Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

RTI disposal rate consistently UU increased despite COVID: Dr Jitendra

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

Investigation of UAPA has to be foolproof: DGP to IOs

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

Semis lineup drawn in Ramban **District Volleyball Championship**

COVID not over yet: PM urges people to wear masks



health response to COVID-19 in New Delhi on Thursday.

other routes," he said in response

Sinha on Wednesday said,

"They should also keep in

mind that they are Kashmir

division employees and can-

Flanked by BJP leaders

including former deputy

chief minister and Jammu

Mayor, Kavinder Gupta,

Rana said, "We promise you

that transfer policy will be

framed. BJP stands with

you. Don't think you are

In a strong remark, BJP

leaders said that no person

from Jammu will be made

"Any person from Jammu

Security

will not be a guinea pig. It is

forces on Thursday busted a

module of the Hizbul

Mujahideen and arrested

five terror associates in

Kupwara district, officials

A joint team of police and

the army apprehended three

terrorist associates -- Abdul

Rouf Malik, Altaf Ahmad

Payer and Riyaz Ahmad

During questioning, the

trio disclosed the location of

two hideouts constructed

for terrorists of Hizbul

Mujahideen on the instruc-

tions of a Pakistan-based

terrorist handler Farooq

Lone, officials said.

not a matter of policy,

"guinea pigs.

SRINAGAR:

transferred to

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid a spurt in Covid cases in China and some other countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday cautioned people against complacency and urged them to wear masks in crowded places, while also directing officials surveillance strengthen measures, especially at international airports.

Mandatory COVID tests for all Int'l passengers if necessary

NEW DELHI: In the wake of surge in COVID-19 cases in many countries, India has started 2 per cent random sampling of international travellers coming to the country and may consider making it mandatory for all if necessary, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday.

He was responding to queries of some Opposition MPs after his suo moto statement in Rajya Sabha on the latest COVID-19 situation and India's preparedness.

"We are constantly monitoring the situation. There are no direct flights between China and India but people come via

At a high-level meeting, Modi reiterated that "Covid is not over yet" and advised states to audit Covid-specific facilities to ensure operational readiness of hospital infrastructure, including cylinders, PSA oxygen ventilators plants,

Prime Minister Modi urged everyone to follow Covidappropriate behaviour, including wearing masks in crowded public places, at all times, especially in view of the upcoming festive season, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

He also urged that precaution dose may be encouraged especially for vulnerable and elderly groups.

During the meeting to assess the COVID-19 situation in the country, preparedness of health infrastructure and logistics, status of the vaccination campaign

Eight Munsiffs transferred STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Justice (A) on Thursday transferred eight Civil Judges (Jr.

Division)/Munsiffs. according to the order issued by Sanjeev Gupta, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Wangial Tsering, Munsiff Nobra has been transferred and posted as Munsiff Khaltsi; Moneer Ahmad, Munsiff Sankoo as 3rd Additional Munsiff, Srinagar; Chemit Yurgyal, Munsiff Khaltsi as Munsiff Nobra; Javed Munsiff/Additional Parray, Mobile Magistrate, Special Beerwah, as District Mobile Magistrate Traffic, Sopore; Malik, Shabir Ahmad District Mobile Magistrate Sopore, Traffic, Munsiff/Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Drass vice Deldan Angmo. He shall

Magistrate JJB Kargil. Shafiq Mushtaq Lone 3rd Additional Munsiff, Srinagar, has been trans-

hold the charge of Principal

ferred and posted as

Employees asked to file

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: All employees in Jammu and Kashmir have been asked to submit details

Further, the employees have been warned against non-submission with an action under the Prevention

"Sub Section 2 of Section 9 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets and other Provisions Act, 1983 lays down that it shall be incumbent on the part of every public servant

to submit annual returns

LS adjourned for day amid Opposition's demand for debate on China border issue

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day on Thursday as the Opposition pressed for its demand for a discussion on the border issue with China.

After the House reassembled at 4:30 pm following four adjournments, opposition members continued their protest when the House was taking up issues of urgent public importance.

The House functioned for just enough time to allow Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval to introduce the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022.

As opposition protests continued during the introduction of the Bill, Rama Devi, who was chairing the proceedings, adjourned House for the day.

Minister Mandaviya made a statement on the COVID-19 situation in the country and the steps being taken by the government. Opposition

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Azad expels 3 senior leaders from party

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday expelled three top leaders - former ministers Tara Chand and Manohar Lal and former legislator Balwan Singh - from his Democratic Azad Party (DAP) for their anti-party activities.

