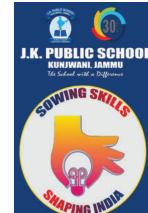
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Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

GMC Jammu becomes first hospital in J&K

to perform successful kidney transplant

Woman among five drug-peddlers arrested; heroin, Ganja recovered

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

Rollball trials on May 13

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

LG calls for making J&K economic powerhouse, major contributor to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/JAMMU Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for drawing inspiration from glorious past and making a resolve to build a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir that will both be an economic powerhouse and a major contributor to AatmaNirbhar Bharat.

Addressing National Seminar on -'Independent India & Jammu Kashmir' organised by Central University Jammu and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), through virtual mode, the Lt Governor underlined that 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is a golden opportunity for retrospection, paying tributes to towering patriots of ideas and ideals and the resolve to build India of their dreams.

Highlighting the need to awaken the new generation and make them aware of the rich saga of freedom strug-



LG Manoj Sinha addressing National Seminar on 'Independent India & Jammu Kashmir organised by Central University, Jammu & ICSSR.

Sinha flags-off SKUAST-K students' batch on study tour to Kansas State University USA

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday flagged off a batch of 12 undergraduate students from SKUAST-Kashmir on a study tour to Kansas State University, USA. The 12 undergraduate students are from the faculties of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry. They will be visiting USA under the Student Overseas Fellowship Programme of National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & World Bank.

The 2-months long capacity-building fellowship will expose the undergraduate students to global learning ecosystem, farmer communities and industry establishment. Under the programme, the students will spend minimum two months in USA. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ed the government's commitment to make the stories of those immortal heroes and saviours of Jammu Kashmir

'Many riculum. freedom

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Opposition meet rejects delimitation report; terms it

9 JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Monday transferred nine JKAS officers.

According to the order issued the Manoj Kumar Principal Dwivedi, Secretary. General Administration Department, Farooq Ahmad, JKAS, Private Secretary in the J&K Public Service Commission, has been transferred and posted as General Manager, J&K Road Transport

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two SHOs among six officers transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Superintendent of Police Kathua, R.C Kotwal on Monday transferred two House Officers (SHOs) among six police personnel.

As per order, Inspector (now DySP) Kuldeep Raj, has been transferred from Police Station Billawar and posted to DPL Kathua: Inspector Sumeet Sharma from DPL Kathua to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sedition law will be re-examined Centre tells Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday said it has decided to "re-examine and re-consider" the sedition law by an appropriate forum, in a change of stance just two days after stoutly defending the colonial era penal law, and also urged the Supreme Court not to "invest time" in examining the validity of its provisions once again.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs in an affidavit filed before the apex court said the decision was in tune with the views of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on shedding colonial baggage, noting he has been in favour of protection of civil liberties and respect of human rights and in that spirit, over 1,500 outdated laws and over 25,000 compliance burdens have been scrapped.

The PM believes that at a time when the country is marking 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' (75 years since independence), we need to, as

nial laws and practice, it said. Various offences which were causing "mindless hindrances" to people have been decriminalised, it added.

shed colonial baggage that

has passed its utility which

includes outdated laws, colo-

Asserting that it was cognizant of various views and concerns about civil liberties. the Centre at the same time said it was committed to protecting the sovereignty and integrity of this great nation

In the earlier written submissions on May 7, the Centre had defended the sedition law and the 1962 verdict of a Constitution bench upholding its validity, contending that it had withstood "the test of time" for about six decades and the instances of its abuse would never be a justification for a reconsideration.

"Instances of the abuse of provision would never be a

Hybrid terrorist arrested from Baramulla;

hideout busted in Poonch

Constitution bench. The remedy would lie in preventing such abuse on a case-tocase basis rather than doubting a long-standing settled law declared by a Constitution bench for about six decades," according to the submissions filed before the top court through Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

A bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli on May 5 had said it would hear arguments on May 10 on the legal question of whether the clutch of pleas challenging the sedition law be referred to a larger bench for reconsidering the 1962 verdict of a five-judge constitution bench in the Kedar Nath Singh case.

