Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

19 LG reviews progress of restoration, renovation

works of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex

Delimitation Commission can't take demands outside its mandate: Task with DC is unique & challenging

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

Modi-son of Punjab, Punjabis & Punjabiat

Centre asks States, UTs to enhance COVID testing

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Flagging a decline in the number of COVID-19 tests in many states and union territories, the Centre has asked them to enhance testing so that an effective track of the spread of the pandemic can be kept and immediate citizen-centric action can be initiated.

In a letter to states and UTs on Monday, Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry Arti Ahuja advised them to pay attention to this aspect immediately and increase the testing in a strategic manner keeping in view the trend of case positivity in specific areas.

highlighted that Omicron, which has been designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a variant of concern, is currently spreading across the country.

Referring to the ministry's earlier letters and the Home advisory of December 27 last year laying



out the broad framework of pandemic management in the context of Omicron, Ahuja said testing remains a

the data available on the ICMR portal that testing has declined in many states and union territories," she wrote. She said in all advisories on testing issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), including the latest on January 10, the basic

detection of cases for quick isolation and care.

objective remains early

remains a key strategy for pandemic management as it helps in identification of new clusters and new hotspots of key and crucial component. infection which can in turn "However, it is seen from facilitate immediate action for containment such as setting up of containment zones, contact tracing, quarantining, isolation and fol-

> low-up. This can enable the state and district administrations to curb the spread of infection. Also this will ensure reduction in mortality and morbidity.

"Progression of disease to a

ed by strategic testing of those who are at high risk and more vulnerable, as well as in areas where the spread is likely to be higher," Ahuja

Reiterating the advisory on purposive testing strategy issued by the ICMR on January 10, she said in community settings all those who are symptomatic must be tested and all at-risk contacts of laboratory confirmed cases must also be tested.

This advisory needs to be read in conjunction with the earlier guidelines and advisories of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, wherein it has been recommended that strategic and focused testing should be done of people who are vulnerable, living in closed surroundings, in densely populated areas in emerging new clusters and new hotspots of positive cases, etc., Ahuja said. "In order to ensure that an effective track of

Sanjeev Gupta appointed Registrar General J&K & Ladakh High Court ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As per an order issued here on Tuesday, Sanjeev Gupta has been appointed Registrar General Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh High

According to order No 39/2022 dated January 18, 2022, "Pursuant to the High Court order No. 19 2022/RGdated 14.01.2022 and approval accorded by the Chief Justice, Sanjeev Gupta, District Judge (Super-Time Scale), is appointed as Registrar General

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

IED blast in Kulgam; no casualties reported

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place in Kulgam district on Tuesday, officials said. No injuries or casualties were reported in the incident, they added. The IED blast took place on a road near a shrine in the Qoimoh area of the dis-

J&K logs 4,651 fresh **COVID** cases, 3 deaths

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

5 more areas declared Micro Containment Zones in Jammu; CBT rescheduled; 80 doctors, medics test +ve in GMC Sgr in single day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the highest single-day spike so far this month, Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 4,651 fresh cases of COVID-19, taking the total number of infections to 3,66,851 while three deaths were reported in 24 hours, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 1.546 were from Jammu division and 3,105 from Kashmir, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 957 cases followed by 919 cases in Jammu district.

There are 21,677 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recoveries so far was 3,40,599, the officials said.

With three fresh deaths, the death toll in the union territory went up to 4,575, they

With the detection of more COVID-19 positive patients, District Magistrate, Jammu,

unit along with the respective

Mehta impressed upon the

department to integrate the

single-window system with

the rapid assessment system

generation

A health worker collecting swab sample for COVID-19 testing

five more location as Micro Containment Zones.

District Magistrate Jammu declared Lane near BSNL Tower, Baba Fareed Nagar Kunjwani; Lane Yogananda Dhyan Kendra, Green Park Enclave, Muthi; Lane near Shiv Bharat Ashram. Panjgrain, Nagrota; Lane near H No 105 B, near Aplha Collection, Basant Nagar, Janipur and Lane near H No 52, Sector 7, near J&K Bank, Trikuta Nagar

Zones. "The aforesaid areas shal be under strict lock down and tight perimeter control, except for essential needs. There shall be no movement, whatsoever, in and out of the

Marble Market Extention, Greater Kaliasi Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jamesu ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Dr. Rajeev Vohra
MR. DNR.MNAMS
Sersor Consultant Orthopsedies

19 January, 2021

+91-9622965050

Jammu. According to by Jammu Kashmir Selection Board (J&K SSB), 'Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination for

Micro Containment zones,

reads an order issued by DM

the posts of Junior Assistant,

Unvaccinated but certified: J&K Admn launches drive to fix error

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Health Department has started a special drive to identify people who have received the COVID vaccination certificate despite being administered with only one dose. In each case, authorities are collecting inputs from such beneficiaries and ensuring actual administration of vaccines to each at the earliest. At the same time, the Department has issued strict and necessary instructions in this manner to avoid such incidents in future.

