Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

4 women among 5 missing persons traced, reunited with families

JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Women's Day virtually

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

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLING **CBSE** The Shri Ram Nursery to 11th

COVID: 24 new cases in J&K, 9 in Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Jammu and

Kashmir recorded 24 fresh Covid cases on Wednesday that took the infection tally to 4,53,347, officials said.

No Covid-related death was reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

Of the new cases, 12 each were recorded from the Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Srinagar district recorded the highest

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

1 killed, 14 injured in IED blast outside court in Udhampur

SFs will hunt down those responsible: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Court directs ACB to register FIR against

revenue officials for tempering records

JAMMU: In a suspected terrorist attack, one person was killed and 14 were injured when a low-intensity IED exploded outside a court complex in Udhampur district of Jammu region on Wednesday, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said preliminary investigation suggests it to be "an act of terrorists but we are investigating the

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political condemned the leaders attack.

The improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place around 1 pm in Slathia Chowk where fruit and vegetable vendors put up their

DGP Singh said Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh had visited the blast site, along with other top police officials, a



Security personnel inspecting blast site at Udhampur.

of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and bomb disposal experts.

"Preliminary examination suggests a low-intensity IED explosion, but a forensic and minute scrutiny will reveal more accurate facts," he said, adding that the 14 injured were now out of danger.

The DGP told PTI that terrorists have been planning for long to carry out an attack in Jammu region. "There have been numerous attempts in the past by vari-

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and

Kashmir Chief Secretary

Arun Kumar Mehta on

Jammu city which have been foiled by Jammu and Kashmir Police," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of

Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib said the injured were moved to a hospital and were stable, she said. The injured included a woman, an eight-month-old

infant, and a Rajasthan resi-Security was beefed up in and around the town and searches were being conduct-

ed in some places, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

JKPSC CCE Mains 2021 deferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has deferred the Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) (Mains), 2021.

"It is notified for information of the candidates that Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive (Mains) Examinations 2021scheduled to be held from March 10 to 17, 2022 is deferred till further notice,' reads a notice issued by Anil Sharma, Controller of Examinations, J&K Public Service Commission.

J&K ranks first in registration of unorganised workers on e-Shram portal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir ranked first in registration of unorganized workers on e-Shram portal.

Union Minister for Labour Employment, Bhupender Yadav, awarded the J&K with first position prize in a function organized in Vigyan Bhavan here

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sarpanch shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar outskirts

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Sarpanch was shot dead by terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday, police said.

The killing of Sameer an independent sarpanch, drew strong condemnation from political parties. The Resistance Front (TRF), a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the attack in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhat had been provided with security and lodged at a hotel in Srinagar but he had ventured out discreetly on Wednesday when he was attacked by the terrorists at Khonmoh on the outskirts of the city, the police said.

He was rushed to a hospital where he died, they said.

A police spokesman said preliminary investigation revealed that terrorists barged into the sarpanch's house and fired indiscriminately upon him.

Police registered a case.

approached and proactively

He directed the National

Highways Authority of India

(NHAI) to prioritize installa-

tion of crash barriers and

parapets throughout the

accident-prone areas and

The chief secretary directed

the traffic police to check

over-speeding inside the

Navayug and Nashri tunnels

and ensure strict compliance

Directions were also issued for expeditious procurement

of gadgets to check speed

limits for which the highway

to the fixed speed limits.

engaged", he said.

black spots.

The investigation was in killing unarmed civilians progress and officers worked to establish the circumstances which led to this terror crime. The area was cordoned off and a search in the Kashmir, Thakur said. area was underway, a police

spokesman said. Bhat's killing evoked strong reactions from various political parties.

The BJP's J-K spokesperson Altaf Thakur said the killing is a gruesome act which is highly deplorable and deserves all forms of condemnation.

The militants involved in the act are enemies of humanity and peace, who by claim bravery, but in fact they are coward who feel frustrated by the grass root democracy flourishing in

Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Dr. K.K. Singh

Dr. A.A. Mehra

+91-9622965050

"Condemn the attack on Sarpanch Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Khonmoh in the strongest possible terms. This senseless bloodshed must come to an end.... Heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, the National Conference (NC) wrote on Twitter.