The top court, in 1962, had upheld the validity of the sedition law while attempting to restrict its scope for misuse. It had held that unless accompanied by

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Prof Keshav Sharma appointed VC, ICFAI University, HP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Son of the soil. Prof. Keshav Sharma, formerly Dean Academic Affairs and Professor of Management Studies, The Business School, University of Jammu has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious ICFAI University, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh for a period of three appointment was

endorsed by the Governing Board of the ICFAI Group of Educational Institutions and the Search Committee comprising V. R. Shankara, President ICFAI Group; Dr. R. P. Kaushik, Prof. of International Relations

American Studies Centre, SIS, JNU and Former Ambassador and Member UGC; Prof. Bhano Ji Rao, an eminent educationist; Prof. Haragopal Reddy, a legal luminary and Dr. Mahinder Reddy, IFHE, Hyderabad, all former Vice-Chancellors.

biased, against basic norms, geographical situations **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: All major opposition parties including

Congress, Naional Conference, PDP CPIM CPI, IDP besides several social organisations like statehood Mission. Deshbhagat Yaadgar Committee,, and others have jointly rejected the delimitation report, in a meeting at Press Club on Monday and decided to jointly launch the struggle to oppose it and awaken the general public, starting from a joint dharna this Week, în front of election commission.

Terming the report against

geographical realities norms of uniform population, compactness continguity, connectivity and public convenience besides highly biased and politically motivated , at the behest of ruling BJP, the meeting decided to launch a sustained campaign to oppose it in public and educate the masses, starting from a silent sit in Dharna in-front of election commission here.

The Leaders of opposition political parties and organisations, after detailed deliberations, for three hours, a joint reaction strongly criticised the final report, attacking it on

grounds and referring to different areas, which have been Disturbed and unreasonably adjusted/readjusted ignoring ground realities of continguity, connectivity and public convenience.

The commission has totally ignored the ground realities and neglected the convenience and aspirations of the people of different areas, widened gap of population between different constituencies ranging from 37000 population to 1.90 lakh population, ignored the geographical, topographical situations and broadly public convenience, who have been put to great inconvenience

finalised, without properly considering the large no repthe general public and opposition parties.

areas. .

resentations submitted by

The exercise of public hear-

ing by the commission was

an eye wash a? the draft

report was prepared at

behest of riling party, which

was widely opposed by the

people from different areas,

regions, districts and assem-

bly segments, on various gen-

uine reasons but same was

The commission has neglected the fundamental

and their aspirations neglected in many ways in different

POONCH: Security forces arrested a "hybrid" terrorist from Baramulla district on Monday and seized arms and ammunition from his possession, police said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

During routine vehicle checking at a mobile checkpost set up near Baramulla's Juhama crossing, the security forces intercepted a man who, on seeing them, tried to flee, a police spokesperson

However, the man was tactfully apprehended by the alert personnel, the police spokesperson said, adding that he was identified as Tawheed Ahmad Haroon, Late

Six units of J&K police declared police stations,

Mohammad, resident of Delina Ghat, Baramulla. Incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including a pistol, a pistol magazine and nine live rounds, were seized from his possession, the

spokesperson said. A preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested terrorist had obtained the illegal arms and ammunition with the intention to carry out terror activities in Baramulla and its adjacent areas, he added.

A case has been registered and investigation taken up, the police spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, a terrorist

CONTR ON PA

Lt Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla takes over as GoC 15 Corps

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Lieutenant General Amardeep Singh

Aujla on Monday took over as new General Officer Comma. nding of the strate-

gically located Chinar Corps. which mans the Line of Control with

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Encounter breaks out in Shopian

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Shopian district on Monday, police said. Security forces launched a

cordon and search operation in Pandoshan area of the district following

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 19:16 Hours

Sunrise: 05:39 Hours

No unauthorised construction allowed on land acquired by JDA at Majeen Rangoora: HC

JAMMU: In a petition filed by inhabitants of vil-Majeen Rangoora Sidhra, Justice Rajneesh Oswal in landmark order, directed that no unauthorized construction shall be raised on land acquired by Development Jammu Authority. Justice Oswal also Rajnesh directed VC JDA & Commissioner Deputy Jammu to file detailed status report with regard to alleged encroachments

In the petition, petition-

Rifles who had eliminated 72

insurgents and captured 13

others alive in a single opera-

tion in Jammu and Kashmir

30 years ago, were on

Monday felicitated by the

para-military force here, an

Two of their comrades died

during Operation Dudhi, a

counter-insurgency offen-

sive, in 1991 and their wives

were present at the pro-

gramme held in the Assam

It is the largest and most successful counter-insur-

gency operation in the coun-

All eight surviving person-

nel of the Assam Riffles and

family members of two oth-

try ever, the official said.

