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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh J&K Bank XI wins 15th

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Marble Market Extention, Greater Kailash Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jamesu.

Foot & Ankle and Bone Cancor Specials

Establish at least one Coop Super Bazar in each district: Advisor Khan to officers

Teenager killed, 2 brothers injured as Alto plunges into gorge

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

NITI Aayog Member hails governance

Christmas Football Gold Cup

Omicron: LG for tough measures to prevent contagion



top priority.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Referring to surge in cases of new variant Omicron worldwide, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for putting tough measures in place to prevent the contagion.

While reviewing the latest Covid-19 situation of the Union Territory at a meeting with Covid Task Force and DCs. SPs. Sinha directed the Civil and Police administrations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that everyone follows Covid-appropriate behaviour.

The Lt Governor further asked the district administrations to carry out analysis of Covid trend in their

respective districts and identify the reasons of surge to deploy effective strategies. He impressed upon the optimal utilization of RTPCR tests

and accelerated vaccination drive as

The Lt Governor said that Health department will ensure that every patient gets the benefit of Sehat Golden Card. "J&K administration's aim is to provide the best medical care to everyone without any strain on their finances", he maintained.

He issued instruction to the Deputy Commissioners of the districts with low number of Sehat Golden cards to

The Lt Governor asked the Divisional commissioners to keep a close vigil and continuously monitor the emerging situation.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on the analysis of Covid-19 situation, District-wise threat level, testing, contact tracing and vaccination across the UT, besides vaccine stock, weekly RTPCR testing, Covid Appropriate Behavior enforcements, report of Survey (Har Ghar Dastak) of TB Symptoms, and work done in BIS under AB PM-JAY & AB PM-JAY SEHAT.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the government, Home department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SPs, attended the meetings, in person

India's Omicron count crosses 100

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI India's Omicron COVID count crossed the 100 mark on Friday after recording the highest single day rise of 24 fresh cases of the new variant, even as the Centre advised people to avoid nonessential travel and mass gatherings and keep New Year celebrations at low intensity

As the Omicron tally from 11 states and union territories stood at 111 exactly 15 days after the first case of the potentially more contagious COVID variant was detected in Karnataka, 20 new cases were reported from Maharashtra(8) and Delhi(12) to take their total to 40 and 22 respectively. Telangana and Kerala recorded two more cases each to take their tally to eight and seven respectively.

The Centre also warned it is likely that the spread of the new variant will outpace the Delta variant where there is community transmission. Addressing a joint news conference in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

transformation in J&K in past 2 years

Will continue handholding UT in deepening institutional reforms

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Terming the performance of J&K on all developmental indicators over the last two years as significant, Dr. V.K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog on Friday urged the government functionaries to keep up the good work for further improving the lives of the people of J&K.

He made these remarks while reviewing the progress made by UT of J&K on varigrowth/development indicators over the last two years in a meeting with the Chief Secretary and the Administrative Secretaries of the J&K Government as well as the senior officers of the central ministries and NITI

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Saraswat stated that cooperative federalism is the bedrock of the fiscal federalism and NITI Aayog is committed to working with states and central ministries to



the Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries in Jammu

Meets LG; appreciates EQ, heath indexes

JAMMU: Member NITI Aayog, Dr. V K Saraswat on Friday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed various development related issues of J&K, here at Raj

Dr. Saraswat apprised the Lt Governor regarding setting up of Atal Tinkering Laboratories in the schools, capacity building of the officers for outcome monitoring, providing of transaction Advisors to Tourism and other departments for resolving pending issues of the UT with various Central Ministries. He also apprised the Lt Governor about his meetings with the Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries of the various departments of the ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

JKPCL to buy 200 MW Solar Power

enhance and equalise growth and development in the coun-

"Strong districts and blocks will strengthen the States,

nation to grow strong and prosperous. The focus of the developmental initiatives. therefore, has to be on the districts and blocks,

Terror groups targeting India continue to operate from Pakistan: US report on terrorism

AGENCY

WASHINGTON: Terrorist report on terrorism by the US State Department.

Reports Country Terrorism issued

to operate from Pakistan.

groups targeting India continued to operate from Pakistan and Islamabad did not take action against other known terrorists, including JeM founder and UN-designated terrorist Masood Azhar and the 2008 Mumbai attack project manager Sajid Mir, who remain free in that country, according to a latest

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in the 2020 Thursday, said that regionally, terrorist groups continued

Kashmir to experience colder nights next week

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Cold wave con-

intensified Kashmir as the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, officials said on Friday.

