Vol. 27 Issue 2 • Jammu • Sunday • January 2, 2022 • Pages 12+4(Magazine) • ₹ 2.50 Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

2nd Jan, 2022 +91-9622965050

Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Team Dr. Avtar Singh

Two SHOs among four Inspectors transferred

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

HC stays order regarding recovery of Rs 26 crore from former MD Housing Board

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

J&K shines in 29th Junior National Fencing Championship

Stampede at Vaishno Devi Shrine leaves 12 dead during New Year rush

LG visits Naryana Hospital; MoS PMO visits shrine, hospital

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Twelve people lost their lives and 16 others were injured in a stampede at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir in the early hours during a heavy rush of devotees on New Year.

This is the first such tragedy at the revered shrine located atop the Trikuta hills - about 50 km from here that attracts lakhs of people

The incident occurred between 2.30 AM and 2.45AM on Saturday near a relatively narrow passage at gate number 3 outside the sanctum sanctorum of the hilltop shrine where devotees usually arrive round the clock after trekking from the Katra base camp, a distance of nearly 13

A high-level inquiry panel Principal Secretary (Home) Shaleen Kabra, with Divisional Commissioner Jammu Rajiv Langar and Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh as its members, has been set up by Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha and asked to submit a report within a

Condolences poured in

Heavy rush of pilgrims at stampede site; LG Manoij Sinha talking to an injured at Narayna Hospital; MoS PMO Dr Jitendra, DGP Dilbagh Singh at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan

3-member panel constituted to probe

JAMMU: The three-member panel set up to probe the stampede at the famous Vaishno Devi shrine has been asked to submit its report to the Jammu and Kashmir government within a week, according to an official order issued on Saturday.

The committee headed by the principal secretary (home) was constituted by the Lt Governor

Shotgund at Adoura and one

of the terrorists was identi-

fied as Mushtaq Ahmed

Malla, son of Ghulam Ahmed

Malla, resident of Shotgund

Payeen. Accordingly, FIR

No. 337 of 2005 under sec-

tion 302 of IPC and Sections

7/27 of Arms Act was regis-

tered and investigation start-

Additional Sessions Judge

Handwara after hearing

both the sides observed that

it appropriate to take count

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

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Efforts underway to provide relief to injured: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said all efforts are being made to provide relief to those injured in the

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: PAGD leaders

including three former chief

ministers were put under

house arrest Saturday before

a protest against the propos-

als of J&K Delimitation

Commission. prompting

angry reactions from politi-

cal parties which said such

steps will only "incentivise

and facilitate" violent agita-

The day began by police

parking trucks outside the

COVID: Set up makeshift hospitals,

Govt to States/UTs

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Scuffle caused stampede; only 35K pilgrims were allowed: SMVDSB

JAMMU: The Saturday stampede that killed 12 people occurred due to a scuffle between two groups of pilgrims, the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said in a statement, emphasising only 35,000 pilgrims were allowed to proceed for the yatra against the normal capacity of 50,000 in view of the

The board said Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of the Board, was informed about the stampede at 3 am and he has been continuously monitoring the situation

National Green Tribunal has capped the normal capacity of Yatra per day to 50000. Pertinently, keeping in view the COVID-19 Pandemic, 35000 pilgrims **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

3 ex-JK CMs placed under house arrest before protest

against Delimitation Commission proposals

NC, PDP workers protest after detention of their leaders

residences of top National

Conference leaders and for-

mer CMs Farooq Abdullah,

his son Omar Abdullah, PDP

chief Mehbooba Mufti and

CPM leader Mohammed

Yusuf Tarigami. They were

conveyed that they were

The protest call was given

by the Peoples Alliance for

Gupkar Declaration (PAGD)

mainstream political parties

amalgam of

in J&K including the NC, the

under house arrest.

Azad, Chugh, among other



SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the stampede at the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Gandhi, union ministers and chief ministers expressed grief over the loss of lives. According to an official spokesperson, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Board, was informed about the incident at 3:00 am and since then he has been continuously monitoring the situation. The Lt Governor has extended his condolences

from all quarters and Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

spoke to LG Sinha. President

Ram Nath Kovind and a

number of other leaders

including Congress president

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul

over the loss of lives due to the tragic incident and also constituted an inquiry committee headed by Principal Secretary (Home) to probe into the incident.

