

Vol. 28 Issue 5 • Jammu • Thursday • January 5, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.50

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Jammu lawyers abstain from work, stage UU protest against Rajouri terrorist attack

Mother-son duo dies in mishap

J&K Girls beat Uttarakhand in Volleyball

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

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'GI could be a game changer for rural economy in J&K'

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

'People First' our Mantra to speed up pace of sustainable development: LG

JAMMU: Saving 'People First' is our mantra to speed up the pace of sustainable development, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday asserted that special impetus is being given to create physical, economic and knowledge connectivity to reduce rural-urban gap, improving rural economy, and protecting the interest of small and marginal farmers.

Inaugurating two-day workshop on Geographical Indications (GIs) of North-Western Himalayas SKUAST-Jammu, Lieutenant Governor said that in the last two years, unprecedented work has been done to strengthen physical, knowledge and economic connectivity, adding that several initiatives have also been taken to bring socio-economic prosperity in the lives of farmers, produc-



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after inaugurating two-day workshop on GIs of North-Western Himalayas at SKUAST-Jammu on Wednesday

ers and all associated stake-

The workshop aims to sensitise all stakeholders on GIs, the oldest category of trademarks, identify potential products and formulate future strategy to empower

ments over public property in

general and over public lanes

or public streets promote a

public nuisance, constitute

serious traffic hazards and

jeopardize public safety,

It was highlighted that the

right to enjoy public property

which belongs to the general

public at large, belongs to

illegal constructions like

every citizen and that such

health and convenience.

rural communities.

The Lt Governor lauded the efforts of SKUAST Jammu and Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department for bringing experts ofGeographical Indication,

intellectual property rights, experts, officials on a common platform to chalk out constraints and opportunities from the farmer's and artisan's perspective.

"Geographical Indication could be a game changer for rural economy and J&K will lead in GIs use for agricultural and handicraft sectors. GIs also has the potential to substantially extend wider benefits to rural areas while strengthening historical and cultural link between place and people", observed the Lt Governor.

Besides ensuring sustainable livelihoods and generating more income for producers, GIs will also play a key role in protection of indigenous knowledge. It will help the particular geographical area to produce and sustain niche market products, the Lt Governor added.

Summer zone winter vacation extended till Jan 7

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate Of School Education, Jammu extended winter vacation in Summer Zone of Jammu upto January 7, 2023.

"In view of prevailing inclement weather conditions in the Jammu Division, the winter vacation of Government/Private recognized Schools functioning in Summer Zone of Jammu Division, is extended upto January 7, 2023,"

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three bikers jump police Naka, says Rajouri police rejecting trio carrying weapons report STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rajouri Police on Wednesday said that three person travelling on a motorcycle jumped its naka in Rajouri district but rejected as untrue social reports that they the trio was carrying weapons.

"A motorcycle broke police naka today late evening at Thalka near Nowshera after which cops with the

Over 2,000 CRPF personnel being deployed in Rajouri, Poonch

JAMMU: In a bid to enhance security setup in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, authorities on Wednesday are deploying more than 2,000 CRPF personnel to secure minority areas in the region, officials

The development comes in view of twin terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district in which six people of a minority community including two children were killed and 11 others were injured.

Over 20 CRPF companies comprising more than 2,000 personnel are being deployed for strengthening security in Rajouri and Poonch districts, an officer told PTI.

Inspector General of CRPF and other top officers are supervising the deployment of the troops, he said. He said the security deploy-

ment is going on. It is



Ex-gratia provided to eight injured in Rajouri terror attacks

Jammu: Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Wednesday handed over an ex gratia of Rs 1 lakh each to eight people injured in twin terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

He visited government medical college (GMC) hospital and inquired about the well-being of the injured undergoing treatment there, they said.

The Deputy Commissioner handed over cheques of Rs 1 lakh to the eight people injured in the terrorist attacks.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had earlier announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of those killed in the attacks and Rs 1 lakh each to the injured. Kundal interacted with the injured and also expressed solidarity with the bereaved families. He assured them

Anti-encroachment drive conducted from Jewel Chowk to Canal Head

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation along with District Administration conducted an Anti encroachment drive from Jewel Chowk to Canal Head as part of a bigger schedule to make the city more accessible and encroachment free.

The drive was carried out as per the directions of High Court of J&K and Ladakh in OWP No 298/2011 and under the supervision of Commissioner Jammu.

The High Court had passed the directions while observing that the encroach-

Fire erupts in Poonch after landmines explode across LoC STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A fire broke out in Chakan Da Bagh sector of Poonch after landmines exploded across the Line of Control (LoC) Wednesday evening, officials said.

