

03 All Morehas must act in unison for strengthening organisational structure of BJP: Chugh

03 ACB nabs Patwari, agent red-handed while accepting bribe

10 Samba District Athletics Championship from Jan 8

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Sinha holds special meeting of SMVDSB; pilgrim safety measures announced

- Besides Rs 10 lakhs, additional Rs 5 lakhs to be given to NoKs
- RFID Tracking system to ensure crowd management
- Online Yatra booking to be made 100 pc



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting of SMVDSB on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the aftermath of the death of 12 pilgrims in a tragic incident of stampede in the holy shrine on Trikuta Hills, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on Sunday sought urgent action on diverse fronts including effective crowd management, augmentation of infrastructure, making booking of yatra 100% through online mode; working out plans for decongestion of the entire track and separation of entry and exit

routes at Bhawan. These directions were passed to the Chief Executive Officer during special meeting of the Board convened by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday at Raj Bhawan.

Several important decisions were taken to ensure safety of the pilgrims, an official spokesperson said.

The meeting was convened in the backdrop of an unfortunate incident of stampede that occurred at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan in the

intervening night of 31st December, 2021 and 1st January 2022.

Dr. Ashok Bhan; Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli; Maj. Gen (Retd) S.K. Sharma; K.K. Sharma; K.B Kachru and Vijay Dhar- Members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and Ramesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB attended the meeting.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor

were special invitees to the meeting.

The Lt Governor, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, critically reviewed the causative factors leading to the stampede incident and the various steps taken immediately thereafter by the management of Shrine Board.

The Board appreciated the commendable post-incident efforts of Shrine Board, District Administration and Police Personnel towards the quick rescue and timely shifting of injured to Shrine Board's Hospital at Kakryal. The Board felt that as a consequence of these efforts, a number of lives were saved. The board was briefed by the CEO Shrine Board that 35,000 pilgrims were allowed to proceed for the Yatra on December 31 and January 01 as against the National Green Tribunal's cap of 50,000 a day, keeping in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

16 tourists injured in two-vehicle collision at Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sixteen tourists were injured in a head-on collision between their vehicle and a tanker near Patnitop hill station in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Sunday, officials said.

The tourists, mostly residents of Delhi, were returning from the hill station when the accident took place near Kud, over 100 km from here, in the evening, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Man impersonating Army officer arrested in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was arrested on Sunday for allegedly impersonating an Army officer in Samba district, police said.

A police team of Police Station Bari-Brahmana while patrolling at Telli Basti area, noticed one person in army uniform roaming under suspicious circumstances.

On questioning, the said person did not give any satisfactory answer and unable

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Under-construction bridge collapses in Samba; 27 injured



Shuttering of under-construction bridge over Devak River at village Koulpur Ramgarh collapsed.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: At least 27 labourers were injured on Sunday when the iron shuttering over an under-construction bridge collapsed in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The major bridge is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation over the Devika river at Ramgarh-Koulpur, the officials said.

They said the iron shuttering connecting two of many pillars caved in around 4.15 pm, injuring a total of 27 labourers.

A rescue operation was immediately launched and all the injured, some of whom also trapped under the debris, were evacuated to different hospitals, the officials said, adding the condition of two of them was stated to be "critical" and they were referred to the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for specialised treatment.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta immediately rushed to the scene of the accident to supervise the rescue opera-

tion and later enquired about the condition of the injured undergoing treatment at Community Health Centre Ramgarh and trauma centre Vijaypur.

"The iron shuttering collapsed during the laying of concrete slab. A rescue operation was immediately launched and all the 27 labourers were evacuated to nearby hospitals," she said.

Gupta said except two, the condition of rest of the injured was stable and they are under observation in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Four charge-sheeted for duping youth

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has filed a chargesheet in a court here against four persons for allegedly duping an unemployed youth on the pretext of providing him a government job, an official said on Sunday.

The chargesheeted persons included an employee of the Fire and Emergency Services and a daily wage in the Public Health and Engineering Department (PHE), a spokesperson of the Crime Branch Jammu said.

He said the chargesheet against the accused was filed in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Jammu for judi-

cial determination.

The case against the accused was filed in 2015 following a complaint by a youth, Naveen Raina, alleging that his acquaintance Pawan Kumar of Bhagwati Nagar area of Jammu told him that he could get him employed in a government department for Rs 3 lakh with a guaranteed salary of Rs 13,000 per month.

On payment of advance money, the accused took the complainant to PHE Office here, where he called Saroop Lal and the complainant was asked to submit his joining. Even after payment of Rs 3 lakh to the accused, the complainant received

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Infiltrator killed in Kupwara, Pak's BAT attempt foiled: Army

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Pakistani national was killed by the Army while trying to infiltrate into Kashmir in Kupwara district, an official said on Sunday.

An AK-47 and large quantity of ammunition was recovered from him, the official said.

"In a complete breach of the ongoing Ceasefire Understanding between the two armies across the Line of Control, an infiltration or BAT action (Pakistan Army's Border Action Team) was attempted in the Keran Sector of Kupwara district



on January 1. Swift action by the troops foiled the bid

and eliminated the terrorist," the official said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Light to moderate snowfall in parts of Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Light to moderate snowfall in most parts of Kashmir pushed the mercury closer to the freezing point, officials said here on Sunday.