"Deeply pained at the loss of lives due to stampede at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. My condolences to the families of the deceased & prayers with the injured. Spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Briefed him about the incident. The Prime Minister has assured all the help. Ex-gratia

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Court awards life-imprisonment to terrorist after 16-yr long trial

STATE TIMES NEWS

HANDWARA: Additional Sessions Judge Handwara awarded life-imprisonment to terrorist Mushtaq Ahmed Malla whereas other terrorist namely Farooq Ahmed Chopan was killed by Army in an encounter at Shahnagri (Kupwara) in 2006.

According to case, Police Station received confidential information on December 22, 2005 that two terrorists have shot dead one Tario Ahmed, son of Abdul Qayoom, resident

Terrorist killed in Kupwara encounter

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: A terrorist was

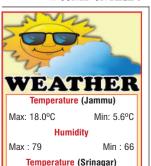
killed in an encounter with security forces in Kupwara district on Saturday, police said. The encounter took place in Jumagund area of the north Kashmir district.

"One unidentified terrorist killed in an encounter at Jumagund area of Kupwara. Army & Police are on the job Further details shall follow @JmuKmrPolice," Kashmir Zone Police said on Twitter.

Police to test slain

STATE TIMES NEWS

will be conducted of one of the three militants killed in the Anantnag encounter as his picture resembles that of the last surviving ultra involved in the 2019 Pulwama suicide attack



Sunset: 17:38 Hours

Sunrise: 07:34 Hours

Min: -2.4°C

Min: 60

Max: 8.5°C

Max: 78

terrorist's DNA

SRINAGAR: A DNA test

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NEW DELHI: To tackle a possible surge in COVID-19

cases, the Centre advised all states and Union territories to initiate the process of setting up makeshift hospitals and to constitute special teams to monitor patients in home isolation

STATE TIMES NEWS

In a letter to all chief secre-Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said it is imperative to reemphasise the significance of timely and swift upgradation of health infrastructure in all states and UTs

J&K sees 169 fresh COVID cases, 2 more deaths

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 169 fresh coronavirus cases that took its infection count to 3,41,459, while two more fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,530, officials said

Of the fresh cases, 68 were reported from the Jammu division and 101 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 48, followed by 34 in Jammu district.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 1,397. So far, 3,35,532 patients have recovered from the viral disease, the officials said. There are 50 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases

"This becomes all the more important since with the sud-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

5.1 magnitude earthquake hits J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

National Conference.

"Good morning and wel-

come to 2022," tweeted

Omar Abdullah, who stays

with his father. "A new year

with the same JK police ille-

gally locking people in their

homes and an administration

so terrified of normal demo-

cratic activity. Trucks parked

outside our gates to scuttle

the peaceful @JKPAGD sit-

in protest. Some things never

SRINAGAR: An earthquake of magnitude 5.1 hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday but there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said. The epicentre of the quake was on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, they said. The earthquake of magnitude 5.1, which occurred at 6.45.24 pm, was also felt in J-K, the officials said. It hit at the coordinates of 36.55 degrees north and 71.20 degrees east at a depth of 216 km, they added. There are no reports of loss of life or any damage to property the officials said

PDP, CPI (M), Peoples change. Movement and Awami

He said the police had even locked the internal gates of their residence.

Talk about a lawless police state, the police have even locked the internal gate connecting my father's home to my sister's. Yet our leaders have the cheek to tell the world that India is the largest democracy, hah!! Omar who is the vice presi dent of the NC, said.

NIA Court frames charges against three conduits of JeM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Vaishno Devi pilgrimage

going on smoothly: Official

KATRA: The Vaishno Devi

pilgrimage is going on

smoothly with strict adher-

ence to standard operating

procedures (SOPs), includ-

ing COVID-19 guidelines,

despite a stampede that

claimed 12 lives and left over

a dozen injured, a senior gov-

ernment official said on

Saturday.

Commissioner.

Raghay Langer said

Divisional

Jammu.

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JAMMU: In a much publicized recovery of AK-47 at Lakhanpur in 2019, Special Judge NIA Sunit Gupta framed charges against Sabeel Ahmed Baba, Ubaidul-Islam and Jahangir Ahmed Parra, conduits of banned terror organisation

As per charge-sheet, on September 12, 2019 an information was received at Police Station Lakhannur from reliable sources stating that a conduit of banned ter-

ror organization JeM after criminally conspiring in order to accomplish their Unlawful Activities in J&K, erasing serious threat to Unity and integrity of India, are in possession of prohibited arms and ammunition etc and are transporting the same in a truck from Punjab towards Kashmir valley. On basis of information, FIR No. 61/2019 under sections 38/39 of UA(P) Act, 120-B RPC and 7/27 Arms Act was registered at Police

Govt sets-up 5 new police stations, three police posts in Valley

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Saturday announced setting up of five new police stations and two new police posts in Srinagar district while one police post has been set up in Budgam district of Central Kashmir as well.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (s) of Section 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. the Government declares the eight places as Police Stations and Police Posts for the purpose of registration and investigation of all

offences," reads S.O 01 notification issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Home department.

