

03 Court directs ACB to register FIR against revenue officials for tempering records

05 4 women among 5 missing persons traced, reunited with families

10 JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Women's Day virtually

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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

Tarun Chugh condemns Udhampur blast

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR/ JAMMU: Bhartiya 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 district.
In a statement, issued to media, Chugh the killing of a man and injuries to others in a blast that took place near teshil officer 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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
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 blast here on Sunday.
Srinagar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Aijaz Asad handed over the cheque for Rs 1 lakh as ex-gratia relief to Nazir Ahmad Tinda, Rafiya's father, an official spokesman said.
He said the DC told the family that another relief amount of Rs 5 lakh shall be provided under the Central Assistance Scheme.

Asad, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Balwal, visited the family in Hazratbal area of the city to provide ex-gratia relief and express solidarity with the bereaved family members.
While interacting with the family members of the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 26.4°C Min: 13.0°C

Humidity
Max : 79 Min : 51

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 17.1°C Min: 5.2°C

Humidity
Max : 87 Min: 48

Sunset : 18:35 Hours
Sunrise : 06:49 Hours

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

SFs will hunt down those responsible: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
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 case".
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political leaders condemned the attack.
The improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place around 1 pm in Slatthia Chowk where fruit and vegetable vendors put up their carts.
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.

team 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 various terror groups to hit 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 resident.
Security was beefed up in and around the town and searches were being conducted 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 2021 scheduled 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 and Employment, Bhupender Yadav, awarded the J&K with first position prize in a function organized in Vigyan Bhavan here

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CS for use of cameras to streamline traffic management

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday reviewed traffic scenario and called for installation of cameras on a mission mode to streamline traffic management in the Union Territory.

The chief secretary expressed serious concern over the alarming figures of fatal road accidents on the national highway and other major roads in Jammu and Kashmir.

"For improving the in-city traffic movement, directions were issued for installation of traffic cameras on a mission mode, in addition to specifying



Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting to 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 other to ensure streamlining of traffic in and around

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 are 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

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sarpanch shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar outskirts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A Sarpanch was shot dead by terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday, police said.
The killing of Sameer Bhat, 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.



The investigation was in progress and officers worked to establish the circumstances which led to this terror crime. The area was cordoned off and a search in the 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

killing unarmed civilians claim bravery, but in fact they are coward who feel frustrated by the grass root democracy flourishing in Kashmir, Thakur said.
"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

24 PSIs transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior 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 (PP) Jyotipuram; PSI Jarnail Singh from P/S Reasi as Incharge PP Dera Baba; PSI Abhishek 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 Hiteshwar Singh from P/S

Pouni as Incharge PP Bhambla; PSI Arif Hussain from P/S Reasi as Incharge PP Tote Sari; PSI Amit Singh from P/S Chassana as Incharge PP Adhkuwark; 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

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

■ 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, the PMO said.



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

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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India's drug regulator has granted restricted emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute of India's COVID-19 vaccine Covovax for the 12-17 years age group subject to certain conditions, official sources said on Wednesday.
It is the fourth vaccine to receive the regulator's nod for use among those below 18 years.
The Drugs Controller 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 17.

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.
"This approval will not only be beneficial for our country alone, but will benefit

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9