RNI No.: 66908/96 Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Adv Vishal Sharma's tenure as ASGI extended for three years

Man killed, another injured in car-bike collision

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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh J&K UT men team leaves for Sr **National Volleyball**

34 States, UTs recording decline in COVID cases

Declining trend continues in J&K; 1,982 infections reported in 24 hrs

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI/JAMMU:

The pandemic situation has improved and even though there are states and districts of concern, overall there is a contraction in the spread of COVID-19, the government said on Thursday.

The officials added in Jammu that the declining trend in daily Covid cases continues in Jammu and Kashmir with 1,982 infections being reported on during the past 24 hours.

The Union Territory also reported seven deaths during this period which pushed the toll to 4,699, they said.

Of the fresh Covid cases, 694 were reported from the Jammu division and 1,288 from the Kashmir division, the officials said, adding the overall tally of cases has climbed to 4,42,462.

They said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 413 cases, followed by 310 cases in Jammu district on

Thursday. There are 26,711 active



cases in the union territory, while the number of recovered patients was 4,11,052, the officials said.

However, the COVID-19 death toll in Ladakh climbed to 226 following one more fatality in Leh, while 214 fresh cases pushed the infection tally to 26,400, officials

The number of active cases in Ladakh stands at 1.140 which includes 698 cases in Leh district and 442 cases in

Commissioner for prompt

action because of which the

herculean task of electrifying

the remote village was com-

Meanwhile, to celebrate the

historic moment with the vil-

lagers, BDC Chairman,

Panchari Jeevan Sharma vis-

ited the village and congratu-

lated the villagers on getting

pleted in a record time.

A health worker taking nasal swab for COVID testing in Jammu. The Union Territory has

> break of the pandemic last year, they said. As many as 177 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh Of these, 131 were discharged in Leh and 46 in Kargil, they

recorded 226 Covid-related

deaths -- 167 in Leh and 59

in Kargil -- since the out-

said. The overall recoveries has reached 25,035, officials

Of the total 214 fresh

cases, 106 were reported from Leh and 108 from Kargil district, they said.

A total of 1,023 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said.

Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Joint Secretary in the Union Health Ministry Agarwal said 34 states and union territories, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat, are recording a decline in new cases and positivity on a week-on-week basis, while Kerala and Mizoram still remain two states of concern.

Agarwal said there has been a consistent decline in daily COVID-19 cases, daily active cases and the daily positivity rate, indicating a decreased spread of the

A decline in COVID-19 case fatality rate has been noted with an increase in administration of vaccine doses, he stated. Daily Covid cases declined by over 50

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J&K Govt gives Rs 1 lakh relief to acid attack victim STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday handed over a cheque of Rs 1 lakh to the family of a victim of acid attack that took place in the

city two days ago. Commissioner Deputy Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad along with Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Balwal visited SMHS Hospital to

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India has policy of zero-tolerance against terrorism: Govt ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has a policy of "zero tolerance" on terrorism and believes in collective global efforts to menace, Minister of State External Affairs Muraleedharan said on Thursday in the backdrop of developments Afghanistan. The minister said in the Rajya Sabha that

India continued its ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K LG Manoj Sinha calling on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday

We are witnessing trailers of future conflicts: **Army Chief** lenges and that develop-

STATE TIMES NEWS

Vol. 27 Issue 34 • Jammu • Friday • February 4, 2022 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.00

NEW DELHI: India is witnessing trailers of future conflicts and its adversaries will continue with efforts to achieve their strategic aims, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane said on Thursday delving into national security challenges emanating from China and Pakistan.

In an address at an online seminar, he said India is facing "unique, substantial and

ments on the northern borders have adequately underscored the requirement of ready and capable forces. Without naming China and

Pakistan, the Chief of Army

Staff said that the disputed borders with nuclear-capable neighbours coupled with state-sponsored proxy war were stretching the security apparatus and the resources.

We are witnessing trailers of future conflicts. These are

being enacted daily on the information battlefield, in the networks and cyberspace. They are also being played along unsettled and active borders," he said.

6TH FEBRUARY 2022 Dr. BABAJI THORA MBBS DNB (ORTHO) **FELLOW JOINT** REPLACEMENT **ARTHROPLASTY** FOR APPOINTMENT CALL

"It is for us now to visualise the battlefield contours of tomorrow based on these trailers. If you look around, you will realise the reality of today," he said.

