sector-05, near Gurudwara, Model Town, Gangyal; area in and around Police Head Quarter, Panama Chowk, Jammu; Lane near Telephone Towers, Vijay Nagar, Camp Road, Talab Tillo, Jammu; Lane near Bharat Shiv

Ashram, Nagrota Panjgrain, Nagrota; Lane near H. No 272, near Durga Mandir, Shastri Nagar, Jammu, Lane near H. No 05, Sector 1A, Ext. Channi Himmat, Jammu and Lane near H.No 25, Sector 2, Pandoka Colony, Paloura, Jammu as micro-containment zones.

Out of the fresh cases, 345 were from the Jammu division and 361 from the Kashmir division of the

union territory, the officials said.

They said Jammu district recorded the highest of 233 cases followed by 172 cases in Srinagar district.

There are 4024 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,36,790, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic was 4544 as four fresh deaths were reported in the past 24 hours.

The officials said, there were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory and no fresh case was reported since last evening.

The officials said Ladakh has reported 89 fresh Covid cases, taking the tally to 22,561, while active cases in the union territory has

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

MHA seeks more time to frame rules under CAA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry has approached the parliamentary committees seeking more time for framing rules under the CAA through which the Modi government wants to grant Indian nationality to non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, officials said Monday.

The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and the Presidential nod was received the next day. Subsequently, it was notified by the home ministry.

However, the law is yet to be implemented as rules under the CAA are yet to be framed.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of presidential assent or seek

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SC to set-up panel headed by ex-judge to probe breach in PM's security; stays inquiries by Centre, Punjab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday said it would set up a panel headed by its former judge to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Punjab and stayed the parallel inquiries by committees of the Centre and the state government into the lapses.

Stressing that the apex court was not undermining the importance of the security of the Prime Minister and dealing it with all seriousness, a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana said that the separate inquiries by panels set by the Centre and the state government will be stayed.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta about the time frame within which

the court-appointed panel should give the report and said it will keep this aspect in mind.

The top court was hearing the plea of an organisation, Lawyers Voice, seeking a thorough investigation into the breach in Modi's security in Punjab to ensure there is no such incident in the future.

On January 5, the Prime Minister's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur after which he returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a rally.

We are thinking on these lines... One retired Supreme Court judge will head the committee and the members would be DGP (Director General of Police) of Chandigarh, the Inspector General of the NIA (National Investigation Agency), the Registrar

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Bank launches Special One Time Settlement scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash launched the J&K Bank's Special One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs on Monday in presence of Executive President Sunil Gupta, President & Special Secy. to MD & CEO Karanjit Singh, President IAPM Syed Rais Maqbool, Vice President Aijaz Ahmad Bazaz and other senior officers here at the Bank's corporate headquarters.

All Zonal Heads from across the country also joined the inaugural function through video-conferencing mode along with senior offi-

cers.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "Through this Special One Time Settlement Scheme (SOTS-2021), the Bank provides a golden opportunity to all the eligible account holders to settle their accounts and avail the best possible concessions that can be offered." Calling the scheme good and practicable, he expressed hope that with the earnest efforts of all concerned the scheme will be successful.

While impressing upon the need to directly contact the borrowers individually to inform them about

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG launches precaution dose drive, flags-off 34 ALS ambulances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday launched the precaution dose vaccination for healthcare and frontline workers and those over 60 years of age with co-morbidities.

The drive for precaution dose was launched for the UT of J&K from District Hospital, Gandhi Nagar Jammu where the Lt Governor also received the vaccine shot along with JMC Mayor. Chander Mohan Gupta, and Advisor to Lt Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, besides health



LG Manoj Sinha taking the precaution dose on Monday.

care workers.

