

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Ten OGWs of...

Kashmir and were mostly recruiting vulnerable school and college-going students as a few of them are students themselves, they said.
Digital records seized from them are being sent to a forensic laboratory for evidence analysis.

TERROR CASES: NIA...

to effect violent activities within and outside Jammu and Kashmir by self-styled commanders of LeT and its offshoot The Resistance Front (TRF), Sajjad Gul, Salim Rehmani alias "Abu Saad" and Saifullah Sajid Jutt, the spokesperson said.

The NIA said further investigations in both the cases are underway.

Junior classes in...

in J&K shall open in a phased manner: Classes from 9th to 12th can commence routine offline teaching from February 14, 2022. All the students of 15-17 age group coming to attend regular offline classes must carry a vaccination certificate with them. Head of Institutions must ensure vaccination of every student above 15 years of age in their respective Institutions.

The vaccination adherence shall be ensured through coordination with the Department of Health and Medical Education J&K. Every School must further ensure full compliance to COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and SOPs," read an order.

It added "The offline mode of teaching for remaining junior classes in Summer Zone Schools shall begin from February 21, 2022 and Head of Institution shall be responsible for adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour in their respective schools and prepare proper plans for the same." "The Winter Zone Schools of J&K shall commence offline teaching for all classes after 28th of February 2022 and the Head of the Institutions must ensure that guidelines related to vaccination for students above 15 years, social distancing norms and CAB are followed strictly including regular screening at the entrance of the Institution," it added.

Singer-composer Bappi ...

him said on Wednesday. He was 69.

Lahiri died on Tuesday night at the CritiCare Hospital in Juhu.

"Lahiri had been admitted to the hospital for a month and was discharged on Monday. But his health deteriorated on Tuesday and his family called for a doctor to visit their home. He was brought to the hospital. He had multiple health issues. He died due to OSA (obstructive sleep apnea) shortly before midnight," Dr Deepak Nanjoshi, director of the hospital, told PTI.

The singer-composer, a familiar figure for many with his trademark gold chains that he wore for luck and his sunglasses, was known for his songs in several films of the late 70s-80s. These included "Chalte Chalte", "Disco Dancer", and "Sharaabi".

His last Bollywood song was Bhankas for the 2020 film "Baaghi 3".

Centre asks States...

the nation is showing a sustained downward trend, it will be useful if states/UTs review and amend/do away with the additional restrictions so imposed after considering the trend of new cases, active cases and positivity within the state and UT," he said.

With the changing epidemiology of the pandemic globally and in India, existing guidelines aimed at minimising the transmission and circulation of the virus have been reviewed and updated. The Union Ministry of Health accordingly revised its guidelines for international arrivals on February 10, he stated.

Bhushan underlined that states and UTs must also continue monitoring the

trajectory of cases and spread of infection on a daily basis.

They may also follow the broad five-fold strategy of Test Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour.

"I'm sure that under your continued leadership the state and UT will continue to address the challenge of COVID-19 while minimizing its impact on lives and livelihood of the people," Bhushan said in the letter.

J&K reports 230...

24 hours. Till date 6004757 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 31703 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 3683 in isolation and 443602 in home surveillance. Besides, 5521024 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 58 fresh Covid cases, taking the infection tally to 27,594, officials said.

The number of active cases stands at 523, including 404 in Leh and 119 cases in Kargil, they said.

The Union Territory has recorded 227 Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 59 in Kargil, they said.

No death was reported on Tuesday, officials said.

As many as 57 patients, 34 in Leh and 23 in Kargil, were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the overall recoveries to 26,844, they said.

Of the 58 new cases, 43 were from Leh and 15 from Kargil, officials said, adding that a total of 1,193 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative.

Woman Sarpanch caught ...

was also recovered from her possession in presence of independent witnesses," said official, adding that further investigation of case is going on.

ANTF nabs two...

general public to share information regarding such drug dealers so that appropriate legal actions are taken against them and this menace is uprooted from our society.

Army Commander reviews...

situation and measures instituted to counter adversaries' design," a defence spokesman said here.

He said the Army Commander had arrived here on Monday on his maiden visit to Kashmir after taking over the reins of Northern Command of the Army.

Lt Gen Dwivedi interacted with the senior officers of Chinार Corps and lauded the strong counter infiltration grid along the Line of Control, the spokesman said.

He said the Army Commander also appreciated the strict control exercised by the formation to abide by the ceasefire understanding between the DGMOs of both India and Pakistan, which will complete one year on February 25, 2022.

"For the hinterland, the Army Commander complimented Chinार Corps for the conduct of operations with precision ensuring zero collateral damage.

He was appreciative of the excellent Soldier Citizen connect activities, which have resulted in overall reduction in the terrorist recruitments," the spokesman said.