The weather office has forecast a further dip in the minimum temperature across the valley in the next few days.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, down by 1.7 degrees from the previous night's minus 2.1 degrees

This was the second coldest night of the season so far in the city which has witnessed a low of minus 3.9 degree Celsius 48 hours ago. Gulmarg resort in north

Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 10 degrees Celsius previous night.

officials Pahalgam, which serves ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Max · 100 Temperature (Srinagar) Max: 9.3°C Max: 93 Min: 59

CAT allows petitioners upto 33 of years to participate in SI's selection

JAMMU: In a petition filed by a bunch of petitioners Afghanistan including the seeking directions to respon-Afghan Taliban and affiliatdents to make upper agelimit as 33 years for direct ed Haqqani network (HQN), as well as groups targeting recruitment to 1,200 posts India, including Lashkar-eof Sub Inspectors in J&K Taiba (LeT) and its affiliated Police, advertised by Service front organisations, and Selection Board, vide notifi-Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) SSB/Secy/2021/7926-42continued to operate from dated November 24, 2021 Pakistani territory, according to the report.

Pakistan did not take action against other known terrorists such as JeM founder and UN-designated terrorist Azhar and 2008 Mumbai attack project manager Mir. both of whom

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

forms of the applicants be accepted provided last date for accepting the forms, as per submission of counsel for applicants, is December 18, 2021 and thereafter applicants be permitted to participate in selection process at their own cost and risk. Directing that result of the applicants shall not be declared till further orders from Tribunal, the CAT asked the AAG to file objecinstead of 30 years, as January 1, 2021, a Bench of tions within two weeks.

Administrative During course of hearing Tribunal (ACT) comprising Sr. Adv Abhinav Sharma seeking Rakesh Sagar Jain and direction for Anand Mathur after hearing Declaring Rule 176 (1) (c) of Sr. Adv Abhinav Sharma for Jammu and Kashmir Police petitioners, directed respon-Rules, 1960 to the extent it dents that the application provides minimum of 18

vears and maximum of 28 vears age, as on January 1 of the year in which notification inviting applications is issued by J&K SSRB for recruitment /selection to the post of Sub-Inspectors, as ultra-vires to Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India and also declaring S.O. 420 dated 10.12.2021 issued by respondent no. 1 in exercise of powers conferred by Third proviso to sub rule (1) of Rules 176 of Jammu and Kashmir Police Rules, 1960, whereby and where under the upper age limit for direct recruitment to the 1200 posts of Sub Inspectors in Jammu and Kashmir Police, advertised by J&K SSRB,

notification SSB/Secy/2021 /7926-42 dated 24.11.2021 as 30 years, instead of 33 years as ultra-vires to Article 14 & 16 of Constitution of India. Sr. Adv Abhinav Sharma also sought direction to the

respondents to prescribed minimum and maximum age for recruitment to post of Sub Inspectors in J&K Police as 21 years and 32 years respectively as on January 1 of the year in which notification inviting applications is issued by J&KSSRB and to provide upper age limit as 33 years for direct recruitment to 1,200 posts of Sub Inspectors in J&K Police.

from SECI for next 25 years ■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU:

Administrative Council (AC) which met here on Friday under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor. Manoj Sinha, approved the purchase of 200 MW Solar Power through the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to meet the growing

power demand and promote

the use of green and clean

energy in Jammu and

Kashmir. Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor. Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K, and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal

Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meet

The decision will allow the purchase of renewable energy at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.52 per kWh for the next 25 years, which is by far the lowest rate ever offered to J&K. Accordingly, the Power Department was also given financial approval for Rs. 110.37 crores per annum for purchasing the electricity from the Solar Energy

Corporation of India. The envisaged purchase of additional power will help JKPCL to partially meet the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Mehbooba, Omar slam changes in J&K land use policy

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah Friday lashed out at the Jammu and Kashmir administration for changes in the land use laws, claiming the new policy would adversely impact the people of the Union Territory.

Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP president, alleged the new laws enabling conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural purposes reveals designs to engineer demographic change in Jammu and Kashmir.

The development agenda is a ruse. Latest regulation doesn't even require the 15 yr domicile certificate as a prerequisite, she tweeted.

She was reacting to the government's change in land use laws that allows the use of agricultural land for nonagricultural purposes.

