

02 Six drug peddlers taken into preventive custody

03 ACB presents charge-sheet against revenue official in graft case

10 Sadia of J&K wins gold for India in Moscow event

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White paper titled ‘Betrayal’ released Autonomy rant again; PAGD seeks J&K’s special status back

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Saturday asked the Centre to go for a dispassionate appraisal of its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that such an exercise will lead to the realisation of gross violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the people.

The PAGD released a white paper -- titled 'Betrayal' -- on Jammu and Kashmir post-abrogation of its special status, after a meeting of the alliance at the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here. "The Government of India must without losing any time go for a dispassionate appraisal of the August 2019 assault on the special status and territorial integrity of State of Jammu and Kashmir. On such introspection, the Government of



PAGD leaders briefing media persons at Srinagar.

NC will contest elections whenever held: Farooq

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said his party will contest elections whenever they are held in Jammu and Kashmir but remained critical of the ongoing delimitation exercise. He was speaking after the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), comprising five mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, met at his residence here to discuss the fallout of the draft recommendations of the Delimitation Commission. "We will fight the elections, there is no doubt about it. We are not going to run away from it but these (draft recommendation of delimitation commission) are the things which pain us," Abdullah told reporters. He

India will undoubtedly realise that it has not been only a misadventure but gross violation of the Constitution and a huge betrayal," the PAGD said in its 38-page white paper. The alliance said that it will be sufficiently clear that the unilateral and unethical decisions pushed the entire region to uncertainty and widened the gulf between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country and above all resulted in an avoidable drain on the scarce and precious resources to maintain calm on the streets.

Calling upon the Centre to undo its decisions of 2019, the PAGD said the autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir should be restored. "The Government of India should urgently undertake an exercise of introspection and course correction, revoke

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India is the only nation that has never attacked or usurped an inch of any other country's land, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday, asserting that its power is meant for the common good and not to scare the world.

Speaking at the Delhi University's 98th convocation ceremony, he lauded the role of Indian universities in various fields like agriculture and engineering and noted that several multinationals like Google, Twitter, Adobe, Microsoft were being run by students who passed out from educational institutions in the country.

However, "we need to think why can't the Indian talent that is holding the reins of top companies in the world form such top companies in the country," the minister said in his address as the chief guest at the event during which 1,73,443 students were awarded digital



Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh addressing at the 98th Annual Convocation of Delhi University on Saturday.

degrees.

Citing the names of convicted terrorists Afzal Guru, Yaqub Memon and the 9/11 attackers in the US, Singh said it was a misconception that poverty and lack of education were reasons behind terrorism and stressed on inculcating the right values in students. "Even after all the education and becoming a trained pilot in America, one can become Khalid Sheikh or Mohammad Atta who carried out 9/11 attacks, a doctor can become Afzal

Guru, a CA can become Yakub Memon, a billionaire can become Osama bin Laden," Singh said.

Singh cited names of ancient sages, scientists and scholars to convey that India was the leader in the field of science, but said many were unaware of this due to centuries of slavery.

"Our dream is to make India 'Jagat Guru. We want to make the country powerful, knowledgeable and one with a strong belief in

COVID: 84 fresh cases in J&K, no death

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 84 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the infected number of persons to 4,52,901 of which 4,47,282 patients have recovered while no death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 63 were from the Jammu division and 21 from

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

MoU signed to showcase sector-wise opportunities to investors in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and Ladakh Jammu and Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD) here, an official spokesman said.

The MoU has been signed in order to showcase the sector-wise opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir to potential investors and to drive sector-specific investments from different stakeholders.

The MoU aims at programme facilitation for mul-

tiple sectors of agriculture, textile, handicraft, pharmaceuticals, rural development, information technology, information technology-enabled services, food processing, dairy product, engineering and machine tools to gain wide scope and traction among influencer bodies from different states, among others, the spokesman said.

The MoU was signed by managing director, JKTPO Ankita Kar and director, LEAD, Sunil Shah in presence of principal secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), R P Thakur, to catalyse investments in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Eleven SOs placed as Under Secys

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government placed eleven Section Officers (SOs) of the J&K Secretariat (Subordinate) Service as Under Secretaries under Stop-gap arrangement.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the placement of the eleven Section Officers of the J&K Secretariat

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Court grants bail to journalist Fahad, 're-arrested' in another case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A court, on Saturday, granted bail to journalist Fahad Shah, editor of a local news magazine and portal, 'The Kashmir Walla'. A special court designated under NIA Act admitted Fahad to interim bail, as per tweet of his lawyer, Umair Ronga. The copy of the order was not immediately available. Meanwhile, Advocate Ronga

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 21.3°C Min: 8.8°C

Humidity

Max : 89 Min : 70

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 10.0°C Min: 1.8°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min: 63

Sunset : 18:26 Hours

Sunrise : 07:01 Hours

15 Kg narcotics seized as major smuggling bid foiled in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Thwarting a major drugs smuggling attempt from across the border, security forces Saturday recovered 15 kg narcotics, possibly heroin, from a village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The seized narcotics is believed to be worth Rs 75 crore in the international market, the officials said.

