

## 02 Major untoward incident averted; four arrested with weapons



### J&K records 12 new COVID cases, Ladakh 2

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 12 new cases of coronavirus, taking the infection tally to 4,53,505 while no Covid-related death was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, six each were reported from Jammu and Kashmir divisions of the Union Territory, they said. Srinagar district recorded

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## Tracking OGWs of terrorist outfits huge challenge for security forces: IGP Kashmir

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Tracking overground workers of terrorist outfits is a huge challenge for security forces, but 150 of them have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir so far this year, Inspector General of Police of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said on Thursday.

"OGWs (overground workers) don't remain permanently so. OGWs carry out a few activities and then remain silent and live normal life. That's why we call them hybrid terrorists or terrorist associates. That is a huge

### Missing Indian national repatriated by Pakistan in Poonch

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An Indian national, who had gone missing about 15 months ago, was handed over Thursday by Pakistani Army to their counterparts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said.

Mohammad Javed (37), a resident of forward Qasba village of Poonch, had gone missing in December 2020 and could not be traced anywhere, the officials said.

They said Pakistani army recently contacted Indian Army and informed them about the presence of Javed,

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**HOLIDAY NOTICE**  
The offices of STATE TIMES Group of Publications in Jammu and New Delhi shall remain closed on March 18, 2022 (Friday) on the occasion of Holi festival. Therefore, there will be no issue of your newspaper on March 19, 2022 (Saturday). STATE TIMES wishes you all a prosperous and colourful Holi.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 33.8°C Min: 16.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 85 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 26.6°C Min: 7.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 62 Min: 28

Sunset : 18:41 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:40 Hours

## 03 Gang selling fake chopper tickets to pilgrims of Mata Vaishno shrine busted; Kingpin among 4 arrested



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The atmosphere is conducive for anyone to visit Kashmir but the call for return of Kashmiri Pandits has to be taken by the community or "agencies", CRPF Director General (DG) Kuldeep Singh said on Thursday.

The chief of the country's largest paramilitary force, which has deployed close to 65,000 personnel in the Kashmir Valley, said the CRPF's duty is to ensure that "whenever they are asked to make the atmosphere conducive (for anyone or anything) by the government, they will do it".

"The atmosphere is conducive for anyone to visit Kashmir, come and go. For Kashmiri Pandits, that call has to be taken by them or agencies. I don't know that...", Singh said.

He also said that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will vacate the premises of those Kashmiri

Pandits who come back to "claim" their ancestral properties in the Valley.

The force, in Kashmir, has in its possession as many as 737 premises on which it has established camps

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### Govt reconstitutes Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Thursday reconstituted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board with addition of new eight members to the board.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5(1)(b), Section 7 and Section 10 of the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1988, I, Manoj Sinha,

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### Srinagar encounter 15 held for pelting stones at SFs

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday said they have arrested 15 people allegedly involved in stone-pelting on security forces after an encounter here in which three terrorists were killed.

They said despite warnings, a mob had tried to approach the gunbattle site and hurled stones at security personnel. On March 16 at Shankarpura Nowgam

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## ACB files charge-sheet against FCS&CA official in disproportionate assets case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday filed a charge-sheet against a government official and his family members in a disproportionate assets case, an official said.

The charge-sheet against Senior Assistant, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Pranav Gandotra, son of Late Kewal Gandotra, his wife Pooja Wattal @ Pooja Gandotra, resident of Flat No. 1203/1204, Royal

Palm Apartments, Akhnor Road, Toph Sherkhania, Jammu and mother Shashi Gandotra was filed in court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu in FIR

### Flats, 6 luxury cars including two Fortuners and a Mercedes, 4 Kg gold recovered

No.35/2018, registered under section 5(1) (e) read with section 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt 2006 and sections 109, 120-B of RPC at Police Station ACB, Jammu, a spokesman of ACB said.

He further said that disproportionate assets case was registered in 2018 when Gandotra was posted as Incharge Tehsil Supply Officer, Rajouri. "During

course of investigation, searches were conducted in houses of the accused, leading to seizure of incriminating documents which revealed that he has raised huge properties, both movable as well as immovable, worth crores in his own name and in name of his family members, which are disproportionate to his known source of income," the spokesman said.