"After depriving locals of their rightful share of govt jobs, such abrupt policy decisions that pave the way for outsiders to buy land in J&K are taken only to further disempower locals," she said.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the changes in the land use rules would undo the major reform undertaken in the erstwhile

Allowing use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes is another nail in the coffin of the land to the tiller reforms in J&K. This landmark reform has been a major reason for the low levels of poverty and it will also threaten the food security of the people of J&K, he said.

"The fact that this conversion of land use doesn't even require the 15 year domicile certificate as a prerequisite will also rekindle fears about the motives behind such decisions," he added. CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami

Ladakh gets first forensic science lab

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the establishment of the first forensic science laboratory (FSL) in Ladakh, officials said on Friday.

Forensic examinations and reports play an important role in investigations as well as trials. The forensic science laboratory in Ladakh will provide an unbiased scientific opinion on different types of evidential material referred to them by the investigating agencies and in turn, help the judiciary, they

In the absence of such a laboratory in Ladakh,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Not necessary for court to give elaborate reasons while granting bail: SC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: It is not necessary for a court to give elaborate reasons while granting bail, particularly when a case is at the initial stage and the allegations of the offences by the accused would not have been crystalised, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said there cannot be elaborate details recorded by the court to give an impression that the case is one that would result in a conviction or, by contrast, in an acquittal while passing an order on an application for



The apex court said a balance would have to be struck between the nature of the allegations made against the accused, the severity of the punishment if the allegations

are proved and would result in a conviction, reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being influenced, tampering of evidence, criminal antecedents of the accused and a prima facie satisfaction of the court in support of the charge against the accused.

"It is not necessary for a court to give elaborate reasons while granting bail particularly when the case is at the initial stage and the allegations of the offences by the accused would not have been crystalised as such," the bench also comprising

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Be focused to face every challenge: DGP to trainees

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: General of Police Jammu and Kashmir Dilbag Singh asked trainees' to be focused on training so that they are able to face every challenge

Dilbag Singh was addressing a trainees' Darbar during visit to Police Training School, Manigam.

without any fear and difficul-

Accompanied by ADGP Armed, S.J.M Gillani, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, the DGP was received by the Principal of the Training School Shoket Hussain Shah and other senior officers of the centre and was presented ceremonial Guard on his

Addressing the trainees, the DGP impressed upon



DGP Dilbag Singh addressing trainees during Darbar at Police Training School, Manigam.

to training, work shoulder to shoulder with fellow trainees, develop a team spirit with the fellow trainees and prepare yourself for duties and future challenges.

tion", he added moment of training and togetherness as these days would be most memorable in the later professional life," institute and learn all the DGP said while emphasized nuisances of policing.

He said that they should the advantages of good training at the PTS now. follow the training curriculum with dedication as in

people. He said that training provides an opportunity to the trainees to shape themselves as a confident, well equipped and well mannered police

He said that the trainees were lucky for being trained in one among the few training centers which is rich in its natural beauty and this phase of grooming will determine how successful they would be professionally later. He also advised them to prepare themselves to face the difficulties and remain cheerful in all circumstances.

He directed the training staff to sensitize the trainees about their role in the field for facing multiple challenges. He advised the trainees to take care of their health and avoid unnecessary use of mobile phones.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K records 136 fresh **COVID** cases, 2 deaths

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 136 fresh Covid cases on Friday, taking the infection tally to 3,39,540, while two new deaths were reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 40 were from the Jammu division and 96 from the Kashmir division of the

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 54 cases followed by 18 cases in Jammu

There are 1,448 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,33,582, the officials said.

The death toll in the Union

Territory due to the pandemic was 4,510 as two fresh fatalities were reported in

the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, the officials said there were 50 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union

Territory as no fresh case was reported since Thursday evening. Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 21 fresh COVID-19 Union Territory, the officials cases, taking the tally to 21,886 while the active cases

> gone down to 167, officials Of these active cases, 155 were reported in Leh and 12 in Kargil, they said.

in the union territory have

Seventeen patients were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sunset: 17:27 Hours Sunrise: 07:28 Hours

them to fully devote them-



"You must enjoy each

"We are in a service which demands ability and courage to work in any given situa-

The DGP said that the recruit trainees should make best use of all the facilities available in the training future they would be shouldering the responsibilities with their fellow policemen working already on ground for maintaining peace and tranquility in J&K and a secure environment for its