Poonch Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Baskotra said a bag, containing 15 packets of narcotics-like substance weigh-



Haul of narcotics seized by security forces in Poonch.

ing almost 15 kgs, was recovered during a joint search operation by the army and police in Balakote sector of Mendhar.

An FIR under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Fresh snowfall, landslides prompt closure of Jammu-Srinagar NH

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Fresh snowfall and multiple landslides at different places on Saturday forced the closure of the 270 km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, officials said.

The Banihal-Qazigund sector of the highway experienced overnight snowfall while landslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks were triggered by heavy rains at Rompadi-Banihal, Shalgarh-Wagan, Moupassi-Ramsu, Panthiyal, Digdole, Marog, Monkey Morh, Cafeteria Morh and Mehar in Raman district, the officials said.

They said a truck driver

Waseem Ahmad Dar of Baramulla was injured when his vehicle was hit by a rolling boulder at Mehar around 4.30 am.

Dar was en route to Kashmir from Jammu and was rescued by a joint team of the police and civil volunteers, the officials said, adding his condition is stated to be stable.

The closure of the highway left dozens of trucks stranded at different places, the officials said.

With the improvement in weather, they said the road-clearance agencies have pressed men and machinery to clear the debris off the highway.

Reports of snowfall ranging between a few inches to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two tall Chinars successfully transplanted at Char Chinar Dal Lake

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a first of its kind achievement in the country, the J&K Forest Department has successfully completed the transplanting operation of two tall Chinars at the famous Char Chinar, Dal Lake Srinagar to restore its erstwhile glory.

Acting upon the directions of Lt. Governor and instructions of Chief Secretary, J&K, Forest Department formulated a strategy in the month of October, 2021 in consultation with technical experts of Floriculture Department, LCMA and Scientists of SKUAST and JKPRI for restoration of 'Ropa Lank' in Dal Lake popularly known as Char Chinar, by transplanting tall Chinars

Beating retreat ceremony restarts along IB in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The beating retreat ceremony restarted by Border Security Force Saturday at Border Outpost Suchetgarh on the International Border here, about seven weeks after it was suspended owing to the surge in the Coronavirus cases, officials said.

The 'Wagah-Attari-style' ceremony, comprising a structured parade by BSF men on every Saturday and Sunday, was launched in October last year as part of the border tourism promotion programme of the government and had

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



- the State tree of Jammu & Kashmir.

It was given out that only one healthy mature tree exists on spot requiring no treatment. The decaying second tree was given silvicultural/chemical treatment for development of existing root suckers into a substitute tree. Two new tall transplants were required to be planted at the 3rd and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Saturday transferred two JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Omais Mushtaq, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (East), has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama and Murtaza Ahmad Rashid, JKAS, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ganderbal has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (East).

India begins evacuation of stranded citizens amid Russia-Ukraine war

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday began the evacuation of its citizens who have been stranded amid the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, with Air India operating two flights to the Romanian capital Bucharest and one service to the Hungarian capital Budapest.

While one flight AI1944 returned from Bucharest to the Mumbai airport with 219 Indians on Saturday evening, the other two flights - AI1942 from Bucharest and AI1940 from Budapest - are scheduled to arrive with rescued citizens in Delhi on



Union Minister Piyush Goyal receiving first batch of Indians from Ukraine at Mumbai International Airport.

Sunday morning, senior government officials said.

Indian nationals who reached the Ukraine-Romania border and

Ukraine-Hungary border have been taken to Bucharest and Budapest by road, respectively, by

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

500 officers trained in special investigation skills: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Around 500 officers were trained in special investigation skills during capacity-building programmes, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh has said, asserting that the training would help in dealing with terror cases and those of special nature.

He was speaking at the three-day capacity-building training programme of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and prosecuting officers with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) here.

Special Director General of Police, CID, R R Swain, Additional Director Generals of Police H K Lohia, Mukesh Singh and Sunil Kumar, Deputy Inspector General,

NIA, Kaliraj Mahesh Kumar and other senior officers of NIA and police attended the function.

"With the cooperation of Director General of NIA, Kuldeep Singh, we have been able to organize the fourth course on investigation of special crimes especially Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act cases for our investigators. During these four programmes, around 500 officers were trained in special investigation skills," the DGP said.

Singh said this is a sizeable number to deal with the kind of workload the J&K Police has in the form of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and other cases of special nature. Expressing hope

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9