The instant case of Disproportionate Assets registered against the accused Pranav Gandotra is the outcome of FIR 21/2018 already registered against the accused Pranav Gandotra. During of the said case, searches were

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### Jammu-Poonch railway line project shelved for being 'financially unviable'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The central government has again shelved the 223-km Jammu-Poonch railway line project for being "financially unviable", an activist said on Thursday citing RTI responses from the authorities.

The Ministry of Railways gave the information in response to two applications filed by Jammu-based activist Raman Sharma under the Right To Information (RTI) Act.

The final survey report of the project for laying broad-gauge line between Jammu and the border district of Poonch via Rajouri was submitted in 2018 with an

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## Kashmir's turning point was rigged election of 1987: Dr Jitendra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: As politics around the film "Kashmir Files" continues, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday put up rather an exclusive postulation, saying that the Kashmir's turning point was the rigged Assembly Election of 1987 when Farooq Abdullah was the Chief Minister of the State and Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

In three different television interviews to Aaj Tak, ANI and CNN separately, Dr Jitendra said, in order to ensure that Farooq Abdullah returned as Chief Minister with comfortable majority, the State machinery had manoeuvred to secure the defeat of Muslim United Front (MUF) candidates,



while the Centre remained a mute spectator because of the Rajiv- Farooq Accord and a tactical understanding between the National Conference and Congress. Soon thereafter uproarious surges of discontent with slogans of Azadi began to be heard and this discontent came handy to terrorist outfits like Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF),

who began to put up threatening advertisements and terrorising posters on the streets of Valley.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the first prominent Kashmiri Pandit's killing happened on 14 September 1989, which was that of the BJP Kashmir Unit President Tika Lal Taploo. At that time Mufit Mohd Sayeed was the Home Minister of India whose daughter Rubaiya Sayeed was kidnapped and her release was secured by releasing some hardcore terrorists who later engineered the hijack of Indian Aircraft to Kandahar. Following that, in the latter half of 1989 and first half of 1990, selective killing of nationalist Hindus was done, who included

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## 12 Volleyball trials from March 28

## Congress crisis: Azad likely to meet Sonia today

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: G-23 leader Ghulam Nabi Azad is likely to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday, while members of the dissenting group in the Congress Thursday held a flurry of meetings where they insisted they will fight for revamping the party while staying within its fold.

Sources in the group- ing said the leaders, during the parleys, deliberated on steps that they feel are required to bolster the party, and decided to convey to the leadership that their only interest is to strengthen the organisation in order to "save the idea of India" which only a strong Congress can do so.

A day after the Group of 23 pitched for an "inclusive and collective leadership" in the Congress, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, one of its members, met Rahul Gandhi and the two leaders were learnt to

have discussed a revamp of the party organisation, a key demand of the dissenters.



The meeting is being seen as an attempt by the Gandhi family to reach out to the G-23, which has shown signs of increasing aggression on the leadership issue after Congress's abject loss in the assembly elections in five states.

During the meeting that lasted around an hour and half, they deliberated on the party's defeat in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, sources said.

Gandhi, a former Congress

president, had called Hooda for a discussion on the political situation in Haryana.

However, the discussion spilled over to the party's abysmal performance in the elections in the five states.

Sonia Gandhi had earlier reached out to Azad on Wednesday ahead of the G-23 dinner meeting at his residence.

The leaders of the grouping have since held a series of meetings at Azad's residence.

After Thursday's meeting, Hooda, a former chief minister of Haryana, visited Ghulam Nabi Azad, the informal leader of the grouping, at the latter's residence.

Hooda and Azad were learnt to have discussed "concrete proposals", the details of which were not immediately known, to strengthen the Congress. The G-23 had made a strong pitch for

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## Never lose sight of goal of evolving India into modern, self-reliant nation: PM to IAS trainees

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DEHRADUN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked trainee officers at Mussorie's Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration to never lose sight of the biggest goal of evolving India into a modern and self-reliant country.

Besides developing itself, India has to play a bigger role in the new world order emerging post-Covid pandemic, he said at the valedictory session of the 96th Common Foundation Course



of the institute.

"I have interacted with several batches of civil

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