Let Gen Dwivedi also paid homage to the 40 bravehearts of CRPF who had made the supreme sacrifice during terror attack on the convoy three years ago in Pulwama.

The Army Commander also interacted with various civil functionaries and members of the civil society.

He appreciated the rapid steps that are being taken by all agencies for sustainable peace and development of Kashmir.

He lauded the synergy between all elements of the security forces and the Civil Administration.

Withdraw draft proposals for demarcation of constituencies: NC to Delimitation Commission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Conference has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission to withdraw the draft proposal for demarcation of assembly constituencies and also stop further proceedings of the Commission till the final adjudication of pleas challenging validity of revocation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two union territories.

The three Lok Sabha members, who are associate members of the Commission, in their written objections filed on Monday said, the draft proposal made in working paper 2-6 proposing demarcation of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies be withdrawn without acting upon the proposals in any manner or proceeding ahead in the matter.

The Commission must stop the exercise forthwith pending final adjudication and disposal of the batch of writ petition questioning Vires and consti-

tutional validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, NC leaders Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone said.

Making public their response to the proposals, they said a bare look at the working papers would reveal that the population as the first and foremost criteria of delimiting the constituencies has not been given the prominence it deserves.

"The deviation in population ranges from 56,077 more than average of 1,36,304 in case of 41-Dooru to 85,025 less than average in case of 50-Padder. There are seven Assembly segments with less than 100,000 population (Paddar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Bani Mughal Madaan, Basohli, Ramgarh and Kishtwar) in Jammu Province while number of such constituencies is only three (Gurez, Karnah and Kunzer)," they said.

The NC leaders pointed out that there were 18 Assembly segments with population of

more 1,50,000 in Kashmir province while number of such Assembly segments was seven in case of Jammu province.

"Twenty-four constituencies in Kashmir province have more than an average population of 1,36,304 while population of only eight constituencies in Jammu province exceeds the average population of a constituency worked out by the Commission. The population of Dooru almost equals population of three constituencies Paddar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) and Bani constituencies of Jammu," they added.

The leaders said as per the draft proposal, people of Dooru will have one member in Assembly while an almost equal population from Paddar, Bani and SMVD constituencies shall have three members in the Assembly.

"The Working Papers 2-6 script a storey of disempowerment and disenfranchisement of Kashmir and far flung unattended areas of Jammu," they said.

Low intensity quake of 3.2 magnitude hit Valley

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A mild intensity earthquake with epicentre in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam area shook the valley on Wednesday but there was no damage reported due to the tremor. An earthquake of magnitude 3.2 on Richter scale was felt at around 5.43 am in Kashmir, an official of the Disaster Management authority said.

He said the epicentre of the earthquake was 15 kilometres south-southwest of Pahalgam, the base camp for Shri Amarnath yatra, at a depth of 16 kilometres. The official said there were no reports of any damage so far.

UGC-NET result to be declared in a day or two

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The result of National Eligibility Test (NET) will be declared in a day or two, the University Grants Commission (UGC) said on Wednesday. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UGC could not conduct the December-2020 UGC-NET examination. Consequently, the UGC-NET of December 2020 and June 2021 Cycles were conducted together by National Testing Agency between November 20, 2021, and January 5, 2022," a senior commission official said. "The UGC-NET was conducted in 81 subjects, in 837 centres spread across 239 cities in the country. More than 12 lakh candidates registered for UGC-NET. The processing of the results is underway. UGC is working closely with NTA and all efforts are being made to declare the UGC-NET results in a day or two," he added.

J&K achieved first rank among UTs in NeSDA-2021

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), GoI and the Chief Secretary, J&K, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday co-chaired a meeting to review the development and functioning of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) portal and Dashboard for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi; DG IMPARD, Saurabh Bhagat; Secretary IT, Prerna Puri; Secretary, PDMD, Sushma Chauhan; CEO, JKEGA, Amit Sharma, senior officers of J&KIMPARD.

The portal has been made with an objective to monitor the progress of districts on several given indicators, identification of key areas improvement and assessment of comparative performance of districts on a real time basis.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that the launch of District Good Governance Index (DGGI) for the UT of J&K was a remarkable achievement for the administration of J&K as it is a major step towards enhancing efficiency in governance and improving the Public Service Delivery on the ground. He added that to reap the benefits of DGGI for each district and improve governance and public service delivery, this portal has been formed which will make them result-oriented on services provided and also improve their public service delivery mechanism. The Chief Secretary directed the officers to host diverse information on the DGGI dashboard alongside the results of the index so that the public gets aware about the performance of their respective districts.