The fire erupted from the Pakistani side and spread close to an area near Chakan Da Bagh sector, they said. The flames were extinguished, the officials

Old shell recovered, defused in Anantnag

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: An old shell

was recovered and defused in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said on Wednesday. The rusted old shell was

recovered late on Tuesday at Sunglan in the Chittergul area of Shangus in the south Kashmir district, they said.

A Bomb Disposal Squad reached the spot early on Wednesday and defused



Sunrise: 07:34 Hours

Pariksha Pe Charcha supports exam warriors: Modi STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Pariksha Pe Charcha is among the most exciting programmes which gives an opportunity to discuss ways to make exams stressfree and support students, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. PM Modi will interact with students,

parents and teachers during the annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on January 27. The sixth edition of the interaction will be held at the Talkatora Indoor stadium here. "Pariksha Pe Charcha is among the

signboards, hoardings, illegal constructions on public most exciting programmes, giving an opportunity to discuss ways to make premises, public roads and public lanes cause hindrance exams stress-free and support our and interruption in free flow #ExamWarriors. I look forward to the programme on the 27th of this month ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 and urge you all to take part in this



unique interaction. #PPC2023, Modi tweeted on Wednesday.

Pariksha Pe Charcha is an annual event where Modi interacts with students appearing for the forthcoming board examination. During the event,

he also answers students' queries related to exam stress and other issues. The first edition of the prime minister's interactive programme with school and college students was held at the stadium on February 16, 2018.

The registrations for participation in the annual event were open from November 25 to December 30.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) said the registrations have more than doubled this year compared to 2022. It said about 38.80 lakh participants (students - 31.24 lakh, teachers - 5.6 lakh, parents - 1.95 lakh) have registered for PPC-2023 compared to about 15.7 lakh for PPC-2022.

Students from over 150 countries, teachers from 51 countries and parents from 50 countries have registered for PPC-2023, it said

Kashmir continues to reel under freezing night temperatures coldest recorded place in

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Kashmir con-

tinued to reel under sub-zero temperatures as the mercury remained several degrees below freezing point across the Valley for the third consecutive night, officials said on Wednesday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night against minus 4.4 degrees Celsius the night before.

Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which serves as a base for the annual camp Amarnath Yatra, registered a temperature of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius and was the

Jammu and Kashmir.

The minimum temperature in Gulmarg, the famous ski resort town in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recorded a temperature of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Met office has forecast dry weather for the region, leading to colder nights and slightly warmer daytime temperatures, over the next few days.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, also witnessed a slight rise in the

minimum temperature

Farmers file petition against imposition of irrigation tax

DGP, GoC 16 Corps discuss security scenario in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

and movement of traffic

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh Officer and General Commanding (GOC) of 16 Corps Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain on Wednesday discussed various issues related to the overall security scenario in the Jammu region, officials said.

The meeting takes place in the backdrop of twin terrorist attacks in Dhangri

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



General Sandeep Jain in Jammu

SFs recover arms, ammunition near LoC in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday recovered arms and ammunition from a house near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district, police said.

Acting on specific information, Police alongwith Army (03/08GR) launched a joint cordon & search operation in village Sadhpora Taad area Karnah, Kupwara. During the search operation, the joint team recov-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: A bench of High

Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu comprising Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, in a writ petition filed by several farmers of Jammu through Adv Aseem Sawhney, has directed to keep in abeyance the notices dated 12.11.2022

directing

'Abiyana'.

The petitioners Girdhari Lal Sharma, Gopal Dass Sharma, Sarwan Singh, Sandeep Singh Saini, Jai Singh, Sanjay Sharma,

recovery of

Gurdeep Singh, Isher Dass, Angrez Singh, Balbinder Singh, Chaman Lal, Babu Ram, Ajeet Singh, Balbir Singh, Darshan Lal, Harvinder Singh, Jatinder Singh and Mahesh Kumar Sharma have filed a writ petition in the High Court against Union Territory of J&K through Principal Secretary/ACS Finance, Commissioner/Secretary, Director Finance Jal Shakti Department, Chief Engineer . Irrigation & FC, Jal Shakti. Civil Engineer, Ravi-Tawi

HC stays 'Abiyana' recovery notices Irrigation Muthi, Jammu wherein they have sought to adhere to the Budget Capex Decision 2015 followed by communications PW/Hyd/Accts/BA/2015-16dated 15.10.2015 and not to charge 'Abiyana' from the petitioners, to issue a writ of certiorari quashing the impugned communication No. JSD-Acco 03/3/2021-Accts-PHE, I&FC dated

22.6.2022 along with the

Notice no. 595-98 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Booked by SVO in 2013, sanction for prosecution against 10 PDD engineers still pending

Accused XEn, 2 AEEs, 2 JEs promoted in past 10 years ident of Village Bagla, Rajouri, at present

Panja Chowk, near DPL Masjid, Rajouri

the then JE, at present AEE STD-IV

VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Sanction to prosecute 10 Superintending Engineers (SEs), Executive Engineers (XEns), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and Junior Engineers (JEs) of Power Development Department (PDD), booked by the then State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) after 132 KV transmission towers failed, 22 transmission towers got damaged due to use of sub-standard material in District Poonch, is still pending since 2013.

