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## Eliminating terror, terrorist sympathisers our priority: LG

'We will never forget and never forgive those trying to disrupt peace'



LG Manoj Sinha during BSF's Raising Day celebrations in Jammu on Friday.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Declaring that eliminating terror and terrorist sympathisers is our priority, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday observed that if every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir is contributing fearlessly to UT's journey of progress and development, it is all because of the sacrifice and valor of the security forces.

"We will never forget and never forgive those trying to disrupt peace and inflicting wounds on our social fabric", the

Lieutenant Governor said while participating in the 57th Raising Day celebrations of Border Security Force at the Frontier Officers Institute, in Paloura, Jammu.

Extending his warm wishes to all BSF Personnel, officers, veterans, and their families on BSF's Raising Day, the Lt Governor lauded the commitment and exemplary courage displayed by the BSF Jawans while discharging their duties.

The Lt Governor also joined the BSF

officers, their families and veterans for dinner, on the occasion.

The country is indebted to our Security Forces for dismantling the Eco-system of terrorism, Terror funding and eliminating Anti-national elements to establish a secured and safe environment for the people, said the Lt Governor.

"I bow to all the martyrs of the BSF and their families who have made supreme sacrifice in service of the nation", the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor noted that whether it is peaceful conduct of DDC elections in the UT, public service programs in the border villages, assistance during the Covid pandemic, or preventing cross-border infiltration and smuggling of drugs, the BSF has successfully fulfilled all its responsibilities and has made unprecedented contributions to maintaining peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

BSF, nurtured by the blood, sweat, and sacrifice of our brave-hearts, has always lived up to its motto of "Jeevan Paryant Kartaya -Duty for Life", enriching the 57 years of inspiring tradition of dedication, valor, and love for the motherland, said the Lt Governor.

We shall always **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Omicron: J&K Govt makes RT-PCR test, quarantine mandatory for Int'l travelers

7 Baramulla areas, Saraswati Vihar in Jammu declared micro containment zones

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Even as Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday issued fresh guidelines making rigorous screening and Covid-19 RT-PCR test mandatory for foreign travellers at the Srinagar International Airport amid fear of the new COVID variant, seven areas in Baramulla district of the Valley besides Saraswati Vihar of the Jammu City have been declared micro containment zone following detection of infection cases.

"In view of the situation emerging due to COVID-19 in General Lane, Saraswati Vihar near Hazuri Bagh, Talab Tillo Jammu fall under Police Station Domana, that there is sufficient ground for proceeding under Section 144 of CrPC for immediate prevention or speedy remedy is desirable to prevent danger to human life, health or safety," reads an order issued by Anshul Garg, District Magistrate, Jammu.

## J&K reports 181 fresh COVID cases, 2 new deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 181 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the infection tally to 3,37,444 on Friday while two new deaths due to the virus were reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 56 were from the Jammu division and 125 from the Kashmir division, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 56 cases followed by 41 cases in Baramulla district.

There are 1,708 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,31,257, the officials said.

The death toll due to the virus was 4,479 as two fresh fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours.

The officials said there were 49 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 41 new Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 21,642 while **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

As per order, the micro-containment zone area shall be under strict lock down and tight perimeter control, except for essential needs. There shall be no movement, whatsoever, in and out of the micro-containment zones area, it stated.

According to a Srinagar based news agency, District administration Baramulla has declared seven areas in the north Kashmir district as micro-containment zones.

"...In continuation of this office order issued under endorsement No:

D M B / N O / C O V I D - 19/2021/687 Dated: 22-11-2021 and in pursuance to the powers vested in me under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and under Section 144 CrPC, I, Bhopinder Kumar, IAS, District Magistrate Baramulla hereby order that the mentioned locations shall be Micro Containment Zones for containment of COVID-19 disease; Katibugh Kunzer, Jabla Uri, Parapillan Uri, Nambla Uri, Badam Bagh Sopore, Pringal Boniyar and Noorkha Boniyar", reads an order, of which a copy lies with GNS, a Srinagar based news agency.