The Chief Secretary also directed the officers of Planning Department to utilize the services of

District Statistics Evaluation Officers (DSEOs) for compiling the comparative data to be hosted on the DGGI portal. He also directed the DG, JKIMPARD to organize training for the DSEOs in consultation with the DARPG so that they get well acquainted about the objective and purpose of the DGGI portal and can compile the data of their respective districts accordingly.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, DARPG, V Srinivas remarked that the launch of DGGI and now formation of DGGI portal and dashboard is a huge administrative reform initiated by the government of J&K which has a lot of national significance. He added that the J&K has opened the door for further promoting competitive federalism at district level and several states are approaching DARPG for framing of DGGI in their respective states.

For the DGGI portal and dashboard, ten sectors have been identified for monitoring like agriculture and allied sector, industry and commerce (including tourism), human resource development, public health, public infrastructure & utilities, social welfare & development, financial inclusion, legal empowerment & public safety, environment and citizen centric governance. The portal and dashboard will be web based for all stakeholders with monthly data entry provision for each district.

Simultaneously, the Chief Secretary and Secretary DARPG also reviewed the progress of the Union territory on the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)-2021.

During the meeting, Senior Technical Director, NIC, DARPG informed the meeting that the UT of J&K and improved significantly and has achieved number one rank among all the UTs in the NeSDA-2021. It was also given out that the UT Portal has higher compliance to the

assessment parameters like accessibility, 'Information Security and Privacy', 'Content Availability' and 'Ease of Use'.

The Chief Secretary complimented the officers of IT department, GAD and others for this remarkable achievement and asked them to bring more services on the digital platform so that maximum people take benefits out of this.

Dr. Mehta asked the IT department to complete end to end digitization of all services, integrate all public services on a single platform and also develop a feedback mechanism for the same in the given timeframe. The Chief Secretary further asked the officers to bring more services on the Rapid Assessment System (RAS) platform so that J&K can improve the performance on NeSDA and become number one performing UT among all States and UTs of the country.

Dr. Mehta asked the officers of the IT department to calibrate the services on the RAS platform as per the public feedback received. He also asked them to launch an awareness campaign for the public so that maximum people can register feedback regarding the services provided through the RAS platform.

Pertinently, RAS provides a platform for submitting the online applications for different services like issuance of domicile certificate, benefits under the MUMKIN scheme, commercial water connection, license for selling fertilizers, license for pesticides, license for opening nurseries and other services of public importance. The platform also has a user-friendly digital feedback mechanism that enables citizens to provide effective feedback on the services provided to them. The departments are also provided a graphical user interface (GUI) for assessing the feedback from citizens and incorporating suitable changes to further enhance efficiency in the service delivery mechanism.

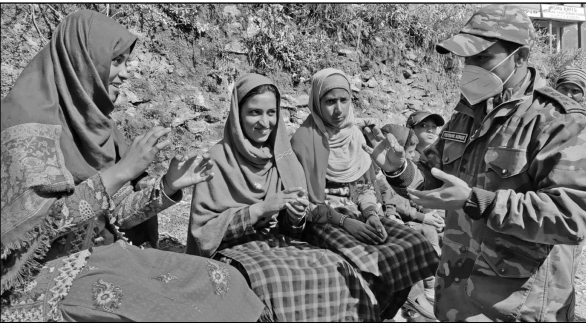
Deaf & dumb villagers finally find a mentor as army adopts Dadhkai

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Mysterious disorder which tell the tale of silent sufferings that reigns in the sleepy village of Dadhkai, nestled high up in the Himalayan mountains in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district and where the majority of residents are deaf and mute have finally found a mentor as Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles unit based at Bhadarwah has extended it's helping hand in a big way by deciding to adopt the village.

After distributing hi-tech specialised hearing aids among the deaf and mute villagers on Jan 18, Army has gone a step further for the overall comprehensive welfare of the differently abled population, with multiple social security programs aimed at to give them confidence to survive and make a living on their own.

In the first step, beside looking after their basic



An army officer imparting sign language training to girls.

(Pic by Raja Rehber Jamal)

needs like clothing, food and Healthcare, 4 RR has started door to door personalized teaching classes for the mute children by deploying sign language experts who have been especially trained at Hyderabad and Secunderabad respectively.

An army Spokesman informed that in the next tier of the ongoing welfare scheme school with hostel facility will be provided for the mute villagers in Dadhkai Panchayat itself.

"We want to help them in a comprehensive and long lasting way and to teach them best possible sign language, two teachers were sponsored by the Army to get specialized training at at Hyderabad and Secunderabad cities of Telengana and know deaf and mute population is being taught by them at their respective places," Spokesman added.

Each of the 50 families in this village inhabited by trib-

als have at least one member who can neither hear nor speak. The first reported case dates back to 1931 and now the numbers have swelled to 78.

"Whenever a woman gets pregnant, not only the family but entire village lives in constant trauma, not because of the gender of the child. But the fear is, if the offspring turns to be deaf and mute then it aggravates problems and increases miseries," said Mohd Hanief, BDC Chairman Bhalessa and native of Dadhkai Village.