During campaign mode of covid vaccination such isolated incidents of unintentional

Man arrested for abducting,

raping minor in Reasi

JAMMU: A man was arrest-

ed for allegedly kidnapping

and raping a minor girl from

Reasi district, police said on

While the 14-year-old girl

was rescued from the house

of her abductor in Poonch

district, the accused was

arrested from a locality in

Jammu within three weeks of the incident, a police

He said the father of the

minor had lodged a com-

plaint at the Reasi Police

Station on December 28 last

year stating that her minor

daughter went outside to buy

milk from a shop but did not

return, suspecting that she

might have been kidnapped.

A case was registered and investigation started which

revealed that the minor was

kidnapped by Shakeel alias

Sonu, a resident of Poonch,

Police, Reasi, Shalinder

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

the spokesperson said. Senior Superintendent of

Singh constituted a

spokesperson said.

Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

wrong entries have happened because of the sudden increase in data uploads into the Cowin portal and unintentional mistakes by support staff. It may be mentioned that Jammu and Kashmir has administered close to 2 crore doses and is the forerunner in the country in vaccinating its eligible population. Such cases constitute a microscopic minority, maybe in single digits.

In a recent incident, it was noticed that two beneficiaries aged 51 and 49, belonging to Block Sogam, District Kupwara, were inadvertently marked as vaccinated

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Over 4,000 online applications for land allotment received by I&C Deptt: Officials ■ STATE TIMES NEWS applications for land allot-To maintain transparency cessing- land allotment- and establishing the industrial

JAMMU: The industries department has received over 4,000 online applications for land allotment pledging a proposed investment of Rs 44,327 crore, an official spokesman said on Tuesday.

It was informed at a meeting chaired by J&K Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta to review the functioning of the industries and commerce department here, the spokesman said.

Under the new land allotment policy, he said the meeting was informed that the industries department has so far received 4,114 online ment, pledging a proposed investment of Rs 44,327 crore with an estimated employment generation potential of 1,84,100 engage-

"All these applications are being processed under the single-window system wherein land is being allotted through a transparent mechanism giving due weightage to the proposed investment per Kanal, proposed direct employment per Kanal, category of industry, environmental impact assessment, and others," the spokesman

in the allotment process, the spokesman said the finalised list of allottees along with application and selection details is shared on the department's official website and objections are called before official allotment.

The Chief Secretary directed the completion of the allotment process in favour of eligible applicants and ensure the generation of about two lakh employment opportunities in 18 months. Besides, He also directed to submit a consolidated report on applications processed, and time taken in their pro-

to enable the applicant to share feedback with the department. He also directed the com-

employment

potential.

pletion of end-to-end digitisation of all services identified under (EoDB) by the end of this month by focusing on the remaining services of a handful of departments. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Youth with terror links arrested in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A youth who allegedly had links with terrorists was arrested in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Tuesday.

Anjum Mehmood was arrested on specific information during a joint operation by police and security forces from his Baila village of Mandi tehsil Monday night, a police spokesman said.

He termed as significant the arrest of the youth amid growing terrorist activities in the Pir Panjal

As per sources, he was

Super Specialists, Specialists' services extended

connected with militants through social media and was quite instrumental in providing information to terrorists about security forces establishments and sharing seditious material the spokesman said.

The youth was also trying to engage and motivate youngsters of his area to join terror ranks, he

The spokesman said the arrested youth was booked under the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Further investigation in the case is on, he added.

Centre proposes new rules to ensure availability of sufficient number of IAS officers for deputation

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Personnel Ministry has decided to amend existing service rules to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of IAS officers for central deputation, officials said on Tuesday.

The proposal which will give greater say to the Centre came as various state/joint cadres were found to be not sponsoring an adequate number ofIndian Administrative Service (IAS) officers as part of the central deputation reserve even though the ministry had flagged the issue several

As a result of this, the number of officers available for central deputation is not sufficient to meet the requireat Centre, the Personnel Ministry said in the proposal seeking changes in the IAS (cadre) Rules,

The move has evoked sharp criticism from West Bengal Minister Mamata Banerjee who has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to roll back the proposal claiming it will affect states' administration. "I express my strong reser-

vations to the approach fol-

lowed by the central government in proposing such amendment to the Cadre Rules which unilaterally mandates the state government to make such a number of officers available for deputation as prescribed under (the) central deputation reserve," Banerjee wrote to Modi on Tuesday evening.

