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

Court frames corruption charges

against former SDM, Forester, others

Woman charred, 4 injured in devastating fire at Jamalata

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

# Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **U19 WC COVID-hit India stroll** into QFs after beating Ireland

# Record 5,992 fresh COVID cases in J&K, 7 more die Complete restriction on non-essential movements from every

Friday 2 PM to Monday 6 AM ordered

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: While Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 5,992 fresh coronavirus cases, biggest singleday spike in infections so far, pushing the tally to 3,78,661, the Government ordered complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire Union Territory from every Friday 2.00 PM to Monday 6.00 AM, hence-

According to officials, seven deaths due to the disease were reported in the past 24 hours, five in the Jammu Division and two in the Valley.

In view of surge in the cases, the Government has ordered complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire UT of J&K from every Friday 2.00 PM to Monday 6.00 AM, hence-

"In continuation to the



A healthcare worker collecting nasal swab sample for COVID test in wake of surge in Coronavirus cases in Jammu.

COVID-19 containment measures ordered vide Government Order No. 04-JK (DMRRR) of 2022 dated January 14, 2022 and in reference to the task force meeting held under the

Secretary, J&K (Chairman State Executive Committee) along with the ACS (Finance), ACS (Health and Education). Medical Principal Secretary to the Government PWD (R&B) & other Senior Health functionaries on January 20, 2022 regarding an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the entire J&K and the presence of variant of concern (Omicron), the State Executive Committee, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 orders that there shall be a complete restriction on nonessential movement in the entire UT of J&K from every Friday 2.00 pm to Monday 6.00 am, henceforth," reads an order issued by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, who is also Chairman State Executive Committee.

"Pregnant women employees will be exempted from physical attendance and they shall be allowed to work from home," it stated and added. "These directions

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### LeT terrorist arrested in Budgam

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Thursday arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist in Budgam district and seized arms and ammunition from his possession, police said.

A police official said security forces launched a search operation in the Chadoora area of Budgam in the morning after learning about the presence of an ultra there. He said during the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Missing youth who joined terror ranks arrested with

#### arms, ammunition **STATE TIMES NEWS**

PULWAMA: Police on Thursday arrested a missing youth, who had recently joined terror ranks along with arms and ammunition in Pulwama.

At a checkpoint established at Pachahar Rajpora Pulwama, Police along with 44RR and 183Bn CRPF intercepted a suspicious person, who was challenged by naka party but he tried

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 should wear a mask under

# Govt issues revised COVID guidelines on use of drugs, masks for children

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Use of antivirals or monoclonal antibodies is not recommended for those less than 18 years of age, irrespective of severity of Covid infection, and if steroids are used, they should be tapered over 10 to 14 days, subject to clinical improvement, the govsaid ernment Thursday.

 $_{
m the}$ 'Revised Comprehensive Guidelines Management of COVID-19 in Children and Adolescents (below 18 years)', the health ministry also said that masks are not recommended for children aged five years and

Those aged 6-11 years may wear it depending on the ability of the child to use a mask safely and appropriately under direct supervision of parents, it said.

Those aged 12 and above

the same conditions as the current wave evolves, the adults, the ministry said. ministry said. guidelines were

It categorised cases as reviewed by a group of asymptomatic, mild, moder-

Marble Market Extention, Greater Kallast Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu. ORTHOPAEDIC OPD 23 JANUARY. 2022

MBBS, MS Ortho, DNB Ortho, M.Ch. "Fellowship" in Arthroscopy, Arthroplasty and Sports Medicine

ate and severe. According to the guidelines, COVID-19 is a viral infection and antimicrobials have no role in the management of uncomplicated

COVID-19 infection. asymptomatic  $_{
m mild}$ antimicrobials are not recommended therapy or prophylaxis, the ministry said. In moderate and

severe cases, antimi-

crobials should not be

prescribed unless there is clinical suspicion of a superadded infection, the ministry said.