The mentioned areas shall be under strict lock down and tight perimeter control, except for essential needs even as no movement, whatsoever, in and out of the Micro Containment Zone except essential services and medical emergency, by **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Full Court grants super-time scale to 3, SG to 8

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Full Court, during a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, granted super-time scale of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service i.e., Rs 70290-154076450 to 3 whereas Selection Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service i.e., Rs. 57700-123058930-1380-67210-154070290 was granted to eight.

According to order issued by Registrar General, Shujat A M

Khan, Mohd Yousuf Wani and Sanjay Parihar have been placed in Super-Time Scale (Rs 70,290-154076,450) of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service, while Shazia Tabassum, Tasleem Arif, Sonia Gupta, Rajinder Sapru, Naseer Ahmed Dar, Sobha Ram Gandhi, Kalpana Revo and S C Katal have been placed in the Selection Time Scale (Rs 57700-123058930-1380-67210-154070290) of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Judicial Service.

## Maintain surveillance on terror support system: DGP tells officers

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saying that Pakistani agents and their handlers here are always looking for soft targets to foment trouble in the much better prevailing security scenario in J&K, Director General Police (DGP) J&K, Dilbag Singh on Friday directed the officers to stay focused and to maintain surveillance on the support system of terrorists.

DGP J&K was chairing back to back meetings at Srinagar.

Speaking to the officers, the DGP expressed satisfac-



DGP, Dilbag Singh chairing security review meeting at Srinagar on Friday.

tion over the synergy existing between the officers and formations of forces. He expressed hope that

together security forces will continue to work harder for greater peace. The DGP stressed upon the

officers not to let the peaceful atmosphere be disturbed by the elements inimical to peace by effectively and sincerely handling the lawful duties and commitments.

He said that the action against terrorists and their OGW networks and handlers should be continued unabated and all such elements should be kept under check so as to foil their ill designs that are aimed at disrupting normal lives of the people.

He said that security grids need to be kept fully geared up at all levels with **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Mysterious lights in sky leave residents puzzled in Rajouri, Poonch, Pathankot

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A trail of mysterious bright lights darting through the night sky in Rajouri and Poonch districts in Jammu and Kashmir and Pathankot area of Punjab left the residents puzzled on Friday.

A Kashmir based news agency KNS has carried certain reports, stating that a trail white and bright lights appeared in the sky for quite some time during evening time.

They said that the phenomenon was witnessed by several people in Rajouri, Poonch and Pathankot areas this

evening and they captured it on their mobile phones as well.

"This kind of bright light was seen for the first time and it just looked like a train darting through the night sky. This is something we have seen for the first time in our lives. The lights appeared in the sky for quite a while and later it disappeared," said a resident from Rajouri.

Notably, earlier this year, a similar mysterious kinds of bright lights gliding across the sky were seen in Gujarat's Junagadh and **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Cold wave grips Kashmir

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir reeled under intense cold wave as the minimum temperature settled below the freezing point across the valley, officials said on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, down from minus 1.8 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

The city had recorded its lowest minimum temperature this winter on Wednesday, they said.

The officials said Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius, up from minus 4.2 degrees Celsius 24 hours earlier.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district also recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 26.0°C Min: 10.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 78 Min: 70

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 12.2°C Min: -2.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 97 Min: 71

Sunset : 17:26 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:18 Hours

## Three PWD officials of Udhampur-Reasi Circle arrested for bribery

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The CBI has arrested three officials of Jammu and Kashmir's Public Works Department for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 1.5 lakh from a building contractor at Reasi in Udhampur; officials said on Friday.

The agency took superintending engineer Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, technical officer PK Koul and junior engineer Sanjay Koul, all of PWD (R&B), Circle Udhampur-Reasi into custody followed by searches at their residence and

office premises, they said.

"The complainant said his firm was awarded tender for constructing a medical sub-centre in Reasi during 2017-18 and that he had executed a part of project. However, Sheikh then demanded a bribe of Rs 3 lakh for processing the file related to technical sanction of the project," CBI Spokesperson RC Joshi said.

