

**02 Gardener killed, two women Safaikaramcharis injured after hit by mini-bus**

**03 Even after 2015 'Smalls' like Macleodganj & Khajjiar receive more tourists than Bhadarwah- 'Mini Kashmir'**

**10 Record 11 J&K cricketers in IPL auction**

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

## AC transfers over 2,318 Kanals land for housing in Srinagar, Budgam Strengthens Power DISCOMs, JKTPD



LG Manoj Sinha chairing Administrative Council meeting in Jammu.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To meet the increased appetite for housing in Srinagar city and give a push to the housing sector, the Administrative Council (AC), on Wednesday approved the transfer of land measuring 2318 Kanal 08 Marla in 07 villages at 17 locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts, free of cost in favour of Housing & Urban Development Department for construction of Housing Colonies.

The Administrative

### Approves 50 pc waiver of Passenger Tax

JAMMU: In a significant move, the Administrative Council approved the waiver/exemption of fifty percent (50%) of Passenger Tax chargeable on various vehicles from 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021.

The decision will address the genuine demand of the operators of commercial transport who have suffered losses on account of COVID-19 induced nation-wide lockdown and restrictions leading to non-operationalization of the public transport. For owners of commercial vehicles, who have already deposited the passenger tax for aforesaid period in full, the excess amount paid thereof by them shall be adjusted against the liability accrued or accruable in the next financial year i.e for the time period of 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022.

Council, chaired by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj

Sinha was attended by his Advisors Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar besides Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the LG.

The construction of the Housing Colony Project will play a very important role in the economic, industrial, social, and cultural development of Jammu and Kashmir. It will provide direct employment to skilled/unskilled labour as well as indirect employment to local vendors and youth, besides ensuring the development of local areas to meet the rising housing demand.

Accordingly, the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and J&K Housing Board (JKHB) have been assigned the task of finalizing the type designs and other modalities of

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Nearly 1,700 'KPs' appointed by J&K Govt since Art 370 abrogation

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Nearly 1,700 'Kashmiri Pandits' were appointed in various government departments by the Jammu and Kashmir administration since August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into union territories, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for

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### Two detained under PSA in Samba

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two notorious criminals were detained on Wednesday under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) for their alleged criminal activities in the Samba district, police said.

Yogeshwar Singh alias Jaibu and Shiv Raj Singh alias Raju, both residents of Vijaypur tehsil, were detained under PSA on the orders issued by District Magistrate Samba, a

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## Hizb terrorist killed in Shopian encounter

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district on Wednesday, police said.

He has been identified as Umar Ishfaq Malik alias Musa, a categorised terrorist, they said.

"Based on a specific input generated by police regarding the presence of terrorists in Nadigam village area of Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by police, Army and CRPF there," a police spokesman said.

During the operation, as the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, a hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the security forces, which was retaliated, he said.

"In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter, the spokesman said.

He said, Malik alias Musa, a resident of Bongam in Shopian, was linked with proscribed outfit Hizbul



## 439 ultras killed, 109 security personnel martyred in J&K since Aug 2019

NEW DELHI: As many as 439 terrorists were killed and 109 security personnel were martyred in 541 terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir since Article 370 was repealed on August 5, 2019, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday. Replying to a written question in Rajya Sabha, Rai said 98 civilians were also killed in these incidents and private properties worth about Rs 5.3 crore were damaged since then. "During these incidents, no significant public property has been damaged," he added.

Mujahideen.

"As per police records, the killed terrorist was a categorised terrorist and was active since 2020. He was involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities including

recent attack on ASI Shahir Ahmad at Amishijipora Shopian while he was returning back from a mosque after offering prayers," the spokesman said.

Malik was also instrumental in motivating the

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## 2,304 new COVID cases, nine deaths in J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded 2,304 fresh cases of coronavirus, raising its tally to 4,40,480, officials said.

The union territory also reported nine fresh deaths-five from the Jammu division and four from the Valley--which pushed the toll to 4,692, they said.

