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

Kashmir-bound tanker filled with 573 Kg poppy

U straw seized at Kathua, driver arrested

Oath by the President in terms of Art-60 includes to preserve, protect & defend Constitution & the law

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **ADGP Jammu dedicates renovated** police gym to cops

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

Cabinet nod to free COVID precaution doses for 18-59 years age-group from July 15

NEW DELHI: People in the 18-59 age group can get free precaution doses of the Covid vaccine at government vaccination centres under a 75day special drive likely to begin from July 15, the government said on Wednesday.

The drive, aimed at boosting the administration of Covid precaution doses, will be held as part of the government's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, it said.

Information Broadcasting Minister Thakur Anurag told reporters the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

In a tweet, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, free COVID-19 precaution dose will be administered to all the citizens above the age of 18



years at government vaccination centres from July 15 for the next 75 days"

This will provide protection to all adults from the virus, the minister asserted.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government's decision to administer free precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all citizens aged above 18 will further India's vaccination coverage and create a healthier

In a tweet, Modi said, "Vaccination is an effective

Today's Cabinet decision will further India's vaccination coverage and create a health-

Responding to a question, Mandaviya said people would have to pay if they visit a private facility to get the precaution dose.

Noting that some people had created doubts over the efficacy of vaccines developed in the country, he said there is a need for a booster dose for everyone and "no one will have to pay for it.'

He did not share details on

Mandaviya thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision.

"The decision will further strengthen India's fight against COVID-19 and add an extra layer of safety! I urge all those eligible to get their precaution dose at the earliest," he added. So far, less than 1 per cent

of the target population of 77.10 crore in the 18-59 age group has been administered precaution dose. However, 25.84 per cent of the 16.80 crore eligible population aged 60 and above as well as health care and frontline workers have received the booster dose, an official

source said. "A majority of the Indian population got their second dose over nine months ago. Studies at ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and other international research institutions have suggested that antibody

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Revised non-gazetted recruitment rules of **H&ME** Deptt notified ■ STATE TIMĖS NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department has revised and notified the nongazetted recruitment rules of the Sub-ordinate services.

The J&K Health and Medical Education (Subordinate) Services Recruitment Rules, 1992 were last notified vide

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25,000 seats added with establishment of 50 new colleges in J&K in a year ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The education sector of J&K has achieved landmark strides in last few years by effectively implementing all schemes and projects envisaging a notable improvement in the existing curriculum besides embarking upon various innovative new projects and works.

With an aim to reform the educational ecosystem and infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, the largest single addition

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Charri Mubarak taken for 'Bhoomi Pujan' to Pahalgam

Fresh batch of 6,400 pilgrims leaves Jammu for Amarnath Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG/JAMMU: As per past practice, the "Charri Mubarak" (holy mace of Lord Shiva) was carried to Pahalgam on Wednesday for special traditional 'Bhoomi-Pujan', 'Navgrah Pujan' and 'Dhawajarohan' ceremonies.

The rituals were conducted in presence of Sadhus and devotees led by Mahant Deepindra Giri.

The group was warmly received and welcomed by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla along with SSP Anantnag at Gaurishankar Pahalgam temple.

DDC Chairperson, Officers of paramilitary force, Army, SDM Pahalgam, Tehsildar Pahalgam and other officers were also present on the occasion. As per age-old tradition,

Bhoomi-Pujan, Navgrah Pujan and Dhwajarohan rituals connected with the Charri-Mubarak annual



'Dhawajarohan' ceremonies of holy mace being conducted by Mahant Deepindra Giri and other saints.

performed Pahalgam.

Adequate arrangements were put in place for smooth conduct of ceremonies by the District Administration.

DDC chairperson while speaking on the occasion said that his best wishes are with the pilgrims and prayed for a

The Charri Mubarak was also taken to the historical Martand Sun Temple Mattan and similar rituals were performed there.

Meanwhile, amid tight security, the 14th batch of 6,400 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims this morning left from the Jammu camp for

Eastern Ladakh row: India, China likely to hold military talks on July 17

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India and China are likely to hold the 16th round of high-level military talks on July 17 to resolve the issues in remaining friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. people familiar with the development said Wednesday.

The last round of talks between the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) took place on March 11.

In the fresh round of talks. the Indian side is expected to press for disengagement of troops as soon as possible in

Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Army foiled an infiltration bid by suspected militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said on Wednesday.

