

03 India is 'Spiritual Capital' of world: Chief Justice

09 4 inter-state drug peddlers arrested; 950 bottles of banned cough syrup, Range Rover seized

10 33rd Jammu District Volleyball Championship begins

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J&K's 5 pc budget allocation highest in health sector across country: LG

'Threat of pandemic not over yet'



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering during SKIMS's 39th Annual Day celebrations.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Undersecoring the commitment of UT government to continuously strengthen the health system and to make healthcare more affordable and accessible to all, especially in rural areas, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday observed that Jammu and Kashmir has the highest share of 5 per cent budget allocation in the health sector across the country.

"We are spending Rs 7,177 crore to strengthen the infrastructure of the health sector. In the last one year, 94 health projects have been

completed by spending Rs 881 crore, substantially augmenting resources for citizens", the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing the 39th Annual Day celebrations of SKIMS and e-Inaugurated and laid e-foundation stones of several projects on the occasion.

While addressing the gathering through virtual mode, the Lt Governor observed that SKIMS has played an indispensable role in the healthcare system of UT.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also congratulated the administration, faculty, and students of SKIMS, and

all those who were awarded for their exemplary work in the challenging times of Covid.

"I express gratitude to all the doctors, nurses, ward boys, ambulance drivers, and all other supporting staff who have worked selflessly during the two waves of COVID", the Lt Governor said lauding the invaluable contribution of countless health workers in the fight against the pandemic.

The Lt Governor said that due to the collective efforts of everyone and the hard work of medical personnel, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as

a role model in the entire country in covid management and vaccination.

The Lt Governor also recalled the efforts of covid warriors and the steps taken by the UT administration to ramp up the capacities of health infrastructure during the two waves of Covid. "Our oxygen generation capacity has increased manifold to 1 lakh LPM from just 14,000 LPM last year, and to deal with any emergency, Covid Care Centers have also been kept functional in 4290 Panchayats, he added.

The efforts of the UT government to augment the necessary arrangements and to make the facilities accessible to the patients and the common people, down to the level of Panchayats have been acknowledged in the report of NITI Aayog, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has transformed the health

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17 more Omicron cases detected in India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India reported 17 more cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on Sunday - nine persons in Rajasthan capital Jaipur, seven in Maharashtra's Pune district and a 37-year-old fully vaccinated man who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania - taking the tally to 21 in the country.

Most of those who tested positive either recently arrived from African countries or were in contact with such people. With this, four states and the national capital have now reported cases of the potentially more contagious variant which has sparked a fresh alert across the world.

The nine people who tested positive in Jaipur include four members of a family who returned from South Africa recently.

"Genome sequencing has confirmed that nine persons are infected with the omicron variant," Rajasthan health secretary Vaibhav Galriya said.

The new cases in Maharashtra include a woman who along with her two daughters came from Nigeria, her brother

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Like farmers, J&K people may have to make 'sacrifices' to get back their rights: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir may have to make "sacrifices", as farmers protesting the new farm laws did, to restore its statehood and special status.

Addressing a convention of the NC's youth wing on the occasion of the 116th birth anniversary of party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah at his mausoleum at Naseembagh here, Abdullah, however, said his party does not support violence.

After almost a year of protests by farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on November 19 announced the decision to repeal the farm laws passed last year to ease rules around the sale, pricing and storage of crops.

Parliament passed a bill to repeal the farm laws on the first day of the ongoing Winter Session on November 29.

"(The farmers protested for) 11 months, more than 700 farmers died. The Centre had to revoke the



NC President Farooq Abdullah along with Vice-President Omar Abdullah during party convention.

three farm bills when farmers made sacrifices. We may also have to make sacrifices like that to get back our rights.

"Remember this, we have promised to get back (Articles) 370, 35-A and statehood and we are ready to make any sacrifice," Abdullah said.

The NC, however, is not against brotherhood and does not support violence, he said.

The Centre revoked the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and split it into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

On the recent Hyderpora encounter and how the families of two civilians killed in the operation forced the administration to return their bodies, Abdullah said it was made possible because people showed unity.

