Disability categories for PwDs reservation increased from 3 to 5: Dr Jitendra

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

ADGP (L&O), Div Com Jammu visit Poonch to assess security scenario post DKG encounter

reporters, shared his account

of the incident, stating, "He

(Mir) was my cousin. He

used to call for prayers every

day. This morning, while I

was reading the Quran, as

usual, he started the 'Azaan',

He added, "My cousin recit-

Mohammadu Rasool-Allah',

and then the 'Azaan' stopped.

only heard a shout of

'Reham' (mercy). It was in a

Mustafa said he initially

thought Mir might have

stopped his call due to some

other reason and guessed he

could have collapsed due to

dizziness. But it was later

revealed that Mir was shot,

Relatives of Mir claimed

that he had been shot four

times. His younger brother,

Abdul Kareem, who was

awakened by the sounds,

believed they were caused

Anna

so I closed the Quran."

heavy voice."

'Ashhadu

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

UT Rollball Championship to start from Dec 26

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Retired SSP shot dead by terrorists while offering 'Azaan'

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A 72-year-old retired police officer and local "muezzin", Mohammad Shafi Mir, was shot dead by terrorists on Sunday morning while he was giving a call for "Azaan" from a mosque in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, leaving the community in shock.

According to Mir's cousin Mohammad Mustafa, who was present at home during the incident, the call for predawn prayers was being given through a loudspeaker when it abruptly stopped. Mir's last words were

"Reham" (mercy), Mustafa recalled. The "Azaan" had stopped at the phrase "Ashhadu Anna Mohammadu Rasool-Allah" (I bear witness that Mohammad is the messenger

Police officials stated that Mir, who retired as a Senior Superintendent of Police

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

of Allah).

(SSP) in 2012, was shot the officials said

inside the mosque located in the Gantmulla locality of Sheeri area.

"Terrorists fired upon Shri Mohd Shafi, a retired police officer, at Gantmulla, Sheeri Baramulla, while praying 'azaan' in the mosque and succumbed to injuries," the Kashmir Zone Police said.

Police are also looking into the possibility of personal animosity as the deceased was shot with a .12 bore gun,

prayers at a mosque in

Chugh said it was not just

religious place.

a cowardly act of ter-

rorists but an insult

and disgrace to the

He said it was a

shame that terror-

fired

Mohammed Shafi, a

former SP, during

Azan in the mosque,

which showed how

desperate they are.

son in the place of worship

was the most heinous crime

for which the terrorists will

have to pay heavily, Chugh

Attacking a per-

Baramulla.

Terrorist attack on former cop act of cowardice, insult to a worship place: Chugh

Mustafa, speaking to

Mir's family described him as a dedicated individual who had taken up the role of the local "muezzin" and faithfully carried out his duties at the mosque.

After the incident, a large number of people gathered at Mir's house and at the mosque complex to pay their respects. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

LG greets people on Christmas

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message the Lt Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I extend my greetings to all, especially the Christian brothers and sisters.

The sacred festival of Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

2 drone-dropped explosives, cash seized near LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two dronedropped packets containing battery-operated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), a pistol and some cash were seized in a joint operation by the Army and police near the Line of Control in the Akhnoor sector here Sunday, officials

The timely recovery of the packets, believed to have been dropped by

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Education prerequisite for complete socio-economic equality: LG Shares J&K's transformational journey in schools, higher education institutions

St. Mary's Garrison Church, Jammu illuminated on the eve of Christmas. (Pic by Deepak Yadav



LG Manoj Sinha addressing commemorative event at Jagatpur PG College, Varanasi on Sunday.

J&K youth have potential to excel in any field: Modi PM interacts with students from J&K



PM Narendra Modi in a group photographs with delegation of students of J&K at his residence in New Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with around 250 underprivileged students from almost every

district of Jammu and Kashmir who have been touring the country as part of the "Watan Ko Jano-Youth Exchange" programme.

the interaction at Modi's residence was freewheeling and informal. These students are visiting Jaipur, Ajmer and New Delhi under the Central government's programme.

In the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', the visit was aimed at showcasing the cultural and social diversity of the country to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the statement added.

The prime minister asked the students about their travel experience and the iconic places they visited and discussed with them the rich sporting culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS

VARANASI: Terming education and knowledge as a prerequisite for complete socio-economic equality, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said education is the only tool to transform a society.

