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J&K logs 14 new coronavirus cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 14 fresh COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the infection tally to 4,54,004 in the Union Territory, officials said.

The coronavirus death toll stands at 4,751 as no fresh fatality was reported in the last 24 hours.

While seven new cases were reported from Jammu

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PM evinces interest in INTACH exhibition on Jammu's rural heritage

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed keen interest in a photo exhibition depicting rural heritage organised by the Jammu chapter of INTACH during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) held the exhibition at Patti panchayat, the venue of the prime minister's public rally to commemorate the National Panchayat Day in Samba district on Sunday, they said.

Prime Minister Modi's speech was relayed to all

gram panchayats across the country and during the event, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several projects for the union territory.

The officials said the photo exhibition was based on heritage temple corridors of Mandal/Purmandal, Uttarbani and Birpur as well as the traditional route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

Convener of INTACH, Jammu Chapter, S M Sahni, along with Shastri Rajinder Kumar of the Purmandal complex briefed the prime minister about the rural heritage corridor photographs, the officials said.

3 Kashmiri students arrested for celebrating Pakistan's victory in T20 released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Three Kashmiri students of Agra's Raja Balwant Singh Engineering College who were arrested for cheering in favour of Pakistan's win against India in T20 world cup were finally released from jail on Monday.

The students were in jail for over five months after being charged with sedition for allegedly celebrating the Pakistan cricket team's victory. The students had been granted bail by the Allahabad High Court on March 30.

The three students were thrashed by the right-wing group and a section of lawyers for allegedly setting a WhatsApp status on Pakistan team's T20 win. They were arrested on October 27, 2021.

After being charged with sedition, no lawyer turned up to represent them for a few weeks. It took two weeks

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 37.1°C Min: 24.0°C

Humidity

Max: 39 Min: 21

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 22.4°C Min: 12.2°C

Humidity

Max: 74 Min: 52

Sunset : 19:08 Hours

Sunrise : 05:50 Hours

SC to list pleas against abrogation of Art 370 after summer vacation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider listing after summer vacation the pleas challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Hima Kohli took note of the submissions of senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the plea needed an urgent hearing in view of the delimitation exercise being carried out in the state.

This is the Article 370 matter. The delimitation is also going on, the senior lawyer, appearing for interveners Radha Kumar (academic and author) and Kapil Kak (retired officer of the Indian Air Force), said.

Let me see, the CJI said, adding, This is a five-judge



matter. I will have to reconstitute the bench.

The apex court agreed to re-constitute a five-judge bench hear pleas after summer vacation.

Several petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir

Reorganisation Act, 2019, which splits J-K into two Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh were referred to a Constitution Bench headed by Justice N V Ramana in 2019 by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi.

By abrogating Article 370, the Central government had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides Justice Ramana, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, R Subhash Reddy (since retired), B R Gavai, and Surya Kant were part of the bench which, on March 2, 2020, had declined to refer to a larger seven-judge bench the batch of petitions challenging the constitution-

al validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

NGO, People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, and an intervenor had sought referring of the matter to a larger bench on the ground that two judgements of the apex court -- Prem Nath Kaul versus Jammu and Kashmir in 1959 and Sampat Prakash versus Jammu and Kashmir in 1970 -- which dealt with the issue of Article 370 were conflicted each other and therefore, the current bench of five judges could not hear the issue. Disagreeing with the petitioners, the bench had said it was of the opinion that "there is no conflict between the judgements".

The five-judge bench, which would hear the pleas, will have to be reconstituted as Justice Reddy has retired in January this year.

Govt blocks 16 YouTube channels for spreading disinformation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday blocked 16 YouTube channels, including six operating from Pakistan, and a Facebook account for spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order, according to an official statement.

The blocked YouTube channels and the Facebook account had a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore and were spreading "false, unverified information to create panic, incite communal disharmony and disturb public order in India", the statement issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said.

"None of the digital news publishers had furnished information to the ministry as required under Rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021," it added.

The ministry said the con-

tent published by some of the blocked India-based YouTube channels referred to the members of a particular community as terrorists and incited hatred among various religious communities.



"Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony and disturb public order," it said.

The ministry said multiple India-based YouTube channels were publishing unverified news and videos that had the potential to trigger panic among various sections of the society.

"Examples include false claims related to announce-

ment of a pan-India lockdown due to COVID-19, thereby threatening the migrant workers, and fabricated claims alleging threats to certain religious communities etc. Such content was observed to be detrimental to public order in the country," it said.

According to the ministry, the blocked YouTube channels based in Pakistan were found to have been used in a coordinated manner to post fake news about India

on various subjects such as the Army, Jammu and Kashmir and foreign relations in the light of the situation in war-hit Ukraine.

"The content of these channels was observed to be completely false and sensitive from the perspective of national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, and India's friendly relations

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Three arrested in Sunjwan encounter case sent to 10 days police remand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Three people, arrested in connection with the recent encounter in Sunjwan area here, were on Monday remanded in police custody for 10 days, officials said.

Two Pashto-speaking suicide bombers of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) were killed in the encounter after they managed to sneak from across the border and killed a CISF officer by attacking his bus in Sunjwan on Friday.

Driver Bilal Ahmad Wagay and his helper Ishfaq Chopan of Kokernag area, who allegedly transported the ter-



rorists in a mini-truck from Sapwal border in Samba to Sunjwan, and Shafiq Ahmad Sheikh of Tral who had received the terrorists and also arranged their stay in a house in the area for a day were arrested in the case so

far.

Police have also detained the house owner for questioning. However, he is yet to be arrested formally in the case.

