

02 Man arrested for uploading anti-national content on social media

03 Despite ouster of Kashmir-centric dispensations, fate of Mubarak Mandi Complex remains unaltered

10 Court directs registration of FIR in fraud case with Solan-based firm

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Delimitation Commission shares interim report with 5 J&K MPs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Delimitation Commission, constituted by the Centre for Jammu and Kashmir on Friday shared its interim report with the five associate members-three National Conference Members of Parliament from the Valley including Dr Farooq Abdullah, Srinagar MP and two BJP members from the Jammu Division including Minister of State in the PMO Dr Jitendra Singh. "I have received the copy of the interim report", confirmed BJP MP from Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha seat Jugal Kishore Sharma while talking to STATE TIMES. He, however, declined to divulge highlights of the report.

Headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai, the other associates of the Commission are Mohammed Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi of National Conference.

In December 2020, the Delimitation Commission had reportedly proposed that J&K will have 43 and 47 seats respectively. Barring seats reserved for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the strength of the J&K

ber of voters. It is usually done when a state is divided which is the case with J&K, which was split into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. Elections have not been held in the state since the dissolution of the

panel visited J&K to interact with political parties, public representatives and administration officials of 20 districts to garner inputs.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K state election body chief are as ex-officio members. Since 24 of the 114 seats are in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and remain unrepresented, the effective strength of J&K assembly will go up from 83 to 90.

Earlier, the draft shared with the five associate members, who lack voting rights, at their second meeting with the panel also proposed reservation of nine seats in J&K for Scheduled Tribes, even as the count of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes remains seven. The tribal seats remain despite Ladakh being carved into a separate UT, indicating a sizeable presence of these groups in J&K.

Jammu assembly seats will rise from 37 to 43, Kashmir from 46 to 47; Jammu may get one more LS seat

Assembly will increase from 83 to 90 with Jammu getting 6 new seats while Kashmir, which has traditionally garnered the lion's share of seats, shall bag only one extra seat. On the other hand, 9 and 7 seats are likely to be reserved for ST and SC each.

Referring to the demarcation of boundaries of Parliamentary or Assembly constituencies, the delimitation process is carried out at regular intervals to ensure that each constituency has approximately an equal num-

state Assembly on November 21, 2018.

As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of J&K shall be increased from 107 to 114. According to the government notification dated March 6, 2020, retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai and the State Election Commissioner of the concerned state or Union Territory were appointed as the other two members of the Delimitation Commission. From July 6-9, 2021, the

States/UTs cancel 4.28 Cr bogus ration cards during 2014-21

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: States and Union Territories have cancelled about 4.28 crore bogus ration cards during the 2014-21 period, Parliament was informed on Friday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Ashwini Kumar Choubey said the operational responsibilities of the public distribution

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10 JKAS officers posted as District Mineral Officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: the government on Friday adjusted 10 newly promoted 10 JKAS officers as District Mineral Officers.

"Consequent upon their promotion, 10 Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers are transferred and posted as District Mineral Officer in the Districts," read an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General

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AC approves action plans of JPDCL, KPDCL; J&K Sports Policy

DISCOMs to focus on 100 pc smart metering, 24x7 electricity supply

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the action plans of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) for 2021-22 to 2024-25.

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K, and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The approved action plans aim at achieving 100% prepaid consumer metering and 100% system metering (DTR), and include distribution infrastructure work for

loss reduction and modernization, and training/ capacity building of the workforce.

The Power Development Department is working towards improving the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers; reducing AT&C losses; and improving operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of DISCOMs.

The action plans of DISCOMs focus on reduction of ACS-ARR gap and AT&C losses through 100% smart prepaid metering including System metering with communication features, AB Cabling/ HVDS in high loss areas among other components as per scheme guidelines. This will provide quality and reliable power to consumers and assist in the progress towards a 24x7 power supply in all districts.

The action plans also include policy and structural reforms, increasing recruit-

ment of manpower, creating a separate cadre of IT employees, developing a training Policy of employees with targeted annual training on modern lines.

The DISCOMs were directed to reduce the AT&C losses to Pan India levels of 15% and ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25, while the state-wise targets for each year will depend on their current levels of AT&C losses and ACS-ARR gap.

The Administrative Council also approved the rollout of the J&K Sports Policy 2022 aimed to promote sporting culture and harness the energy of youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

The new Sports Policy is aimed at promoting sports in the Union territory by developing sports infrastructure and incentivizing sports persons to excel in their respective games/sport. The Policy strives to achieve

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CS directs completion of all tourism projects under capex by March 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday directed the Tourism department to focus on tourist comfort, convenience and satisfaction, improved travel guidance and way finding (e.g. signs, maps and websites available in multiple languages), and the potential benefits of integrating art and cultural amenities (e.g. unique artwork/ large billboards/ hoardings at railway station, at Lakhnampur border and cultural displays at destina-

tions for enhancing experience of the tourists to position J&K as a top global brand.

He said the highest ever tourist arrivals in J&K during the last 4 months is the result of the image makeover the UT has undergone along with the development of tourism infrastructure during the last two years.