The Lt Governor appealed to all the eligible people to get their precautionary vaccine shot at the earliest.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also flagged off 34 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulances of 108 services for Jammu Division, procured under World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

The UT Government is making several interventions to strengthen public health response to COVID-19. Advanced life support ambulances will be a step

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

COVID: India records 1,79,723 cases, 146 deaths

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India saw a single-day rise of 1,79,723 coronavirus infections taking the total tally to 3,57,07,727, including 4,033 cases of the Omicron variant reported across 27 states and union territories so far, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Monday.

The number of active cases has increased to 7,23,619, the highest in around 204 days, while the death toll has climbed to 4,83,936 with 146 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Of the total 4,033 cases of Omicron variant, 1,552 have recovered or migrated.

Maharashtra recorded the maximum number of 1,216 Omicron cases, followed by Rajasthan 529, Delhi 513, Karnataka 441, Kerala 333 and Gujarat 236.

A total 1,79,723 new coronavirus infections were reported in a day, the highest in around 227 days.

A total 1,86,364 new infections were reported on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 19.7°C Min: 9.7°C

Humidity

Max: 87 Min: 65

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 6.0°C Min: 0.2°C

Humidity

Max: 95 Min: 77

Sunset : 17:44 Hours

Sunrise : 07:34 Hours

Hindi plays key role in spreading India's knowledge, culture: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Hindi plays an important role in spreading our knowledge and culture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on the occasion of World Hindi Day on Monday.

The Ministry of External Affairs celebrated the programme on World Hindi Day virtually. The programme was presided over by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

During this programme, messages by Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs



Minister S Jaishankar were read out.

Extending his best wishes, the prime minister said that Hindi plays an important role in spreading our knowledge and culture due to its simplicity, according to the

statement.

The PM said that the increasing use of Hindi in the field of information technology and technology as well as its popularity among the youth present a bright future for it.

The External Affairs Minister said in his message that together "we are continuously moving towards our goal of taking Hindi to the global stage".

In her remarks, Lekhi said various steps have been taken by the Ministry to promote the study of Hindi abroad. She pointed out that the government has

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India looking forward to constructive dialogue: Sources on military talks with China

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India is looking forward to "constructive" dialogue with China to resolve issues in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, sources in the security establishment said on Monday ahead of the 14th round of military talks between the two sides on the 20-month row.

The talks will take place on January 12 at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point, on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, the sources said.

The 'Senior Highest Military Commander Level (SHMCL)' talks will begin

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NH reopens after 3 days; One-way traffic from Srinagar to Jammu today

Kashmir valley in grip of freezing cold

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was reopened for traffic on Monday after remaining closed for the past three days owing to heavy snowfall and multiple landslides in Ramban district, officials said.

According to Traffic Police Jammu, the vehicles from the Valley will be allowed to ply towards Jammu only on Tuesday.

Senior Superintendent of Police, traffic-national highway, Shabir Ahmad Malik said the traffic from both the twin capital cities was allowed after the arterial road was cleared of fresh landslides at Panthiyal and Maroog by road clearance agencies.



The clearance of debris at certain places was still going on to ensure smooth movement of traffic, the officer told PTI.

The highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was closed for traffic on Friday afternoon, shortly

after it was opened after two-day closure following heavy snowfall and multiple landslides between Chanderkote and Ramsu.

Over 50 passenger vehicles were left stranded at different places by the closure of the highway. They were allowed to move towards

their destinations late Sunday evening after authorities speeded up the road clearance operation with improvement in weather conditions.

The officials said the traffic was allowed from Jammu to Srinagar early Monday morning, while the movement of traffic from Srinagar to Jammu was allowed only after 11 am.

The traffic was briefly halted at Nagrota in Jammu and Jakhani in Udhampur in the wake of the fresh landslides which were swiftly cleared by road clearance agencies, paving way for resumption of traffic, the officials said.

They said the movement of traffic at landslide-hit areas is very slow as the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two unidentified terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district on Sunday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation

in Hassanpora village of Kulgam district following information about the presence of terrorists there, a police spokesperson said.

He said the search operation turned into an

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

(JKB Special OTS, 2021)

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