An order for their expulsion with immediate effect was issued on Thursday evening.

Sources said they were expelled for antiparty activities.

The Chairman (Azad) was convinced that they were not required in party as they were involved in anti-party activities, DAP leaders said, adding DAP chairman Azad has made several appointments in the party for the past nearly three months after its

BJP promises transfer policy for Dogra employees serving in Kashmir

Jammu.'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Barely a day after Lieutenant Governor Manoj remarked that reserved category employees cannot be transferred, BJP on Thursday said transfer policy will be framed and no one from Jammu be made "guinea pig" in wake of selective killings in Kashmir.

"Come what may, transfer policy will be framed. We will make it happen or else will leave," senior BJP leader Devender Rana told protesting employees outside the BJP headquarters here.

Referring to the protesting reserved category employees who are also camping in Jammu and demanding their

Srinagar records coldest night of season

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kalan', the 40-day harshest winter period, has made its presence felt in the Kashmir valley with Srinagar recording its coldest night this winter, even as water supply lines and interiors of the Dal Lake froze due to the cold conditions, officials said on Thursday.

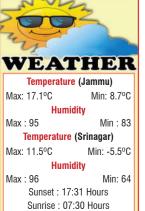
The minimum temperature in Srinagar recorded on Wednesday night was minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, which is the lowest so far this season. they said.

The city had recorded minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The cold conditions led to freezing of water supply lines in many places across the valley, even as the interior parts of the Dal Lake also developed a thick layer of

officials said Pahalgam, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath

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DB directs Govt to take action against crushers not following mandate of SO-60

STATE TIMES NEWS

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh comprising Chief Justice (A) and Justice Rajesh Sekri disposed of a PIL and directed official respondents to examine whether owners of Stone Crushers in general and respondent in particular have been following mandate of SO 60 or not and if found not following the same, action in terms of admissible provisions be taken against them. Petitioners are also at liberty to approach the concerned authority, if respondent is still operating the stone crusher illegally without following due proc

Security forces bust HM module,

arrest 5 terror associates

Ahmad Pir alias Nadeem

Usmani, who is presently

based in PoK, officials said.

"One AK rifle, two AK

magazines, 119 AK ammu-

nition, one pistol, one pistol

magazine, four pistol

rounds, six hand grenades,

one IED, two detonators,

two wire bundles and one

water tank of approximately

100 litre-capacity has been

recovered from the hide-

The arrested persons told

the police that they also

received Rs 6 lakhs in June

to procure arms and ammu-

nition and also material for

"Two more terrorist asso-

construction of hideouts.

outs," officials said.

DB after hearing Adv J A Hamal appearing for PIL observed that initially the petitioners filed writ petition on 20.12.2010 seeking directions to respondents to restrain the private respondent from operating stone crusher and extracting stones from the Nallah bed, which petition later was registered as a Public Interest Litigation vide order dated 13.12.2017 and objections were filed in 2011. The issues raised by the petitioners pertained to 2010. However, the things have been changed now as Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Department of Mining, Civil Secretariat.

ciates, including Budgam-

resident Abdul Majeed

Beigh who have been active-

ly supporting the trio in

their activities, have also

been detained," they added.

The officials said the ter-

rorist associates were in

based handler -- Fayaz

Geelani, also from Budgam.

addition to providing logis-

tic support, arms, ammuni-

tion and other facilities for

the commission of terrorist

activities was also tasked to

select targets in the valley

and also radicalize vouth to

join terrorist ranks," they

"The arrested group in

with another PoK-

Jammu has issued Notification SO 60 dated 23.02.2021, whereby Government of J&K has made the Jammu and Kashmir Stone Crushers/Hot and Mixing Plants Regulation Rules, 2021, Rule 3(3). DB observed that therefore, in view of making of

Jammu and Kashmir Stone Crushers/Hot and Wet Mixing Plants Regulation Rules, 2021, the PIL is disposed of with a direction to official respondents to examine whether owners of Stone Crushers in general and respondent in particular have been following mandate of SO 60 or not

Winter vacations in Jammu schools from Dec 26, Colleges from Jan 1

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Directorate of School Education Jammu on Thursday announced 10-day winter vacation for schools in summer zone of Jammu division from December 26.

According to an order issued by Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma, School Education Jammu, all schools in summer zone will observer winter vacation from December 26, 2022 to January 4, 2023.

