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

Jammu Bar condemns UT administration

for withdrawing referred posts to PSC, SSB

Smugglers adopting new modus operandi for ferrying cattle, 11 bovines rescued from oil-tanker

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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh Ian Dev led J&K Ranji team to leave for Chennai today

Delimitation Commission: Draft report proposes massive changes in Kashmir division

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Delimitation Commission has proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir in its draft report which has been handed over to five associate members from the Union Territory for their suggestions, officials said on Saturday.

The voluminous report has proposed redrawing of the Anantnag Parliamentary seat by including Rajouri and Poonch from the Jammu region, besides carrying out massive changes in the Kashmir division, they said.

Many of the assembly seats in erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state have vanished that include Habba Kadal, a seat that was seen as a traditional bastion of migrant Kashmiri pandits.

Barring Khanyar, Sonwar and Hazratbal assembly seats of Srinagar district, all other seats have been

Farooq Abdullah, Congress slam **Delimitation Commission draft report**

NEW DELHI: Former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, who heads the National Conference, on Saturday slammed the draft report of the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, saying it "defies any and all logic" and no political, social and administrative reason can justify the recommenda-

Abdullah, who is Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar parliamentary seat, also made it clear that the party is now engaged in formulating a detailed response to this report and also exploring other options to challenge the entire process.

One of the five Associate members of the Commission, the NC leader said the report was received on Friday night and "I am in the process of reading it in detail. But from whatever I have seen, we at the National Conference completely reject

Abdullah, who has been the chief minister of the state thrice besides being a union minister, said, "There is no political, administrative and social logic that justifies these recommendations". He said that they were earlier told that the delimitation exercise was being undertaken to **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

new assembly seats being carved out like Channapora and Srinagar South, the officials said.

Voters from Habba Kadal will now be part of at least three assembly seats in the new proposed report, they

Similarly, Budgam district, which had five assembly seats, was redrawn and merged with Baramulla Parliamentary constituency besides splitting some of the

assembly seats like Kunzer in North Kashmir.

Sangrama seat in North Kashmir has been merged with other assembly seats, they said.

Pulwama, Tral and some areas of Shopian, which formed part of the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat, will now be part of the Srinagar Parliamentary seat.

The report was sent to the five associate members Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Akbar Lone (Lok Sabha MPs from the National Conference) and Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore (BJP MPs) on Friday.

They have been asked to submit their views by February 14 after which the report would be put in the public domain, the officials added.

The report has ignored the objections filed by the National Conference December 31 last year

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two MOs among 50 employees suspended

STATE TIMES NEWS

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Charandeep Singh on Saturday ordered suspension of entire staff of Public Health Centre (PHC) Ghat in district Reasi for absconding from their duties.

"It has been reported that entire staff of Public Health Centre Gota was absent from duty on February 5, 2022 and a video about the absence of the staff of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Man shot dead inside

his house in Rajouri **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A 27-year-old man was shot dead inside his house by unidentified assailants in Rajouri district, police said on Saturday.

Karamat Shah, a resident of Targain village in Budhal area, was shot in the head by unidentified gunmen from the window of his room on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, a police official said. He said Karamat died on the spot.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two terrorists killed in Zakura Srinagar encounter

Vol. 27 Issue 36 • Jammu • Sunday • February 6, 2022 • Pages 12+4(Magazine) • ₹ 2.50

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkare-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces here in the summer capital on Saturday, police said.

Based on a specific input generated by the police regarding the presence of terrorists in the Rangpora Zakura area of Srinagar, a cordon-and-search operation was launched there, spokesperson said.

"During the search operation, as the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the search party which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter," he said.

In the ensuing gunfight, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved the site of the encounter, the official said.

He identified them as Ikhlaq Ahmad Hajam son of Ab Ahad Hajam resident of Kujer Frisal Kulgam and

date. Besides, 73,948

COVID tests have been con-

Till date 5856535 persons

have been enlisted for obser-

vation which included

30184persons in home quar-

antine including facilities

operated by government,

ducted in last 24 hours.