While complimenting the department on increased tourist activity in J&K, he asked the department to target tourist arrival of 10

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Dir Fin, ARI & Trainings gets addl charge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday assigned additional charge to Director Finance, ARI & Trainings.

"It is hereby ordered that Suresh Kumar Koul, Director (Finance), ARI & Trainings shall hold the charge of the post of Director Finance, Information & Technology Department, in addition to his own duties, till


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Govt transfers two J&K Account Service officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday transferred two officers of J&K Account Service.

According to the order issued by Majesh Sharma, CAO, Directorate of School Education Jammu has been posted as FA/CAO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine Board Katra vice Hemkant Prashar, who has been posted as Director Finance, Agriculture Production Department relieving Intiaz Wani of additional charge.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 15.5°C Min: 7.0°C

Humidity

Max : 95 Min : 73

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 10.6°C Min: 1.6°C

Humidity

Max : 94 Min: 51

Sunset : 18:07 Hours

Sunrise : 07:24 Hours

Noose tightening around 2,274 illegal appointees, appointing authorities in Health Department



JAMMU: Finally the noose is getting tightened around 2,274 illegal appointees in the Health Services across the Kashmir Valley, along with the appointing authorities, who facilitated the illegality.

Source told STATE TIMES that the Lieutenant Governor's administration is

mullying stern action against the officials withholding the information and details sought by the competent authority repeatedly after the detection of illegal

Govt mulling action against officials delaying details

appointments by an audit team way back in 2012.

Those withholding the requisite information would likely treated as ablaters in the offence and accordingly dealt in per law, the sources added.

The administration has

taken serious view of inaction by the concerned officers for not having furnished the details, sought as per given format, despite deadline coming to end yesterday.

Govt mulling action against officials delaying details

For the past two years, the J&K government has been seeking the details from the Medical Superintendents and Chief Medical Officers, as per the prescribed format furnished by the Directorate of Health Services calling for information with regard to

the designation of illegal appointee, year of appointment, cause of illegality, whether continuing against the illegally occupied post and more importantly the details of the appointing authority.

When asked about the failure in submission of the requisite details and the element of connivance at various levels,

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather told

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Govt constitutes panel to oversee procurement of e-Buses

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday constituted an Inter Departmental Expert Committee to oversee the procurement of e-Buses and to finalize the terms of the contract for the procurement.

"Sanction is accorded to the constitution of an Inter-departmental Expert Committee to oversee the procurement of e-Buses and to finalize the terms of the contract for the said procurement," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, the

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Court grants bail to ex-Div Com, ex-DC in Roshni scam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge CBI Srinagar Jatinder Singh Jmalwal granted bail to Mehboob Iqbal Ex-Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Ejaz Iqbal Ex-Deputy Commissioner Kashmir in Roshni Scam.

According to CBI, in compliance to J&K High Court order; records of FIR 26/2015 dated April 22, 2015 was received from ACB, UT of J&K, the contents of which have been reproduced as, 'A preliminary verification conducted by Vigilance Organization into the allegation of irregularities committed in the transfer of State Land in

District Srinagar under Roshni Scheme has revealed that officers/officials of Revenue Department abused their official positions to confer undue pecuniary benefit upon the occupants of State Land by arbitrarily fixing the price of state land lower than prevailing market rate of the area, incorrect categorization of occupants, conferment of ownership rights to non-entitled persons etc.

It was alleged that officers/officials of Revenue Department in league with beneficiary Sajad Parvez have caused a minimum loss of Rs 97,70,625 to the State exchequer. The aforementioned commissions/ omis-

sions on the part of officers/ officials of Revenue Department in the conferment of ownership rights of State land to non-entitled beneficiary namely Sajad Parvez, son of Talib Hussain, resident of Baghat-e-Barzulla Srinagar constitute the offence of criminal misconduct under sections 5(1) (e), 5(1)(d) read with section 5(2) J&K PC Act and section 120-B RPC.'

Court after hearing both the sides observed that although, the offences for the purported commission of which accused-applicants stand charge-sheeted are non-bailable yet the

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COVID CONTAINMENT IN J&K: New positive cases declining but no room for complacency, says LG



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing COVID-19 situation in J&K UT.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday observed that though the number of the new Covid cases have declined yet there is no room for complacency.

"We must continue awareness cam-

paigns across the UT with the active support of representatives of PRIs", he said while reviewing the Covid-19 situation in J&K in a series of meetings with members of Covid Task Force, DCs and SSsP.

During the meeting, the to-date situa-

J&K reports 1,429 COVID cases, 3 deaths

SRINAGAR: The declining trend in daily Covid cases continued in Jammu and Kashmir with 1,429 being reported on Friday, officials said.

They said the union territory also reported three deaths related to the pandemic that pushed the toll to 4,702. Of the fresh cases, 607 were recorded from the Jammu division and 822 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 266 cases, followed by 228 cases in Jammu district, they added. A total of 4,43,891 cases

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tion of the Covid-19 was discussed, where ACS Health presented Covid analysis based on various parameters.

The chair also took district-wise assessment of vaccination coverage of 15-18 age group, besides the status of distribution of

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