Seeking to change the rules, the Centre has proposed that each state government shall make available for deputation to the central government such a number of eligible officers of various levels to the extent of

Army rescues civilians stuck in avalanche in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Army rescued around 30 civilians after their vehicles came under an avalanche triggered by recent snowfall in border district of Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

A vehicle carrying civilians got stuck on the Tangdhar-Chowkibal axis on Monday, following which the nearest Army unit was alerted and a rescue operation launched, they said.

"The civilians, including a child, were evacuated to safety by the Army rescue team, the officials said.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

for evening hours in GGN Hospital **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In the interest of better patient care. Directorate of Health Services Jammu has extended the services of Super Specialists and Specialists at Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu during the evening hours also from 7 pm to 10 pm.

This shall be in addition to the daily evening rounds of consultants on their emergency days.

Gandhi $_{\mathrm{The}}$ Nagar Hospital though presently a Non-Covid hospital, is carrying out Dialysis of Covid positive patients under Pradhan

Mantri National Dialysis Program in a separate block of the hospital.

As per an order, the deployments include Dr. Mahesh C. Gupta (Sr. Consultant Pediatrics) at Room No. 40 near Ward 11, Dr. Dev Rah Thapa (Sr. Consultant Surgery) Theater, Dr. Manjusha Bajaj (Consultant Gynae) at Gynae MO Room and Kamal Gupta (Consultant Optho) Doctor's Room in Eye Theater on January 12, 18, 24 and 30, 2022.

Dr. Rakesh Verma (Sr. Consultant Medicine) at Room No 6, Dr. Neerupama

Dogra (Sr. Consultant Optho) Doctor's Room in Eye Theater, Dr. Naresh (Consultant Khajuria Gynae) at Gynae MO Room and Dr. Sudhir Sabharwal (Neuro Surgeon) at Surgical Theater on January 13, 19,

25 and 31, 2022. Dr. Surinder Sharma (Consultant Medicine) at Room No 6, Dr. Mamta Kalsi (Consultant Gynae) at Gynae MO Room, Dr. Kanav Padha (Consultant Ortho) at Room No. 22 and Dr. Rohit Lahori (Pain Specialist) Surgical Theater on January 14, 20 and 26, 2022.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

COVID effect: Only 5,000-8,000 people to be allowed to attend Republic Day parade this year, vaccination mandatory

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The number of people allowed to attend the Republic Day parade this year is likely to be curtailed to approximately 5,000-8,000 due to the COVID-19 situation, with seats reserved for construction workers, frontline health workers and others, senior officials of the defence ministry said on Tuesday.

Only double vaccinated adults and children above the age of 15 who have taken at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine will be allowed to enter, they said, adding children below 15 years will not be permitted to attend the

The officials said the parade would start at 10.30 AM instead of 10 AM to provide better visibility.

They said the number of people that would be allowed to attend the Republic Day parade this year is to be curtailed by 70-80 percent to



approximately 5,000-8,000 due to the ongoing COVID-19 wave.

Nearly 25,000 people were allowed to attend the last year's parade, compared to around 1.25 lakh people in

A decision on whether chief guests will be there for the Republic Day parade 2022 (RDP-2022) is yet to be taken by the Ministry of External

Affairs, the officials mentioned. There was no chief guest at the parade last vear.

This year, as a special endeavour, seats have been reserved for autorickshaw drivers, construction workers, sanitation workers and frontline health workers for the parade as well as for the Beating the Retreat ceremony that takes place on January 29, they said.

Officials said the aim of inviting fewer people this year is to maintain social distancing at all times due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, the numbers have been significantly curtailed, they added.

While the exact number is yet to be decided, it would be anywhere between 5.000-8,000 people this year, they mentioned

People would be encouraged to watch the parade on TV and through the live ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Won't let in leaders who left party & now willing to return: PDP Chief STATE TIMES NEWS PDP

Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said she is not taking back those leaders who have deserted the party even though many of them are willing to return.

Dozens of senior PDP leaders including former ministers and legislators left the party after the BJP withdrew its support to the Mehbooba-led coalition government in July 2018 and most of them joined the Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari or the Peoples Conference led by Sajjad Lone.

"I have made it a principle that those who have left us will not be taken back. Many of the leaders who deserted the party are eager to return but I am not going to take



them back," Mehbooba said addressing a function at party headquarters here.

The function was organised by the PDP to welcome dozens of new entrants including supporters of Bushan Lal Dogra, a former minister who rejoined the PDP last month. Launching a scathing attack on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunrise: 07:33 Hours