Suspected militants on Tuesday night tried to infiltrate this side of the border. the Army officials said, adding the alert troops thwarted their attempt.

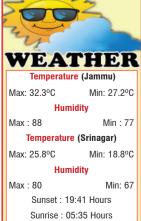
Fix last date of UG admissions after declaration of CBSE Class 12 results: UGC to universities **STATE TIMES NEWS**

Grants University Commission asked universities to fix their

deadline for admission to undergraduate courses after the declaration of CBSE Class 12 results, Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said on Wednesday.

Noting that some universities have started their

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



all the remaining friction points besides seeking resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

"The 16th round of Corps Commander-level talks are likely to take place on July 17," said a source.

The situation in eastern Ladakh figured prominently in last week's talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Bali.

At the one-hour meeting in Bali on the sidelines of a conclave of foreign ministers of the G20 nations, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ier nation.

J&K policemen 'soft' targets for terrorists, ASI Ahmed 11th cop to die since January 2022 Dogra staffers who are on

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: They can be easily spotted in a bustling marketplace buying vegetables or dropping their children to school. The everyday ordinariness of their lives has rendered the Jammu and Kashmir police personnel "soft targets", as they fight a seemingly endless battle against militancy in the val-

Assistant Sub-Inspector Mushtaq Ahmad Tuesday became the 49th victim of terrorist violence in the past over six months in Jammu and Kashmir, where terror attacks on soft targets have

hearts of Kashmiri people: Farooq

est hurdle" in the fight against terrorism.

Girdhari Lal Raina told reporters here.

the city on Tuesday, he said

people will keep on dying till

a solution to the Kashmir

The caravan of terrorism

issue is found.

Why NC failed to win hearts of people, retorts BJP

JAMMU: The BJP on Wednesday accused the National

Conference (NC) and the Gupkar Alliance of being the "great-

Instead of educating youngsters about the futility of violence

and terrorism, these "dynastic politicians are instigating peo-

ple by their statements", spokesperson of the BJP's J-K unit

He was reacting to National Conference president Farooq

Abdullah's statement on Wednesday that militancy in

Kashmir will not end until the government wins the hearts of

the people in the Valley and seeks a solution by talking to

Pakistan. "The NC and Gupkar alliance CONTD ON PAGE 9

shown an upward trend despite successful counterinsurgency operations by the security forces.

Ahmad (56) was martyred and his two subordinates constables Fayaz Ahmad and Abu Bakar were injured when terrorists opened fire on their patrol at Lal Bazar on the outskirts of Srinagar. He is the 11th state police-

man to have been martyred by terrorists in Kashmir since January, officials said on Wednesday. Six army personnel and five paramilitary jawans have also laid down their lives this year taking the total number of fallen Terrorism won't end till Govt wins

security personnel to 22. Last year, a total of 42 security forces personnel were martyred in the valley. Of them, 21 were from the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Ironically, Ahmad's son Aaqib Mushtaq, an alleged

"terrorist associate" was killed in an encounter in Kulgam in April 2020. Among the 49 victims of terrorist violence, 27 are civilians who fell to targeted attacks in different parts of

the valley, setting off panic among Kashmiri migrant Pandit employees engaged under Prime Minister's employment package and

J&K reports 140 fresh COVID cases, Ladakh 5

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded 140fresh Covid cases-- 96 from the Jammu Division and 44 from the Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases to 456291 in the Union Territory.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 456291 positive cases, 769 are Active Positive, 450764 have recovered and 4758 have died; 2333 in the Jammu Division and 2425 in the Valley.

district-wise Providing breakup for positive cases during the past 24 hours,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

According to a police official, terrorists are looking for soft targets to make their presence felt without encoun-

strike since May demanding

relocation from Kashmir to

Jammu.

tering much trouble. The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said since the police constituted the first line of defence, they were in the line of terrorist

Police is spread thin. It is the first line of defence. The Army is deeply entrenched in camps and rightly so

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Sunjwan terror attack case: NIA conducts searches at multiple locations in Kashmir valley

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR:

National Investigation Agency on Wednesday conducted searches at three locations in the Kashmir valley in connection with a terrorist attack in Jammu's Sunjwan area in April, an official said.

The searches were carried out at two locations in Anantnag district and one in Pulwama district of south Kashmir, leading to the seizure of different types of "incriminating material," a spokesperson of the federal agency said.

The case relates to the

Industrial Security Force bus by two heavily armed Pashto-speaking terrorists on April 22 that left a CISF officer dead and nine security personnel injured.