In case of septic shock, empirical antimicrobials, according to body weight, are frequently added to cover all likely pathogens based on clinical judgement,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# 63 pc healthcare, 58 pc frontline workers; 39 pc

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: About 63 per

Responding to a question,

frontline workers who were

**Omar targets Centre over** 

its plan to appropriate

powers of transferring

IAS, IPS officers

Conference leader Omar

Abdullah on Thursday said

the Centre's plan to appro-

priate powers of transferring

IAS and IPS officers will be

"another nail" in the coffin of

He was reacting to media

reports that the Union gov-

ernment is planning to

acquire for itself overriding

powers to transfer IAS and

IPS officers through central

deputation, doing away with

the requirement of taking

the approval of the state gov-

"This would be another nail in the coffin of India's feder-

al structure. How would CM Modi react if PM Modi sum-

marily removed his DG or

CS? J&K lost all its powers

of appointment in 2019, now

it looks like the rest of India's

states will go the same way,'

Temperature (Srinagar)

Sunset: 17:53 Hours

Sunrise: 07:32 Hours

Min: 93

Min: 69

ernments.

Max: 97

Max: 7.9°C

Max: 94

the country's federal struc-

National

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

# above 60-yr received COVID precaution jab: Govt due for precaution dose and

cent eligible healthcare workers, 58 per cent frontline workers and 39 per cent of people above 60 years of age with comorbidities have received their precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the health ministry said on Thursday.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said about 22.66 lakh out of 35 lakh healthcare workers have received their precaution dose, accounting for 63 per cent of such people.

He said there are 33 lakh

191400 have got precaution dose which is 58 per cent.

"Those above 60 years and with comorbidities, the eligible number is 47,81,000 out of them 18,66,000 have taken precaution dose which comes to 39 per cent," Bhushan said.

"So given the fact it has been only 10 days since we rolled out precaution dose the coverage yet is not bad though we are constantly engaging with the states to ensure that the uptake increases. It is essential that all of must motivate people to get doses for which they

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# CAG raps Home Deptt for failing to utilise PMDP funds

High-end security system in J&K

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has pulled up the Jammu and Kashmir home department for failing to utilise over Rs 500 crore funds sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) to procure high-end security system to maintain law and order in the union territory.

ment had sanctioned over Rs 500 crore

The CAG, in its report, has taken a serious note of the home department's single-vendor purchases without ascertaining the reasonability of rates and avoidable expenditures in purchase of the high-end security system. Under the PMDP, the central govern-

for procurement of high-end security system to maintain law and order in

Jammu and Kashmir in 2016-2017, of which only 52 percent of funds were utilised by 2019, the report said.

"During the period from 2016 to 2019, the government of Jammu and Kashmir released Rs 501.86 crore, out of which an expenditure of Rs 261.96 crore (52 per cent) was incurred by the (home) department," the CAG said.

The report further said that the percentage of expenditure vis-a-vis funds available during the period ranged between 50 and 85 percent, respectively. "The unspent balances increased from

Rs 2.77 crore as of April 2017 to Rs 79.78 crore at the close of March 2019. Further, during the year 2019-20 an amount of Rs 119 crore was sanctioned by the GoI under the project and an expenditure of Rs 29.77 crore had been incurred by the department, leaving a balance of Rs 89.23 crore unutilised as of 31 March 2020," it said.

The CAG said that during the year 2020-21 (up to August 2020), an amount of Rs 25.15 crore was released by the Union government against which no expenditure had been incurred (till August 2020). The government audit body pointed

out that under the project 56 items and works were to be procured and installed and out of which the procurement of 33 items and works (59 per cent) was completed by the department as of August

It further lambasted the home department for its failure to take up the integrated command centers and its linked components for **CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

### 2 lakh COVID home tests done in last 20 days; it was 3,000 last year: Govt equipment like viral trans-STATE TIMES NEWS

### NEW DELHI: An increas-

experts in view of the current

surge that is mainly attrib-

uted to the Omicron variant

of the coronavirus, which is

The available data from

other countries suggests that

the disease caused by the

Omicron variant is less

severe. However, there is a

also a variant of concern.

ing uptake of home tests for COVID-19 is being observed with two lakh of them used in the last 20 days while just 3,000 were utilised last year, the health ministry said.

Addressing the weekly press conference, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said overall test performance in the country is being maintained at a level comparable with the second wave.

"Testing commodities are in plenty, whether it be for RT-PCR, whether it be for rapid antigen tests or for home antigen tests, or ancillary

port medium or RNA extraction kits. What is important is that we have noted an increasing in uptake of home tests," he said. "In the whole of last year, only 3,000 home tests were

recorded and in these 20 days, we have seen two lakh home tests which have been used," Bhargava said. Few districts and states are witnessing a dip in test per-

formance and they have been encouraged to ramp it up, he Responding to a question,

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# SC ropes in SLSA to facilitate payment of COVID ex-gratia to families

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Taking a cue from the Gujarat High Court order passed in the aftermath of the 2001 earthquake in the State, the Supreme Court has directed all the States to share the particulars of registered death due to COVID along with details of payment of compensation with State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) to reach out to the affected families.

