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

HC directs Govt to initiate process for conducting

UU elections to Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees

Excise sleuths conduct raids in Kathua, destroy 1,300 Kg Lahan

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

JKPS Kunjwani celebrates 'Gurpurab' with religious spirit

COVID SURGE: Centre asks states, UTs to review health infra preparedness

Omicron tally in India rises to 1,892

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: With Omicron tally across the country rising to 1,892 and surge being witnessed in the corona tally, the Centre on Tuesday asked states and Union territories to review infrastructure preparedness, including re-establishment of field and makeshift facilities. so that they are not found wanting if there is a surge in hospital admissions due to escalation in Covid cases.

To tackle a possible rise in COVID-19 cases, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on January 1 advised states to start setting up makeshift hospitals, constitute special teams to monitor patients in home isolation as he emphasised the significance of upgrading health infrastructure timely and swiftly.

Referring to the letter of Bhushan, Additional Secretary in the ministry

states, saying it is expected that the work for re-establishment and re-commissioning of field and makeshift hospital facilities would have begun.

Union States and Territories must have also started the exercise to repurpose the beds in public and private hospitals for Covid cases to ensure maximum preparedness against another potential surge in cases, the officer said in the letter additional chief secretary principal secretary and health secretary of all states.

"You may review this matter at your level regularly to ensure that in the eventuality of a potential surge in hospital admissions, the state and UT is not found wanting," she stated.

States are also expected to develop Covid care centres in hotel rooms and other similar accommodations to be linked with dedicated Covid hospi-

cases, Ahuja reiterated.

"It is imperative that logistical supplies like testing reagents and kits (both for RT-PCR and rapid antigen testing) are procured and maintained in ample supply to avoid any stock shortages, in case of a sudden increase in the number of cases. It is advised that these preparatory measures must be taken up with the highest priority and regular monitoring may be ensured.'

Meanwhile, a total of 1,892 cases of Omicron variant of have been coronavirus detected across 23 states and Union Territories so far, out of which 766 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union health ministry's undated this evening

Maharashtra has recorded the maximum number of 568 cases, followed by Delhi (382),Kerala (185),Rajasthan (174), Gujarat (152), and Tamil Nadu

India's Covid tally rose to 3,49,60,261 with 37,379 new cases, while the active cases increased to 1,71,830,according to the data updat-

ed at 8 am. The death toll climbed to 4.82.017 with 124 more fatalities, the data showed.

The active cases comprise 0.49 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.13 per cent, the health ministry said.

An increase of 26,248 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.24 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.05 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged 3,43,06,414, while the case fatality rate was recorded at

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two Lashkar terrorists killed in Kulgam encounter

Govt grants Special Casual Leave today on Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday ordered to grant of Special Casual Leave on account of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday on January 5.

"Sanction is accorded to the grant of one day Special Casual Leave in favour of the employees who desire to avail holiday on account of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Birthday on 5th of January, 2022," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

Four Jr Scale JKAS officers posted in Social Media Cell of Info Deptt

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday posted four Junior Scale JKAS officers in Social Media Cell of Information Department for a period of two months.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Principal Secretary, General

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Rain lashes Jammu division; snowfall in Kashmir

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

'42 flights cancelled due to poor visibility at Srinagar Int'l Airport'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Rain lashed Jammu division on Tuesday while light to moderate snowfall occurred in Kashmir as the weather office forecast inclement weather in J&K and Ladakh till January 9.

"We have already issued an advisory about moderate to heavy snowfall in Kashmir division and rain in Jammu division.

Inclement weather is expected to continue till January 9 (forenoon)", an official of the MeT department said.

had Srinagar Pahalgam minus 1.2, and Gulmarg minus 5.0 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. Dras town of Ladakh region had minus 7.5, Leh minus 6.1, and Kargil minus 9.0 as the minimum temperatures.

