Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

**19** Anganwadi workers are 'Soul' of 47-yr old ICDS **ID** of GoI but why are they not regular employees?

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

DC Ramban, MVD team conduct checking on National Highway; 50 vehicles Challaned in 6 days

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

### J&K Men team named for 25th Youth National Volleyball C'ship

### Article 370 gave secessionism, terrorism, large scale corruption to J&K: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after release of docu-drama 'Ehad-e-Kashmir' in Jammu.

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Article 370 gave secessionism, terrorism, nepotism and large scale corruption to Jammu Kashmir.

"Article 370 denied due rights to our brothers and sisters and it was used by Pakistan to spread terrorism". Sinha said while releasing the docu-drama 'Ehad-e-Kashmir', produced by JK News Today, during an event held at the Convention Centre, adding that Prime

J&K marching into golden age: Sinha JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir is marching into its "golden

on his martyrdom anniversary. Sinha sought full recognition of General Zorawar Singh's contribution and significance in India's history and said the new generation must be reminded of his military campaigns in Ladakh, Baltistan, and Tibet and his immense contribution to the Dogra empire's expansion under Maharaja Gulab Singh.

age" with core values of people-first and ideas and ideals of forefathers, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday as he paid rich tributes to Dogra military General Zorawar Singh

After his successful campaigns in Ladakh, General Zorawar Singh boldly attempted the conquest of Western Tibet (Ngari Khorsum) but was killed in the battle of To-yo during the Dogra-Tibetan war, he said. The Lt Governor was speaking at an event organised by General Zorawar **CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

Minister Narendra Modi with its abrogation ushered a new era of peace, progress and prosperity in J&K.

The people of J&K always wanted peace, but the Pakistan's exported terrorism and its sympathizers tried to destroy this paradise on earth. The situation has changed. The paradise on earth is now achieving new heights of development and there is greater ease of living in the lives of citizens, he further added.

Today, the world has started to understand that there is no Good Terrorism or Bad Terrorism. Terrorism in any form is the biggest atrocity against humanity, the Lt Governor observed.

The separatists working on the behest of the enemies conspired against J&K, misguided our innocent youths, and used them as cannon fodder, while their own children went to Delhi,

### **Action initiated against** 92 Govt employees for absenteeism **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday initiated disciplinary action against 92 government employees who were found unauthorisedly absent from work, officials said.

"The district administration Anantnag today cracked the whip on employees coming late to offices and remaining absent

### ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Shah Rukh Khan pays obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan offered prayers at the revered shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Monday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

Khan, dressed in complete black with hooded jacket, reached the shrine late Sunday night to

## J&K: 3-member panel set-up to probe 'irregularities' in F&E Services Deptt recruitment

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Monday constituted a three-member committee to look into alleged irregularities in the selection process in the Fire and Emergency Department (F&E) two years ago.

Several political parties, including BJP, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have been demanding the cancellation of the selection process and handing over the case to Central Bureau of Investigation.

Financial Commissioner (Additional Home Secretary), Department, will head the committee which was asked to submit its report within one month, read an order issued by Secretary, General Administration Department, Piyush Singla.

About 60,000 aspirants had applied for 870 posts

of firemen and firemen drivers following a 2013 advertisement. As many as 14,000 were shortlisted after a physical standard test followed by a written examination by recruitment board.

However, the interview could not be held in 2014 due to floods and the recruitment process was cancelled in 2017 on the directions of the then chief minister. The candidates approached the high court which directed the government to hold the recruitment process afresh.

In 2018, a physical test of 14,000 aspirants was conducted and 7,000 of them passed and appeared in the written examina-

It was again cancelled on court directions amid allegations of irregularities and mass copying which was substantiated by an official inquiry panel.

A fresh examination was conductedagain on September 20, 2020, and the selection list was issued.

The recruitment process was completed the next month despite protests by unsuccessful candidates alleging irregularities and paper leak.

The demand for cancellation of the selection list in fire and emergency services gained momentum after the Jammu and Kashmir government cancelled the sub-inspector recruitment process in July and handed over the case to Central Bureau of

Investigation. On November Central BureauInvestigation filed a charge sheet against 24 people accused of targeting aspirants willing to cough up Rs 20-30 lakh to get through the recruit-

### Fake driving licence racket unearthed, 4 arrested in Reasi

### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: A fake driving licence racket was unearthed with the arrest of four persons in Reasi district, police said on Monday.

