

03 Div Com highlights role of media in presenting true picture before society

09 Efforts afoot to restore glorious heritage of J&K: Sinha

10 JK Public School Kunjwani shines in Inter-Zone District Level Tournaments

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Govt shields farmers, fertilizer prices shot up in global markets due to pandemic, war: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has tried to ensure that farmers in the country are not affected even though the prices of fertilizers in international markets have soared due to the pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine.

Inaugurating virtually a 'nano urea' plant of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) in the district, he said eight more such plants will be set up, and they can reduce our foreign dependence and save money.

The prime minister addressed the 'Sahkar Se Samruddhi' conclave of cooperative entities at the Mahatma Mandir auditorium here. He inaugurated the IFFCO plant virtually during the same event.

With the liquid urea plant, the power of a full sack (50 kg) of urea has come into a half-litre bottle, leading to



PM Narendra Modi at seminar of leaders of various cooperative institutions on 'Sahkar Se Samruddhi' at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar on Saturday.

huge savings in transportation and storage. The plant will produce about 1.5 lakh bottles of 500 ml per day, he said, adding that eight more such plants will be set up in the country.

This will reduce foreign dependence with regard to urea, and save the country's money. I am confident that this innovation will not

remain restricted to urea. In the future, other nano fertilizers will be available to our farmers," he said.

The nano-technology will be crucial for achieving the goal of Atma-nirbharata (self-reliance), the prime minister said.

In the last two years, the cost of fertilisers rose sharply in the international markets

due to coronavirus lockdown. War (in Ukraine) has restricted the availability of fertilisers in the international market and this increased the prices more, Modi said.

Despite difficulties due to the international situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic and more recently, the Russia-Ukraine war, which raised the cost and made procurement hard, the government has tried to ensure that it will face the difficulties without letting the farmers get affected, he added.

A urea bag costing Rs 3,500 is made available to the farmer for Rs 300 while the government bears a cost of Rs 3,200 per bag, he said.

Similarly, for every bag of DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate), government bears a cost of Rs 2,500 against Rs 500 borne by earlier governments, Modi said.

"The Union government gave a subsidy of

Four SPOs dismissed over links with bovine smugglers in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Four special police officers were removed from service after a departmental inquiry found them having links with cattle smugglers in Ramban district, officials said on Saturday.

Ramban Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma ordered the disengagement of the SPOs - Fulail Singh, Ajeet Singh, Satish Singh and Mohd Ayoub alias 'Mundri' --

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Wani posted in ACB J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Saturday transferred Zahoor Ahmed Wani, JKPS, Addl. SP, CID CI, Kashmir and posted in the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), J&K, with immediate effect.

The order in this regard was issued by R.K. Goyal, F i n a n c i a l Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department.

Two ultras eliminated in Bijbehara; terrorist associate held in Baramulla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district of on Saturday, police said.

Acting on specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in Shitipora area of Bijbehara in the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said.

He said as the forces were conducting the searches in the area, the terrorists fired upon them.

The forces retaliated, ensuring an encounter in which two terrorists were killed, the official said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the slain were affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) outfit.

Killed #terrorists identified as Ishfaq Ah Ganie, resident of Chakwangund, #Anantnag & Yawar Ayub



Dar, resident of Dogripora, #Awantipora, affiliated with proscribed #terror outfit HM. The duo were involved in several #terror crimes, the IGP Kashmir said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, a terrorist associate was arrested with arms and ammunition in Baramulla district, police said.

Security forces on Friday established a routine mobile vehicle checkpoint at the Authoora Bala bridge in north Kashmir's Baramulla. During the checking, the joint party intercepted a per-

son whose movement raised suspicion, a police official said.

He said the person tried to flee on noticing the naka party. However, he was tactfully apprehended by the alert joint party.

The militant associate was identified as Mohammad Saleem Khan, a resident of Shrawara Kreeri, he added.

During a search, arms and ammunition including a pistol, a pistol magazine and five pistol rounds were recovered from Khan's

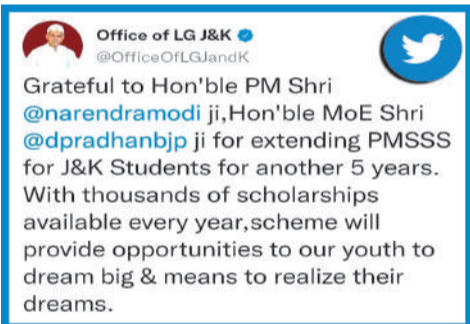
■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme for J&K Students extended for another 5 years: LG Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/NEW DELHI: The Union Government has

ing new educational institutions in the newly created Union Territories.



of the encouraging response it has received. The government wants to continue the scholarship along with a simultaneous focus on open-

On Late Saturday evening, LG Manoj Sinha posted on his twitter handle "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Seven charge-sheeted for selling fake helicopter tickets to Vaishno Devi pilgrims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Seven persons allegedly involved in selling fake helicopter tickets to Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims were charge-sheeted on Saturday in a court in Reasi district, police said.

While four of the accused were arrested from Rajasthan in March, three were held from Bihar in May during the investigation into complaints regarding duping of pilgrims who were sold online fake helicopter tickets for the journey from Katra to the hill shrine.

As many as fake websites were also identified and



blocked during the investigation of the cases, a police spokesman said.

