Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24 Trucker nabbed with 1.24 quintal

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh 2nd Martyr's Memorial Volleyball **Tournament from Mar 19** 

**Education, police get higher allocations** 

NEW DELHI: The Education Department has been allocated the high-

est Rs 11,832.77 crore followed by Rs 10,831.18 crore for the Home

Department, which controls police, in the Rs 1.42 lakh crore budget for

Sitharaman also presented the supplementary demands for the year

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill 2022, Rs 797.34 crore has been allocated for the general administration depart-

The higher allocation for the home department, under which the

Jammu and Kashmir Police comes, indicated the government's priority

in maintaining peace in the Union Territory, which has been facing over

Rs 11,832.77 crore has been earmarked for the education department,

Rs 1129.59 crore for the planning department and Rs 232.43 crore for

the information department. According to the papers presented in Lok

Sabha, Rs 8768.09 crore has been allocated for the power department.

Rs 1002.98 crore for the industry department and Rs 2835.39 crore for

the agriculture department. Rs 6296.57 crore has been earmarked for

the Public Works Department, Rs 7873.34 crore for the health depart-

Sitharaman allocated Rs 507.9 crore for the tourism department, Rs

 $5443.17\ \mathrm{crore}$  for the rural development department and Rs  $646.93\ \mathrm{crore}$ 

ment and Rs 3202.71 crore for the social welfare department.

the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

2021-22 totalling Rs 18,860.32 crore for the UT.

three decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

ment and Rs 10.831.18 crore for the home department.

Fard Intikhab, Mutation to be given online soon: CS



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

# SCHOOLING The Shri Ram Nursery to 11th

#### **CBI** raids **EPFO** office to investigate PF scam

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: A CBI team on raided Monday Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) office located at Railhead Complex in Jammu. The team with full force is investigating the malpractices in the release of PF to some employees.

According to sources, this case of rigging is related to the Jammu and Kashmir Provident Fund

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The banned

Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) ter-

ror outfit is responsible for

the abduction and martyr-

dom of Army soldier Sameer

Ahmad Malla, whose body

was found in an orchard in

Jammu and Kashmir's

Budgam district last week,

The last call made by

Malla, a Territorial Army

jawan attached with Jammu

and Kashmir Light Infantry,

to his mother was also done

when he was being held in

captivity by the Lashker-e-

Kantoo, one of the oldest

surviving terrorists, was

Atin Sharma tops PSC's

**Assistant Registrar** 

**Cooperative Societies Exam** 

JAMMU: Atin Sharma from

Jammu secured 1st rank

and got selected for the post

of Assistant Registrar

Cooperative Societies in

and Kashmir Public Service

Son of Dr Keerti Bhushan

Sharma and Dr Vijav

Lakshmi, Atin Sharma's

success story started after

his Class 10 board results.

He secured top position in

Class 12 also. Atin did his Electrical Government College of Engineering and Technology

(GCET) Jammu and stood

Atin Sharma's father, Dr

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Keerti Bhushan Sharma is

Medical Superintendent

Commission on Monday.

Cooperatives Department.

got 75.80 per-

cent marks

and topped in selection

list issued

by Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

Taiba led by Yusuf Kantoo.

police said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### Sitharaman presents Rs 1.42 lakh Cr J&K budget in LS STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday presented a Rs 1.42-lakh-crore budget for Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2022-23 in Lok Sabha, amid opposition accusations that the government was rushing the proposals through Parliament. Sitharaman also presented the supplementary demands for the year 2021-22 totalling Rs 18,860.32 crore for the Union

Minister ofState Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said the discussion will take place after two hours.

Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the Chair, said the business for the day was approved by Speaker Om Birla during the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

Premachandran, the member from Kollam, said the minister had also sought a discussion on the budget proposals and the supplementary demand for grants together, which would go against the

## LS passes J&K Budget; war of words over exodus of KPs

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha on Monday passed a budget totalling Rs 1.42-lakh-crore for Jammu and Kashmir for 2022-23 amid a war of words between the treasury and opposition benches over the exodus of Hindus from the Valley, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accusing the Congress of leaving the minority community in the state in the lurch.

During a discussion on the budget, the Congress, TMC and other parties alleged that the government has not been able to achieve the objectives it set out while abrogating Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded the early restoration of statehood.

Opposition parties also accused the government of not doing enough for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits, an issue that has again gained political currency after the film Kashmir Files based on the exodus was

Responding to the discussion, Sitharaman attacked the Congress over a series of tweets issued by its Kerala unit relating to the Kashmiri Pandits who were displaced from the Valley during the 1990s following the outbreak of militancy.

Sitharaman said the tweets by the Congress with the hashtag #KashmirFiles vs truth on Sunday said that Kashmiri Pandits on their own left the Valley and not because they were forced. "Our party's (Congress) belief is that it was not because of ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Tewari and Premachandran sought a ruling from the Speaker Om Birla on the issue.

As the House re-assembled in the post-lunch session, Sitharaman said the then UPA government had presented and discussed the Budget for NCT of Delhi in 2014on the same day.

