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JKP to host UT Level U-19 Cricket **Tournament from Feb 28**

J&K to create 4 innovation hubs under NEP: Kansal

3 die after vehicle falls into gorge

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

Shah orders strengthening of security grid to ensure zero infiltration into J&K



Home Minister, Amit Shah chairing a review meeting on J&K's security situation in New Delhi. Army Chief General M.M. Narayane, National Security Advisor Aiit Doyal & I.G. Manoi Sinha are also seen

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday directed that the security grid in Jammu and Kashmir should be further strengthened to ensure zero cross-border infiltration and to eliminate terrorism.

The directive came at a high-level meeting here during which Shah reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, National Security

Advisor Ajit Doval, Army Chief Gen Mukund Naravane and other senior officers of the central and Jammu and Kashmir governments attended the meet-

The Home Minister directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero crossborder infiltration and to eliminate terrorism, an official statement said.

He appreciated the efforts of the security agencies which have led to the reduction in terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few years.

The number of terror incidents has declined from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021, while the number of security forces personnel martyred has reduced from 91 in 2018 to 42 in 2021, the statement said.

Later talking to reporters, Sinha said the Home Minister reviewed the pace of progress in development matters and security situa-

He described the hour-long meeting as "very fruitful".

Asked about the possibility of resuming the annual Amarnath Yatra, which has not been held for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sinha said a decision in this regard will be taken soon

"Due to Covid, the Yatra (pilgrimage) could not be held (last two years). We will review the situation and take a call," he said. Jammu and Kashmir is currently

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Bank bags Khadi India Award for PMEGP, among top 4 banks in country

STÂTE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: For its distinguished pan-India performance in implementing the Union Government's flagship scheme of Prime Employment Minister's Generation Programme (PMEGP) for the financial vear 2020-21, J&K Bank has bagged 4th Position across the country under Khadi India Award. On

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Focus on education, avoid getting provoked: J&K students urged STATE TIMES NEWS

BHOPAL: A students' organisation has urged the youths from Jammu and Kashmir, who are studying in other parts of the country, to focus on their education and career, control their emotions and not to write provocative things on social

The appeal came days after a case of sedition was registered against a minor college student from Jammu

had ripped through the city ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

hours, they said.

they added.

in Ahmedabad blasts case

STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: A special court on Friday sentenced to death 38 members of terror outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM) in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts, which claimed 56 lives and left over 200 injured.

The court also sentenced 11 other convicts to life imprisonment.

This is for the first time that so many convicts have been handed down death sentence by any court at one go. In January 1998, a TADA court in Tamil Nadu sentenced to death all 26 convicts in the case of assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The pronouncement of the quantum of punishment by judge A R Patel came 14 years after the blasts.

The court had convicted 49 persons and acquitted 28 others in the case on February 8.

As many as 21 explosions

was reported in the past 24

There were 51 confirmed

cases of Mucormycosis (black

fungus) in the Union

Territory. No fresh case was

reported since last evening,

Meanwhile, Ladakh has

reported 54 fresh covid cases,

taking the overall caseload to

27,695 while the active cases

in the Union Territory have

gone down to 416, officials

As many as 105 patients

were cured and discharged

from hospitals in Ladakh

on July 26, 2008 within a

span of 70 minutes. In the over 7,000-page judgement, the court termed the case as rarest of rare and ordered that 38 convicts in the case be hanged till death, while 11 others were given life imprisonment till death, public prosecutor Amit Patel told reporters here.

38 IM members sentenced to death

While 38 were convicted under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Activities Unlawful (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 11 others were held guilty for criminal conspiracy and under various sections of the UAPA, he said.

The court imposed a fine of Rs 2.85 lakh on 48 convicts and of Rs 2.88 lakh on another one. It also awarded compensation of Rs one lakh to the kin of those who died in the blasts, Rs 50,000 to those who were seriously injured and Rs 25,000 to those who received minor

STATE TIMES NEWS

Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Jammu, Chandan

Kohli ordered transfer of

three Inspectors with imme-

According to the order.

Inspector Vishal Shoor has

been transferred from DPL

Jammu and posted as

House

(SHO) Police Station Bus

Deepanker Singh who has

Officer

Inspector

to DPL

JAMMU:

diate effect.