"It is ordered that all Government and recognised Private Schools of Summer zone of Jammu Division shall observe winter vacation from December 26, 2022 to January 4, 2023," reads

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PRS-Portal from January 1

property return through

of annual property details

between January 1 to 31, 2023.

of Corruption Act and denial of their Vigilance Clearance.

104 YouTube channels blocked for spreading misinformation: Thakur STATE TIMES NEWS lic order or for preventing

NEW DELHI: Union min-

ister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said YouTubechannels, 45 videos, four Facebook accounts, three Instagram accounts, five Twitter handles and six websites have been blocked for spreading misinformation and threatening national security.

Responding to questions in the Rajya Sabha, Thakur said section 69A of the Information Technology Act provides for blocking of content over digital media in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or pubincitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the He said under the provi-

sions of Part-II of the IT Rules, the Ministry of Electronics Information Technology (MeitY) issued directions to block 1,643 user-generated

URLs, including webpages, websites, posts accounts on social media platforms, from 2021 to October, 2022. "The government has

taken action under these rules and if required, we will not hesitate to take such action in the future,' Thakur said

PIL regarding development of Cattle Pond: DB directs AG to convene meeting, apprise Court regarding outcome

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice (A) Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Sekri, while hearing a Public Interest Litigation regarding establishment of Cattle Pond, observed that in order to resolve issues highlighted in this public interest litigation, including the issue with regard to land measuring 55 Kanals owned by Forest Department, Court requested Adv D C Raina, Advocate General who is present in the Court, to convene a meeting Commissioner /Secretary to Government,

Department, Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Forest Department; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and Deputy Commissioner, Jammu. DB further asked Advocate General to apprise the Court about outcome of the meeting by filing a report in this regard by or before the next date of hearing.

When the PIL Came-up for hearing. DB after hearing Adv SS Ahmed appearing for PIL, observed that complying with the direction dated 18.03.2021 passed by the Court, Jammu Municipal Corporation has filed status report dated 22.11.2021. It is apt to reproduce relevant portion of paragraph 5 of the status report hereunder that with respect to second issue regarding establishment of Goushalla outside municipal limits on 97 Kanals of land earmarked for the purpose, it is respectfully submitted that initially JMC was allotted 97 Kanal and 11 Marlas of land in Khasra No.35 situated at Village Seri Khurd, Tehsil Nagrota for construction of ModernPound/Gaushalla for shifting of animals from unregistered

secure land, boundary ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

dairies within JMC limits. To

India, China hold 17th round of military talks on eastern Ladakh; no visible outcome

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In the backdrop of fresh tensions over the clash between their troops in the Tawang sector, India and China on Tuesday held the 17th round of high-level military talks on the eastern Ladakh border standoff but there was no indication of any forward movement in resolution of the remaining issues.

A joint statement released on Thursday said both sides exchanged views in an "open and constructive" manner to resolve the "relevant issues" and that it was agreed to maintain "security and stability" on the ground in the region.

The senior military officers of the two sides held the dialogue at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern

Ladakh and it lasted for around 10 insisted on resolving the issues at the hours, people familiar with the mat-

The talks took place 11 days after the clash at

Yangtse area along the LAC in the Tawang sector Arunachal Pradesh The state

ment said two

sides agreed to stay in "close contact", maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earli-

It is learnt that the Indian side

remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh as soon as possible. "Building on

> the progress the last meet-(16th ing round) July 17, the two sides exchanged views on the resolution of

the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in an open and constructive manner," the statement

"They had a frank and in-depth discussion, keeping in line with the guidance provided by the state leaders to

work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest which would help in restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations," it said.

In line with a decision taken at the 16th round of military talks, the two sides carried out disengagement from Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in September.

"In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector,' the joint statement said.

"The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it noted.

The fresh ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SC to pronounce judgment on pleas against demonetisation on Jan 2

STATE TIMES NEWS DELHI:

Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on January 2 on a batch of pleas challenging the government's 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denominations. A five-judge Constitution

bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer, who will retire on January 4, is likely to pronounce its verdict on the matter on the said date.

The top court had, on December 7, directed the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to put on record the relevant records relating to the government's 2016 decision and reserved its verdict.

The bench, also comprising justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, Ramasubramanian and B V Nagarathna, had heard the submissions of Attorney General R Venkataramani, the RBI's counsel and the petitioners' lawyers, including senior advocates P Chidambaram and Shyam

Calling the scrapping of the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes deeply flawed, Chidambaram had argued that the government cannot on its own initiate any proposal relating to legal tender, which can only be done on the recommendation of the RBI's central board.

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