"The entire nation is today working with one objective to make India self-reliant and a developed country by 2047", the Lt Governor said while addressing the commemorative event at Jagatpur, Varanasi.

He said, under the guid-

Narendra Modi, India is making impressive strides in new areas of knowledge connectivity. The Lt Governor shared

the transformational journey in School and Higher Education in Jammu Kashmir. He also highlighted the College on Wheels initiative launched recently to provide the students an opportunity to learn beyond the walls of classrooms.

Paying tributes to Babu Shivnath Singh, freedom fighter, social reformer, wellknown educationist and ance of Prime Minister founder of Jagatpur Post

Graduate College, Lieutenant Governor said that he played a historic role in Champaran Satyagraha.

Babu Shivnath Singh Ji promoted the idea of universal access to education and established a senior secondary school in 1945 to bring the quality education within the reach of all sections of society, he said.

The Lt Governor said, our forefathers like Babu Shivnath Singh were committed to the promotion and all-round development of the nation and the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Centre needs to address the root cause of terrorism in J&K: Faroog Abdullah

Tarun Chugh on Sunday

strongly condemned the

incident in which a retired

police officer was shot dead

by terrorists while offering

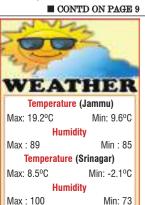
STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Terrorism is alive in Jammu and Kashmir and it cannot be finished by the use of military or police, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Sunday, urging the Centre to find ways to

The former Chief Minister said the common people should also understand the futility of the continued bloodshed as innocents are losing their lives to terror-

address the root cause of the

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a book release function here, Abdullah slammed the BJP over its claims of normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Shouting normalcy or propagating tourist arrivals as peace will not finish terrorism which is still alive. They were claiming that terrorism has finished with the abrogation of Article 370 (in 2019) but four years down the line, terrorism is



Sunset: 17:22 Hours

Sunrise: 07:26 Hours

DPAP Govt will end insecurity, fear in J&K: Azad 'Provide subsidized pesticides to farmers'

STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Former Chief Minister and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday promised that he will provide subsidized pesticides to apple growers of Jammu and Kashmir once mandated to power, saying supporting farmers is very important to give flip to the local economy.

"I believe as long as our farmers are not happy, the economy of Jammu and



public rally at Dangerpora.

per cent population is directly or indirectly depending on shares a substantial revenue

Search operations continue; Army pays tributes to fallen soldiers STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A wreath laving ceremony was on Sunday held in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri for the four soldiers who lost their lives after being ambushed by terrorists in nearby Poonch district, officials said.

A search operation to track down the fleeing terrorists continues near the scene of the ambush, while mobile internet services remained suspended in the twin districts for the second day on Sunday, they said.



GOC -in-C, Northern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi paying tributes to bravehearts.

Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi led the

wreath-laying ceremony of Naik Birendder Singh, Naik Karan Kumar,

Chandan Kumar at a military camp where their mortal remains were shifted.

Commanding of Jammubased White Knight Corps Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Vikas Kundal, Superintendent of Police, Rajouri Amritpal Singh and other officers and ranks of the Army also paid floral trib-

The soldiers lost their lives when their two vehicles

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Special DG BSF visits Jammu frontier, reviews security situation



Special DG BSF Y B Khurania interacting with troops along IB in Jammu frontier.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Special Director General of Border Security Force Y B Khurania visited the troops along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu frontier, officials said on Sunday.

Khurania, who heads the Chandigarh-based Western command of the BSF.

arrived here on Saturday on

a two-day visit to review the

situation,

security

spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

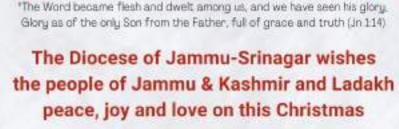
D K Boora, Inspector General, BSF, Jammu frontier, briefed the Special DG about the prevailing security situation here.

Khurania visited the border outposts along the IB and also reviewed the operational preparedness of field formations along the LoC in Sunderbani and Rajouri sectors, the spokesperson

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Merry Christmas!



MAY THE BLESSING OF JOY ABIDE IN YOU; MAY THE BLESSING OF PEACE REST UPON YOU; MAY THE BLESSING OF LOVE FLOW OUT THROUGH YOU;

MAY ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD BE YOURS AT CHRISTMAS AND IN THE NEW YEAR 2024

Diocese of Jammu-Srisaga Bishop's House, Jammu Cantt, Jammu & Kashmir - 180803