Light to moderate snowfall was reported from most places of the valley since Saturday night, while a trace of rainfall was reported across Srinagar city, they said.

The minimum temperature improved at most places in Kashmir.

Srinagar recorded the minimum temperature of 0.3 degrees Celsius, up from the Friday night's minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius -- almost the same as Friday night's 6.0 degrees Celsius.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 20.1°C Min: 7.7°C

Humidity

Max: 84 Min: 60

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 7.9°C Min: 0.3°C

Humidity

Max: 90 Min: 64

Sunset : 17:38 Hours

Sunrise : 07:34 Hours

Admn, probe panel ask public to share info on stampede at Vaishno Devi shrine

Police will probe stampede, take action against those involved in scuffle: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday issued a public notice asking eyewitnesses to the stampede at the Vaishno Devi shrine to share information on the incident.

The public notice was issued by Jammu Divisional Commissioner Raghav Langer, who is one of the members of the committee constituted by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to probe the incident.

Twelve people lost their lives and at least 16 others were injured in a stampede at the famous Mata Vaishno

Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir in the early hours after a scuffle between two groups of pilgrims during the New Year rush.

"It is for the information of the General Public that any person who desires to furnish any facts, statements, electronic evidence etc. regarding the said incident; may share the same on the email id: div-comjmu-jk@nic.in or Whatsapp No: 09419202723or Landline No: 0191-2478996 by or before 05-01-2022. Any person who desires to meet in person, may appear before the said Enquiry Committee

in person between 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 05-01-2022 in the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Rail Head Complex, Panama Chowk; to furnish any statements/ facts/ evidence" a notice issued by Divisional Commissioner Office Jammu stated.

Any person who desires to meet in person, may appear before the said inquiry committee in person between 11 am and 1 pm on January 5 in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, to furnish any statements/facts/evidence,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG led J&K delegation to pitch for global investments at Dubai Expo

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DUBAI: A delegation from Jammu and Kashmir led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will woo business leaders to invest in key sectors like tourism and handicrafts and showcase investment opportunities in the Union Territory during the J&K week starting in Dubai on Monday.

The India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, one of the largest trade and technology exhibitions in the world, gears up to host the J&K week that will conclude on January 13. Lieutenant Governor Sinha, along

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

COVID, Omicron: LG reviews preparedness of health infra across J&K

Anantnag, Budgam complete 100 pc coverage of 2nd COVID dose

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday reviewed the Covid-19 status, Omicron, vaccination for 15-18 age group and preparedness of health infrastructure across the J&K UT.

While chairing the meetings with Covid Task Force and DCs, SPs, the Lt Governor issued directions for ensuring functioning of oxygen plants, availability of requisite medicines, audit of ICU and Oxygen supported beds across all hospitals in the UT, in view of the new variant and rise in the cases

Sinha to launch COVID-19 vaccination drive for 15-18 year age-group today

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is going to launch the UT-level COVID-19 vaccination drive for children in 15-18 year age group on Monday, January 03 from Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The COVID-19 vaccination drive for children in the 15-18 year age group will be carried out from January 03 at centers located in selected schools across the Union Territory. 8.33 lakh children targeted for inoculation during the vaccination drive in the UT. Similar event shall be held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh Srinagar by Additional Chief Secretary Health &

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

across the country. The Lt Governor directed Deputy Commissioners and Health officials to ensure the

infrastructure beginning from the Panchayat Level is strengthened and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Omicron rise; SC to conduct hearings virtually for next two weeks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Sunday decided to conduct all hearings in virtual mode for two weeks starting from January 3, in view of rising number of cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The Supreme Court administration issued a circular announcing the decision on Sunday evening.

It stated that an earlier circular prescribing standard operating procedure (SOP) for physical hearing (hybrid hearing) will remain suspended for the time being.

"It is hereby notified for the information of the members of the bar, party-in-person

and all concerned that keeping in view the rising number of cases of Omicron variant (COVID-19), the competent authority has been pleased to direct that modified Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) notified on October 7, 2021, for physical hearing (hybrid mode) will remain suspended for the present, and all hearings before the courts for a period of two weeks from and with effect from January 3, shall be through virtual mode only," the circular read.

The top court is reopening on Monday after its winter vacation. On October 7, 2021, it had issued an

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Omicron tally in India rises to 1,525

NEW DELHI: A total of 1,525 cases of Omicron variant of coronavirus have been detected across 23 states and Union Territories so far, out of which 560 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Sunday. Maharashtra recorded a maximum of 460 cases, followed by Delhi at 351, Gujarat 136, Tamil Nadu 117 and Kerala 109.

India's Covid tally rose to 3,48,89,132 with 27,553 fresh cases, while the active cases have increased to 1,22,801, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The death toll has climbed to 4,81,770 with 284 more fatalities, the data stated. The active cases have increased to 1,22,801 comprising 0.35 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

also chairman of the district disaster management authority, said "any violation of the order shall invite puni-

tive action under section 188 of Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897



The order said the screening for COVID-19 was conducted at the university on December 31, 2021 and January 1, during which a total of 13 students have tested positive.

Ordering immediate closure of the university till further orders, Singh, who is