Both the terrorists, who had infiltrated from across the border and travelled in a mini-truck from Sapwal in Samba to Jammu, were eliminated in an encounter.

The NIA took over the case on April 26.

So far, three people, including the mini-truck driver and his helper, have been arrested in connecattack on a Central tion with the case.

Yasin Malik seeks physical presence in court to contest Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping case

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKLF chief Yasin Malik on Wednesday told a CBI court that he wants to cross question witnesses in the 1989 Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping case himself in a physical hearing else he would sit on hunger strike in prison, officials said.

They said Malik appeared before the court through video conferencing and said that he had written to the government for a physical appearance.

The chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front who is undergoing a life sentence in

a terror funding case also informed the court that he has requested for cross examination of witnesses himself and would sit on a hunger strike if his plea was not accepted by the govern-

Malik told the court that he was awaiting a response from the government till July 22 failing which he would start his indefinite hunger strike, the officials said.

The JKLF chief is at present lodged in the high-securitv Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in Delhi in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 terror-funding case registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The present case relates to the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Saveed, by JKLF on December 8, 1989.

She was freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh government at the Centre, supported by the BJP, released five JKLF terrorists in exchange. The case had gone into virtual

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India to continue crusade against corruption, says Dr Jitendra at BRICS meet

will not end. Their (BJP)

ministers and other leaders

issue statements that it has

ended, but I want to tell

STATE TIMES NEWS

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Militancy in

Kashmir will not end until

the government wins the

hearts of the people in the

Valley and seeks a solution by

talking to Pakistan, National

Conference President Farooq

Abdullah said on Wednesday.

police officer by terrorists in

Condemning the killing of a

NEW DELHI: India today reiterated its commitment against corruption and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has adopted a policy of zero tolerance in this regard.

Addressing the BRICS Ministerial meet on Anti-Corruption, on behalf of India, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State Charge) Earth (Independent Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India under Modi is determined to continue its crusade against corruption and unaccounted money. In pursuance of this, he said, a range of initiatives have been taken by the Modi government over the last

Dr Jitendra Singh referred to the India's Prevention of Corruption Act,



introduce a number of new provisions

including criminalizing the act of giv-

ing bribe also in addition to taking

bribe and at the same time putting in

amended after 30 years in 2018 to

place an effective deterrence for such actions by individuals as well as corporate entities. He also pointed out that the institution of Lokpal has been operationalized by appointment of Chairperson and Members. Lokpal is statutorily mandated to directly receive and process complaints as regards alleged offences against public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Dr Jitendra Singh informed the

Ministers of the BRICS countries and distinguished delegates the various anti-corruption efforts taken by India in the recent past like the effective implementation of e-Governance through extensive use of ICT tools which has reduced the scope of corruption substantially at all levels. He said, steps like MCA21 (for corporates & business houses e-measures), Fully automated Income Tax compliances, Commercial taxes compli-

ances, Passport & Visa services, Digi Locker, Pensions, Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) through Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB), Common Services Centers (CSCs), etc. are few of the successful e-Government endeavors launched under various e-Governance initiatives

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out that systemic improvements and reforms to provide transparent citizen-friendly services and disbursement of welfare benefits directly to the citizens under various schemes of the Government in a transparent manner through the Direct Benefit Transfer initiative checked the menace of corruption in a significant manner. He also added that the National e-Governance Services Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) framework which was conceptualized and launched in August 2018, assesses the effective **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Martyrs' Day in Kashmir

No function held to mark

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: For the third consecutive year, no function was held to commemorate the 'Martyrs' Day in Kashmir to pay homage to 22 Kashmiri people who were allegedly killed on this day in 1931, officials said on Wednesday.

July 13 was a public holiday in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and a grand official function was held every year on this day where the chief minister or the governor would be the chief guest.

However, the administration dropped the day from the list of gazetted holidays in 2020, after the abrogation of Article 370 and splitting of the erstwhile state into two union territories by the

Centre on August 5, 2019. No function was held at the

Martyrs' graveyard in the city while no holiday was observed for the third time on Wednesday, the officials The officials said, this year

no mainstream political leader visited the graveyard. They added that there were no restrictions on the movement of people

However, the National Conference said it had applied to the Srinagar District Magistrate for permission to visit the graveyard for paying tributes to the martyrs of 1931 but it was not allowed.

The party decried the dillydallying tactics of the administration on not allowing

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9