While expressing their gratitude to the Army, villagers said that since last two decades a number of Government and NGOs have visiting their village but nothing concrete was done for them but Army has initiated practical steps which will surely go a long way to eradicate the miseries they have been facing due the disability they have been facing

the root cause of which has not been located yet.

Deaf and mute girls in the newly learned sign language while expressing their desire to start sewing center demanded from the Army officers that sewing machines for the mute girls should be provided and a residential school should be established at the earliest.

"Now all our hopes are from the Army, as they are the only ones who have been looking after us since last 10 years. My three daughters - Asran Bano 8, Reshma 12 and Asha Bano 23 are born with the disability and army beside looking after all their needs have recently provided them with hearing aids, my daughters although disabled but are showing keen interest in stitching clothes, hope army will help in this as well by providing a sewing machine," Said Hussan Bibi mother of three deaf and mute daughters.

On getting information, FIR no 17/2022 under section 363 of IPC was immediately lodged at Police Station Reasi, legal action initiated & search was launched by multiple police parties. Family, friends & sources provided clues on enquiries made by police. After hectic efforts, the presence of the minor was established in Gurdaspur, Punjab along with kidnapper Rashpal Singh, son of Ajit Singh, resident of Handar, Arnas.

Shailender Singh Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi constituted a special team led by a Sub-Inspector rank officer & sent it to Punjab for recovery of minor. With help of local Police, the team raided all possible places and finally recovered the missing minor girl from clutches of accused in Gurdaspur. The accused was also arrested on the spot. Medical examination of victim was conducted by board of doctors, statement of minor was recorded before judicial Magistrate & all legal procedures were completed after which Judicial Magistrate ordered to shift the girl to Nari Niketan Jammu.

Singh, while sharing the details, conveyed that case will be investigated thoroughly to minutest of details & charge-sheet against accused will be produced in the court of law within stipulated time. Shailender further said that it is recovery of fourth kidnapped girl and a minor boy in last one week by Reasi Police. He appealed to parents that girls should be made aware of fraudsters who always remain on a mission to spoil lives of innocents.

Notorious drug-peddler wanted in multiple cases nabbed, poppy straw recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH: Police on Wednesday nabbed a notorious drug peddler wanted in multiple NDPS cases and recovered 9.3 Kg poppy straw from his possession.

Doda Police said that a police team led by Incharge Police Post PSI Gourav Sharma under the supervision of Insp Arun Sharma, SHO Police Station Doda and Jaswant Singh DySP Hqrs Doda apprehended an accused namely Surinder Singh, son of Hans Raj, resident of Chakra Bhatti, Tehsil Bhalla, Bhadarwah after strenuous efforts. Police said that accused was wanted in FIR No. 08/2022, under sections 08/15 of NDPS Act registered at Police Station Doda and FIR No. 22/2022 under sections 08/1 5of NDPS Act registered at Police Station Thathri. In both cases, poppy straw weighing 9 Kg and 3 Kg were recovered from him respectively. The accused was a main supplier of poppy straw and he was on run from last about one month. The arrest was made by the police team under the overall supervision of Abdul Qayoom, SSP Doda.



CRIME REPORT

Son attacks father

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: A son attacked his father under influence of liquor in Bishnah area on Wednesday.

As per details, Dev Raj, son of Kalu Ram, resident of Kothe Charoli was attacked by his son, Parveen under influence of liquor. In incident, Dev Raj got injured and was shifted to hospital for treatment. Police is investigating the matter.

Tourist dies of heart-attack at Gulmarg hotel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GULMARG: A tourist from West Bengal died of heart attack at a hotel in picturesque Gulmarg in Baramulla district.

As per details, Shyam Sunder Agarwal (65) who was staying at a hotel in Gulmarg, suffered a heart attack. He was taken to a nearby health facility where doctors declared him as brought dead.

Pacca Danga rape case: Hunt on for accused

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hunt is on for arresting the accused wanted in a rape case, registered at Police Station Pacca Danga, however her wife is being questioned by police.

As per details, on Monday, a girl lodged a complaint with police that she is staying in a rented room in Pacca Danga and a youth, which also stays in another rented room of same house, has raped her. After conducting medical examination of victim, police has registered a case and launched manhunt to nab accused, who is absconding.

Minor kidnapped girl recovered; accused arrested from Gurdaspur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Police on Wednesday recovered a minor kidnapped girl and arrested accused from Gurdaspur (Punjab) in a series of raids.

As per details, a woman (name withheld) of Talwara Reasi lodged with police on January 26, 2022 that her minor daughter (name withheld) went to market but didn't return back. She searched for her but could not found her anywhere. The complainant also doubted that her minor daughter has been kidnapped.