Station

Jammu.

Stand vice

been posted

Those sentenced to death include key conspirators Nagori Safdar Qumaruddin Nagori (from Madhya Pradesh) Kapadiya, Qavumuddin Zahid Shaikh Shamsudding Sheikh (from Guiarat).

Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu LASTIC & ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEO Dr. Ravi Mahajan MS, MCh Plastic Surgery, Chief Plastic, Microvascular & Reconstructive Surgeon Dr. Inderdeep Singh MBBS, MS Ortho, DNB Ortho, M.Ch.

OTH FEBRUARY 2022

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Both Safdar Nagori and Zahid Shaikh were accused of collecting funds for acquiring explosives and for other illegal activities of banned outfit Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). while Kapadiya had acquired mobile SIM cards using fake documents and staved in hotels using fake identity.

All the convicts attended the hearing via video link from eight jails, including Sabarmati central jail in Ahmedabad, Tihar jail in Delhi and jails in Bhopal, Gaya, Bengaluru, Kerala and Mumbai. The trial began in December 2009 against 78 persons linked to

Balwinder Singh has been

transferred from DPL

Jammu and posted as SHO

Meanwhile, according to

another order issued by R.C

Superintendent of Police,

Kathua, Inspector Vijay

Kotwal has been posted as

Lakhanpur and Inspector

Sumeet Sharma, presently

Station Lakhanpur shall

report back at MT DPL

Kathua for further duties.

with

Station

Police Station Khour

SHO Police

attached

Kotwal

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ACB nabs Guard, broker while accepting bribe

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) have arrested one Tariq Ahmad Sofi, a Guard in Wildlife Department, Waskhura, District and Ganderbal brokerMohammad Yaseen Bhat for accepting bribe of Rs 5,000 for releasing belongings of complainant, seized by Wildlife Department.

an official per spokesperson, the ACB received a complaint alleging therein that a guard in Wildlife Department namely

Azad arriving Jammu today on 3-day visit

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Former Chief

Minister and ex-Leader of Opposition in 1 Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad is arriving Jammu on Saturday

on three-day visit. Azad is likely to hold interactions with congress leaders over organiza-The visit tion matters. assumes significance in the wake of his exhaustive and exclusive tours across Jammu and Kashmir and massive political reach out in November-December last.

Grenade attack in Srinagar, policeman injured

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A policeman was injured in a grenade attack by terrorists in Khwaja Bazaar area of the old city on Friday, officials said. The ultras lobbed the grenade at police personnel deployed at Khwaja Bazaar in Nowhatta area, the officials said. They said the policeman sustained minor injuries in the blast.



Tariq Ahmad Sofi, presently posted at Waskhura, District Ganderbal was demanding Rs 5,000 as bribe for releasing belongings of the complainant seized by Wildlife Department. On receiving the complaint, prima facie offence under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found made out and FIR No. 06/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB, Srinagar. "A trap team was constituted, which laid a successful trap and caught Tariq Ahmad Sofi,

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STATE TIMES NEWS

National

NEW DELHI: Cracking

down on its own officers, the

Agency (NIA) on Friday

arrested IPS officer Arvind

Digvijay Negi, who was earli-

Superintendent of Police

(SP) in the agency, for

allegedly leaking secret docu-

ments to an over ground

worker of the banned

group, according to officials.

The 48-year-old officer.

who was allotted the 2011

cadre of IPS and awarded

gallantry medal, was arrest-

ed in connection with a case

registered by the NIA on

posted

Lashkar-e-Taiba

Investigation

terror

COVID: One more death, 197 new cases in J&K **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 197 fresh Covid cases on Friday that took the infection tally to 4.51,989, while one more fatality pushed the death toll to 4,746, officials said.

Of the new cases, 118 were from Jammu division and 79 from the Kashmir division, they said. Doda district recorded the

highest 42 new cases followed by 41 in Jammu dis-

There are 2,597 active cases in the Union Territory, while the overall recoveries

NIA arrests IPS officer for 'leaking'

secret documents to LeT terror group

He has been booked under

The case pertains to the

spread of network of over

ground workers (OGWs) of

the banned Laskhar-e-Taiba

(LeT) for providing support

in planning and execution of

The NIA had earlier arrest-

"During investigation, the

role of A D Negi, IPS, SP

posted at Shimla (since repa-

triated from NIA) was veri-

fied and his houses were

searched. It was also found

that official secret docu-

ments of the NIA were

terrorist activities in India.

ed six people in the case.