Acting on a specific complaint Reasi Police under the supervision of Amit Gupta Sr Superintendent of Police Reasi busted fake driving licences racket and arrested four fraudsters involved in

One Haq Nawaz, son of Bahar Din, resident of Sarh Tehsil Mahore reported at police station Reasi with a written complaint that he applied for driving license and for this he came in con-

#### **Terror-funding case: Delhi** court denies bail to separatist Nayeem Khan STATE TIME'S NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has denied bail to separatist Nayeem Ahmad Khan in a terror-funding case involving Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Special Judge Shailender

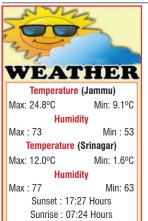
Malik dismissed Khan's bail application, saying there were "prima facie" evidence against the accused. Conference

Hurrivat leader Khan was arrested on July 24, 2017 and is currently in judicial custody.

In an order passed on December 3, the court noted that the charges against the accused ware framed in March 2022, and that order has not been stayed or set aside, despite challenge in the High Court.

It noted that the accused was prima facie involved in terror funding activities and had led a pro-ISIS rally and visited the area where terrorists were killed. The judge said that at the time of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



# tact with a group of agents

who took 35,000 rupees from him for providing the same. On getting this complaint, FIR 287/2022 under sections 420/109 IPC was registered at Police Station Reasi and investigation initiated.

Police team swung into action and on the identification of the complainant arrested one Rajesh Kumar alias Happy, son of Roop Chand, resident of Panassa Tehsil Thakrakote. During further course on investigations police arrested Sham Lal alias Shamu, son of Bodh Raj, resident of Vijaypur, Reasi who

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

Speaker Om Birla

Monday warned mem-

bers against referring

to anyone's caste and

religion in the House

after a Congress MP

alleged that Finance

Sitharaman made cer-

tain remarks about his

proficiency in Hindi

because he belonged to

Taking serious exception to

the word used by Congress

member A R Reddy to refer

to his own social category

during the Question Hour,

Nirmala

Minister

a lower caste.

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha

### 56 foreign terrorists killed in J&K in 2022: DGP

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Monday said 56 foreign terrorists have been killed by security forces this year so far in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also said that 86 of the 102 local youth, who had ioined terrorist ranks this year, have been neutralised. Terming the death threats

issued by terrorist outfits as a handiwork of Pakistan intelligence ISI and its agencies promoting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh said there is no need to fear as stern action is being taken against those involved in issuing such diktats. Never refer to anyone's caste, religion in

House, else action will be taken: Speaker

people have not elected the

members to Lok Sabha on

"Anyone here should never

use such words in the House.

Otherwise, I will have to take

action against such a mem-

the Speaker pointed out that ber," the Speaker warned.



sidelines of an event in Jammu. "As many as 56 foreign terrorists have been killed this

new militant recruits have been eliminated so far, reducyear. This is the largest number in last several years," the

DGP told reporters on the sidelines of a function here. He said 86 out of the 102

He also took serious excep-

ber's remarks after

Reddy, while asking his

question, asked Birla

not to "interrupt" him.

Birla asked the

Congress's leader in

Ranjan Chowdhury, to

make the members of

the party understand

that they should never

make such comments about

"You are Leader of the

House. Make members

understand that they

the Speaker.

House, Adhir

tion to the Congress mem-

ing the number to just 23. "Those who choose the path of terrorism, their life is not

too long. Youths should take the path of peace and pros-

## **Contract for setting**

The contract has been terminated for "slow work and poor management" by the ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

terrorism. There is no benefit in going towards this path," Singh said.

Replying to a question on death threats being issued by terror outfits, the DGP said these people are mouthpieces of Pakistan's ISI and its agencies that are running terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The militancy is taking its last breath. Stern action is being taken against those involved in giving such threats. Such blogs and websites are under our watch. FIRs have been registered against them. Action is being taken against their

STATE TIMES NEWS

Chinese soldiers clashed at a

location along the Line of

Actual Control (LAC) in the

Tawang sector of Arunachal

Pradesh on December 9,

resulting in minor injuries to

a few personnel from both

sides, military sources said on

They said the Indian troops

"On December 9, PLA

troops contacted the LAC in

Tawang Sector which was

contested by our troops in a

firm and resolute manner.

This face-off led to minor

resolutely confronted the

Chinese PLA soldiers.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### ministers, lawmakers withdrawn leaders, including Mohammad Sagar and for-JAMMU: The Jammu and mer Law Minister Saifullah

Excess security cover of 20 former J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Kashmir administration has withdrawn excess security cover of 20 former ministers and lawmakers mostly belonging to two parties --National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) -- during a security audit, sources told a national news agency.

According to sources, it was found during the audit that many of them were enjoying security cover more than they were entitled to. The political leaders will get security cover as per defined category (X, Y and Z).

