

**03 PM Narendra Modi in 2019 opened way for fair Delimitation for UT of J&K**

**09 Excavator, 3 vehicles seized for illegal mining**

**10 J&K UT Juniors U-19 teams selected for nationals**

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## Cong makes people of one region fight against another: Modi

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ABOHAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hit out at Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi for his 'UP, Bihar and Delhi de bhaiye' remark, saying people with such "divisive thought" do not have the right to rule the state.

Addressing a rally here ahead of the February 20 Punjab assembly polls, he also urged voters to bring the BJP-led alliance to power in Punjab for the all-round development of the state.

Channi during a Congress roadshow on Tuesday courted controversy by asking people not to let "bhaiyas" of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi enter Punjab, a remark apparently aimed at leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is emerging as a strong contender for the polls to 117-member state assembly.

In a video circulating on social media, Congress general secretary Priyanka



Gandhi Vadra is seen beside Channi and clapping when he made the remarks during the roadshow in Rupnagar.

The word "bhaiyas" in reference to people from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is generally considered offensive.

During his address, Prime Minister Modi attacked the Congress, saying it "always makes people of one region fight against another region for its own gains".

Referring to Channi's remark, he said the entire country saw this.

"The statement, which the Punjab chief minister has made, and his leader, who was standing beside him, was clapping. The entire country has seen this," Modi said.

"By such statements, who are they trying to insult. There would hardly be any village here (in Punjab) where our brethren from Uttar Pradesh or Bihar would not be doing hard work," he said.

Noting that Guru Ravidas Jayanti was observed on Wednesday, he said, "I want

to ask these leaders where was Sant Ravidas born. Was he born in Punjab? He was born in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi and you will not let 'bhaiya' of Uttar Pradesh to enter here, will you throw out Ravidasiyas (followers of Guru Ravidas), will you erase Sant Ravidas' name too. What kind of language are you speaking?"

Modi further asked where Guru Gobind Singh was born.

"He was born in Patna Sahib in Bihar, and you say you will not let people of Bihar enter. Will you then insult Guru Gobind Singh ji?... Will you insult the land where Guru Gobind Singh was born, will you use such language that you will not let people of that state enter here," he said.

They are saying they will not let people of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar enter, Modi said, adding, people with "such divisive

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## JeI chief, 5 leaders grilled by SIA in Kashmir over 'unlawful activities'

### Court upholds PSA of 4 including TRF activist, OGW

SRINAGAR: In five different judgments, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court upheld detention under PSA of four detainees whereas it quashed detention of one under PSA.

Justice Tashi Rabstan upheld the detention under PSA of Mohammad Yousuf Magray ex-terrorist of banned terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT); Javed Ahmad Bhat, member of a banned terrorist outfit Jash-e-Mohammad, Umar Nawaz Khan, OGW of TRF and Muzamil Ahmad Dar a hard-core Over Ground Worker (OGW), sympathiser and promoter of TRF terrorist outfit while quashed detention under PSA of Showket Ahmad Dar.

Justice Tashi Rabstan after hearing both sides, while upholding PSA observed that if one looks at the acts, the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978, is designed for, is to prevent, they are all these acts that are prejudicial to security of the State or maintenance of public order. "The acts, indulged in by persons, who act in concert with other persons and quite often such activity has national level ramifications. If, however, in any given case a single act is found to be not sufficient to sustain the order of detention that may well be quashed, but it cannot be stated as a principle that one single act cannot constitute basis for detention. On the contrary, it does. In other words, it is not necessary that there should be multiplicity of grounds for making or

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city, the others questioned were office-bearers Tariq Ahmad Haroon, Abdul

Salam Dagga, Muzaffer Jan, Mohammad Yousuf Sheikh (all residents of Srinagar)

## Gupkar Alliance to meet in Srinagar on Feb 26

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) will meet here on February 26 to discuss the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including the draft proposal of the Delimitation Commission.

Last week, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had said the PAGD would meet on February 23.

"PAGD meeting is scheduled to be held at Srinagar on 26th February, 2022 to discuss the present prevailing situation in J&K," spokesperson of the five-party alliance M Y

Tarigami said here on Thursday.

All mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir, except the BJP, have rejected the draft proposal of the Delimitation Commission, saying the commission did not follow the criteria laid down by itself for the exercise.

National Conference MPs, who are associate members of the Delimitation Commission, have questioned the very basis of the delimitation exercise, saying the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

## J&K reports 232 new COVID cases, Ladakh 47

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 232 new Covid cases, 162 from the Jammu division and 70 from the Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 451792.

Moreover, 937 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 324 from Jammu Division and 613 from Kashmir Division.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 451792 positive cases, 2978are Active Positive (1459in Jammu Division

### Over 174.59 Cr COVID vaccine doses administered in India: Govt

NEW DELHI: The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 174.59 crore on Thursday, according to the Union health ministry.

More than 33 lakh (33,62,813) vaccine doses were administered till 7 pm on Thursday, the ministry said, adding that the daily vaccination tally is expected to go up with the compilation of the final reports by late night.

More than 1.84 crore (1,84,27,087) precaution doses of the vaccines have been administered to healthcare workers (HCWs), frontline workers (FLWs) and those aged 60 years and above with comorbidities.

The countrywide vaccination drive again the viral disease was rolled out on January 16 last year with the HCWs getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of FLWs started from February 2 last year. The next phase of Covid vaccination commenced from March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 years

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and 1519 in Kashmir Division), 444069 have

recovered and 4745 have died; 2923 in Jammu division and 2422in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 22614135 test results available, 451792 samples have tested positive and 22162343 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 67,872 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 6016234 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 31601persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 2978 in isolation and 444112 in home

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### Terrorists attack CRPF vehicle in Shopian

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists hurled a grenade at a CRPF vehicle in Shopian district on Thursday, but there was no casualty, officials said.

The ultras lobbed the grenade towards the vehicle at Keegam in Shopian at around 7.30 pm, they said. They said the vehicle suffered minor damage, but there was no loss of life in the incident.

### 3.5 magnitude earthquake hits Katra belt

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A mild intensity earthquake with its epicentre in Katra area shook the region on Thursday, an official said.

The earthquake of magnitude 3.5 occurred at 3.02 am, the National Centre for Seismology said.

It said that the earthquake had a depth of five km with its epicentre lying 84 km east of Katra. The official said there were no reports of any damage so far.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 23.9°C Min: 9.3°C

Humidity

Max : 80 Min : 50

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 15.5°C Min: -1.0°C

Humidity

Max : 88 Min: 65

Sunset : 18:19 Hours

Sunrise : 07:12 Hours

### Assembly Poll: J&K Govt declares paid holiday for voters of Punjab on Feb 20

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In view of the upcoming assembly elections in Punjab, a paid holiday has been announced on February 20 for those registered voters in the State of Punjab, who are working in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

"In terms of Section 135-B of the Representation of People Act, 1951, sanction is accorded to the grant of paid holiday in favour of Government employees/Semi Government employees/ Industrial Workers, who are registered voters in the State of Punjab and are working in Jammu and Kashmir, for casting their vote on the day of poll i.e. February 20, 2022, on account of General Elections to the

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## J&K Bank wins 'Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives' Award

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its journey towards excellence, J&K Bank has won the 'Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives' Award in the prestigious 'Indian Banks' Association's (IBA) '17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards: 2020-21'. In the function that was held virtually on February 14, 2022, the bank was also awarded second best position in 'Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives' under the Small Bank Category.

The awards termed by the IBA - an association of 249 banks operating in India - as

'Next Gen Banking' were presented for the year 2020-21 during an online event that was presided over by the Deputy Governor Reserve Bank India (RBI), T Rabi Sankar in presence of Chairman IBA, Sunil Mehta, MD & CEO Punjab National Bank, Atul Kumar Goel and other prominent personalities from the banking industry. J&K Bank was chosen for the top awards by an eminent jury comprising of stalwarts from the banking industry with expertise in technology-based operations.

