

02 4 fraudsters nabbed with fake RCs, number plates; 4 vehicles, electronic gadgets & incriminating material seized

03 Several towns of Jammu Div declared ODF+

10 Winning start by JU in Inter-University Handball

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

Efforts underway to connect far-flung areas of rural interiors with financial sector: LG



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing progress towards financial inclusion by banks in J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sharing the vision of the UT Government for extending banking and financial services to the doorsteps of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said efforts are being made to enable far-flung areas of rural interiors to become fully connected with financial sector.

The Lt Governor was

reviewing the progress towards financial inclusion by banks in J&K with MK Jain, Deputy Governor RBI, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and other officials.

To broaden the social base of development, we are enhancing people's access to financial products, promotion of 'One District One Product', institutional credit to women, youth, SMEs,

handicrafts, horticulture and various other priority sectors for effective contribution to growth processes of the UT, the Lt Governor added.

J&K has become one of the preferred destinations for Industrial investment, Tourism, Film industry and real estate sector. The government is committed to ensure adequate and timely availability of credit to industrial and different productive

sectors of the economy to finance growth, said the Lt Governor.

In the last two years, various reforms have been executed to provide opportunities to scheduled commercial banks to expand operations in J&K, observed the Lt Governor.

We will also work together to make our credit lending system more sensitive to the needs of women & youth entrepreneurs, farmers and artisans, the Lt Governor said.

There is a need for additional banking outlets in rural areas to bring excluded households into the fold of institutional credit and financial services in a structured and sustainable manner; added the Lt Governor.

The enabling ecosystem will also bridge the gap between government schemes and people living in geographically difficult terrain, he further added.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Suspected LeT terrorist arrested in Bandipora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Tuesday arrested a suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist in Bandipora district, police said.

They identified him as Danish Shah alias Haris, a resident of Elahipora.

"Based on specific inputs regarding the movement of a terrorist in Alooosa area of Bandipora, police, along with the Army and CRPF, established a special

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Patwari suspended for casual approach towards stopping encroachments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: The Sub Divisional Magistrate Bijbehara on Tuesday placed Patwari, Patwar Halqa Wopzan Bijbehara under suspension for casual approach towards preventing encroachments.

As per the order issued here, the Patwari has been placed under suspension for casual approach towards removal of encroachment

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

DDMA likely to meet on Friday to discuss lifting of remaining COVID restrictions

COVID: 137 new cases in J&K

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 137 fresh Covid cases on Tuesday that pushed the infection tally to 4,52,547, officials said.

No Covid-related death was reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

Of the new cases, 100 were from the Jammu division and 37 from the Kashmir division, officials said.

Jammu district recorded the highest 30 cases followed by 25 in Doda district, they said, adding that there are 1,448 active cases in the Union Territory.

The overall recoveries have reached 4,46,352, officials said, adding the death toll stands at 4,747.

There were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory. No fresh case was reported since last evening, officials added.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 32 fresh Covid cases that pushed the infection tally to 27,867, officials said.

The number of active cases stands at 321 -- 276 cases in Leh and 45 cases in Kargil district, they

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

well as positivity rate have gone down much compared to the peak of the pandemic in January. The DDMA (Delhi Disaster Management Authority) is likely to meet coming Friday to discuss lifting remaining restrictions," said an official source on Tuesday.

The DDMA in its meeting on February 4 extended imposition of night curfew from 11 PM instead of 10 PM to 5 AM.

Demands have been raised from several quarters to lift the remaining restrictions citing normalising of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two charge-sheets filed in Srinagar acid attack case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday filed two separate charge sheets against three accused including a juvenile in the recent acid attack on a woman in downtown city, officials said.

While a 1000-page charge sheet against the two adults was filed in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, the other was submitted before the Juvenile Justice Board with the police making a plea for treating the juvenile as an adult because of the heinous nature of the crime, the officials said.

They said the charge sheets

were filed within three weeks of the incident to ensure swift and exemplary punishment to the accused and to deter those who may be having such barbaric tendencies.