Top National Conference

Mir, and PDP leader Sartaj Madni, maternal uncle of party chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, are among those whose excess security cover has been withdrawn. Earlier, the government had served a notice to

Mehbooba Mufti asking her to vacate her plush Fairview government bungalow in Srinagar. Another former chief minister and NC leader Omar Abdullah vacated his official bungalow on Gupkar Road in 2020, even

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### UGC notifies curriculum, credit framework for undergraduate courses under NEP **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DELHI: NEWUniversity Grants Commission Monday notified the curriculum and credit framework for undergraduate programmes which will provide students with multiple options for entry and exit, a choice between single major and double major and interdisciplinary choices of

The framework has been developed by revising the existing Choice Based Credit

According to the probe able to pursue a

### Agnipath scheme voluntary, those having problem don't join: HC

religion.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the petitioners who have challenged the Centre's Agnipath scheme as to which of their rights have been violated and said it was voluntary and those having any problem should not join the armed forces under it.

The high court said the Agnipath scheme has been experts.

formed by experts in Army, Navy and Air Force and judges were not military "What is wrong in the scheme? It is not compulsory .To be frank, we are not military experts. You (petitioners) and me are not experts.

It has been framed after

great efforts by experts in

Army, Navy and Indian Air

"There is a particular policy that the government has framed. It is not compulsory, it is voluntary," a bench of Chief Justice Satish Sharma Chandra and Justice Subramonium Prasad said

The bench further said, "You have to show us that a right is taken away . Don't join then. There is no compulsion. If you are good you will be absorbed thereafter (after 4 years). Are we the persons to decide it (service in the scheme) should be made four years or five years or seven years".

The high court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging Centre's Agnipath scheme. The Agnipath scheme, unveiled on June 14, lays out rules for the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### up smart toilets in Jammu terminated STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking serious note of casual approach by a contractor engaged for constructing smart toilets here, the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) have terminated the contract with immediate effect, an official

JSCL, a special purpose vehicle was constituted in August 2017 by the government for the implementation of smart city development projects in Jammu city.

from both sides," said a NEW DELHI: Indian and

Indian, Chinese troops clash

along LAC in Tawang sector

The sources said both sides immediately disengaged from the area. "As a follow up to the incident, our Commander in the area held a Flag Meeting with his (Chinese) counterpart to discuss the issue in accordance with structured mechanisms to restore peace and tranquillity," the source said. "In certain areas along the LAC in the Tawang Sector in Arunachal Pradesh there are areas of differing perception, wherein both sides patrol the area up to their claim lines. This has been the trend since

subjects.

gramme, students will only

### injuries to few personnel LG chairs SMVDSB meeting; launches various initiatives to facilitate pilgrims

Enhancement in financial assistance for marriage of girls; grant of scholarship for meritorious students of ex-Baridar families approved

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday chaired the meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), here.

members of SMVDSB Mahamandleshwar Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj; Baleshwar Rai; Dr Ashok Bhan; Kul Bhushan Ahuja; Dr Neelam Sareen;

K K Sharma; Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge) and Raghu K. Mehta. Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board were present.

The Lt Governor, who is the chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, launched various initiatives to provide diverse facilities to the pilgrims and devotees. He also ascertained progress of the work for ease of devotees and laid emphasis on



timely completion of all projects.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor launched a Cottage Policy, Aarti Darshan Policy, 1st edition of 'Panchang Calendar-2023' of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. He laid the foundation stone of accommodation facilities for Shrine Board's employees at Adhkuwari & Banganga and launched multiple donation facilities for the pilgrims.

Further, the Board discussed, ratified, gave in principle approvals for a total of 46 agenda items.

The Board members were also presented with a compliance report on the directions passed for short term and long term measures initiated for yatra regulation and crowd manage-

The CEO, SMVDSB apprised the actions initiated on diverse fronts for

hassle free pilgrimage including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management,  $\stackrel{\frown}{\text{augmentation of holding areas, plans}}$ for decongestion of the entire track, separation of entry, exit routes at Bhawan and surveillance through dedicated CCTV network of over 500 There should be no intertwined

movement of the devotees. All the facilities like lockers, bathing areas etc. should be at the same place in the new bhavans. All aspects should be taken into account for the construction of Passenger Ropeway between Tarakote Langar and Sanjichhat, said the Lt Governor. The Lt Governor directed the CEO

to take all necessary measures for the safety and security of the pilgrims. "Safety, convenience and ease of the

devotees visiting the shrine remains the top priority **CONTD ON PAGE 9**