He demanded that the body of another person, Amir Magray, killed in the encounter also be returned to his family.

"Three innocent people were killed (in the Hyderpora encounter). When people raised their voices, they (the administration) returned the bodies so that their kin could bury them. This is

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Another milestone achieved in under-construction Kashmir railway project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAI/JAMMU: The Northern Railway achieved another milestone on Sunday with one more tunnel in the Bankot area near Banihal in Ramban connected after a breakthrough, officials said.

With the breakthrough of the tunnel, most of the excavation work of railway tunnels between Banihal and the Khari sector has been completed by IRCON International Limited, they added.

The work on the Kashmir rail project in a 110-km-long railway line between Katra and Banihal is underway and is likely to be completed within the next two years. The project is part of the 272-km

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line to provide an alternative surface link between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

"The around-two-km-long tunnel project in Bankot is being constructed at a cost of Rs 300 crore in two parts," an official said.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Harbans Lal Sharma, who attended the breakthrough ceremony, said the Indian Railways has crossed another challenging milestone between Banihal and the Khari sector of the Katra-Banihal railway link, coinciding with the world tunnelling day. He said travelling

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Two revenue officials among six charge-sheeted for fraud mutation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch of Jammu & Kashmir Police has filed a charge-sheet against six persons, including two Government officials, for their involvement in hatching a criminal conspiracy and preparing mutation of over two acres of land here, an official said on Sunday.

The charge-sheet against two revenue officials namely Tehsildar Sayed Zulfakar Ali Jaffray, son of G A Jaffri, resident of Ustaad Mohalla Jammu and then Patwari Ram Saran, son of Ralla Ram, resident of Rathwa Ghou Manhasan and four members of a family namely Chaju Ram @ Chottu Ram, son of Moti

Magh, Sheru Ram, Hari Ram, Paras Ram, all sons of Chaju Ram, resident of Alora Tehsil Mandaal District Jammu, in respect of FIR No 16/2016 under sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B, 201 of RPC read with Section 5(2) of PC Act. Svt./2006 at Police Station, Crime Branch Jammu, was filed in the court of Special Judge, Anti-corruption, for judicial determination, a spokesperson of Jammu Crime Branch said.

He said that the mutation of land measuring 16 Kanals 10 Marlas at Tikku Tehra was done in contravention of the law of the land and against the interest of the complainant namely Gurdeep

Singh, Jagat Singh, resident of H.No.13, Channi Himmat Jammu. In his complaint, Singh claimed the state land was allotted in favour of his father Jagat Singh, son of Kala Singh as a PoK refugee of 1947, who during his lifetime, remained in its continuous physical cultivation and possession. After his death, the complainant said that he and his brother were in physical cultivation and no rights of proprietorship could be vested in favour of any person, including allottees Chaju Ram alias Chottu Ram and his three sons Sheru, Hari and Paras of Alora.

The spokesperson said allegations were prima facie sub-

stantiated during a preliminary verification, leading to the registration of an instant formal criminal case.

During the course of investigation, material and other documentary evidence was collected, which proved Ram and others, in connivance with the then revenue authorities, prepared the mutation besides making false entries in the revenue record in contravention to the law of the land and against the interests of the complainant, the spokesperson said, adding that Crime Branch Jammu produced charge-sheet against Revenue officials and accused beneficiaries for 'Mutation of Inheritance'.

Centre ensured immediate response to border incursions: Shah



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary charge sheet against an operative of the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) terror outfit in a case related to the recovery of arms, explosives and heroin in Poonch district, an official said on Sunday.

The agency had earlier filed two charge sheets against nine persons -- seven on June 24 and two on October 4 -- in the case after taking over the probe on March 16.

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161 new COVID cases in J&K, two more die

Ladakh adds 14 fresh cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded 161 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the number of infected people to 3,37,807, while two fatalities in the past 24 hours raised the death toll to 4,481, officials said.

Eighteen of the fresh COVID-19 cases were from the Jammu division and 143 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 62 new cases, followed by 21 cases in Baramulla district.

There are 1,706 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recover-

ies has reached 3,31,620, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's coronavirus caseload increased to 21,683 during the past 24 hours with 14 fresh infections, officials said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 215. Of these, 157 deaths have been reported from Leh and 59 from Kargil.