On February 1, a man accompanied by a juvenile allegedly threw acid on a 24-year-old woman after she rejected his marriage proposal, an incident that shook entire Srinagar and drew widespread condemnation from across society.

After initial treatment in Srinagar, the victim was sent to a Chennai eye hospital for specialised treatment. The officials said the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SC to hear today plea seeking cancellation of offline board exams for classes 10, 12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would hear tomorrow a plea seeking cancellation of offline board examinations for classes 10 and 12 to be conducted by the CBSE and several other boards this year.

A bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said that advance copy of the petition be served to the standing counsel for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other respondents concerned.

The plea was mentioned for urgent listing before the

bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar.

The counsel, appearing for petitioner Anubha Shrivastava Sahai, mentioned the matter and requested the bench to list it urgently.

The plea has sought directions to the CBSE and other education boards, which have proposed to hold board examinations for classes 10 and 12 in offline mode, for devising other modes of assessment.

The CBSE has decided to conduct term two board exams for class 10 and class 12 from April 26.

Minus Cong, no third front can fight BJP: Mehbooba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Any political alliance or third front without the Congress cannot fight the BJP, J&K Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said on Tuesday, accusing the saffron party of "shaking the basic foundations of the country by its divisive policies". She said the assembly elections are part of the democratic process and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modalities finalised for smart cards to transhumant tribal population

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Affairs Department has finalised modalities for smart cards to be provided to transhumant tribal families for hassle-free movement during migration and for access to services, officials said on Tuesday.

Transhumance is the seasonal movement of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 22.8°C Min: 12.8°C

Humidity

Max : 59 Min : 50

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 5.2°C Min: 3.8°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min: 0

Sunset : 18:23 Hours

Sunrise : 07:07 Hours

Ex-Minister Bukhari quits NC after ‘heated argument’ with Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference leader Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari resigned from the party's basic membership on Tuesday after a "heated argument" with Farooq Abdullah over the issue of Scheduled Tribes status for Pahari speaking people.

Bukhari, a two-time ex-MLA from Surankote in Poonch district, had on Sunday chaired a convention by the Pahari Tribe ST Forum here which saw over 350 delegates in attendance with Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder

Need tough leader for difficult times: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BAHRAICH (UP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said when turmoil in prevailing in the world, India needs to be stronger and for difficult times, a tough leader is needed. Addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich, Modi also predicted the BJP's win the Assembly polls. The BJP is all set to hit a four in the Assembly polls, he said. Hitting out at the rivals, Modi said in the name of "garibi hatao and Samajwad (socialism), they looted the country.

He questioned the "silence" of opposition parties over the court verdict in the Ahmedabad blasts case, saying the country has come to know who were helping them (terrorists).

Court awards life-imprisonment to five in Chowadi murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a much publicised Chowadi murder case, the 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu awarded life-imprisonment to five accused on Tuesday. After hearing APP D P Singh for UT, 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Rajinder Sapru awarded life-imprisonment to Bashir Ahmad, Abdul Majeed, Javed Ahmad, Mohammad Shaif and Rashid Mohammad for murdering one Shams-ud-din.

On receipt of information, FIR 79/09 was registered for the commission of offences, punishable under sections 307, 452, 147, 323 of RPC and Section 3/25 of Arms Act and investigation. The case was investigated by the then SDPO East Jammu, DySP Sandeep Mehta who was incharge of Special

Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to probe the case.

