

**03** Drugs sold by Generic name are not cheap drugs for poor but are genuinely priced drugs for all

**05** Ex-Sarpanch among 8 arrested as injured woman dies

**10** Open TT Champ from March 24

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**J&K reports 12 COVID cases, Ladakh 3**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday reported 12 new COVID cases, seven from the Jammu division and five from the Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 453562.

Moreover, 16 more COVID patients have been discharged after recovery from various hospitals including five from Jammu Division and 11 from

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**Civilian shot dead, non-local vendor injured by terrorists in Kashmir**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Terrorists on Monday shot dead a civilian and injured a non-local vendor in two separate incidents in Budgam and Pulwama districts, police said.

"Around 7:20 pm, terrorists fired at and injured a civilian, Tajamul Mohiuddin Rather, near his residence in Gothpora area of Budgam in central Kashmir," a police official said.

Rather was rushed to the hospital but he succumbed to his injuries, he said.

In the second incident in Pulwama, a non-local ven-

**Situation along LoC stable: Govt in RS**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The situation along the Line of Control remains stable after the armies of India and Pakistan agreed to observe a ceasefire in February last year, the defence ministry said on Monday.

Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, said the Army has been keeping a strong vigil on the situation and it remains prepared to thwart any threat from "inimical elements".

In a sudden and significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25 last year announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

Without mentioning Pakistan, he said Indian security forces deployed along the western

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**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 33.7°C Min: 18.6°C  
Humidity  
Max: 57 Min: 39  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 22.3°C Min: 6.8°C  
Humidity  
Max: 67 Min: 39  
Sunset: 18:44 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:35 Hours

**J&K aims to attract Rs 70,000-Cr investment in 6 months: Sinha**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the Union Territory is expected to attract Rs 70,000 crore worth investments in the next six months.

J&K has been looking to bring in investments in diverse sectors, including tourism and hospitality, and currently a UAE delegation is visiting the Union Territory.

The delegation reached Srinagar on Sunday to explore investment opportunities in the region, following an invitation by the Lt Governor at the Dubai Expo in January this year.

Officials said that the Lt Governor along with Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, and other government officials will showcase investment opportunities to the visiting delegates as part of a four-day programme, focusing on entrepreneurship, tourism and

hospitality sectors. The Lt. Governor said that the J&K government has already sanctioned industrial investment proposals worth

**'6,603 smart meter households in Jammu to get quality electricity from today'**



LG Manoj Sinha speaking during an event at Convention Centre, Jammu on Monday.

JAMMU: In a major step towards ensuring uninterrupted power supply, the areas being installed with Smart Meters will be made curtailment free along with supply of quality power to the end user, said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during an event at Convention Centre, here on Monday.

From today, 6603 smart meter households connected to 4 feeders of Jammu will receive quality electricity, announced the Lt Governor. "I appeal to the people to install smart meters and help the administration in

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

over Rs 26,000 crore so far and provided land to the investors. "We are hopeful of getting an investment of

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**Ukraine rejects Russian demand for surrender in Mariupol**

■ **AGENCY**

LVIV: Ukrainian officials defiantly rejected a Russian demand that their forces in Mariupol lay down arms and raise white flags Monday in exchange for safe passage out of the besieged strategic port city.

Even as Russia intensified its attempt to pummel Mariupol into surrender, its offensive in other parts of Ukraine has floundered. Western governments and analysts say the broader conflict is grinding into a war of attrition, with Russia continuing to bombard cities.

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**Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board re-constituted with power-packed 8-member panel**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has put in place a power-packed, 8-member Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board ahead of annual pilgrimage. The reconstitution of the board, responsible for the better management of Yatra and world-class facilities for pilgrims, was approved by the Lieutenant Governor, who is also Chairman of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB).

From renowned spiritual master to towering personalities of ideas and ideals figures in the list, official

sources said.

They said the members of the re-constituted board are Swami Avdeshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, DC Raina, Kailash Mehra Sadhu, KN Rai, K.N. Shrivastava, Pitambar Lal Gupta, Dr. Shailesh Raina and Prof Vishwamurti Shastri.

World renowned spiritual guru, Swami Avdeshanand Giri Ji Maharaj is a national icon. As a saint, writer and philosopher, Swami Ji has been much sought speaker on climate change, brotherhood in different sects and regularly invited to several International forums. He is

Acharya Mahamandaleswar of Juna Akhara and also the Chairman of Samanvaya Seva Trust.

Prof Vishwa Murti Shastri, a towering personality, who dedicated his life to revive age-less culture of India and Sanskrit is another member of re-constituted SASB. Prof Shastri was recently conferred with the Padma Shri award in recognition of his distinguished contributions in the field of Sanskrit literature.

K.N.Rai, the multi-faceted personality, former Chief Engineer and

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**Cong planning to accommodate some G-23 leaders in decision-making process**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: With the Gandhis engaging with G-23 leaders after their recent offensive in the wake of the party's poll debacle, some of them may find a place in the decision-making process in the revamped Congress party in line with their demand for collective leadership.

Sources said on Monday that some of these leaders may be accommodated in the Congress Working Committee or in a new body like the Parliamentary Board, which the G-23 had suggested for taking all policy decisions including finalising chief ministerial candidates and tie-ups with like-minded parties in states.

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

normalisation of India's ties with China.

It was the second time in the last three days that India asserted that the relationship with China depends on the resolution of the pending issues in eastern Ladakh.

Modi and Morrison

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**Lohia posted as Commandant General, HG/CD & SDRF**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Government on Monday appointed senior IPS officer Hemant Kumar Lohia as the Commandant General, HG/CD and SDRF, Jammu and Kashmir.

"Hemant Kumar Lohia, IPS (AGMUT: 92) awaiting orders of posting, is posted as Commandant General, HG/CD and SDRF, J&K, against an available vacancy, relieving Danesh Rana, ADGP, of the additional charge," reads an order issued by R.K Goyal, Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

**Centre mulls COVID booster shot for all above 18 years**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Centre is considering a Covid vaccine booster shot for all those above 18 years in view of a surge in coronavirus infections in parts of the world and also to ease difficulties faced during international travel, sources said on Monday.

Currently, healthcare and frontline workers and those above 60 years are being administered the precaution doses of Covid vaccine. All people above 60 years have become eligible for this

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**Prez confers Padma awards to 54 distinguished personalities including Azad**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, who died in a chopper crash last December, late Radheshyam Khemka, former chairman of Gita Press that publishes Hindu religious books, and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad were among 54 personalities who were conferred Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday.

While Rawat and Khemka were given Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, posthumously, Azad, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekharan, former CAG Rajiv Mehraishi, founder of Serum Institute of India that made COVID-19 vaccine Covishield Cyrus Poonawalla were among the eight honoured with Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award, at a civil investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

This year, no names were announced for 'Bharat Ratna', India's highest civilian award, which was last awarded in 2019 to former president Pranab Mukherjee, social reformer Nanaji Deshmukh and noted singer



President Ram Nath Kovind presenting Padma Bhushan to Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Bhupen Hazarika.

The award for Rawat was received by his daughters while a close family member received the award for Khemka.

Many of those who received the Padma awards were "unsung heroes", including 125-year-old yoga practitioner Swami Sivananda.

Members of the audience clapped as a bare-foot Sivananda, dressed in a simple white kurta and dhoti, knelt before Prime Minister Narendra Modi who promptly got up and bowed, touch-

ing the ground as he returned the greeting.

These awards are given in various disciplines and fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

The Narendra Modi government has been honouring many such "unsung heroes" who have been contributing to society in different ways with Padma awards since 2014 when it came to

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

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