Unlawful Activities

November 6 last year.

Prevention Act (UAPA).

Active cases settle below three lakh

NEW DELHI: With 25,920 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,27,80,235, while the active cases dipped below three lakh after 43 days, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,10,905 with 492 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily COVID-19 cases were recorded less than one lakh for 12 consecutive days.

The active cases further declined to 2,92,092 comprising 0.68 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.12 per cent, the ministry said. A reduction of 40,826 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 case ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

has reached 4,44,646, offi-

leaked by A D Negi to anoth-

er accused person who is an

OGW of LeT in the case," the

His premises in Himachal

Pradesh's Kinnaur were one

of the three places raided by

the NIA in November after

inputs about his leaking of

documents were shared by

central intelligence agencies.

Negi was repatriated to his

cadre after being on deputa-

tion to the NIA for 11 years

and three months, one of the

longest tenures in the anti-

terror probe agency since its

inception. He had sought

repatriation citing personal

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

reasons. He was awarded

CONTROVERSIAL PALATIAL BUNGLOW OF EX-DY, CM AT BAN, NAGROTA

Heated Arguments exchanged between whistle

blower & Mamta Singh's counsel

NIA spokesperson said.

The death toll stands at 4,746 after one more death

Land Passbooks to be

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: As a major initiative towards good governance and ease of convenience to the citizens, the Revenue Department is starting issuance of trilingual Land Passbooks in Hindi, Urdu and English to the landholders with effect from 19th of February 2022 from the districts of Jammu

To begin with, 7 Tehsils of Srinagar district and 21 Tehsils of Jammu district would distribute the land passbooks at 28 locations with participation of representatives of PRIs, landholders, farmers, financial institutions and line

and Srinagar.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

issued in J&K from today

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Inspector Choose

REVIVE



Three SHOs among five **Inspectors transferred**

Shoor SHO Bus Stand; Balwinder Khour; Kotwal Lakhanpur

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Sunrise: 07:11 Hours

JAMMU: In yet another significant development, heated arguments were exchanged between AdvMuzzaffar Ali Shah and Mamta Singh's Counsel

STATE TIMES NEWS

whistleblower Adv Jugal Kishore Gupta before Member (Judicial) Rajesh Sekhri of J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, in 'application for impleadment' moved by Adv Muzzaffar Ali Shah on whose RTI's exposure, JDAhad issued Demolition Notice to Dr Nirmal Singh and his wife Mamta Singh for raising alleged unauthorised construction of a residential

house at village Ban

(Nagrota), Jammu.

While advancing arguments, Adv Shah took the court through the record placed on the file by him along with his application and submitted that it was on his RTI exposure and subsequent application, JDA was forced to take action in the matter and that too when double-standards of JDA were being questioned by public. Advocate M A Shah argued that Appellant Mamta Singh has flouted the law of the land with impunity because her husband was holding a high-level Public Office of Deputy Chief Minister of J&K and also the Chairman of Board of Directors of JDA, due to

which JDA was reluctant

to take any action against the high profile violators. Adv Shah prayed that under these peculiar circumstances, it will serve the ends of justice in case he is impleaded as a party respondent in case, as JDA is hell bent to shield the VVIP violator.

Adv Jugal Kishore Gupta along with Adv Rahul Sadotra appearing for the appellant Mamta Singh in response submitted that appellant is not claiming any relief against the applicant seeking impleadment and that none of the rights of the applicant will be violated in case he is not made party to the proceedings. Law Officer of JDA was also present in the

case and informed the Bench that the Counsel appearing for JDA, Adv Adarsh Sharma is occupied before the Division Bench of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Jammu and sought time on his behalf to advance arguments in the matter. After hearing the arguments and considering the rival contentions of the parties, J&K Special Tribunal has directed the registry to list the matter on February 25, 2022 for hearing arguments of JDA's Counsel in Impleadment

Application. The court has further extended the stay on Demolition till next date of hearing i.e. February 25, 2022.