Ahmad resident Malangpora Pulwama, both linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT, TRF (so-called The Resistance Front) a shadow of the LeT. the spokesperson said.

As per police records, he said, Hajam was active since June 2021 and Dar since August 2021.

"Both were categorised terrorists and part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attack on police and security forces

Besides, they were also instrumental in motivating the gullible youth to join terror folds and reviving the OGW network," he said.

Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu

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

The spokesman said Hajam was the mastermind behind the martyrdom of constablehead Mohammad at Hasanpora Anantnag on January 29. He was also involved in an IED blast on the Qaimoh-Yaripora road on January 18. Incriminating materials, and arms and ammunition. including two pistols and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two dead, 2 injured as vehicle turns turtle in Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two people were killed and as many injured when a car turned turtle in Udhampur district, officials said on Saturday.

The occupants of the car were friends aged between 23 to 26 years and they were returning home after celebrating a birthday party, they said.

The accident occurred at Thanda Pader on Jammu-Srinagar national highway in the early hours when the driver lost control of the vehicle due to speeding, they

The officials said two died on the spot and two others

Over 100 stranded

passengers airlifted

in J&K, Ladakh STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over 100 stranded

passengers and the body of a

doctor were airlifted between

the twin union territories of

Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh on Saturday, an offi-

An AN-32 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) air-

lifted 84 passengers, chief coordinator for the service

Aamir Ali said. He said 32

MeT predicts snowfall,

rains in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The minimum

temperature in Kashmir reg-

istered a dip with the meteorological department fore-

casting rain or snowfall at

scattered places in the next

recorded a low of minus

STATE TIMES NEWS

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

cial said here.

passengers were

1,606 new COVID cases reported in J&K, 150 in Ladakh been tested as negative till

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 1606 new COVID cases-- 887 from Jammu division and 719 from Kashmir division-- thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 445497. Also, four COVID deaths

have been reported; two each from the Jammu Division and the Valley. According to the daily

Media Bulletin, out of 445497positive cases. 20663are Active Positive (6570in Jammu Division and $14094 \mathrm{in}$ Kashmir Division), 420128 have recovered and 4706 have



sion and 2404in Kashmir

The Bulletin further said

that out of 21787763 test results available, 445497 samples have tested positive and 21342266 samples have

20663 in isolation and 433848 in home surveillance. Besides, 5367134 persons have completed their surveillance period.

> Meanwhile, Ladakh's COVID caseload increased to 26,710 as 150 more people tested positive for the viral disease during the past 24 hours, officials said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

hits J&K, Modi speaks to LG STATE TIMES NEWS

Earthquake of magnitude 5.7

SRINAGAR: A 5.7-magnitude earthquake hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, causing damage to the spire of a famous Sufi shrine in Chrar-e-Sharief but there were no reports of any loss of life, officials said.

The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 9.45 am, was at the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. Strong tremors were felt in Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to enquire about the situation in the union territory follow-

J&K Admn launches portal for monitoring

ing the earthquake.

The officials said the quake hit at latitude 36.34 degrees north and longitude 71.05 degrees east at a depth of 181 km.

The tremors caused panic among people who rushed out of their homes. It also damaged the spire of the revered shrine of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, popularly known as "Nund Rishi" at Chrar-e-Sharief in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, the officials said.

However, repair work on the minaret was started in the afternoon, they said.

There was no loss of life reported, the officials said.

Narco-terror module busted in Baramulla, contraband worth Rs 18 Cr seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

were shifted to district hospi-

tal in a critical condition.

The injured were later

referred to the Government

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Medical College Hospital,

SRINAGAR: A narco-terror module was on Saturday busted in Baramulla district and two people were arrested while contraband worth Rs 18 crore was seized, police

A police spokesperson said a police party was patrolling the area from Dachi towards Basgran during which it found two vehicles on a link road towards Dachi in a suspicious condition.

The police moved towards the vehicles and after seeing them, the drivers tried to flee, he said. However,



Kashmir journalist booked for 'glorifying terrorism': Police **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Journalist Fahad Shah, who was Friday arrested by police, has been booked for glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news, and inciting general public against law and order in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

A case has been registered against Shah at Safakdal Police Station and Pulwama Police Station, they said.