Producing the three accused before the court

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Three SHOs among 4 Insp transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma on Monday transferred three Station House Officers (SHOs) among 4 Inspectors.

SHO Banihal Inspector Naem-Ul-Haq has been transferred and posted as SHO Batote; Insp Muneer Ahmed from Police Station Gool to Police Station Banihal as SHO; Insp Sudhir Sadhotra from PS Batote to DPO Ramban as In-Charge ESU and Insp Niaz-ul-Hussain from DPL Ramban to Police Station Gool as SHO.

Anganwadi workers, Helpers entitled to gratuity: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Anganwadi workers and helpers appointed to work in Anganwadi centres are entitled to gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Abhay S Oka said Anganwadi centres also perform statutory duties and have become an extended arm of the government.

"The 1972 (Payment of Gratuity) Act will apply to Anganwadi centres and in turn to AWWs (Anganwadi Workers) and AWHs

(Anganwadi Helpers)," the bench said.

The bench noted that the issue involved in these appeals is whether Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers appointed to work in Anganwadi centres set up under the Integrated Child Development Scheme are entitled to gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

The appeals arose out of writ petitions filed by the District Development Officer and two other officers for taking exception to

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Hybrid LeT terrorist, accomplice arrested in Awantipora

JeI member held for collecting funds in Baramulla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Police in Awantipora along with security forces on Monday arrested a hybrid terrorist and his accomplice, who were planning to target outside labourers while one person was held for collecting funds in the name of banned organization JeI in Baramulla.

On a specific input, Police along with (Army) 50RR and CRPF 110Bn apprehended one suspect Rayees Ahmad Mir, son of Ab Rashid Mir resident of Chandhara and recovered one Pistol along with ammunition from his

possession.

During preliminary interrogation, the suspect disclosed that he received a Pistol with ammunition and instructions from a LeT terrorist code name Haji to attack and kill at least two outside labourers in Pampore town. Rayees was promised to be recruited as terrorist after execution of the attack.

Rayees Mir (hybrid terrorist) sought aid of his friend namely Shakir Hamid Bhat son of Abdul Hamid Bhat resident of Alohibagh Samboora to identify the target and provide him motocy-

cle for executing this terror act.

Timely intelligence and swift action by joint team of Police, Army and CRPF not only led to the arrest of the hybrid terrorist and his accomplice but also prevented terror incident and saved precious lives of innocent civilians.

Accordingly a case FIR No.43/2022 registered in police station Pampore and investigation further is continue. Meanwhile, police have arrested one person involved in collection of funds in

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4,64,910 precaution doses of COVID vaccine administered to those aged 18-59 yrs: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Over 46,962 precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered to those in the 18-59 years age group on Monday, taking the total count of these doses to 4,64,910, according to health ministry data.

The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 187.92 crore with more than 20 lakh being administered till 7 pm, the ministry said.

India on April 10 began administering

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Sarpanch killed, 2 cops among 6 injured in accident near Pattan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A Sarpanch from Kupwara was killed while four other PRI members besides two policemen were injured, when a bus carrying PRI members met with an accident near Renzi Pattan in Baramulla on Monday.

As per details, SRTC bus carrying PRI members had a head-on collision with a tipper near Renzi Tappan Pattan, leading to death of one identified as Payaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Samad Bhat, resident of Gulgam Kupwara and injuries to six others identified as Haqeeqat Shah, son of Abdul Qayoom; Abdul Qayoom Shah, son of Aladin of Gugloosa Kupwara; Constable Abdul Hameed Bhat, son of Abdul Jabbar; Abdul Jabbar Lone, son of Abdul Rahim Lone of Sherwanipora Baramulla, SGCT Mohammad Iqbal Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohiuddin, Abdul Ahad Khan, son of Wali Mohammad Khan of



Wreckage of ill-fated SRTC bus at accident spot. Nutnoosa. All the injured have been hospitalised.

Centre pushed J&K youngsters towards despondency: Mehbooba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said her party did not see any hope in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Jammu, alleging that the BJP-led Centre has pushed the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir towards despondency.

"What hope can we have? The prime minister spoke about the youngsters and the future of Jammu and Kashmir. What future do they have? As if the PSA (Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act) was not enough, youngsters are now being booked under the UAPA," the People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief told reporters here.

She said Modi's statement



was ironic as opportunities of employment and business in Jammu and Kashmir are being given to outsiders.

"Jobs are going out, mining leases and liquor licences are also given to outsiders. The electricity produced in Jammu and Kashmir powers homes and factories across the country, but the situation in Kashmir is terrible on

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Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh convening meeting regarding development works and Aspirational District parameters, at Baramulla on Monday.

its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all, Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said in an official statement.

The minister said PM Fasal Bima Yojana, electronic National Agriculture Market, Bharat Net facility in each panchayat and financial inclusion would be some of the aspects to be addressed under the ADP.

Deliberating on the mechanism of the programme, Singh said the districts are encouraged to first catch up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country by competing with and learning from others, said the statement issued by the Union Personnel Ministry in Delhi.

Praising the work done in

Baramulla under the ADP, he said there is contribution at different levels of work culture, social culture and behavioural culture to achieve the standard prescribed benchmark.

The minister also praised the utility of the model, and said that it is based on a scientific approach which has the scope of a dynamic real-time evaluation.

He said the government is committed to take Baramulla to the maximum of its potential in sustainable development and economic growth with proper follow-ups from time to time.

Praising the biodiversity of the district, the minister said Baramulla is one of the oldest districts of J&K with huge forest reserves.

Singh, Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur constituency, expressed his view of organising biotechnology workshops in the region to make people aware about the

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