Jammu city had 11.8, Katra 10.3, Batote 2.6, Banihal 1.4, Bhaderwah 3.5 as the

"Continuous snowfall and poor visibility resulted in 42 cancellations across all airlines. The visibility has now improved and the flights are operating," AAI said in a

tweet, according to a

rain lashes Jammu on Tuesday. Srinagar-based

Team Dr. Avtar Singh

5th January, 2022

+91-9622965050

night's lowest temperatures. Meanwhile, 42 flights agency. which were scheduled to "The passengers of the cancelled flights shall be operate to and fro Srinagar international airport here rescheduled in the next were cancelled due to poor available flight of the convisibility amid rains and cerend airlines. There will be no extra charges for snowfall in Kashmir Valley. rescheduling. The passengers may also opt for full refund at their convenience,"

A woman walking through flooded road after

be rescheduled in the next CONTD ON PAGE 9

it said. "All the passengers

of the cancelled flights shall

107 Jr Scale JKAS officers promoted to Time Scale

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday promoted 107 Junior Scale officers to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS).

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of Junior Scale officers to the Time Scale of and Kashmir Jammu Administrative Service in pay level 11 (Rs 67700-208700), with effect from January 1, 2021, on notional basis and on regular basis from December 10, 2021," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

COVID: J&K records 199 fresh cases, Ladakh 65

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 199 fresh cases of the coronavirus, which took the tally to 3,42,001, while no death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 90 were from the Jammu division and 109 from the Kashmir division, they

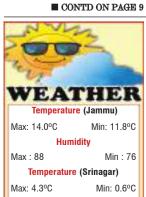
■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Labourer injured in Samba under-construction bridge collapse dies in hospital

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A labourer undergoing treatment for injuries sustained when an iron shuttering of an under-construction bridge collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district has died, officials said on Tuesday.

Madan Lal of Chak Chandu in Suchetgarh was critically injured and was undergoing treatment at



Sunset: 17:39 Hours

Sunrise: 07:34 Hours

Min: 91

Max: 96

As per order, Junior Scale

Mumtaz

Wani.

officers who have been promoted to the Time Scale include Mohamad Ashraf, Towfeeq Ahmad Gazi. Sanjeev Sharma, Mazahir Hussain Shah, Sunaina Saini, Abdul Qyume, Sheeba Inayat, Abid Iqbal Malik, Peerzada Farhat Ahmed, Arun Kumar Badyal, Syed Nadeem Iqbal Andrabi, Sadotra, Akhil Gulzar

Bhat,

Ahmad Pir, Rachna Sharma,

Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Piyush

Dhotra, Vikas Sharma,

Ahmad

Ahmad

Masood

Shafqat Majeed Bhat, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkare-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district on Tuesday, police said. Security forces launched a

cordon and search operation

in Okay village of Kulgam district which turned into an encounter, a police official Two ultras were killed in the exchange of firing with

the security forces, the offi-Inspector General of Police

Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the slain duo were locals and affiliated with the LeT. He said they were involved in



According to a police spokesperson, the killed terrorists have been identified as Amir Ahmad Wani, resi-

dent of Alamgunj Shopian and Sameer Ahmad Khan,

resident of Tiken Pulwama. As per police records, the killed ultra Amir Ahmad was a categorized terrorist linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). However, the other killed terrorist joined

of a group involved in several terror crime cases. Incriminating materials arms and ammunition

terror folds recently. Both

the killed terrorists were part

including 01 AK-47, 01 pistol were recovered from their possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if

J&K Police to get American assault rifles, pistols for anti-terror ops

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel will soon get American Sig Sauer assault rifles and pistols to carry out anti-terror operations, officials said.

The Army has already equipped its personnel guarding the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China with the state-of-the-art rifles.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police is probably the first in the country to get the modern weapons, they said, adding that the force will be procuring 500 Sig Sauer-716 rifles and 100 Sig Sauer

MPX 9mm pistols. The special operation

group (SoG) and personnel deployed for the security of protected people will be equipped with the weapons, they said. According to officials, the

Jammu and Kashmir Police had recently floated global bids on the government buying portal GeM (Government e-Market) for purchasing the assault weapons. The Sig Sauer-716 assault

rifle has a more powerful 7.62x51mm cartridge as compared to the 5.56x45mm intermediate cartridge of the INSAS (Indian Small

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Images of Indian Army's New Year celebrations at Galwan surface

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Photographs of Indian Army troops holding a large tri-colour at the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh as part of the New Year celebration were released on Tuesday by sources in the security estab-

The photographs were also posted by Union Law and Justice minister Kiren Rijiju on Twitter with the caption "brave Indian Army soldiers in Galwan Valley on the occasion of #NewYear2022.'