Rifles headquarters.

ers seeking direction to respondents to evict encroachers from the State land situated at villages Majeen, Rangoora, Sidhra Tehsil and District which acquired for development of Satellite Township at Sidhra by JDA details of land Khasra Nos. 11, 12, 14, 115, 117, 119, 15 etc., situated at village Majeen, Rangoora & Sidhra, Tehsil and District Jammu and also directing respondents to develop lands in accordance with the purpose for which it was acquired

of Satellite Township. Sidhra', or restore the lands back to its original owners from whom the lands in question were acquired for aforemenwas tioned public purpose and also seeking direction to respondents to prosecute and take legal action against the encroachers and all others including Govt (officials responsible for perpetual encroachment of lands in question, acquired and finalize 'Development of Satellite Township Sidhra. Assam Rifles men felicitated for killing

Boy dies, 3 children hospitalised after consuming poisonous herb in Ramban ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A 12vear-old boy died while three girls were hospitalised after consuming some poisonous herb in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Monday.

The children were playing in a forest area near Rakhjaroh village in Batote area on Sunday when they consumed the unknown wild herb, a police official said.

He said they fell unconscious after vomiting and rushed to the Community Health Centre, Batote, where one of

empowered to lodge & probe cases STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday declared six units of UT's police department as police stations, according them the statutory power to register and probe a wide range of offences, including those with political motive or involving arms and ammuni-

The J&K government made new arrangement through a notification issued by its Home Department.

The notification signed by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary)

R K Goyal declared Special Crime Wings, Economic Offences Wings and Cyber Crime Investigation Centers for Excellence of both Jammu and Srinagar

regions as police stations. The notification also bestowed upon all six units of the Crime Branch of the UT police statutory powers underthe Criminal Procedure Code.

It also made the superintendents of police, heading SCWs and EOWs of both Jammu and Srinagar and deputy SPs heading CICEs of Jammu and Srinagar as

the station house officer of their units, now declared police stations.

The six police stations shall for the purpose of registration and investigation of offences, specified against each, exercise territorial jurisdiction within their respective units at the divisional level and the offences shall be investigated on the orders of the head of the Crime Branch, the order

The order said apart from offences specified for probe by these police stations,

J&K cops to be armed with corner shot weapon system

STATE TIMES NEWS ers who died in the operation **STATE TIMES NEWS** SHILLONG: Eight survivwere flown in, and today, the ing personnel of the Assam DG of the Assam Riffles

Operation Dudhi was led by

snow-laden camp at Dudhi

from Bari Baihk when the

troops came under attack

from militants that had infil-

Despite being greatly out-

numbered, troops of the 7th

Battalion were unfazed.

Equipped with only 7.62 mm

self-loading rifles and a light

machine gun, the brave sol-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

trated into the area.

diers used tact to

72 Kashmir terrorists 30 years ago

UDHAMPUR: The highly felicitated them for their act sophisticated ShootEdge' corner shot pisof valour in 1991, a spokesperson of the force tol weapon system will be inducted by the Jammu and Conducted on May 3, 1991. Kashmir Police for close combat and 100 of these will Subedar Padam Bahadur be delivered, according to Chhetri. He along with othcompany officials. ers had moved toward the

It facilitates shooting around corners and over the top of walls, without exposing the person using the pistol, they said. Security officials said that

this modern weapon will protect members of anti-terrorist operation parties from coming in direct fire from terrorists in close combat, which mostly takes place in congested and populated areas in Kashmir.

"Recently, we have received an order from the Jammu and Kashmir Police for (procurement of) 100 such sys-Senior Manager Sales, Zen Technologies, Baljeet Singh, told PTI. The weapon system had

been put on display by Zen technologies at the two-day Northern Tech Symposium organised by the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district to identify cutting-edge technologies it needs for solving operational challenges. The symposium ended on Sunday.

Singh said that it is under manufacturing and will be delivered to the police force in the next two to three "The period. months

National Security Guard (NSG) has procured it," he added. The 'ShootEdge' system

helps fire accurately in darkness and low light conditions and also facilitates firing from standing, kneeling, hip as well as lying positions, officials of the company said.

It can be fitted with a pistol such as a Glock 17, Glock 19 or 9mm Browning for close combat or covert operations, they added.

The system is mounted with high-resolution low light infrared camera, an infrared illumination, a red dot laser and tactical torch for all environments during the close combat. With 'Shoot Edge', the pistol can be

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Gang involved in ATM card swap scam busted in Samba, 6 held



Accused persons in police custody.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have busted a gang involved in ATM card swapping in Samba district with the arrest of six people. all residents of Punjab.

The action followed a complaint lodged at Vijaypur police station about incidents

of swapping of cards at ATM kiosks and fraudulent withdrawal of money, a police spokesman said. All the arrested gang mem-

bers are from Phagwara, Kapurthala (Puniab) and they have been identified as. Rahul kumar, son of Jaganath Saini,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9