As per notification, five new police stations have been set up in Srinagar city that include Police Station Ahmed Police Nagar, Station Sangam, Police Station Chanapora, Police Station Bemina and Police Station Shalteng.

"Two new police posts in city are police post Tengpora under police station Batamaloo and police post Khimber under Police post

Zakoora," it stated, adding that a police post has been also set up at Mouchwa area Budgam that will work under

police station Chadoora. Consequent upon the above, the jurisdiction of seven Police Stations of District Srinagar, for the purpose of registration and investigation of all offences have been revised. These include Police Station Srinagar Police Station Safa Kadal. Police Station Saddar, Police Station Parimpora, Police Station Nowgam, Police Station Batamallo. Police Station Shaireari

Stop house arrest melodrama; prosecute guilty 'House Arrest' has lost its meaning in Kashmir

den increase in cases, we



JAMMU: They again have hogged the headlines, which they always crave for desperately. The administration again injected

much needed oxygen to the irrelevant politicians to make them relevant. The headline goes 'three former chief ministers placed under house arrest'. That is exactly as per the melodrama scripted by Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. They knew they wouldn't be allowed to stage protests against the proposals of the Delimitation Commission. The government provided them the 'face saver', as there were just a couple of dozen protesters -who could be counted on finger tips-who were waiting for three former chief ministers to join them. First joke of the first day of 2022!

As per preliminary data, the main stream leaders like the three former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have been placed under house arrest around eight times post abrogation of Article 370, notwithstanding the fact that the separatists are used to this measure which is just to relax and indulge in bashing of the nation and the security

The question arises why the government obliges separatists, secessionists and the soft-secessionists by placing them under house arrest, knowing well that this preventive measure has lost its meaning in the Valley. The prevailing spate of house arrest

could be well defined as rest to put the unrest (if any they can cause) to rest. It is a cosy reprimand for the mischief mongers and easy duty for those guarding outside their palatial houses. The restriction is not like the one put to a Kashmir based US citizen Ghulam Nabi Fai in Washington DC some years ago, when an electronic monitoring device was fixed to him to watch his

House arrest in Kashmir is to give the person involved some movements of rest from their hectic schedule of indulging in India and forces' bashing. They can move around; draw strategies; talk to like- minded people or speak to the media.

In the instant case of three chief ministers being placed under house arrest, the UT administration must come out clean on what they have done, which entailed 'curbs' on their 'liberty' and 'restrictions on movement'. Such claims are generally aimed at becoming heroes and relevant to the people, who have already rejected the mainstream politicians for their doublespeak. Unless any strategy is behind the 'stoic silence' over house arrests, the government must deny the luxury of becoming heroes to the so-called mainstream leaders of the Valley, who tend to be on both sides of the fence. Their duplicity has cost the nation heavily. They play mind games and the government indulges in hide and seek. This does not go well with the law abiding citizens, who watch desper ately and helplessly this melodrama.

The government must revisit the house arrest strategy. If those being placed under house arrest have committed any violation or offence, let them be charged and prosecuted. There must be grounds, other than the preventive measure, on which this most ridiculed term 'house arrest' is being invoked.

PM releases Rs 20,946 cr to farmers under PM-KISAN

■ STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday released Rs 20,946 crore to 10.09 crore farmers across India as the 10th installment of financial aid under the PM-KISAN scheme and said there was a need for innovation in agriculture along with promotion of natural farming.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year is provided to the eligible farmer families, payable in three equal installments of Rs 2,000. The PM-KISAN scheme was announced in the February 2019 Budget. The first installment was for the period December 2018 to March 2019.

Addressing a virtual event for release of the amount. Modi said that the scheme is a big support for farmers and the Centre has transferred all installments on time directly into bank accounts of beneficiaries, without any involvement of middlemen.

Nobody would thought that India could achieve such a feat, he said.

"If we include today's transfer, more than Rs 1.8 lakh crore has been transferred directly to the accounts of the farmers under the PM-KISAN." he said, adding that the scheme has helped farmers in buying good quality seeds and fertilisers.

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