The images were released three days after China's state media played up a purported



Indian Army soldiers unfurling Tricolour in Galwan Valley on New Year.

video of PLA soldiers sending New year greetings to Chinese people from a location near the Galwan valley

In one of the photos. released by the sources in the Indian security establishment, around 30 Indian soldiers were seen with the national flag.

Another photo showed the group with four of them holding the national flag and another tri-colour flying high on a flagpole adjacent to a temporary observation post.

The sources said the photographs were of January 1 in the Galwan Valley.

The Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets and greetings at 10 border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) including in eastern Ladakh and North Sikkim on January 1, which was seen as a warm gesture in the midst of the

Driver dead, 20 UP tourists injured as bus turns turtle inside Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: mini-bus carrying tourists turned turtle inside the Banihal-Qazigund tunnel on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Tuesday, leaving the 18-yearold driver dead and 20 travellers injured, officials said.

According to reports, a tourist vehicle (JK02AT 6530) on its way from Katra to Srinagar turned turtle on the road inside Banihal-Qazigund four-lane tunnel. Police along with QRT

immediately rushed to spot and shifted all to SDH Banihal, where doctors



Tourist vehicle which met with an accident inside tunnel.

declared driver of the vehicle as brought dead.

SDM Banihal Zaheer Abbas also visited the Hospital and assured full

BMO Banihal Dr Rabia Khan said that out of all 11 injured persons, three seriously injured were shifted to GMC Anantnag for

VIJAYPUR RAPE CUM ASSAULT CASE

Rape charges dropped as woman retracts statement

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR (SAMBA): In Vijapur rape case, the complainant has retracted from her statement after one month of the initial complaint. Thereafter, the rape charges have been dropped from the FIR and Locals allege political interference as only assault case has

been

against two accused. It was said that son of a political leader was also involved in the case and after his intervention the victim has changed her statement.

Initially, the names of three accused surfaced in rape case wherein name of son of a leader was surfaced.

The victim in her retracted statement stated that only

two persons have assaulted her and has denied the rape charges. So after her new statement, only assault case has been registered, following which both the accused have been released. As per the case, a woman

resident of Udhampur

presently putting up at

Bakshi Nagar area lodged a

complaint with Vijaypur

police that on Dec 3, three

persons including a son of a

local leader raped and

assaulted her when she came

to Vijaypur to see a venue for

Jaagran organised by a

On this police registered

political person.

FIR 193/2021 under sections 323,342,3/25 and 376 of IPC which states that the victim was raped on gunpoint and assaulted. The case was in limelight as name of a political leader also sur-Many times the

rape victims registered name of local leader's son surfaced changed statements but in Courts to save the accused persons, but in this case, the complainant has changed her statement after a month.

On Dec, 4, the STATE TIMES reported a story under caption "Woman raped on gunpoint; 2 arrested, 1 flee" stating that a woman was raped on gunpoint

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Pylon work of

India's first cable-staved railway bridge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was completed on Tuesday, officials said, terming it a breakthrough in connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country by train within the next couple of years

The Anji Khad bridge having a single pylon with a height of 331 metres above the river bed on the Rs 21,653-crore Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is a milestone project of the Indian Railways, they said.

"When I came here, it was a major challenge for us to complete the work on the

Pylon work of India's first cable-stayed

railway bridge completed in J&K

pylon which is the lifeline of a "All phases of the pylon bridge. The pylon is complete now, and we are hopeful of constructing this engineering said. marvel within one year," project manager, Hindustan Construction Company, Ajay Kumar Pasheen

reporters.

work stand completed, and we are ready to move ahead to complete the bridge," he Another engineer said he

had joined the site at the beginning of the work in March 2017 and is happy to

He said the Anji Khad bridge, which is going to connect Katra and Reasi, is an

cable-stayed rail bridge

be part of the country's first

engineering marvel. The bridge has a total length of 473.25 metres, while the length of the viaduct is 120 metres and the central embankment 94.25 metres, the official said,

He said the bridge has been designed to handle strong winds and even explosions.

adding it is supported by 96

cables.

In October 2016, the Railways decided to build a cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad after the plan to build an arch bridge similar

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9