Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Information Commissioners' U convention, cites instances of Modi Govt's transparent working

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

### JKPS Panjtirthi celebrates **Indian Navy Day with fervour**

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

JKIIANS shine in National Wushu Championship, All India Kyakushin Bugkukan Karate Championship

# CM stresses on cultural revival, heritage preservation in J&K Calls for cultural policy, establishing Tehzeeb Mahal

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairing a review meeting of Department of Culture, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for focusing on revitalizing Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and infra-

The Chief Minister also emphasized the original vision behind the conceptualisation of Tehzeeb Mahal in Srinagar, underscoring its role in promoting local artists. "Tehzeeb Mahal must serve as a space where artists can showcase their talent while preserving its core theme. Wherever possible, the available space should be expanded to align with this vision," he said.

Omar Abdullah also directed the department to revive the restoration of Naagar Nagar at the foothills of Hari Parbat, a project halted a decade ago, to save its deteriorating walls. Speaking on the need for a comprehensive Cultural Policy for J&K, the



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a review meeting of Department of Culture in Jammu.

Chief Minister urged the department to consult stake-

"Engage with the stakeholders to formalize a robust Cultural Policy," he added.

He also called for immediate filling of departmental vacancies to ensure seamless functioning.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to Dheeraj Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Principal

Secretary Culture Suresh Gupta, Secretary PWD, and officials. seniorKashmir-based joined via video conferencing.

Earlier, Principal Secretary Culture presented a detailed overview of the department's functioning, highlighting its initiatives through directorates such as Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Libraries and Research, and the Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The progress on various key projects was reviewed, including the restoration of

Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and archival reposi-

The meeting was informed about the digitization of archival records which has been fully completed in Jammu and is 50% complete in Srinagar, with six lakh records being shifted to a new facility near Kala Kendra at a cost of Rs 7.2

The meeting also discussed the 100 days target for cultural and heritage development in Jammu

### **Property of notorious** drug peddler worth Rs 50 lakhs attached ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Anantnag Police attached a residential property worth Rs 50 lakhs belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Gh Hassan Bandro alias Qasim son of Wali Mohammad resident of Sotkipora. This action was carried out by Police Station Srigufwara as part of the ongoing intensified efforts to combat the drug menace.

The accused, a habitual offender, has a history of involvement in drug trafficking and is implicated in multiple cases under the NDPS Act including FIR Nos. 04/2014 and 74/2021 at Police Station Srigufwara. These cases highlight his repeated attempts to undermine societal well-being through illegal activities. The attachment of the property sends a strong message to those engaged in the illegal drug trade that such activities will not be tolerated. Police are determined to dismantle drug trafficking networks by targeting their financial resources and operational bases.

## **Oppn, Govt clash in Parliament over** Soros issue; proceedings stalled again

NEW DELHI: Seeking to corner the Congress, the BJP on Tuesday again raised in Parliament the issue of alleged links of Congress leaders with George Soros backed outfits involved in "anti-India" activities, triggering vociferous protests from the opposition.

Both Houses adjourned without transacting any major business amid noisy scenes.

As soon as the Rajya Sabha met at noon after the first adjournment, Leader of the House J P Nadda raised the issue of alleged links between the Congress leadership and Soros, claiming that they were conniving to destabilise the country.

This led to an uproar in the House, with opposition members raising slogans against the BJP and the treasury benches demanding answers from the Congress.

This is the first time that the BJP raised the issue in Rajya Sabha in the presence

Speaking during Gandhi.

of Congress leader Sonia

The Congress' Deputy Leader of the House Pramod Tiwari rejected Nadda's allegations and raised the Adani issue.

In the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren accused the Congress and its leadership of colluding with US billionaire Soros and anti-India forces, triggering noisy protests and plunging the Lok Sabha into chaos after which the House was adjourned for the day.

Hour, Rijiju also hit out at Congress leaders for attacking the dignity of Parliament by coming to the House by wearing masks and jackets with caricatures.

Opposition trooped into the Well as Rijiju made the remarks.

The minister said the Congress leaders' stalling of Parliament was also depriving other members of the House from raising issues related to their constituen-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### **GOC** visits hinterland areas in Kishtwar, reviews security situation



Sachedeva interacting with troops at Kishtwar.

