

## JATE Vol. 27 Issue 360 • Jammu • Friday • December 30, 2022 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.00 RNI No.: 66908/96



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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Ranji Trophy: Abid wreaks havoc after Shubham salvages lone battle as J&K registers emphatic win

Is MoW & CD justified in saying "In view of role of Anganwadi workers making **UU** them regular employee is not feasible"?

Strong action against drug carriers, promoters in J&K: LG

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

## UTs can play vital role in making India third JAMMU ENCOUNTER: Search ops largest global economy: Amit Shah

Asks Union Territories to prepare their vision for 2047

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Asking the Union Territories to prepare their vision for 2047, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that UTs should take inspiration from Prime Minister. Narendra Modi's motto of "vocal for local" and "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" while striving to become a hub of tourism, development and welfare.

"If the potential of UTs is fully harnessed, India will be able to achieve the goal of becoming the third largest economy in the world", the Home Minister said while addressing a Conference on Union Territories, organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs here.

Inspired by the Panch Pranas of Amrit Kaal, the Conference was held in pur-



Home Minister Amit Shah presiding over Conference of Union Territories at New Delhi on Thursday. Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta also participates.

to the Administrator and

other officers of the Union

Territories, the Ministry of

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi that Union Territories should become models of good governance and development for the rest of the

The conference was attended by the Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, the Cabinet Secretary, the Union Home Secretary. the Chief Secretaries/Advisor

Home Affairs and senior officers from the concerned Central Ministries. Amit Shah emphasized on making Union

Territories a role model for the country. He said that all Union Territories should come

together and work synergisti-

cally on a common platform to achieve the national objectives and vision and take the country forward in the journey of development. Shah said that Union Territories are small in geographical size and have a relatively simple administrative set up, therefore Union Territories are ideal prototypes to experiment with pilot programmes.

replicated in larger regions and States. He said that the focus should be on cooperatives, especially in the fisheries sector, for development and public participation. At the same time, Union Territories should focus on increasing their manufacturing sector to reduce their dependence on external resources so as to reduce the loss of revenue in the process. Shah said that tourist circuits should be developed in the country to attract more tourists and reduce the cost of transportation etc. Amit Shah said that in this

tested on a small scale in the

Union Territories and then

Amrit Kaal, all Indians should take a pledge to transform India into "Best India". It is an overall vision year for the year 2047 when India will complete 100

# intensified to trace truck driver

JAMMU: A day after four terrorists were killed in an encounter here, police on Thursday launched search operations in several areas, including at the general bus stand and railway station, to trace the truck driver who fled from the spot before the gunfight started.

The encounter broke out between the terrorists and security forces after a truck loaded with husk was intercepted near near Tawi Bridge along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway Wednesday morning, while the vehicle was on its way to Kashmir.

The truck driver fled the scene taking advantage of dense fog before the gunfight started, a police official said. adding search operations and checking of vehicles were intensified to trace him.

Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police cordoned Bajalta forest. about seven km from the including Indira Chowk Immediately scene of the gunfight, and carried out a thorough

Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh said, adding the operation is still underway and further said the search is being done at bus stands, railway stadetails are awaited. Security forces were also tions and marketplaces, while all checkpoints have seen checking the identity cards of commuters at bus also been alerted to arrest stands and Jammu railway station. Besides this, several checkpoints have also come

the fleeing truck driver. "The number plate of the truck is fake. The engine and

Director General of Police,

chassis number has also ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### Srinagar records season's first snowfall



**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: Srinagar and other areas in the Kashmir plains received light snowfall,

CBSE releases Class 10,

12 date sheet; exams to

begin on Feb 15

NEW DELHI: The Central

Education (CBSE) on

Thursday announced class 10

and 12 board examinations

will begin from February 15.

Releasing the date sheet, the board said sufficient gap has

been given between two sub-

jects, and other factors such

as competitive entrance tests

have also been taken into

account in deciding the dates.

Examination will begin at

Police rescue 52 tourists

stranded in Budgam

SRINAGAR: Police rescued

52 tourists stranded due to

snowfall at Parihaas Doodhpathri in Jammu and

Kashmir's Budgam district

on Thursday, an official said

The police received infor-

mation that some tourists

were stuck at Parihaaas

Doodhpathri due to the

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Secondary

STATE TIMES NEWS

Board of

10.30 am.

Thursday while moderate snow broke the dry spell in the Valley's higher reaches, officials said. Most of

## EC develops remote voting machine prototype for domestic migrant voters; invites parties for demo

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: In a major move to increase voter participation, the Election Commission on Thursday said it has developed a prototype of a remote electronic voting machine (RVM) for domestic migrant voters and has invited political parties for a demonstration on January 16. If implemented after stake-

consultations. migrant voters do not need to travel to their home districts to exercise their franchise.

The Congress opposed the idea saying the EC should first allay the Opposition's apprehension about misuse EVMs before extending

their application which "would seriously undermine trust" in the electoral system. Former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi, however, described the EC's move

as an "excellent initiative". Citing EC's press note, he said the poll panel will do a

"It is also an excellent idea," he said adding "pilot will show all the problems which the system will come across. All good reforms in EC have come through pilot testing only. I think on the whole, it is a very good step and hopefully there will be a consensus." Terming counting of votes cast at remote booths and their transmission to the

returning officer in other states as a "technological challenge", Commission (EC) officials said RVMs will be developed as "a robust, failproof and efficient stand-alone system" based on existing electronic voting machines and will not be connected to the internet. Based on feedback from

various stakeholders and the demonstration of the prototype, the EC will appropriately carry forward the process of implementing remote voting, according to a statement.

The poll panel has also floated a concept note on remote voting and sought the views of political parti

the legal, administrative and technological challenges in implementing it.