FIR 4/2013 was registered with the then State Vigilance Organisation (SVO) now Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for failure of 132 KV transmission towers in Poonch, wherein as many as 22 transmission towers were damaged at Rajouri to Draba line and Draba to Chandak line due to poor

quality and sub standard material used in fabrication, not sourced from SAIL/TISCO/IISCO, use of ungalvanised stubs and structural member, missing of gusset plates, cover plates at joints between stubs and main legs, missing of several members in line and poor workmanship in fixing of joints.

Due to alleged self created and managed official delays at various stages, the pros-

ecution sanction is still pending against Mohan Lal Langeh, son of Balak Ram, resident of Ward No 2, near PWD office Reasi, the then Executive Engineer TLCD-I Jammu at present Executive Engineer Electric Project Division JKPDCL, Trikuta Complex BC Road, Jammu; Davinder Pal Singh Bali, son of P S Bali, resident of 15, Apna Vihar, Kunjwani, Jammu, the then Executive Engineer Inspection Division, Jammu, presently posted as Superintending Engineer J&K PDC Baramulla; Sanjeev Rohmetra son of Manohar Lal, resident of 48-B/B Gandhi Nagar Jammu, the then AEE TLCD-1 Jammu at present XEn TLMD-II JK Power Transmission Corporation Ltd, Gladni Narwal, Jammu, Gharu Ram, son of Rattan Lal, resident of Deoli, Bishnah, the then AEE in Generation Circle-III, PDC 310 Lane no 3, Arash Enclave, Trikuta Nagar; Nisar Hussain, son of Feroz Din, resident of village Leeran PO Raki Ban Tehsil Darhal, Rajouri, at present Upper Bathindi, the then AEE TLCD-I Jammu at present XEn in the office of MD Power Dev Corporation, Panama Chowk Jammu, Munir Husain, son of Ghulam Mohd, res-

JPDCL Kalakot Rajouri; Barkat Hussain, son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Kotranka, Rajouri, at present near MED office Thudi, Rajouri, the then JE ED, Rajouri now posted as JE Electric Maintenance Division, JPDCL, Rajouri, Sumit Puri, son of Tilak Raj Puri, resident of 158, Sector

5, Trikuta Nagar, the then JE TLCD-

EXCLUSIVE I Jammu presently posted as JE STD-

II JPDCL Panama Chowk, Jammu; Mohd Rizwan, son of Mohd Azam, resident of village Chowkian, Darhal, Rajouri, the then JE, TLCD-I Jammu, presently posted as JE Electric Maintenance Div JPDCL, Rajouri; Rajesh Gupta , son of D P Gupta, resident of ward no 6, Kathua at present 459-F Sainik Colony Jammu, the then JE TLCD-I Jammu now posted as AEE

Estates Division behind Shankuntla

Theatre, Jammu.

After the registration of the FIR (4/2013), five engineers were also given promotions. Davinder Pal Bali, XEn was promoted as Superintending Engineer; Sanjeev Rohmetra, AEE and Nisar Hussain, AEE as XEns besides Munir Hussain, JE and Rajesh Gupta, JE were promoted as AEEs.

This is not an isolated case wherein the government delayed the prosecution sanction due to one reason or the other. There are 35 FIRs, registered in the past 10 years by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), waiting for the

government sanction.

It has been learnt that the ACB vide letter no ACB-FIR-04/2013-J-12258 dated September 3, 2020 forwarded the final investigation report to the General Administration Department (GAD) for accord of sanction to the prosecution of the accused in-service public servants in FIR 4/2013. After examination, the case was found deficient of some critical documents. With the approval of authorities, the matter was taken up with the ACB for furnishing the deficient documents vide letter dated December 3, 2020.

In response, the ACB furnished the req uisite documents vide letter No ACB FIR- 04/2013-JH-752 dated January 18. 2021, which was examined and submitted to the authorities for the approval.

However, the case was again returned by the authorities to the GAD (vigilance) on August 22, 2021 for examining the case further in light of the guidelines for issuing prosecution sanction. The case was again examined and re-submitted to the authorities after fulfilling all the requirements, which is presently under submis-

According to sources, the reasons of the delay are self explanatory. If this is how the corruption cases of serious nature are treated then hardly any case will get the sanction on time. And, moreover, if there is another delay of five to ten years, most of these accused engineers would retire after enjoying all promotions with all pen-

This is the way to favour accused officers and officials by adopting delay tactics in issuing sanction for prosecution, mandatory to move ahead in leveling charges against the accused in court of law, the sources added.