For the last three-four years, Shah has been frequently glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news and inciting people for creating law and order problems, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

performance of its employees **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary A

K Mehta on Saturday launched the Employees Monitoring Performance (EPM) portal for assessing the monthly work of all government employees in the Union territory, an official spokesperson said.

Terming the initiative pathbreaking, Mehta said it'll take good governance practices a notch higher in the Union Territory.

He complimented the joint ofGeneral Administration Department and



Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS

Informatics Centre (NIC) for developing the portal in a short time to boost administrative efficiency,

Mehta maintained that all employees should be encouraged to file monthly performances capturing their contri-

goals and achievements. The chief secretary also

it is a first of its kind

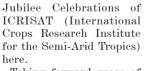
CONTD ON PAGE 9

Union Budget reflects India's commitment on 'green future': Modi



HYDERABAD: Climate Action was given more importance in this year's union budget and it reflects India's commitment towards green future , Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said on Saturday. He was speaking at the inauguration of the Golden



Taking forward years of efforts, Climate action was given more importance in this year's budget. This year's budget encourages commitment towards a green future in every sector, he said.

He also said the budget is focused on natural farming and digital agriculture. Modi released a com-

memorative postal stamp the occasion of ICRISAT's $50 \mathrm{th}$ Foundation day. He also launched the Climate Change Research Facility on plant protection.

J&K Admn approves purchase of advanced snow-clearance machinery

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday approved the purchase of advanced snow clearance machinery that does not cause damage to roads, an official spokesperson said here.

The state executive committee, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary A K Mehta, approved the purchase of Rs 78.50 crore worth advanced machinery, including snow vehicles, ploughs, cutters, and front-end loaders, he The traditional snow clear-

ance machinery being used

has been eroding the met-

alled road surface, necessi-

tating repairs every year, the

Earlier, to address this concern, the chief secretary had ordered the formation of a high-level committee for formulation of a standard operating procedure for snow clearance with a focus on reducing damage to the

The committee considered various options and suggestpurchase of modern machinery to ensure scientific snow clearance and checking recurrent repairs towards long term maintenance of quality roads in snow-bound areas of the Union territory, the spokesman said.

He said the committee had pointed out that introduction of high-end machinery would lead to savings on a long-

term basis, besides reducing the need of frequent major repairs.

Further, the committee approved Rs 3.82 lakh for conducting four non-residential training courses on different themes of disaster management to promote general education and awareness on vulnerability and mitigation of disasters.

It also approved release of funds to district administrations for meeting emergency expenditures on account of disaster management, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, the spokesperson said.

Atal Dulloo, ACS, Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

area.

Chief Secretary A K Mehta launching EPM portal

urged the officers to make spokesperson said.

butions to the departmental

provisions for submitting the performance on behalf of field officials Principal Secretary (GAD) Manoj Kumar Dwivedi said

30 Kanals land worth Rs 75 Cr retrieved from encroachers at Humhama, Budgam

STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Authorities in Budgam on Saturday retrieved Kah Charai land from the encroachers durmassive antiencroachment launched at Humhama Estate, Budgam in Central Kashmir.

A joint team of Revenue, Municipality and Police departments and Forest headed Additional Commissioner Budgam, launched the drive to remove all encroachments on Kahcharai land which can be used for community purposes in the

The land under survey no.1026 measuring 30 kanals worth around 75 crores was retrieved during

anti-encroachment The DC Budgam has

given strict directions to speed up the drive against the land encroachments. He said that the drive will continue and all encroachments on State as well as Kahcharai land will be removed. He also said that strict action will be taken against the encroachers for indulging in unlawful activities. It is pertinent to mention here that the district administration in Budgam has retrieved State and Kahcharai land from encroachers during last vear and has launched special drive this year too to ensure illegal encroachment is removed on fast track basis.

Max: 90 Min: 88 Temperature (Srinagar) Max: 10.8°C

Max: 88 Sunset: 18:07 Hours Sunrise: 07:23 Hours



Min: -1.5°C Min: 62