The top court said that the member secretary of the Legal Services Authority shall act as an Ombudsman and as the facil-

It asked the States to crosscheck/verify whether with respect to all the deaths recorded/registered, claims are received or not and if it is found that with respect to some of the deaths recorded/registered, no payment has been made to the affected families its official must try to reach out to

A bench of Justices MR Shah and Sanjiv Khanna passed a detailed order on Thursday and said, We also direct all the States to furnish full particulars/ information to the concerned Legal

Authorities with respect to deaths recorded/registered and also the particulars whether the payment of compensation with respect to those deaths have been made

It made it clear that the said exercise of sharing of details of recorded death and particulars of payment of exgratia to the family member or kin shall be completed by the concerned States, within

If it is found by the Member Secretary of the concerned State Legal Services Authority that

#### BSF seizes 7.25 Kg heroin 'air-dropped' along Indo-Pak border STATE TIMES NEWS

AMRITSAR: The Border Security Force (BSF) has seized 7.25 kg heroin, which is suspected to have been airdropped from the neighbouring country, along the India-Pakistan international border in the Amritsar Sector. officials said on Thursday.

In a statement, the BSF said a patrolling party heard the humming of a flying object on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

"Troops heard the sound of dropping from the flying object. The entire area was cordoned and in the

# Back-deep into snow, Jawans patrol forward areas to check infiltration in Poonch

# ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Back-deep into a tapestry of heavy snow, Indian jawans brave extreme weather and inhospitable terrain to conduct patrolling and keep a 'hawk's eye' on infiltrating terrorists ready to sneak into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch sector.

Sepoy Surinder Singh (named changed), walks through deep snow daily to man the listening post in forward area at a height of 7000 feet along LoC in Poonch sector to keep vigil on the movement of infiltrating terrorists camped in launching



Army personnel carrying out patrolling in forward areas of Poonch on Thursday.

pads across the border ready to sneak into this side, if they get slightest opportunity on the surveillance front.

"Snowfall or no snow---

chilly winters or dangerous gorges--threat of attacks our morale is high to keep

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# System being created where there is no place for any discrimination: Modi

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Asserting that an India whose thinking and approach are innovative and decisions progressive is emerging, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that a system is being created in which there is no place for any discrimination.

Delivering the keynote address at the national launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore' virtually, Modi noted that one's progress is aligned with the progress and stressed the need for giving importance to one's duties for the country's rise.

He also spoke about efforts being made to tarnish India's image, including at the international level, and said there



Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore' through video-conferencing in New Delhi.

was a need to counter them and present a proper picture of the country.

Emphasising on duties, he "We also have to admit that in the 75 years after Independence, a malaise has afflicted our society, our nation and us all. The malaise is that we turned away from our duties and did not give them primacy.' Launching year-long initia-

tives dedicated to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Brahma Kumaris, which include more than 30 campaigns and over 15,000 programmes and events, he said people only talked of their rights all these years and fought for them.

Speaking of rights may be right to some extent in certain circumstances but forgetting one's duties completely has played a huge role in keeping India weak, Modi said and called for everyone to work together to discharge their duties that will remove social ills and also take India to new heights.

"All of us have to light a lamp in the heart of every citizen of the country - the lamp of duty. Together, we will take the country forward on the path of duty, then the evils prevailing in the society will be removed and the country will reach new heights," the prime minister said.

He also asked organisations like Brahma Kumaris, which have an international presence, to work to present the right picture of India abroad and dispel rumours being spread about it.

"You all have been witness to various efforts being made to malign India's image. A lot of it goes on at the international level too. We cannot wash our hands of by saying this is all politics. This is not about politics but about

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Fresh snowfall in Gulmarg, Pahalgam in Kashmir

# ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature dropped slightly in most parts of Kashmir where the tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam received fresh snowfall, officials said on Thursday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, settled at a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius half-a-degree down from the previous night, they

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 5. degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a

low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, they said.

officials Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum of 0.7 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.1 degrees Celsius.

The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius.

The MET Office has said the weather will remain partly to generally cloudy in J-K with the possibility of a spell of light rain or snow during January 22-23.

Thereafter, the weather is likely to stay mainly dry till the end of the month

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9