He said the charge sheets were filed in two cases registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act against the seven accused.

The accused were identified as Sunil Chawla, Monu Pankaj, Deepak Kumar and Gajanand Meghwal of

J&K reports 7 fresh COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported seven fresh Covid cases -- six from the Jammu division and one from the Valley-thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 454234.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 454234 positive cases, 63 are Active Positive (45 in Jammu Division and 18 in Kashmir Division), 449419 recovered and 4752 have died; 2328 in Jammu division and 2424 in Kashmir division. Providing district-wise breakup for

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ACB nabs Patwari while accepting bribe of Rs 5,000

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has nabbed one Nazir Ahmad, Patwari, Zildar Office, Hajin, Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Sumbal, Bandipora for demanding and accepting Rs 5,000 from a complainant.

As per an official spokesperson, the sleuths of ACB received a complaint against one Nazir Ahmad, working as a Patwari, Zildar Office, Hajin, Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Sumbal for allegedly demanding bribe from complainant for not taking any coercive action

against him during demolition drive. The official further said that complainant, who is a resident of village Sadunara, stated that he runs a bike-repair workshop at Sadunara, Yarbapora, Bandipora and on May 24, 2022, the officials of Irrigation & Flood Control Sub-Division, Hajin launched a demolition drive on Irrigation canal, Galbal, Sadunara. "As the complainant had fenced about 3-ft of the irrigation canal land with tin sheets, Patwari of Zildar Office, Hajin, I&FC, Nazir Ahmad who was also with the enforcement team,

came to his workshop and demanded bribe of Rs 5,000 for not demolishing his fenced wall. The complainant further stated that as he is unemployed and cannot pay such huge amount, but Patwari insisted on his demand with threat that his tin-sheeted wall will be demolished. Under these circumstances, he approached ACB and requested for legal action against accused official," he added.

The spokesperson person stated that as contents of complaint prima facie disclosed commission of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

10 trapped passengers rescued in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ten passengers including a child were rescued by a joint party of army and police along Mughal road in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said on Saturday. A landslide had resulted in trapping of six vehicles with 10 passengers in no network zone in an area prone to shooting stones near Peer Ki Gali on Mughal road amid inclement weather, the spokesman said.

He said a rescue operation was launched by the army and police around 11 pm Friday and four trucks and two light motor vehicles were found trapped with passengers scared for their lives.

After reassuring them, the rescue team immediately began clearing the road and subsequently 10 persons including a woman and a child were rescued and brought to Army post Poshana where they were served refreshment with heating arrangements, the spokesman said.

44 Kg narcotics worth Rs 200 Crore seized along LoC in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the biggest seizure of its kind, security forces recovered 44 kg of narcotics worth over Rs 200 crore along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

The recovery was made during a three-day long joint operation by Army and Police in Malti-Bagaldara following information about possible attempt by cross-border smugglers to push a huge consignment of narcotics into this side to fund terror activities, the officials said.

They said the joint operation was launched on Wednesday and the successful recovery of the drugs foiled a major attempt by the enemy forces.

However, no one was arrested in connection with the recovery, the officials said.



Security personnel along with seized consignment of narcotics along IB in Poonch.

LG Sinha, Dr Jitendra inaugurate North India's first Industrial Biotech Park in Kathua

Together with advances in Data Analytics, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Biotech Park will accelerate change: LG Kathua's Industrial Biotech Park to act as StartUp hub for incubation of new ideas and will support Agri-entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, scientists & scholars not only from Jammu and Kashmir, but also from neighbouring States like Punjab & Himachal Pradesh: Dr Jitendra Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/KATHUA: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Union Minister of State in PMO with Independent charge of Science and Technology Department, Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated the North India's first Industrial Biotech Park constructed at Ghatti near Kathua.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said the Central Government through the department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, has taken a number of initiatives to accelerate the growth of

biotechnology by promoting development of innovative technologies, infrastructure, human resources and industry, which has helped the sector to gain global visibility.

This is the historic day for J&K as the name of Kathua is now listed among those developed regions of India where biotech parks have been established, attracting innovations and research not only from the country but from the whole world, Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, said after inaugurating the park along with J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

Singh, who represents



LG Manoj Sinha addressing during inauguration of North India's first-ever Industrial Biotech Park in Kathua on Saturday. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh is also seen.

Udhampur Parliamentary constituency, said that the

next 25 years are very crucial for this country and when

India would be celebrating its 100 years of independence in

2047, the youth of Kathua would be among the great contributors towards making India a 'Vishwa Guru' (World leader).

Kathua is, because of its resource richness with diversity as well as its geographical location, destined to be North India's StartUp destination, he said.

Singh said the Biotech Park would act as hub for incubation of new ideas and will act as a robust platform to support the Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, progressive farmers, scientists, scholars and students not only from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also from nearby

states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

The biotechnology park at Kathua has a potential to produce 25 startups in a year which will be among its great contributions to this region, the local MP said, adding with the unlocking of space technology in India under Modi, 60 startups have been established in only one-and-a-half-years.

He said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi without any regional bias, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has seen a new dawn of development in education,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 37.6°C Min: 22.6°C

Humidity

Max: 50 Min: 32

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 23.5°C Min: 13.2°C

Humidity

Max: 78 Min: 60

Sunset : 19:32 Hours

Sunrise : 05:24 Hours