Of the fresh cases, 996 were reported from the Jammu division and 1,308 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

They said Jammu district recorded the highest of 443 cases, followed by 439 cases in Srinagar district.

There are 29,829 active cases in the union territory, while the number of recovered patients was 4,05,959, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 death toll in Ladakh has climbed to 225 following a fatality in Leh, while 165 fresh cases pushed the overall tally to 26,021 of which 24,710 patients have recuperated, officials said.

The number of active cases in Ladakh stand at 1,104 which includes 724 cases in Leh district and 381 cases in Kargil district, they said.

Of the 165 fresh cases from the Union territory, 77

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## Acid attack on woman in Srinagar; 3 men arrested Srinagar Mayor gives 1 month salary to victim's family

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three men were arrested in connection with the acid attack on a woman in the Hawal area here, police said on Wednesday.

A 24-year-old woman suffered burn injuries after acid was thrown at her on Tuesday evening.

Police officials said field investigations and technical analysis led the policemen to prime accused Sajid Altaf Rather; a resident of Dalgate here, who was arrested.

During questioning, the accused revealed that he had been stalking the woman after she rejected his engage-

### Police warns action against people sharing photos of victim on social media

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Police on Wednesday cautioned social media users against posting or sharing photographs of a woman who suffered severe burn injuries after acid was thrown on her here.

"It has come to notice that some social media users and page admins are uploading photographs of yesterday's acid attack victim on social media platforms. These people are advised to refrain from posting and sharing such content," the Cyber Police said on Twitter. The police also warned of action as per law in case anyone is found to be posting or sharing such content. "Anybody found involved in this act will be strictly dealt under law. Police have taken cognisance of the matter," it added.

ment proposal, they said.

Rather had kept a note of the timings of the victim's movement from home to her

workplace and back, the officials said.

The accused worked in a medical shop and on Tuesday

evening took a break from work and went on a scooter towards the place where the victim used to work. He was accompanied by one Momin Nazir Sheikh, they said.

"The accused followed the victim on her way back home in the evening (of Tuesday) and threw acid on her. The accused then fled and went back to the shop," the officials said.

They added Sheikh was also arrested when more evidence in the case came forth.

The two-wheeler used in the commission of the heinous crime was also seized by police, the officials said.

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## Sidhu pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi shrine



Punjab Congress Chief Navjot Singh Sidhu during visit to Vaishno Devi Shrine.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ahead of the Assembly elections, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Wednesday visited Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

atop Trikuta hills, officials said.

The cricketer-turned-politician reached base camp Katra in the afternoon

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## Fresh snowfall, rains likely in Kashmir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature across Kashmir dropped below the freezing point as the Meteorological Department predicted widespread rain or snow over the next three days, officials said on Wednesday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, nearly four degrees down from 1.8 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.0 degrees Celsius up from minus 9.0 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which also serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.1 degrees Celsius almost the same as the previous night, they said. Officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.8

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## Digital rupee can be exchanged for cash: PM

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the digital rupee, proposed in the union budget, could be exchanged for cash and will open new opportunities in the fintech sector.

Addressing the 'Atmanirbha Arthavyavastha' (self-reliant economy) symposium organised by the BJP, he said the central bank digital currency or the digital rupee will make online payments more secure and risk free and boost digital economy in the years to come.

"The digital rupee will be the digital form of our physi-



cal rupee and will be regulated by the RBI. This will be such a system that will enable exchange of physical currency with digital currency," Modi said at the virtual symposium that was attended by chief ministers of BJP-ruled states and party workers across the country.

"Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will strengthen the digital economy... If anyone makes a payment in digital currency, you will be able to change it to cash," he said.

Modi said the launch of CBDC will make digital payments and online transfer of funds more secure and risk free.

"This will also lead to ease in development of global digital payment systems," he said.