The PDP also condemned the killing and said that contrary to the tall claims of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Tarun Chugh condemns Udhampur blast

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SRINAGAR/ Janta Party national general secretary and in charge Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh on Wednesday condemned the killing of a man and injuries to 13 others in a blast in Udhampur dis-

In a statement, issued to media, Chugh the killing of a man and injuries to others in a blast that took place near tehsil office in Udhampur was unfortunate and highly condemnable.

He also expressed sympathies with the family members of the deceased person

J&K Govt provides ex-gratia

relief to kin of girl killed in

Srinagar grenade blast

SRINAGAR: The Jammu

and Kashmir administration

on Wednesday provided an

ex-gratia relief on Rs 1 lakh

to the family of Rafiya Nazir

who was killed in a grenade

Mohammad Aijaz Asad

handed over the cheque for

Rs 1 lakh as ex-gratia relief

to Nazir Ahmad Tinda.

Rafiya's father, an official

He said the DC told the

family that another relief

amount of Rs 5 lakh shall be

provided under the Central

Asad, accompanied by

Senior Superintendent of

Police Rakesh Balwal, visited

the family in Hazratbal area

of the city to provide ex-gra-

tia relief and express solidar-

ity with the bereaved family

While interacting with the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

family members of the

Deputy

(DC)

blast here on Sunday.

Srinagar

Commissioner

spokesman said.

Assistance Scheme.

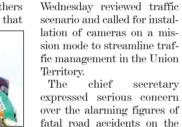
members.

STATE TIMES NEWS



took place near tehsil officer in Udhampur district today afternoon. Reports quoting ADGP Jammu said that the initial probe has reveal that it was an IED blast, while further investigation was

and also prayed for speedy recovery of the injured persons. Notably, a person was killed while at least 13 others were injured in a blast that



national highway and other major roads in Jammu and Kashmir. "For improving the in-city traffic movement, directions were issued for installation of



CS for use of cameras to streamline traffic management

review traffic scenario in J&K.

ing city-town speed limits", Mehta said.

He maintained that the enforcement agencies must work in tandem with each traffic cameras on a mission other to ensure streamlining mode, in addition to specifyof traffic in and around cities, towns and on national highway and major roads.

"Special efforts are required to ensure compliance to traffic rules and traffic discipline for which civil society needs to

has already initiated the process. While reviewing

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

24 PSIs transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi, Amit Gupta on Wednesday transferred 24 Police Sub Inspectors (PSI). As per order, PSI Rajat Sahani has been transferred from Police Station (P/S) Reasi and posted as Incharge Police Post Jyotipuram; PSI Jarnail Singh from P/S Reasi as Incharge PP Dera Baba; PSI Abhlshek Partap Singh from P/S Mahore as Incharge PP Thanole; PSI Ravinder Singh from P/S Karra as Incharge PP Banganga; PSI Raghav Chalotra from P/S Reasi as Incharge PP Mallkote; PSI

Bhambla; PSI Arif Hussain from P/S Reasi as Incharge PP Tote Sari; PSI Amit Singh from P/S Chassana as Incharge PP Adhkuwarki; PSI Happy Hans from P/S Katra as Incharge PP Banna; PSI Rajesh Kumar from P/S Chassana as Incharge PP Talwara; PSI Sunil Singh from P/S Pouni as Incharge PP Shivkhori; PSI Jasbir Singh from P/S Mahore as Incharge PP Shajroo; PSI Ashutosh Singh from P/S Katra as Incharge PP Kakryal; PSI Rajat Magotra from P/S Arnas as Incharge PP Dhansal; and PSI Narinder Singh from PP Shajroo

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Money laundering premeditate offence: Centre tells SC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that money laundering is a premeditated offence which never takes place in the heat of the moment and economic offences involving huge loss of public funds need to be viewed seriously as they pose serious threat to the Country's financial health.

While hearing arguments on a batch of pleas concerning the interpretation of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the apex court deliberated on Section 45 of the Act as well as section 436-A of the Code Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and also on balancing the right of the accused.

While Section 45 of the PMLA deals with the aspect of offences to be cognisable and non-bailable, Section 436-A of the CrPC deals with maximum period for which an undertrial prisoner can be detained.

The experience is that the trials are not proceeding. The trials remain pending. investigation reports are not filed in time. All these are different logistical matters which have been experienced....," observed a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, adding, recently it was in public domain that persons accused of offence having seven-year of punishment have already undergone six years during the trial.