The Army Chief said the developments on the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Remote village Saddal gets power supply first time in 73 years of Independence

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A historic feat was achieved under the Power Sector in District Udhampur as the village Saddal of Block Panchari received electricity supply for the first time in 73 years of Independence.

The electrification work of the village was started after the PRIs and local people of the village projected their grievance before Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib during a Public outreach programme held at Panchari.

The PRIs and Local people 13 terrorists, 7 soldiers

killed in attacks on

security posts in Pakistan

assailants attacked two secu-

rity forces' camps in

Pakistan's restive southwest-

ern Balochistan province,

exchange of fire in which at

least 13 terrorists and seven

soldiers were killed, the

The attacks, claimed later

by the banned Baloch

Liberation Army (BLA),

took place in Panjgur and

Noshki districts on

Wednesday. In Panjgur, the

terrorists tried to enter a

security forces' camp from

two locations while in Noshki

they attempted to get into a

After successfully repuls-

ing the attacks at both posts,

the forces carried out a clear-

ance operation to hunt down

the terrorists hiding in the

area, according to a state-

ment by the Pakistan Army.

Interior Minister Sheikh

Rasheed Ahmed said in a

video message that nine

Frontier Corps (FC) post.

Army said on Thursday.

AGENCY

ISLAMABAD:

triggering an

'4,984 cases pending against MPs, MLAs; 1,899 cases over 5 yrs old' Even after disposal of 2775

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A total of 4,984 cases are pending Members against Parliament and Members of Legislative Council out of which 1899 cases are more than five years old, the Supreme Court was told on Thursday.

electricity supply for the first In his latest report, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, time. PRIs and Local people also thanked the District appointed as amicus curiae, told the top court that it may Administration for meeting their long pending demand. be noted that the total num-The residents were elated on ber of cases pending as of getting electricity supply as December 2018 was 4110: now their children can now and as of October 2020 were focus on their studies.

cases after December 4, 2018, the cases against MPs/MLAs have increased from 4122 to 4984. This shows that more and more persons with criminal antecedents are occupying the seats in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies. It is of utmost necessity that urgent and stringent steps are taken for expeditious disposal of pending criminal cases, said the report filed through advocate

The top court has been passing a slew of directions

Sneha Kalita.

time-to-time on the plea filed advocateUpadhyay for ensuring expeditious trial of cases against lawmakers and speedy investigation by the CBI and other agencies.

Hansaria said that the status report filed by the High Courts also shows that special courts are constituted in some of the states whereas, in others, the courts of the respective jurisdiction are conducting trials in terms of the directions passed from time to time.

These jurisdictional courts conduct the trial of the cases

against MPs/MLAs along with discharging other roster allocated to them. In many of the States, the same judge is a Special statutes such as SC/ST Act, POCSO Act, etc , the report

The amicus pointed out that no response has been filed by the Central Government as per the order dated August 25, 2021, concerning the expeditious investigation/trial of cases, providing of infrastructure facilities to the Courts.

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Six killed in road accident at Kishtwar PM, LG express pain at loss of lives in accident STATE TIMES NEWS Prime Minister Narendra KISHTWAR: Six passengers Modi expressed pain at the

were killed when a vehicle in which they were travelling skidded and fell into a gorge in Kishtwar district on Thursday evening, authorities here said. An Eeco vehicle carrying six people skidded off the road and rolled down into gorge near Nagriana area, they said.

Five persons died on the spot and one succumbed to his injuries in hospital, they

The deceased have been identified as Latief Rather, Abdul Rehman, Mohd Irfan, Ghulam Hassan, Atta Mohd, and Zubair Ahmed, they said.

loss of lives in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar on Thursday. "Pained by the loss of lives

due to a road accident in Kishtwar. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of sadness," the prime minister said in a LG Manoj Sinha also con-

doled loss of lives in Kishtwar accident. "Deeply anguished at the loss of precious lives in an unfortunate road accident in Keshwan, Kishtwar. My

deepest condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief" LG tweeted.

E-passports to have advanced security features: Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday said it is planning to roll out e-passports with advanced security features such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip.

Minister of State for External Affairs Muraleedharan said in Rajya Sabha that the personal particulars of an applicant would be digitally stored in the chip that would be embedded in the passport

The government is expect-

ed to roll out e-passports this

"The ministry is planning to issue chip-enabled e-passports to citizens with advanced security features. The e-passport features contactless smart card technology, including an embedded Frequency Identification (RFID) chip embedded in the front or back cover or page of the passport," he said in a written reply to a question on epassports.