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Senior Army officials on Tuesday reviewed security situation in the

Fire in MLA hostel

building in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: A fire broke out

in the MLA hostel here on

Tuesday, causing damage to a

few rooms in the building

meant for housing legislators.

officials said. The blaze broke

out in the first floor of the

four-storey MLA hostel build-

ing near the MA Road area

around noon, the officials

said. They said the fire

engulfed three rooms on the

first floor of the building caus-

ing some damage to them.

The fire was immediately

brought under control by the

Fire and Emergency Services

personnel along with police

personnel. The cause of the

Intense cold wave

in parts of valley

SRINAGAR: Intense cold

conditions prevailed in parts

of the Kashmir valley as the

minimum temperature plummeted several degrees

below the freezing point, offi-

Srinagar and many other

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

cials said on Tuesday.

places recorded the

STATE TIMES NEWS

fire is being ascertained.

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

Kishtwar region of Jammu area following allegations that some locals were

### J&K Govt sets up ministerial panel on reservation rules

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday accorded sanction to the formation of a three-member cabinet sub-committee to look into grievances against the present reservation policy in the union territory.

The sanction for the formation of the sub-committee was given through an order issued General Administration Department.

According to the order. ministers Sakina Masood Itoo, Satish Sharma and Javed Rana will be the members of the sub-committee.

The sub-committee will submit its report to the council of ministers headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah. The Chief Minister last

month said the Cabinet sub-committee will be constituted to engage with all stakeholders on the issue of reservation in government

"A lot is being said about reservation. Our youth, especially those belonging to the open category, think they not getting their rights, but there are also who have been brought into the reservation ambit who do not want any reduction in their rights.

"So, the Cabinet has decided to form a sub-committee, which will include three ministers, and the Cabinet has asked them to take a holistic view of the issue," he added.

Reservations become a major issue in J-

government's decision to add more communities to the reserved category and expand quotas in the UT over the past five years.

There are increasing objections to the Centre's move to push the reservation quota to 70 percent in Jammu and Kashmir.

This follows recent announcements to introduce a separate 10 percent reservation for Paharis and other tribes and an enhancement of the OBC (Other Backward Classes)

### against Hindus in Bangladesh: RSS STATE TIMES NEWS communities in the neigh-Rashtriya bouring country.

India should do more to stop atrocities

NAGPUR: Swayamsevak Sangh leader Sunil Ambekar on Tuesday said the Indian government should take "more concrete steps" to stop the atrocities Hindus in against Bangladesh, and also speak to other countries for this purpose.

Ambekar, all-India prachar pramukh' (publicity head) of the Sangh, spoke at a gathering organised here under the banner of `Sakal Hindu Samaj' to condemn attacks on minority Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and other

Every Hindu should be outraged by what is happening in Bangladesh, he said, adding, "The Indian government should take more concrete steps.

The Bangladesh government should ensure that atrocities against Hindus stop and the guilty are punished, and the Indian government should speak with other countries as part of efforts to stop these atrocities, Ambekar said. He expressed hope that

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 50 Inspectors promoted as DySPs

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Home Department on Tuesday ordered the promotion of 50 Inspectors as Deputy Superintendents of Police (DvSPs).

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of 50 Inspectors as Deputy Superintendent of Police -Level 8 (47600-151100) in the Pay Matrix, with immediate effect," according to an order issued

As per order Inspectors who have been promoted

Superintendent of Police include Suhail Rashid, Pardeep Gupta, Mushtaq Ahmad, Mir Afaq Ahmad, Tsewang Dorjey, Tahir Yousuf, Mohd Amin, Kulbir Singh, Jaffar Ali Khan, Lotus Rabgaes, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Sanjiv Sharma, Kamal Sangra, Musadiq Abass, Parkash, Mohd Ramzan, Gulshan Akhter, Munir Ahmad, Manzoor Ahmad, Hafizullah Mir, Rajinder Kour, Sheikh Gh. Jeelani, Aftab Ahmad Bhat, Nisar Ahmad Hum, Sanjay Kumar Abrol,

Atiquallah, Rajesh Kumar, Bishnesh Kumar, Mohd Faisal Khan, Nasir Ahmad, Mohd Yousuf Dar, Padma Dorjey, Showkat Ahmad, Masarat Akhter, Anayatullah, Mushtaq Ahmad, Mohammad Amin, Dalbir Kour, Deepanker Singh, Vijay Kumar, Reena Devi, Rakash Kumar, Neeraj Bhagat, Prabhu Diyal, Karan Kumar, Bashir Ahmed, Almas Sharma, Showkat Ahmad Shashi Kant.

