J&K qualifies for Pre-QFs in Handball

Questions on provisions for reservations in Legislature, in jobs & education must **UU** be truly addressed

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

Four drug peddlers arrested with heroin, Desi pistol

world stage tall, self-reliant,

and full of self-confidence.

We owe a debt of gratitude to

Gurus and Sikh Community

for their immense and unpar-

alleled contribution in the

Country's progress and pros-

perity. Vision of Gurus

always inspires us to work to

achieve greater heights, he

Reiterating the govern-

ment's commitment to work

for the welfare of the Sikh

community, the Lt Governor

assured appropriate action

on the demands and needs of

the community with utmost

As requested by All J&K

Committee, the statue of

Baba Banda Singh Ji

Bahadur will be installed in

Bhagwati Nagar area of

Jammu. Nangali Sahib

Gurdwara, Poonch will be

renovated, announced

Coordination

added.

sensitivity.

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

Man arrested with

arms and ammunition

in Karnah

have arrested a suspected

arms and narcotics smuggler

in the Karnah area of

Kupwara district and recov-

ered arms and ammunition

from his possession, officials

The security forces arrest-

in Karnah near the Line of

Control, on Monday night

and recovered arms and

ammunition from his posses-

They said the accused led

the law enforcement agen-

cies to the recovery of one

pistol, two pistol magazines

and 43 pistol rounds from

launched by the security

forces following specific

information that Daniyal

was involved in smuggling of

arms, ammunition and nar-

cotics from across the LoC,

the officials said, adding a

case under relevant sections

of the law has been regis-

operation

the lawns of his house.

The

sion, the officials said.

Mohammed Azam Daniyal, a resident of Dhani

said on Monday.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Security forces

'Concocted narratives' were taught in name of history: Modi

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

'New India correcting mistakes of bygone decades'

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI : In the name of history, "concocted narratives" were taught to infuse inferiority and there is a need to break free from the "narrow views" of the past to move forward, Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, underlining that new India is correcting the mistakes of the bygone decades by restoring its longlost legacy.

Speaking at the first 'Veer Bal Diwas' event, Modi paid tributes to Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, Guru Gobind Singh's sons who laid down their lives while defend-

ing their faith. "On the one hand there was terrorism and on the other spiritualism. On one hand, there was communal violence and on the other there was liberalism. On one hand, there were forces of lakhs while on the other there were just 'Veer Sahibzaade' who



PM Narendra Modi addressing on the occasion of 'Veer Baal Diwas' at Major Dhyanchand Stadium in New Delhi.

did not budge at all," he said referring to the two martyred children of the Guru.

"Aurangzeb and his people wanted to convert the religion of Guru Gobind Singh's children with the force of a sword and that is why he decided to kill the two innocent children. Imagine that era when against the terror of Aurangzeb, against his plans to change India, Guru Gobind Singh ji stood like a mountain," he said. Modi said in the name of history, people were being

taught versions that promoted an inferiority complex among them. To move forward in the 'Amrit Kaal' and to take India to the heights of success in the future, "we have to break free from narrow views of the past",

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Veer Baal Diwas inspires all to uphold unity, integrity of nation: LG Statue of Baba Banda Singh Ji Bahadur to be installed in Bhagwati

Nagar; Nangali Sahib Gurdwara to be renovated

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday on Monday said that Veer Baal Diwas would inspire all of us to uphold the unity and integrity of the nation and live with each other in peace and harmony.

"It is a day to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of equality, brotherhood, and compassion", added the Lt Governor while participating in 'Shabad Kirtan' organized All J&KCoordination Committee to mark 'Veer Baal Diwas' at Gurdwara Sant Mela Singh Dastkari Ashram, Digiana, Jammu.

Sinha said: "Exemplary courage and sacrifice of Sahibzades and Guru Gobind Singh ji's life and teachings would continue to guide the path of humanity for all times to come. People must rise above the narrow outlook

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and

Kashmir administration on

Monday constituted a 16-

member committee to over-

see the preparations for a

G20 meeting in the union

Financial Commissioner

(Additional Chief Secretary),

Home Department, Raj

Kumar Goyal was nominated

as the chairman of the panel,

which also included Director

General of Police Dilbag

Singh as one of the members,

according to an order issued

by Secretary, General

Administration Department,

Ten Indian Administrative

Indian Police Service (IPS)

Sitharaman admitted to AIIMS

NEW DELHI: Union

Finance Minister Nirmala

under intense cold

SRINAGAR: The minimum

temperature in Kashmir rose

by a couple of degrees but

staved below the freezing

point offering little respite

from cold conditions, offi-

The valley is going through

a dry spell with no major

precipitation forecast till the

end of December. However,

there is a possibility of a

brief wet spell this week, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

MET department said.

cials said on Monday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

STATE TIMES NEWS

ing, sources said.