He said the "chip characteristics" are in line with

guidelines International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialised agency of the United Nations which defines standards for travel documents.

"The personal particulars of the applicants would be digitally stored in the chip, which would be embedded in the physical passport booklet," the minister said.

"In case, anyone tampers with the chip, the system shall be able to identify it, resulting in the failure of the passport authentication,"

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU/SRINAGAR

While Jammu witnessed light showers on Thursday, most parts of Kashmir received fresh snowfall while rain and sleet lashed Srinagar city as the minimum temperature improved across the valley due to the precipitation overnight, officials said on Thursday.

Gulmarg and Pahalgam, tourist resorts in the north and south of the valley respectively, recorded more than six inches of fresh snowfall, while Ganderbal district received around five inches of fresh snow, the officials said.



Vehicles crossing through flooded roads after rains lash

Baramulla, Kupwara and other parts of the valley also since Wednesday, they said.

Fakeer Guiri area along the Zabarwan range in Srinagar district also recorded fresh snowfall rain and sleet lashed the rest of the district last

The weather is expected to remain wet over the next 48 hours, officials said.

The precipitation has resulted in increase in the minimum temperature across Kashmir.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.6 degrees Celsius 2.5 degrees up

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Harsh's plea to probe scams welcome but why only of 6 years



Thumbs up for Harsh Dev Singh, a former minister. awarded legislator and chairperson of regional

political party,

for showing deep concern and immense courage in highlighting 'large scale' corruption and acts of omission and commission, like plunder of public exchequer, encroachment of State, Forest Municipal and JDA lands, setting-up of illegal brick kilns, stone crushers, hot mix plants besides raising mammoth movable and immovable properties in and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

It is good to hear all this from a former minister, which the people of the Union Territory otherwise know full well. Yeh Public Hai Sab Janti Hai. Politicians seeking probe into the scams of the fellow politicians should normally be welcomed but when a six- year' rider is tagged; eyebrows



getting raised is but natural.

Is Harsh Dev Singh suggesting that the politicians holding executive positions before six years had their hands clean? Were they all the disciples of Raja Harish Chander?

At a press conference here, Harsh

Dev Singh made a vociferous appeal to the Lt. Governor to constitute a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) against the corrupt MLAs and Ministers who have accumulated huge wealth and disproportionate assets in the last six

Lambasting the erstwhile State Government for having grossly failed to take action against the blemished politicians who had looted public exchequer, encroached State lands, Forest lands, Municipal and JDA lands besides having installed illegal brick kilns, stone crushers, hot mix plants and raised mammoth movable and immovable properties in various parts of the State and outside by abusing their position and authority. Describing the government's tall

slogans of providing transparent, accountable and corruption-free governance to the people a hoax, Harsh said that all such rants were made to enchant the masses for political

He said that several ex- Ministers and MLAs had been reported to have created huge assets, taken loan from J&K Bank amounting to several crores and got it declared NPA besides having defied norms and procedures and violated Defence Acts and many other violations in constructing un-authorised structures and palatial bungalows.

Rassana rape case accused approaches HC for suspension of life term; case posted to Feb 24

STÂTE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: The bail application of main accused Sanji Ram, sentenced to undergo a life imprisonment for the rape and murder of an eight-year-old nomad girl in Kathua, has been posted for hearing on February 24 by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The application came up for hearing on Thursday before a division bench of justices Tejinder Singh Dhindsa and Lalit Batra through video conferencing during which the counsel for Jammu and Kashmir R S Cheema requested for a new date that was granted.

Ram had moved an application under section 389 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the high court. Under this provision, an accused can approach the court for suspension of his

sentence pending an appeal. Ram was given a life term till his last breath by a sessions court of Pathakot that described it as a "devilish and monstrous crime".

in the investigations conducted by the prosecution agency as well as in the statements recorded during trial court," the petition of Ram claimed while seeking relief. Ram, the caretaker of the 'devasthanam' (temple) where the crime took place in

"There are various lacunas

January 2018, Deepak Khajuria, a Special Police Officer, and Parvesh Kumar, a civilian -- the three main accused -- were given life Three other policemen were

sentenced to five-year imprisonment for cover up and destruction of evidence while Ram's son Vishal was acquitted.

Min: 92 Temperature (Srinagar) Max: 4.4°C Max: 99 Min: 91

Sunset: 18:06 Hours

Sunrise: 07:24 Hours