Dedicating both the awards to the spirit of team-work in J&K Bank, MD & CEO,

Baldev Prakash on Thursday said, "Recognition from such a prestigious platform of bankers' collective is great acknowledgement for us and a strong indicator that we are moving in the right direction. Such an institutional appreciation will boost our morale as we keep moving towards systemic excellence for attainment of our long-term organisational goals."

Termining technology as a cutting-edge tool in revolutionizing the digital banking landscape, he said, "We are already gearing ahead towards a robust technological shift within the Bank to leverage optimally the digital dynamic that

is fast transforming the country's banking landscape. Such a recognition will boost our confidence further to sync our operational systems with the security requisites of Digital India."

Pertinently, IBA's Annual Banking Technology Awards, now into its 17th year, recognizes and rewards banks in the technology segment of banking industry - whose innovative ideas, risk leadership qualities, and implementation of various initiatives have kept them ahead of their competitors either by maintaining the competitive edge or by changing the competitive landscape.

## BSF, CISF recruitment: Scores of unemployed youth detained during protest in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Scores of unemployed youth were briefly detained during a protest demonstration and blockade of Tawi bridge here in support of their demand for recruitment in Border Security Force and Central Industrial Security Force here, officials said on Thursday.

The youth assembled at Tawi bridge and blocked traffic by holding massive anti-government protests, they said.

The protesters were detained after they clashed with police personnel, who removed them from blocking the main Tawi bridge on Jammu-Airport road, the officials said.



Police detaining protesters in Jammu on Thursday.

Hundreds of aspirants have been holding protests in different parts of the city over the past one year after they failed to get jobs during a recruitment drive by the

Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the result of which was declared in February

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### J&K Court orders arrest of journalist Gowhar Geelani

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A local court in Shopian district has directed police to arrest journalist Gowhar Geelani for failing to appear before it on the date of hearing, authorities on Thursday said. The Executive Magistrate (First Class) Shopian, usually an officer of the rank of Tehsildar, directed the Station House officer of Heerpora Police Station to arrest Geelani after he did not appear in the court on February 7, they said. The Magistrate also directed the police to present Geelani before the court on February 19. The summons to Geelani was issued by the Magistrate under sections 107 and 151 of the CrPC (apprehension of threat to peace, law and order) on February 3.

## DB upholds Section 28 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation filed by one Tek Chand, claiming to be a Pujari and seeking prohibition on illegal practice of slaughtering animals on basis of superstition and in name of religious sacrifices besides praying that Section 28 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (for short 'the Act') be declared as unconstitutional, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir High and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sindhu Sharma, while disposing of PIL, observed that in case in some religious places the practice of sacrificing animals is being carried on violation of Act, the petitioner is free to

and Peer Abdul Rashid of Kulgam district.

"They were questioned for more than eight hours regarding various unlawful activities related to foreign funding and foreign operations, the official said.

The SIA said they were also questioned about activities of the proscribed outfit in and outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

They were also questioned on properties of JeI having direct or indirect links with terrorism funding believed to be originating in foreign countries, including the UK, Canada and Bahrain, the official said.

The official said a recent press release and a video were also inquired about in the light of foreign operations of the proscribed organisation.

The official said some other associates were also summoned by the SIA as part of the ongoing investigation in the case.

## NT caught red-handed while accepting bribe

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested a revenue official while accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 in Baramulla district.

Acting on a complaint, the ACB laid a trap and caught one Habibullah Mir, Naib Tehsildar (NT), Chuker, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, red-handed while accepting bribe.

A spokesperson of ACB said a complainant had alleged that accused had demanded Rs 30,000 for giving permission for felling of a walnut tree, which was endangering his life and property. The complainant said the officer later settled for

a bribe of Rs 20,000, after which, he even transferred Rs 10,000 into his bank account. On receiving complaint, the ACB on prima facie evidence filed an FIR No. 07/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the spokesperson said. "Subsequently, a team was constituted to lay a trap. It caught Habibullah Mir red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 from the complainant," he said. The accused was immediately arrested and his house was also searched which resulted in unearthing of several incriminating documents, he added.

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