

03 ADGP reviews security arrangements ahead of Republic Day

09 Inter-state gang of thieves busted; 12 theft cases solved, 77 Tolas gold worth Rs 35 lakhs recovered

10 Asia Cup women's hockey India look to carry on momentum against Japan

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Assembly polls in J&K after delimitation; statehood to be restored once situation normal: Shah

Rs 50,000 Cr investments to come to UT



Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah virtually releasing DGGI in Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, LG Manoj Sinha and Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Atal Dulloo also seen.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI/JAMMU: Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held after the completion of the ongoing delimitation process and statehood will be restored once the situation in the union territory becomes

normal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday. Virtually releasing India's first "District Good Governance Index", he said Jammu and Kashmir is a priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and multi-

pronged efforts are being made for the all-round development of the union territory. The "District Good Governance Index", prepared by DARPG in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in pres-

ence of Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, PG and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Convention Centre Jammu. Appreciating the efforts of LG Manoj Sinha, Shah

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JeM terrorist associate arrested in Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Security forces on Saturday arrested a terrorist associate of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

A police spokesperson identified the terrorist associate as Umer Farooq Bhat, a resident of Renzipora, Awantipora. Incriminating material, including a hand grenade, was recovered from Bhat's possession, he said.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested terror associate was involved in providing shelter, logistic support, transportation of arms/ammunition and assisting the terrorists in shifting their locations. Besides, he was also passing sensitive information regarding the movement of police/security forces to the terrorists of proscribed outfit JeM," the spokesperson said.

A case has been registered and investigation has been initiated, he said.



Image of beautiful horse riding statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh at Amar Mahal in Jammu.

(Pic by Shilpa Thakur)

Record 6,568 new coronavirus cases in J&K; 7 more die

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 6,568 fresh COVID-19 cases, its highest single-day spike in infections so far, taking the virus tally to 3,90,949, while seven

related deaths in the past 24 hours raised the toll to 4,598, officials said.

The Jammu division accounted for 1,875 of the new cases in the Union Territory, while the Kashmir division logged the remaining

4,693 fresh infections, they said.

The Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 1,604 fresh coronavirus cases, followed by 1,236 infections in Jammu

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Ramban tops Good Governance ranking in SW, Dev sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: District Ramban has topped the Good Governance Index ranking in the Social Welfare and Development sector among the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Home Minister released the Good Governance Index ranking for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, first of its kind for a Union territory, in the programme which was attended by the officers of the District Administration Ramban through video conferencing.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, in presence of

MoS in PMO, GOI, Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated District Development Commissioner, Ramban Mussarat Islam for securing 1st rank in Social Welfare and Development sectors in UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

With 58 indicators, the framework assessed different aspects of development and administration in sectors such as agriculture, commerce and industry, human resource development, social welfare and development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, and public safety among others.

Two LeT terrorists killed in Shopian encounter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Two terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district on Saturday, police said.

A police spokesman said that based on a specific input regarding the presence of terrorists in village Kilbal area of Shopian in south Kashmir, a cordon-and-search operation was launched.

"During the search operation, as the joint search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the joint



search party which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter, he said.

In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists of the proscribed terror outfit LeT

(TRF) were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter, the spokesman said.

The Resistance Front (TRF) is a shadow group

of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). He identified them as Sameer Ahmad Shah, a resident of Dhangam in Shopian, and Rayees Ahmad Mir of Pulwama.

"As per police records, both the killed terrorists were part of group involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities, he said.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation, the spokesman added.

Pak flag seized along IB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Amid heightened security arrangements ahead of Republic Day, a small Pakistani flag was seized along the International Border in Sambha district on Saturday, officials here said.

The flag tied to a balloon landed inside the Indian Territory at Raguchak village of Ghagwal sector, the officials said.

They said the flag had apparently flown to this side from across the border and was found stuck in barbed wire after the balloon punctured. A police party rushed to the scene and recovered

the flag, the officials said, adding some Pakistani mobile phone numbers were found written on a paper attached with the flag.



An investigation is on into the incident, officials said.

Security has been beefed up across the Union Territory to ensure peaceful celebrations of the Republic Day functions.

Earthquake jolts Doda region

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An earthquake of 4.0 magnitude hit Doda district in the early hours of Saturday, an official said.

The quake occurred at 2.53 am. There are no immediate reports of any damage, Director Disaster Management Aamir Ali said.

He said the epicentre of the tremor was 10 kilometres below the surface of the earth in the Doda region.