The number of active cases in the Union Territory dropped to 298 -- 277 in Leh and 21 in Kargil -- from 311 the previous day, according to the officials.

The officials said 1,900 people were tested for COVID-19 in Leh and Kargil on Saturday. Of

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Two LeT terrorists arrested in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces arrested two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists and recovered arms and ammunition in Shopian district on Sunday, police said.

Acting on specific input regarding the presence of LeT terrorist Shahid Ahmad Ganie, son of Gulzar Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Doomwani Keegam, and his close associate in Doomwani village near Rambani Ara, security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the area, a police spokesman said.

He said as the security forces approached the suspected spot, the duo tried to flee.

However, they were apprehended by the search party, the spokesman added.

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J&K: Fresh snowfall in higher reaches, rain in plains



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Many areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Sunday, while

rains lashed the plains, ending the dry spell, officials said.

The minimum temperature improved and stayed above

the freezing point at most places in the valley on Saturday night, they said.

Fresh snowfall was recorded at many places in the higher altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the MeT officials said.

They said the famous tourist destinations of Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Kupwara and Gurez recorded light to moderate snowfall.

Light snow was recorded in Drass-Kargil areas on the Srinagar-Leh highway. The plain areas of the valley

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Anita Sharma impersonates ownership of sold plot to construct illegal building at 44 D/C Gandhi Nagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a bizarre case of outwitting the designated government agency by adopting fraudulent modus operandi, in connivance with some insiders, a massive construction is underway in the posh Gandhi Nagar area of the Capital City Jammu in absence of a valid building permission by Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The violator, according to sources, has adopted a diversionary tactic by getting into litigation to avert and delay the legal process of fraud and violation.

According to reports, one Anita

Sharma, wife of Shiv Kumar Sharma, resident of 23 B/C Gandhi Nagar purchased a plot of land at 44 D/C, Gandhi Nagar on



SPECIAL REPORT

April 25, 2018 for Rs. six crores. She paid the cash vide Cheque No.029516 on April 5, 2018, Cheque No .029519 on April 12, 2018 for Rs.one crore and the third Cheque No. 029524 on April 16, 2018 for Rs.3.14 crore. An amount of Rs 6 lakh as TDS @ 1

per cent was deducted over all cheques payable at YES Bank, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu

After purchase of the property, the owner Anita Sharma applied to Jammu Municipal Corporation for Building Permission on August 22, 2019, which had already been sold to someone vide two sale deeds. However with mala fide intention to commit fraud, the site for the proposed

Plot No.84/110-A Block (Pvt) Gandhi Nagar Jammu instead of Plot No 44/DC Gandhi Nagar.

In her application to the JMC for the building permission on August 22, 2019, Anita Sharma impersonated herself as the owner of Plot No.84/110-A despite the fact that she had already sold this plot (Plot No. 84/110 A) to someone vide two 'Sale Deeds' on



Anita Sharma

December 26, 2015 and September 28, 2018 respectively after taking full and final payment. Accordingly, she was no more the owner of the sold building on August 22, 2019.

As expected, Jammu Municipal Corporation rejected the application of Anita Sharma, seeking building permission, on February 20, 2020. However, the construction on Plot No 44 D/C went on unabated, by befooling the JMC staff by saying that she has already applied to the Corporation for approval. That there was no permission for construction at all

came to light when the matter came to the notice of the JMC, which intimated in a reply to R.T.I. that no Building n Permission had been granted for construction of a building on Plot No 44 D/C Gandhi Nagar (copy on page No..9).

Meanwhile, Anita Sharma raised a huge building on Plot No. 44 D/C in violation of all the norms including of the 'setbacks'.

Intriguingly, when the scandal was exposed, Jt. Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation issued a notice to Anita Sharma, wife of Shiv

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 21.5°C Min: 13.6°C

Humidity

Max : 85 Min : 68

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 6.4°C Min: 0.6°C

Humidity

Max : 96 Min: 94

Sunset : 17:25 Hours

Sunrise : 07:18 Hours