He said the digital rupee will revolutionise the fintech sector by creating new opportunities and lessen the burden in handling,

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## Reshi gets Addl charge of CEO, MC Sopore

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday assigned additional charge to JKAS officer. According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary General Administration Department, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Sopore, shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Sopore, in addition to his own duties, till further orders, relieving Parvaiz Sajad Ganai, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore of the additional charge of the post.

## Encroachment on 300 Kanals Govt Land High Court quashes Ch Lal Singh's complaint proceedings against newspapers

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu wing has quashed impugned order of trial court wherein court had issued process against petitioners for commission of offences under sections 501 and 502 of RPC on complaint of former Member Parliament Choudhary Lal Singh.

After hearing Senior Advocate R K Jain with Advocate Pranav Jain for petitioner Raj Daluja and Adv Asheesh Singh Kotwal for respondent former Member Parliament Choudhary Lal Singh, Justice Rajnesh Oswal has allowed the petitions and

quashed proceedings arising out of complaint titled 'Lal Singh vs Raj Daluja, Mohinder Verma & others' under various sections of RPC.

While pleading the case, the advocates on behalf of petitioner Raj Daluja submitted that respondent Ch Lal Singh filed a false and frivolous baseless complaint against petitioners alleging therein that petitioners published a news items in their newspapers editions of March 9, 2013 and April 26, 2013 against respondent Ch Lal Singh and trial court, in its impugned order dated July 9, 2013, issued the process against petitioners for commission of offences

under sections 501 and 502 RPC.

A perusal of the news item published on March 9, 2013 reveals that it begins with the heading "Congress MP's Trust served notice for possessing land beyond permissible limit under Agrarian Reforms Act" and in the body of the news item it has been mentioned that in a development of far reaching consequences in the public interest litigation highlighting encroachment of land by politicians and bureaucrats by abusing their status, a Trust run by a Congress Member Parliament from Kathua, Udhampur, Doda Parliamentary Constituency Ch. Lal Singh was served

notice by the Kathua District Administration for possessing land beyond the permissible limit under Agrarian Reforms Act in Village Krandi Khurd of Hiranagar Tehsil, District Kathua, while as the State Government has issued directions for evicting the encroachers from 92 Kanals and 6 Marlas of State land in the possession of different persons in the Village Krandi Khurd. In the said news item, it was further mentioned that R.B. Educational Trust run by Member of Parliament Ch. Lal Singh owns more than 300 kanals of land as per information provided by Tehsildar Hiranagar in an

application filed under Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Similarly, in the news item published on 26.04.2013 it has been mentioned that the then Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Puneet Sharma was victimised and prematurely transferred at the instance of Member of Parliament Ch. Lal Singh for daring to provide information to the petitioner in response to RTI application and also for directing for closure of brick kiln of Raghubir Singh alias Babbi (younger brother of Member of Parliament) operating illegally at Village Mahi

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## UPSC civil services prelims exam on June 5; to fill 861 posts

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Civil services preliminary examination 2022 will be held on June 5 to fill 861 posts, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said on Wednesday.

The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages -- preliminary, main and interview -- to select officers of Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service and Indian Police Service, among others.

The number of vacancies to be filled through the examination is expected to be approximately 861 which include 34 vacancies reserved for persons with benchmark disability category -- seven for candidates of blindness and low vision, 11

for deaf and hard of hearing, and eight for locomotor disability.

The final number of vacancies may change after getting the exact number of vacancies from cadre controlling authorities, the UPSC said.

In a notification, it said the civil services preliminary examination will be held on June 5, 2022.

"The government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply," it said.

Candidates can apply online at [www.upsonline.nic.in](http://www.upsonline.nic.in). The last date for sending online applications is Feb 22 till 6 pm. Online applications can be withdrawn from March

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**

Max: 16.3°C Min: 7.1°C

**Humidity**

Max: 97 Min: 85

**Temperature (Srinagar)**

Max: 6.7°C Min: -1.9°C

**Humidity**

Max: 79 Min: 75

Sunset : 18:05 Hours

Sunrise : 07:25 Hours