The multi-constituency remote EVM, developed by public sector undertaking Electronics Corporation of India Ltd, can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth, the statement issued by the poll watchdog said.

ECILBharat and Electronics Ltd are the two PSUs manufacturing the EVMs.

"After focus on youth and urban apathy, remote voting will be a transformational initiative for strengthening

participation in

#### **Negative COVID report mandatory** for flyers to India from China irrespective of their port of

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

up at various places in the

city and along the highway

search operation, the official

NEW DELHI: A negative Covid report will be a must for passengers arriving in India from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand from January 1, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva. said Thursday.

The Covid test must be conducted within 72 hours of undertaking the journey to India and the negative report from the RT-PCR test has to be uploaded on the Air Suvidha portal before their departure, the minister said.

This requirement is in addition to the random testing of international passengers on their arrival in India

departure. Last week, the government made random coronavirus testing mandatory for two per cent of passengers arriving on each international flight.

Already many countries, including the US, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Italy have announced testing requirements for passengers from China.

The government ramped up its surveillance against Covid-19 amid a spike in coronavirus cases in some countries, including China, and tightened Covid guidelines and asked states and Union territories to prepare for any eventuality.

Does Rahul want to 'spread love' or 'vitiate

dents of riots right

from the 1984 Sikh

Congress is full of

riots. They are the

ones who intro-

duced Article 370

and Article 35A

"History

### Union Minister assures fast-paced development in Rajouri

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday assured fastpaced development of border district of Rajouri.

He also promised a ropeway project for Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah shrine at Shahdra Sharif and setting up of a museum of Bandha Bahadur in the district.

"I was here with a twin objective to ensure speedy development of the district and garner public support for the next Lok Sabha elections...We have received



Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal briefing media at Rajouri.

many suggestions related to developmental works and other issues which will be taken care of," the minister told reporters at the end of his two-day tour of the dis-

Meghwal said he met BJP leaders and workers and cross-section of the society besides the district administration including civil and police officers, and the

#### Army troops open fire after suspicious movement near LoC in Poonch STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/JAMMU: Army

troops opened fire on Thursday after observing suspicious movement near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Pooneh district, officials

The shots were heard at around 7.15 pm in the Karmara area. Khari There was no report of any loss of life or injury, they

Army troops also fired illuminating bombs to take a close look at the area to ensure that there is no movement of terrorists from across the border amid inclement weather.

atmosphere' in J&K: Anurag Thakur **STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JODHPUR: Ahead of Rahul Gandhi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Union minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday asked if the Congress leader is going to the Union territory to "spread love or to vitiate the atmosphere" there.

Thakur also said that Rahul Gandhi should make it clear if he is in favour of revocation of

Article 370 and Article 35A. "Rahul Gandhi is supposed to go to J&K as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra. Is he going there to spread love or vitiate the atmosphere? He

must tell if he is in favour of revocation of Article 370 and Article 35A or not," the min-

part of his four-day visit to western Rajasthan to celebrate the New Year. He further stated that the history of Congress is replete with inci-



The Gandhi-led Bharat

Jodo Yatra, which started in Kanyakumari in September, is scheduled to end in J&K next month.

Thakur was in Jodhpur as

there, which led to the deaths of over 50,000 people in the past many years. It is my question to Gandhi that if he is in agreement with the

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## Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh celebrated in Jammu with religious fervour

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 355th Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh Ji - the 10th Guru of Sikhs - was celebrated with religious fervour and devotion across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Despite the cold, devotees thronged the Gurudwaras to attend special prayers and sermons

The main function in Jammu was observed at Digiana Ashram Jammu Guruduwara. A large number of Sikhs including women and children from across Jammu and adjoining areas joined the special prayers at Guruduwara.

The programme was held



under the supervision of Mahant Manjit Singh Ji of Dera Nagali Sahib according to the directions of Akaal Takhat Sahib Amritsar.

Thousands of devotees from all walks of life including high dignitaries and religious scholars participated in the function and paid their

obeisance.

The Ragi Jatha of Bhai Balkar Singh Bir, Giani Bachan Singh Digiana Ashram Jammu, Ranjeet

Singh UP, Harneet Singh Simbal Camp, recited Gurbani Kirtan Parcharak Harvinder Singh of Gurdwara Amritsar, Balwant Singh and Fateh Singh threw light on the history of bravery and sacrifices of great Guru.

They said that Guru Gobind Singh, a spiritual hero and 'Sarbans Daani', fought against injustice and tyranny of rulers and created a third religion as against the decision of King Aurangzeb to make one religion of the two in the country, though Guru had to pay its cost by sacrificing his father, mother and four sons besides

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### J&K Admn reviews fire safety measures in health institutions

#### STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Jammu and

Kashmir administration on Thursday reviewed the fire safety measures in health institutions across the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said. Secretary, Health and Medical Education department, Bhupinder Kumar chaired a high level meeting here to

review the measures, the official said. Kumar sought institution-wise status of fire fighting systems and other alternative mechanisms available in hospitals from heads of the institutions, the official said.

Noting that fire inci-

dents are more prone to occur in winter conditions as there is over-usage of heating devices, the secretary cautioned all officers to remain vigilant. He stressed the need to

conduct mock drills, conduct fresh fire audits through the Fire and Emergency department besides addressing the deficiencies identified in the previous audits, the spokesperson aid.

On various projects to install fire fighting systems under execution, he exhorted officers to chase the executing agencies for early completion of the projects.

Max: 79 Max: 4.2°C Max: 93 Min: 92 Sunset: 17:35 Hours Sunrise: 07:33 Hours

WEATHER

Max: 15.0°C