The PWD engineers had asked the complainant to meet at a certain place and pay a part of the bribe, he said, adding the investiga-

tive agency used this meeting to catch the accused red-handed.

"Sanjay Koul, the junior engineer, arrived at the designated place to collect the money on behalf of Sheikh and on the instructions of PK Koul and was nabbed," Joshi said.

"Later, Sheikh and the technical officer were also caught," he said.

Searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused at Jammu, Udhampur and Srinagar; he said. **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## WHO says measures against delta work for omicron variant too

### AGENCY

MANILA: World Health Organisation officials in the Western Pacific say border closures adopted by some countries may buy time to deal with the omicron coronavirus variant, but measures put in place and experience gained in dealing with the delta variant should remain the foundation for fighting the pandemic.

While a few regional countries are facing surges, COVID-19 cases and deaths in many others have decreased and plateaued, WHO Regional Director **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Patwari among 2 nabbed accepting bribe

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested one Munish Singh Charak, Patwari Halqa, Thather, Bantalab and his agent (tout) Ashif Choudhary for accepting bribe of Rs 4,000.

As per an official spokespersons, the sleuths of ACB received a complaint, wherein complainant had alleged that he purchased 07 marlas of land in Pooja Colony (Thathar) Bantalab, Jammu and got the same registered from competent authority. He further said that he has deposited Rs

1,000 for mutation of aforesaid land in North Tehsil Office, Jammu.

The complainant further alleged that he had handed over all documents to the Patwari concerned for mutation of aforesaid land in his name. "Patwari namely Munish Singh Charak demanded a sum of Rs 4,000 as bribe from complainant for the mutation. On receiving complaint prima facie offence under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found made out and consequently FIR No. 14/2021 was registered at Police Station ACB, Jammu.

Subsequently, a trap team was constituted whereupon the accused Patwari namely Munish Singh Charak along with his agent (tout) namely Ashif Choudhary, son of Mohammad Hussain, resident of Bantalab, Jammu was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 4,000/- from complainant. Both the accused were arrested on the spot and search was also conducted at house of accused public servant," said official, adding that further investigation is going on.

## Azad expresses concern over inflation, growing unemployment in J&K

### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday expressed concern over growing unemployment, saying the present government has failed to provide job opportunities to unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In J&K there is no private sector and people are dependent on government jobs only but the present dispensation has failed to provide jobs to unemployed youths despite claims that thousands of posts will be advertised," Azad said while addressing a massive rally in Rajouri.

He said all the claims of the government have proved hoax as nothing is visible on ground and suffering of people are increasing day by day.

Instead of providing jobs to youth, Azad said, government is terminating employees by updating new list on



Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a massive public rally in Rajouri on Friday.

weekly basis which have put all in further depression to them.

While mentioning about increase in inflation rate, he said that rate of essential commodities is increasing day by day.

"On the one hand, the government

is unable to control increasing poverty and unemployment rate and on other hand its has no control over inflation rate and certain things are going beyond the limits of common man," Azad said while giving the example of LPG cylinder, price of

which has doubled in last few years, thus pushing the common man towards wall.

He also opposed the decision of government regarding eviction of people from the land on which they are living from many decades as there is already shortage of land due to tough terrain and establishment of industries, colleges, GMCs, Schools, roads etc.

"It is the responsibility of government to provide land and home to people but the government is doing totally reverse and increasing problems of people day by day," he said.

He said termination of government employees should stop, eviction of people from forest and state land should also stop.

He said that bureaucracy have an upper hand under Governor's rule as there is no one to keep check over them and **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Over 126 Cr COVID vaccine doses administered in India so far: Health Ministry

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 126 crore on Friday, the Union Health Ministry said.

More than 66,58,055 doses have been administered till 7 pm. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night, the ministry said.

According to the government data, 59.32 lakh vaccine doses on an average were administered per day in May this year. Besides, 55.77 lakh doses on an average were administered per day in October; 78.69 lakh in September and 59.29 lakh in August.

While in the month of May, 6.1 crore doses were administered, the number went up to 17.29 crore doses in November; the data showed.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.