Piyush Singla.

territory next year.



LG Manoj Sinha speaking during 'Shabad Kirtan' organised by All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee to mark Veer Baal Diwas in Jammu on Monday.

of life and tread the path of humanism.

The Lt Governor paid obeisance to Sahibzades, Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Guiri Ji and urged the new generation to draw inspiration from their courage, perseverance and sacrifice.

The Lt Governor said, people across the sections of

officers, two Indian Revenue

Service (IRS) officers and

one J-K Administrative

Service (JKAS) officer were

included in the committee,

which was constituted in

view of the visit of officials

from G20 participating

countries to the union terri-

Jammu and Kashmir Lt

Panel set-up to oversee preparations for G20 meeting in J&K

our Guru's influence in transforming society and

He also highlighted the significant contribution of Sikh Community in nation building and establishing a just and equal society.

India stands proudly on the

society must be told about enriching social values.

In this Amrut Kaal Khand,

J&K HC pulls up ex-minister Ch Lal Singh, dismisses his fresh plea against eviction notice

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on state minister Choudhary Lal Singh as it dismissed against an eviction notice for vacating government accommodation here.

Governor Manoj Sinha had A division bench, comprissaid the planned G20 meeting in Srinagar will be held in a secured and peaceful atmosphere and showcase Jammu and Kashmir in a right perspective. The Jammu and Kashmir administration had also

Service (IAS) officers, three Jammu.

requested a similar event for

Monday pulled up former with costs his fresh petition

ing Chief Justice (Acting) Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Raiesh Sekhri, held that the application has been filed with the sole intention to prolong his unauthorised occupation and is an "abuse of the process of law".

On November 15, a single bench of the high court disnetition against the eviction notice and directed him to vacate the government bungalow at the posh Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu within six weeks. Singh, who is president of

Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), was among several politicians who have been served notices by the Estates department in October to vacate government accommodation in the Gandhi Nagar locality of Jammu.

He had moved the court against the notice, contending that he is covered under 'Z-security' and should be allowed to retain the government accommodation till the government reass

decides the issue of his secu-

"Though the applicant has admitted that the writ petition filed by him against proceedings under the Public Premises Act was dismissed as withdrawn by the single bench, yet he has come up with the instant application with the sole intention to prolong his unauthorised occupation, when the period of six weeks granted to him for the vacation of the bungalow would expire tomorrow (December 27)," the bench said in a seven-page order.

"It is evident that security assessment and entitlement to government accommodation are two different issue

and cannot be intermingled to defeat the process of law,'

"The present application..., being devoid of merit, is dismissed with costs quantified at Rs 25,000 to be deposited in the Advocates' Welfare Fund within a period of two weeks, failing which, the Registry shall maintain the index," the bench said. Singh, a two-time MP and

three-time MLA, switched from Congress to BJP in 2014 and was also a minister in the previous PDP-BJP government which collapsed in June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the alliance.

hoteliers, industrialists etc

under the leadership of

Prime Minsiter Narendra

Chug said that the stones

which boys were using are

meant for construction, not

for violence, added, "Those

trying to place stones again

in the hands of youngsters

Modi.

COVID virus in J&K, says health expert ■ STATE TIMES NEWS advisories. NO PANIC PLEASE. Safety saves.

Modelling data foresee low circulation of

from credible agencies do not foresee any major Covid wave in Jammu and Kashmir, a leading pulmonologist said, but advised people to take precautionary measures as models "can go horribly wrong".

SKIMS Director Dr Parvaiz Koul said, "Modelling data from credible agencies (like from University Washington) predict a low circulation of the virus for coming weeks in JK (Jammu and Kashmir), but models can go horribly wrong. "So stay calm, observe rou-

IIT under PM's leadership: Chugh

Better safe than sorry.'

SRINAGAR: Modelling data

In a series of tweets,

tine precautions and vaccinate if you haven't, as per the

Koul added that he had been receiving many calls from people about COVID-19 alerts in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Receiving many calls for the COVID alerts. Please note that J&K (Jammu and Kashmir) and India as a whole are not experiencing an unusual surge as yet. However since it is winter. the time for circulation of respiratory pathogens in Kashmir, it is in one's interest to be alert and cautious. he said. Koul said the situation in China, which is believed to be going

J&K youth will give up guns, stones to join IAS,

hypocritical

COVID-19: Mock drill today to check readiness of health facilities

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: India will

Sitharaman was admitted to hold a mock drill on Tuesday the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to check preparedness of on Monday with symptoms health facilities to deal with of viral fever and is recoverany spurt in COVID-19 cases, while cautious author-Sitharaman, 63, is in a priities encouraged the use of vate ward of the hospital, masks with Karnataka makthey said. She was taken to ing it mandatory in schools, colleges and at places where the hospital around 12 noon. large crowds gather for New Kashmir reels Year celebrations.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said all state health ministers will take part at their level in the mock drill to be conducted throughout the country at all COVID hospitals as part of precautionary

following increase in infections in China and other countries

"Such exercises would help our operational readiness. help in filling gaps if any and will consequently strengthen our public health response," he said at a meeting with doctors from the Indian Medical Association (IMA).