Staying at isolation facility not mandatory for foreign arrivals testing COVID positive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Travellers from any country arriving in India, who test Covid positive, will not mandatorily be managed at an isolation facility from Saturday, but have to quarantine themselves at home according to protocols, authorities said. In its revised 'Guidelines for International Arrivals' released on Thursday,

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 12.0°C Min: 10.1°C

Humidity

Max: 92 Min: 92

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 5.7°C Min: 2.3°C

Humidity

Max: 94 Min: 78

Sunset : 17:56 Hours

Sunrise : 07:31 Hours

2021 watershed year for armed forces in J&K, Ladakh: Army Commander



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: A top army officer on Saturday called 2021 a watershed year for the armed forces on Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu

and Kashmir and Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

He said the troops displayed boldness in standing up to the aggressive designs

in the two Union Territories. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, northern command, Lt Gen Y K Joshi said there has been a reduction in terrorist-related incidents and stone pelting activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

There has been a reduction in terrorist related incidents, stone pelting activities and protests as a result of tireless efforts of the security forces and the people of J&K, Joshi said, addressing the northern command investiture ceremony at its headquarters here in J&K. Earlier in

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Gulmarg, upper reaches in Kashmir receive fresh snowfall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Gulmarg and other upper reaches of Kashmir received fresh light snowfall during the night, even as the minimum temperature in most parts of the valley settled above the freezing point, officials said on Saturday.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, received about five inches of fresh snowfall, while Pahalgam tourist resort, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, recorded about two inches, the officials said. Qazigund, the gateway

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Every stateless day an affront to federalism: J&K parties on HM's remarks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir reacted to Union minister Amit Shah's remarks on Saturday that the UT's statehood would be restored once the situation gets normal, saying the Centre's statement was self-contradictory and that every stateless day was an affront to federalism.

"After quite literally terrorising people of Jammu and Kashmir into silence to create a false normalcy narrative, GoI's admission that situation still isn't normal is self contradictory. Also proves

that silence shouldn't be misconstrued as normalcy," PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti wrote on Twitter.

Reacting to Shah's remarks, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone asked who will define normalcy.

"Who will define normalcy? And in a federal structure, can we really use normalcy as an excuse to assume power. Irrespective of the definition of normalcy, possibly coined by the union government, every single stateless day is an affront to federalism and to the people of J&K," Lone said on Twitter.

He said "non-popular" governments mean a "humiliating existence" for the inhabitants of that particular place.

"And to the people of India who are mute bystanders, Inshallah you too will one day taste statelessness and helplessness. We don't wish it for even on our worst enemies (sic)," Lone said.

The People's Conference chairman said the central rule in any place is a "kick in the teeth for federalism".

"And self-styled pat on the back, oh, doing so well, this is all so nauseating," he added.

CPI(M) leader M Y

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PM asks districts to set time-bound targets for Govt programmes to increase ease of living

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked district magistrates to work on time-bound targets to increase ease of living for people and asserted that the country's goal today is to achieve 100 percent saturation of services and facilities.

Modi also called for a direct and emotional connection between administration and the public to ensure 'top to bottom' as well as 'bottom to top' governance flow.

In his remarks at the virtual interaction with DMs and some chief ministers, Modi said the teamwork of Centre, states and local administration was yielding good results in aspirational districts.



PM Narendra Modi interacting with DMs of various districts through video-conferencing in New Delhi.

"Today, aspirational districts are eliminating the barriers to the progress of the country. With the efforts of all of you, aspirational districts are becoming accelerators of growth instead of impediments," he told the DMs.

The prime minister said that these districts have proved that due to the elimination of silos in implementation, optimum utilisation of resources takes place.

He emphasised the exponential benefits of this reform and said when silos

Interacts with 5 DCs of Aspirational Districts including DC Baramulla

BARAMULLA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday virtually addressed the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Aspirational Districts of the country during which Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar was also invited as the only DC from Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

This interaction with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla was first of its kind and a great honour for being one amongst the five districts of the country. He was specially invited in the event as the Baramulla district has recorded overwhelming and remarkable performance thrice in subsequent NITI Aayog's delta rankings.

On the occasion, Prime Minister enquired from the Deputy Commissioner about the success of the

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end, one plus one doesn't become two but eleven.

"We see this collective power in the aspirational districts today," Modi said.

Launched by the prime minister in January 2018, the aspirational districts programme aims to quickly

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Ban on physical rallies extended till Jan 31; some relaxations for first 2 polling phases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31 in the five polling states, but allowed public meetings with a maximum of 500 people in the constituencies going to poll in the first two phases and relaxed door-to-door campaign rules.

In a statement, it said the limit of five persons for door-to-door campaign has now been enhanced to 10 persons, excluding security personnel.

For the phase 1 polling on February 10, political parties and contesting candidates can hold "physical public meetings" with a cap of 500 people from January 28. For the phase 2 polling on

February 14, such meetings can be held from February 1.

Video vans for publicity have also been permitted at designated open spaces with COVID-19 restrictions.

Announcing the dates for elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur on January 8, the poll panel had announced a ban on physical rallies, roadshows and bike rallies and similar campaign events till January 15.

On January 15, the commission extended the ban until January 22.

It had, however, granted a relaxation for political parties to hold indoor meetings of maximum 300 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the hall. After

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