Now, if this is the state of affairs, then there has to be some balancing, said the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar. The top court also observed

that if there is presumption about validity of a provision, there must be a presumption about upholding the

NIA raids at multiple locations in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids at multiple locations in Kashmir Valley, officials said on Wednesday.

NIA sleuths with the assistance of police and CRPF is carrying raids in Baramulla district's Pattan and Uskara areas, Pinglana area of Pulwama and some areas of Shopian, according to a Srinagar based news agency.

It could not be immediately ascertained in which case (s) these raids are being carried out. Last month NIA had carried raids at several places in connection with two cases, one related to

Modi lauds collaborative efforts by Union, State Govts, citizens in tackling COVID

Hiteshwar Singh from P/S

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chairing a high-level meeting to review the Covid situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday lauded the collaborative efforts by the Union and state governments along with active participation of

citizens in tackling the virus. India's consistent efforts towards the vaccination campaign and an analysis of vaccine effectiveness to aid the lesser hospitalisation and low severity and mortality during the recent surge caused by Omicron variant was also highlighted in the meeting,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairing review meeting on COVID-19 and vaccination in New Delhi on Wednesday.

It emerged in the review meet that pro-active and collaborative efforts led by the Central government helped in the effective management

of the spread of infection, it

said. It was also noted that

India's pandemic response ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

has granted restricted emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute of India's COVID-19 vaccine Covovax for the 12-17 years age group subofficial sources said on

receive the regulator's nod for use among those below 18

Drugs Controller The General Of India's (DCGI) approval comes after the Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the CDSCO last week recommended granting emergency use authorisation (EUA) to Covovax for those aged 12 to

The government has still not not taken a decision on vaccinating those aged below 15 years. The health ministry has consistently said that additional need for vaccination and inclusion of population for vaccination are examined constantly.

In the EUA application to DCGI, Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at SII on February 21 had stated that the data from two studies on about 2707 children aged 12 to 17 years show that Covovax is highly efficacious, immunogenic, safe and well tolerated in this age group of children.

be beneficial for our country

Army Commander visits forward areas along LoC in Rajouri, Poonch Search launched for Army Jawan missing in Kashmir **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander $_{
m Lt}$ Upendra Dwivedi, visited Ace of Spades Division, to review the security situation along the Line of Control in Rajouri and Poonch sectors. Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi visited various forward areas in Rajouri, Bhimber Gali and Poonch sectors.

The army commander was briefed on the security situation by field commanders along the Line of Control. He reviewed the development of defence infrastructure and operational preparedness undertaken despite challenging terrain and weather conditions in the region. He interacted with all ranks and appreciated the professional-



Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi interacting with Jawans at a post along LoC.

ism and operational response towards the evolving threat

The Army Commander commended all Ranks for their dedication and complimented the soldiers for their relentless efforts in pursuit of peace and stability along with assisting the local popu-Meanwhile, the Army and

the police have launched a joint search for a soldier who went missing from his village central Kashmir's Budgam district early this week, officials said

Sameer Ahmad Malla of Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment went missing from his Lokipora village of Khag on Monday. He was visiting home on leave to be with his wife on the birth of their second child, the officials said.

He is currently posted in Jammu.

Malla was in the news four years ago when his role was investigated for allegedly driving his company commander Major Leetul Gogoi and a local girl to a hotel here, officials said.

Major Gogoi, who was in the centre of the 2017 "human shield" controversy, suffered the ignominy of reduction in seniority and

exit from Kashmir for "fraternising" with a local woman in 2018.

A court martial had held Gogoi and his driver Malla guilty on two counts --"fraternising" with a local woman in spite of instructions to the contrary and being away from the place of duty while in operational area" The officials said Malla had

last talked to his mother from his mobile phone and informed her that his phone battery was running low and in case it gets switched off, he will get in touch with her. Malla's phone is switched

off and his whereabouts are not known, the officials said, adding that his family

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

DCGI's EUA nod to Covovax for 12-17 yrs age-group

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's drug regulator ject to certain conditions, Wednesday.

It is the fourth vaccine to

17.

"This approval will not only alone, but will benefit

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Max: 87 Min: 48 Sunset: 18:35 Hours Sunrise: 06:49 Hours

Temperature (Srinagar) Max: 17.1°C