That time the Chair allowed it, and this time also the Chair may kindly allow, it is my appeal, Sitharaman said

noted the Speaker had rejected the contention of Tewari and Premachandran, saying that the supplementary demands for grants for J&K presented in Lok Sabha

for the horticulture department.

Mahtab, who was in the chair,

were for the 2021-22 and could be

taken up together with the Budget for 2022-23.

Marble Market Extention, Greater Kailes! Chowk, National Highway-1A, James ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Team Dr Avtar Singh

Mahtab said the Speaker had also mentioned that it was not for the first time that budget for a state had been presented as discussed on

# **Delimitation Commission makes its proposals** public; invites objections till March 21

#### Suchetgarh, Habba Kadal assembly seats restored

STATE TIMES NEWS

killing of the Army jawan". According to police, the probe narrowed on a local villager Ather Illahi Sheikh who had called Malla for a meeting. It turned out that Sheikh was working for the banned terror outfit. Malla upon reaching the

Territory and moved a motion seek-

ing suspension of certain rules to

allow the House to take up the dis-

Opposition members objected to

the government move to present

the J&K Budget and discuss it in

the House on the same day, con-

tending that members will not get

adequate time to study the propos-

Congress member Manish Tewari

and RSP member N K

Premachandran objected to the

motion moved by Sitharaman,

alleging it was in violation of the

Some rules are beyond the

amending powers of the House,

Tewari, a Congress member from

Anandpur Sahib, said.

described by Inspector General of Police (Kashmir

range) Vijay Kumar as "the

mastermind behind the

LeT responsible for abduction, martyrdom of

**Army Jawan Sameer Ahmad Malla: Police** 

rules of procedure of the House.

cussion on the same day.

meeting point with Sheikh saw three other terrorists including Kantoo. "During questioning, he

(Sheikh) confessed that on March 6, three terrorists of proscribed terror outfit

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: Three terrorist

associates were arrested

after a Hizbul Mujahideen

(HM) module involved in the

killing of a sarpanch was

busted in Kulgam district on

sarpanch Shabir Ahmad Mir

near his residence in Adoura

#Kulgam Police busted

#terror module of proscribed

terror outfit HM involved in

#Sarpanch Shabir Ahmad

Mir & arrested 03 #terrorist

#killing

in Kulgam on Friday night.

killed

Monday, police said.

 $\operatorname{recent}$ 

Militants had

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# sion and Suchetgarh seat in Poonch areas in Jammu

JAMMU: The draft report of Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir, which has agreed to restore two assembly seats but ignored objections on other issues from political parties, was placed in the public domain on Monday for suggestions till March 21 following which the panel will visit the union territory for public hearing.

The report published in the gazettes of India appeared in local newspapers on Monday and showed that Habba Kadal seat in Kashmir divi-

Hizb module involved in killing of

Sarpanch busted, 3 held

Jammu province had been restored. The BJP's Jammu and

Kashmir unit had objected to the first draft report, presented to Associate members in December, that had proposed scrapping of the seats.

The panel's report had come for sharp criticism, especially from the valleybased political parties including those who are friendly to the BJP, after it had recommended an increase of six seats in Jammu province and one in Kashmir besides annexing Rajouri and

with South province Kashmir's Anantnag parliamentary seat.

Though the dissent report from Associate members from the BJP does not mention this, it may be mentioned here that all Suchetgarh office bearers including council members had resigned en masse after the report was leaked. They were assured by party leaders that it would be taken up

with the panel. Similarly, there was disquiet about the proposed merging of Habba Kadal seat in

JEE-Main 2022 rescheduled

to avoid clash with

Class 12 board exams

DELHI:

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

according to officials.

from April 16 to 21.

first session was scheduled

"Representations are being

received from candidates

NEW

Srinagar district with three different assembly seats. This seat has a considerable number of Kashmiri Pandit voters, who had migrated to Jammu and other areas. The same has been restored in the draft proposal put in the public domain by the Commission.

The commission published the proposal, maintaining the number of Lok Sabha constituencies at five but increasing the assembly seats from the present 83 to 90 (adding six in Jammu and one in Kashmir).

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### from Wednesday; comorbidity clause removed for precaution doses: Govt COVID vaccination of chil-NEW DELHI: The COVID dren in the age group of 12

**COVID** vaccination to begin for 12-14 yrs

STATE TIMES NEWS

vaccination for children in the age group of 12-14 years will begin from Wednesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced on Monday.

The COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to the 12-14 years age group would be Corbevax manufactured by Biological E. Limited, Hyderabad, the Union health ministry said.