### Modi to interact with Smart India Hackathon participants today

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with young innovators at the grand finale of Smart India Hackathon -2024 via videoconferencing on Wednesday, his office said.

The seventh Smart India Hackathon will run concurrently at 51 centres nationwide, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said.

Modi will interact with the young innovators at the grand finale via videoconferencing around 4:30 pm on



Wednesday.

More than 1.300 student teams will participate in the grand finale and the prime minister will also address

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### 5 more disasters added to SDRF list ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

### JAMMU: Chief Secretary,

Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday while chairing the State Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) gave its approval for inclusion of 5 more local disasters to the already notified list of disasters as per SDRF

During this high level meeting, the members of SEC had consensus on adding five more disasters of local nature to the already notified list as per SDRF. These include Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). Lightening & Thunderstorm, Heavy Snowfall, Incidents of Man-Animal Conflict and Boat Capsizing.

These disasters were notified as UT specific disasters for disbursement of the bene-

Place: Mumbai

fits to the affected persons as per the guidelines/items and norms set under SDRF. This step is going to bring much requisite relief to hundreds of people becoming victims of such disasters.

The SEC also gave its accent to release of over Rs 6 Cr in favour of Deputy Commissioners Baramulla, Ganderbal.

Kupwara, Srinagar, Rajouri and Ramban on their requisition for additional funds for meeting the expenses of various disasters which have occurred in these districts during this year.

It also decided to release an amount of Rs 6.5 Cr in favour of HG/CD/SDRF for modernizing the force by providing different kinds of equipments like drones. remote controlled

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K needs anti-drone unit more than others; pilot project should get launched from here



set up for better border security

in the context of the national securinal security too is interconnected with what happens on borders.

enemy undertakes from across the border. But these low-flying devices deliver deadly material and results in disaster if they succeed in hitting at their targets.

India has been able to stabilize and establish itself among the five top economies of the world has been that

ment has focused on the national security and given new and much-needed impetus that the security system had been waiting for decades. National security is imperative for development and stability. It is indeed pointless to draw the comparison between the Modi era that began in May 2014 and that of Congress because this is not just a study in contrast but much more than that. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ably assisted by Amit Shah, has put to at an end the shameful chapters of the past.

Jammu and Kashmir is the best

example of that, where instead of rewarding those backing terrorism with dialogue, as was the practice in the past, the Modi government dismantles the whole of the structure, hitting hard at its ecosystem. The separatists were put in jails instead of entertaining them at the dialogue

upgraded by

the enemies across the border. Pakistan used these flying devices that can drop bombs, drugs and weapons, against the strategic assets in Jammu and Kashmir. There were attempts to target airports, military establishments. These are well-documented events, which made the country to think of countering this strategic intrusion

Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have been high-targets for Pakistan. Both these Border States mean a lot for the Indian national security. In

Punjab, Pakistan experimented and it did succeed in unleashing terror from 1980s to 1990s, leaving hun dreds dead and destabilizing the crucial state with its attempts to sow seeds of secession. Once again Pakistan is trying to reignite the flames of secession, misleading the vulnerable sections in the state, and drones have been used to undertake that task. The BSF have successful ly intercepted a majority of the drones and seized drugs and weapons delivered by these flying devices launched by Pakistan.

For Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir is very crucial in its geo-strategic goals. It wants to succeed here at all costs. But this time it is also aware that what is up against. Still like a stubborn child, it continues to persist with its games, hoping against hope that it may succeed. It started sending drones, and continues to do so, to keep militancy going. The drones have dropped drugs, arms and

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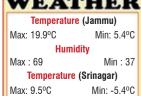
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General Manager



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Amit Shah declared Sunday that an anti-drone system would be

across the country holds special significance for Jammu and Kashmir as it has been one of the biggest victims of drone menace in more than one way. The whole thing has been stated ty, and it is very important to have safe and secure borders as these are not only guarantee against the aggressive designs of enemies across the border but also because the inter-

Amit Shah spelled out the necessity of this anti-drone unit in the near future as he could foresee that this is going to be a bigger menace in the days to come. The use of drone is a

One of the primary reasons why the Modi governIn the past few years, the drone system has been

from across the border.

ammunition ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9