India saw a single-day rise of 196 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases have marginally increased to 3.428, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

Random COVID-19 testing has started at various airports across the country in

the wake of rising cases globally, the minister said.

Five foreign nationals, four of them from Thailand and one from Myanmar, have tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Bihar on a pilgrimage, state officials

They said testing has been intensified at the airport and the Gaya railway station.

Altogether 33 foreigners were tested during the weekend, out of whom four females and one male have tested positive. The condition of all the infected persons, who are in the age group of 35 to 75 years, was

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two dead as truck plunges into gorge on NH

STATE TIMES NEWS BANIHAL/JAMMU:

truck driver and his helper were killed when their vehicle, loaded with empty LPG cylinders, rolled into a deep gorge along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Monday, a police official

The truck was on its way to Jammu to refill the cylinders when the accident occurred near Battery Cheshma in Ramban district around 4 am, he said.

The truck's two occupants driver Alyas Ahmad Khatana (40) and helper Sameer Ahmad Khatana (26) of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Says Muftis, Abdullahs, Gandhi family miserably failed J&K STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary and In-Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh on Monday said the youth of the Union Territory has started their journey to right direction and will become IAS officers, doctors, engineers,

will never succeed.

In an exclusive interview to KNS, the BJP leader said the vouth of J&K has started their journey in right direction as they have come to

approach of Conference, PDP and Congress. He said with the stepping in of the BJP in J&K, the youth will be given their due rights, as they were suppressed in absence of democracy.

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Police recover IED in Udhampur;

He accused the NC, PDP and Congress of luring youth towards stone pelting and violence, saying, "Stones are meant for construction but nor for violence and trouble. Those trying to place stones again in the hands of youngsters will not get succeed", he said. Terming NC and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Safety of KPs most important, they should be shifted to Jammu: Azad



STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Amid ongoing protest by hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit employees in Valley, Democratic Azad Party (DAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad has said that their safety is of paramount importance and they should be temporarily shifted to Jammu til the situation J&K. "Unfortunately, some incidents have happened. Life is a priority and so I am of the opinion that Kashmiri Pandit employees should be trans-

ferred to safer places in

Jammu. When the situation improves, they should be brought back, "the veteran J&Kpolitician reporters.

Azad stressed that their life is far more important than employment and promised to take such a step if his party

Double, triple shift works will start again if DAP comes to power'

comes to power in the UT. "I do not know what the approach of the government is, but if our party comes to power, we will do this only (temporarily shift such employees to Jammu)," he said. Asked about the delay in holding the assembly elections in J&K, the former chief minister said, "We have been waiting for the last six years. I raised the issue many times in Parliament as well. They show us Panchayat elections or DDC polls, but the real election is that of assembly which is not taking place."

Ghulam Nabi Azad aslo said

double across Jammu and Kashmir will start again if his party is elected to power after elections. Azad, however urged government to ensure all migrant Pandit employees are shifted to Jammu tem-

The DAP chief said that the government shall also consider to bring the local militants to mainstream and have tough stance at the same time against foreign terrorists operating Kashmir.

"During my tenure as Chief Minister we had a record

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

major 'terror plan' averted STATE TIMES NEWS UDHAMPUR: Police on

Monday averted a major terror plan after recovering an improvised explosive device (IED) in Udhampur district, officials said.

As per police statement. a police party led by SHO Police Station Basantgarh was on LRP/ Area domination and when reached at Khandara Top around, the team found a suspicious plastic bag concealed under a boulder (Hide out). During checking of the said bag, incriminating material viz. IED weighing around 10.5 kg in a cylindrical container; 500

gms of RDX; 7 number of

7.62mm liv cartridges; 5 detonators; one matrix sheet and one half torn page with letter head of banned terrorist organisation LeT was recovered.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh confirmed the incident.

In this regard, a case FIR NO-47/2022 under

section 4/5 explosive Act & 16/18/23 UAPAct has been registered in Police Station Basantgarh and investigation taken up by SDPO Ramnagar Bhishm Dubey. They said a suspect has been detained by the police in connection with the recovery of the explosive material.

WEATHER Max: 15.8°C Max: 94 Min: 83 Max: 10.2°C Max: 93 Min: 60

Sunset: 17:33 Hours

Sunrise: 07:31 Hours