Tweeting the announcement in Hindi, the minister said."if the children are safe then the country is safe! I am happy to inform that the

to 13 and 13 to 14 is starting from March 16. Also, everyone aged 60 years and above will now be able to get precaution doses." Mandaviya also urged the families of children and peo-

must get the vaccination done. The Union Government after due deliberations with scientific bodies has decided to start COVID-19 vaccina-

ple in the age group of 60

years and above that they

tion for 12-13 yr and 13-14 yr age groups (those

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# SC notes Centre's decision to reduce 15 pc marks for admission to NEET-PG, disposes of plea

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

The DELHI: National Testing Agency Supreme Court noted on (NTA) has rescheduled the Monday that a decision has first session of engineering been taken by Ministry of entrance exam JEE-Main as Health and Family Welfare its dates were clashing with that there shall be a reduc-Class 12 board exams, tion across all categories of 15 percentile for admission The exam will now be held to the NEET-PG courses on April 21, 24, 25, 29 and and disposed of a plea seek-May 1 and 4. Earlier, the ing reduction of cut-off

> A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said the petition which has been instituted by the doctors stands disposed of as they would be able to secure

It noted, By a communication of the Union government dated March 12, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided in consultation with the National Medical

Commission that there shall be a reduction across all categories of 15 percentile for admission to the NEET PG courses. Thus, for the general category the cut-off percentile is 35, for the physically handicapped general category 30 and for the reserved SC/ST 25.

The bench said that in the event the petitioners still have any subsisting

# Kashmir journalist booked under PSA

STATE TIMES NEWS

Journalist SRINAGAR: Fahad Shah, who was arrested by police last month for glorifying terrorism among other charges, has been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

Shah has been booked under the PSA, a day before his bail application was scheduled to come up for hearing, the journalist's lawyer, Umair Ronga said.

I am in consultation with his family and we will knock on the doors of the High Court as well as the Supreme Court to get justice, the lawyer said. Police has said

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### associates actively involved, tions of HM Chief date with JEE-Main. In admissions and their griev-Shah is wanted in Inspector General of Police the commission of the crime. ances would be addressed. 4 dead, 15 injured as fire breaks out in Jammu building

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

police said.

The death toll may increase cials said.

The fire broke out in the

# **Active terrorist arrested in Pulwama**

SRINAGAR: Police in Pulwama have arrested an active terrorist of proscribed terror outfit JeM. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a pistol has been recov-

During surprise naka checking by Police along with 55RR, 182/183Bn CRPF, movement of a suspicious person was noticed, who was apprehended tactfully by the alert naka party. He has been identified as Abrar Bashir son of Bashir Ah Bhat resident of Takia Pulwama. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a Pistol, one magazine, 12 rounds and one grenade ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kashmir, Kumar said on Twitter.

He said police seized incriminating material as well as the vehicles used in

During #investigation, it was learnt that the Sarpanch was killed by HM #terrorist Mushtaq Yatoo on the direc-

seeking change of dates of first session on account of clashing of their board exam

> General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh also rushed to the scene to supervise the firefighting and rescue oper-

"Over a dozen families were living in the building. The fire spread very fast, many of the residents could not escape immediately," said a building resident Anwar Hussain.

Another survivor, Yasmeena Khatoon, said the building residents lost everything in the fire

"We could not retrieve anything and tried to flee the raging fire," she said, adding that many of her relatives are either injured or missing after the incident.

The injured identified as Marjeema Khatoon (23) res-

### LG condoles, announces ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh to each NoK of deceased Gas cylinder explodes inside jail in Doda, 4 cops hurt

BHADARWAH: Four police personnel suffered burns on Monday when a cooking gas cylin der exploded inside a jail in Doda district

of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The 5-kg LPG cylinder exploded inside a barrack, housing police guards, at district jail Bhaderwah, injuring four policemen, Doda Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP)Abdul Qayoom said.

He said the barrack suffered damage in the fire which was immediately brought

under control. Police officials said the incident

occurred around 2.35 pm and three of the

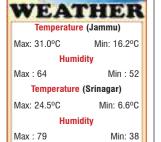
injured selection grade constables Nazir Ahmad, Mohd Musa and constable Raju Sharma were referred to Government Medical College

Hospital Doda for specialized treatment. Special Police Officer Suraj Kumar suffered minor injuries and was discharged after first aid, the officials said. "We were in our barrack and were about to leave for lunch when we heard a deafening sound from the

ident of Assam, Anwar Hussain (53) resident of Assam, Momina Khatoon

of Mehju Din (3.5 yrs), baby (7), Asrar-ul-Islam (19) son

(25), Menar-ul-Hussain son of Anwar Hussain. Anku Ram Alias Antu son



Sunset: 18:39 Hours

Sunrise: 06:43 Hours

#### JAMMU: Four people,

including a child, were killed and 15 others injured after a massive fire broke out in a building here on Monday,

further as the rescue operation is still underway, offi-

evening in a scrap shop on the ground floor of the building in Residency Road area apparently due to a short cir-Soon the flames engulfed the entire building and some of the LPG cylinders kept inside exploded, said Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Chandan

said three people,



Flames coming out of a building at Residency Road, Jammu.

including a child, were charred to death in the incident and 15 others were rescued and rushed to the hospi-Another body was recov-

ered later. Residents of the

building were mostly workers

from Assam, the officials

and Emergency Services Department said they received a call about the fire around 6.10 pm and immediately rushed fire tenders to the spot.

A spokesperson of the Fire

Director Additional

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9