As per details, on August 24, 2009 a written complaint came was submitted by complainant Naseer Ahmad (PW-1) at Police Station Channi Himmat stating that he is a resident of village Chowadi, Jammu and accused namely Bashir Ahmed, son of Qutab Din (A-1), Abdul Majeed alias Bhola (A-2); Javed Ahmed (A-3) and Parvez Ahmed, sons of Bashir Ahmed (A-4), residents of village Chowadhi, who have constructed a house adjacent to his house and having a land dispute with him and his father. He further said that at about 8.40 AM that day, the aforementioned accused came to their own house in a Maruti 800 car and from there they started abusing him and his father. He, his father and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

other members of family, at that time, were standing in courtyard and after some time accused, who were also carrying loaded guns and an Axe (Kulhari), entered their house with criminal intention to kill them and started firing in air. Out of fear, he (complainant), his father and other family members went inside house and bolted the door from inside. Accused Abdul Rashid, banged the door with axe (Kulhari) and other accused persons also tried to push open the door. Accused persons thereafter, came inside their house where accused Bashir Ahmed opened fire from a gun which hit his father on head and thereafter, accused Abdul Majeed also fired a bullet him which hit his father in abdomen.

Fire opened by accused Javed Ahmed with a gun

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Terrorist associate arrested with grenade in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An over ground worker of The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, was arrested by the police and a grenade recovered here, officials said.

The timely arrest of the suspect foiled the terrorists' plan to carry out a grenade attack in the winter capital Jammu, the officials said.

Shakir Ahmad Naikoo, a resident of Harpora village of south Kashmir's Shopian district, was picked up on specific information by the police from the Narwal area in the outskirts of the city, they said. Preliminary

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Dulloo launches new J&K Excise Policy 2022-23

Only domiciles having immovable property eligible for participation in bid process

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday reiterated that the new excise policy would ensure that only single vend is secured by a bidder whose eligibility has been capped to the domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir only.

ACS, while announcing the 'Excise Policy 2022-23' here at Excise Taxation Complex, maintained that the policy would bring greater social consciousness and awareness about harmful effects of liquor consumption and drug abuse. He further said that it would also put an effective check on the menace of bootlegging and smuggling of all narcotic drugs in J&K from neighboring states and UTs. It was informed that



Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Atal Dulloo briefing media in Jammu on Tuesday.

besides making quality liquor available to consumers this policy would encourage transition from high to low alcoholic content beverages to safeguard the health of consumers.

Regarding changes to ensure that no evasion of rules occurs and the vends go

under auction in a transparent manner, it was apprised that the e-auction portal would be governed by J&K bank as a 3rd party nodal agency.

The policy has added features of encouraging local production by exempting export duty on all kinds of

Delimitation panel on J&K gets two months extension

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The term of the Delimitation Commission, mandated to redraw the assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir, has been extended by two months to complete its task.

The panel's term was to end on March 6, but according to a Law Ministry notification issued on Monday, it has been extended by two months -- till May 6 this year.

The panel needed more time to ready its final report, sources aware of the reasons for the extension said.

Formed in March 2020, the panel was granted a one-year

extension last year.

Headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, it has Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the state election commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir as its ex-officio members. In its draft report shared with its five associated members -- all Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir -- the delimitation panel has proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the Union territory.

Jammu and Kashmir at present has no legislative assembly. It is a union territo-

ry with a provision for a legislature.

The Commission has asked the associate members to give their inputs and objections to the draft in the coming days. Then they would be asked whether their objections, if any, should be printed before the next draft is put out in the public domain.

Once people share their inputs and objections, the panel would start working on the final report, the sources explained. Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a state or country.

J&K Bank wins best performance award for implementing PMEGP in North India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has been ranked No. 1 by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (GoI) under Khadi India Awards for its excellent performance in implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in North India.

Presiding over the felicitation ceremony Chairman, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Vinai Kumar Saxena presented the top performance award for the financial year 2020-21 to Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma who represented J&K Bank during the Zonal Level PMEGP Review Meeting held on Monday at Panchkula in Haryana.

Expressing his pleasure on

winning the 4th honour in succession, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash attributed the reception of consecutive awards to persistent and dedicated efforts put in by the staff besides uninterrupted Government support for systematic financial empowerment of the people especially youth across the operational geography of the Bank.

He said, "The award will go a long way in boosting the motivation of our staff, which is the key factor in determining the success of every organisational undertaking, to further the mission of financial empowerment through effective and efficient interventions."

"However, while

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9