

02 15 bovines rescued; 3 accused arrested, fake permission documents recovered

09 Govt extends APR filing date for employees upto Feb 15

10 JK Public School Panjtirthi observes Martyrs Day

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Better opportunities provided to neglected J&K, Ladakh: Prez



President Ram Nath Kovind addressing the Parliament during Budget Session 2022, in New Delhi. Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla are also seen.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Narendra Modi government has taken many important steps to provide better opportunities for education, health and employment to the people of "hitherto left neglected" Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Monday.

Addressing a joint sitting of both houses of Parliament at the start of the budget session, Kovind said at the "Amrit Kaal" of independence, the Centre's resolve of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" (one India, greatest

India) is enabling the country to write a new chapter of development on the basis of democratic values and it is now making special efforts for the states and regions "hitherto left neglected".

"The beginning of a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh region is a great example of this," he said.

The President said the government has started a new central sector scheme for the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of about Rs 28,000 crore.

Last year, the Qazigund-Banihal tun-

nel was opened to traffic and international flights between Srinagar and Sharjah have also started, he pointed out.

"Many important steps have also been taken to provide better opportunities for education, health and employment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Kovind said.

He said currently, work is in progress on seven medical colleges and two All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) -- one in Jammu and another in Kashmir. The construction of IIT, Jammu and IIM, Jammu is also going on in full swing.

Kovind said the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation has been set up to accelerate infrastructure and economic development in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Another chapter in this development journey of Ladakh is being added in the form of Sindhu Central University, he said.

Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was scrapped on August 5, 2019 and it was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Both the Union

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FM tables Economic Survey 2021-22 in LS

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday presented the Economic Survey that details the state of the economy ahead of the government's Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2022.

It projects an 8-8.5 per cent growth rate for the Indian economy in 2022-23 fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023). This

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13 JKAS officers transferred

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The government on Monday transferred 13 JKAS officers.

As per an order issued by the General Administration Department, Tariq Hussain Ganai, JKAS, Director, Rural Sanitation, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Director, Hospitality and Protocol, J&K; Rakesh Kumar Srangal, JKAS, Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K, shall hold the

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NCC coverage in J&K villages, far-flung areas to be expanded: LG

'Cadets can play major role in reversing drug menace'



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with Republic Day contingent of JK&L NCC.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the School Education Department and the Youth Affairs is wholeheartedly supporting the expansion of NCC coverage in villages and far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that efforts won't only be to motivate the youth but will also inculcate

the values of fraternity, discipline, national unity and selfless service amongst them.

Interacting with Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh contingent of NCC cadets, who participated in the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi, the LG said that the invaluable experience that the cadets contingent have gained during the camps will prove beneficial for them in building a suc-

cessful future.

During the interaction held in the lawns of Raj Bhavan, the Lt Governor congratulated the Cadets, and lauded the hard-work and commitment of the cadets and their training instructors who, despite challenges from the pandemic were well trained for RDC events at New Delhi.

"NCC cadets are icons of discipline and leadership with unwavering commitment in nation-building", the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor observed that NCC cadets in J&K UT led by example during trying times of Covid-19 in activities like awareness campaign and effectively executed the assigned mission during the vaccination program.

Highlighting the significant role of NCC cadets in society, Lt Governor said that they can play a major role in reversing the

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Custodian General's order cancelling allotment of 20 Kanals land quashed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court quashed an impugned order dated February 16, 2015 passed by Custodian General cancelling allotment of 20 Kanals land at Chowadi made in favour of National Welfare Trust.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing Adv FA Natnoo for Custodian General and Adv Vishal Goel for the Trust observed that that order of Custodian General passed in exercise of review jurisdiction is in violation of principles of natural justice, as Trust has not been

given a notice and opportunity to defend its allotment.

While disposing of petition, Justice Sanjeev Kumar observed that indisputably, respondent is an allottee of evacuee land and there is a formal lease agreement also executed. "If, for any reason, the Custodian General wants to review order, he can do so only after giving the allottee an adequate opportunity of being heard. This does not appear to have been done in this matter. The Tribunal has, therefore, rightly found the order passed by the Custodian General bad in eyes of law. It is,

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J&K sees 15 coronavirus deaths, 2,550 new cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 2,550 fresh coronavirus cases on Monday, taking the number of infected people to 4,35,425, while 15 deaths due to the disease were reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 974 were from the Jammu division and 1,576 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said.

While ten deaths were reported from the Jammu division, five were recorded in the Vally. They said Jammu district recorded a maximum of 500 new cases, followed by 391 cases in Srinagar district.

There are 36,372 active COVID-19 cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients stands at 3,94,379, the officials said.

The 15 new fatalities, highest single-



A health worker taking nasal swab for COVID testing in Jammu.

day count so far this year, pushed the death toll from the pandemic to 4,674 in

Jammu and Kashmir

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 133 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the virus tally to 25,869 while the active cases in the union territory have come down to 1,212, officials said.

The union territory has recorded 224 Covid-related deaths -- 165 in Leh and 59 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

There was no death reported from union territory on Sunday, they said.

As many as 182 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh. Of these, 148 were discharged in Leh and 34 in Kargil, they said.

With these, the total number of cured patients is 24,460, they said.

Of the total of 133 fresh cases from Union territory, 102 such cases were reported from Leh district and 31 from Kargil district, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kashmir gets some respite from severe cold conditions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature across Kashmir improved as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the harshest winter period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent - ended, officials said on Monday.

However, the minimum temperature settled below the freezing point across the valley on Sunday night, the officials said.

Chilla-i-Kalan -- the 40-day harshest winter period which began on December 21 last year -- is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 20.6°C Min: 7.7°C

Humidity

Max : 84 Min : 70

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 11.8°C Min: -1.6°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min: 59

Sunset : 18:04 Hours

Sunrise : 07:26 Hours

Kargil War Hero Lt Gen Joshi hangs his uniform after 40 years of distinguished career



Northern Command bidding farewell to GoC-in-C Lieutenant General YK Joshi at Udhampur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kargil War hero Lieutenant General Y K

Joshi hanged his boots as the Northern Command chief on Monday after serving at var-

ious strategic postings in the Indian Army during his distinguished career spanning 40 years.

The Army said Lt Gen. Joshi will continue to inspire the future generations of officers to emulate his sterling qualities, firm resolve to follow the righteous path under all circumstances, sense of justice and strategic thinking as a general and a statesman.

Lt Gen. Joshi was appointed as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Northern Command at Udhampur

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One day salary of XEn FCD Anantnag deducted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Acting tough on lack of punctuality, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Monday ordered one day salary deduction of Executive Engineer FCD Anantnag on account of unauthorized absence from duty on 29th January. The proceeds shall be deposited in the District Red Cross Fund.

The DC had conducted a surprise check of various offices in Anantnag on Saturday and had found as many as 25 employees unauthorizedly absent from duties. As per the

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H&ME Deptt tie-ups with AIIMS Delhi for Critical Care & ICU training

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), Vivek Bhardwaj and Director, AIIMS, Prof. Randeep Gulera on Monday launched the training programme of COVID related critical care and ICU for the doctors of UT in a virtual event.

The training is being conducted by experts from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi under the ECRP-II. A group of 40 doctors from 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir are participating in the training program.

Thanking AIIMS for coming forward for this training program, Vivek Bhardwaj said, "In the evolving ecosystem this training program will have multiplier effect on our healthcare delivery system in the Union Territory. On one hand the training will enhance the capacity of our healthcare professionals to handle the critical cases especially COVID related cases, additionally they will also be better equipped to further train doctors placed in remote locations."

Commenting on this occasion, Prof. Randeep Gulera, Director, AIIMS emphasised

on the scope of tele-consultation to improve the delivery of good quality critical care for remote areas.

The programme was moderated by Mission Director, NHM, Yasin M Chaudhary.

The 06 day long interactive training program will be facilitated by 06 trainers from AIIMS, New Delhi.

COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package - Phase-II (ECRP II) is a centrally sponsored scheme to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by the ongoing

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Elections keep happening but budget session very important, must make it fruitful: PM



PM briefing media ahead of Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. Union Ministers Dr. Jitendra Singh, Pralhad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal and V. Muralidharan are also seen.

There are many opportunities for India in today's global situation and asserted that the country's economic progress, vaccination program against COVID-19, and India-made vaccines

have built trust for it across the globe, he said.

In this budget session also the "open-minded" discussions of parliamentarians can become an important opportunity for making a

global impact, the Prime Minister said.

"I hope that all MPs and all political parties will definitely help in taking the country on the path of progress and in accelerating it by having quality discussions with an open mind," he said.

Modi further said, "...I urge all members of Parliament that elections have their own place and will keep happening... this budget session in a way draws a blueprint for an entire year and therefore, it is very important."

The more fruitful we make this session with full commitment, there will be a big opportunity in the coming year to take the country to new economic heights, he said.

The session comes ahead of assembly polls from February 10 to March 7 in five states -- Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Goa. The counting of votes would take place on March 10.

The session of Parliament is likely to be stormy with opposition parties all geared up to raise farmers' issues and the border row with China.

The opposition is also preparing to unitedly take on the government on the Pegasus snooping row after the New York Times claimed that India purchased the snooping spyware as part of a defence deal with Israel in 2017. Leader of

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