

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 27 Issue 263 • Jammu • Friday • September 23, 2022 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.00



**19** BJP will do justice with daily <mark>UU</mark> wagers: Ravinder Raina

### 9 drug-peddlers arrested with heroin, cash

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

### CS throws open LG's Rolling **Trophy Cricket tournament**

Coming to sanctioning dreaded terrorists,

# NIA crackdown on PFI in 15 states; 106 leaders, activists arrested

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

NEW DELHI: In a massive crackdown on the Popular Front of India (PFI), multiagency teams spearheaded by the NIA arrested 106 leaders and activists of the radical Islamic outfit on Thursday in near simultaneous raids in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country, officials said.

Kerala, where the PFI has some strong pockets, accounted for the maximum number of 22 arrests with its chairman O M A Salam among those picked up, officials said, adding the countrywide arrests were a result. of a "largest ever" investigation process against the outfit "till date"

The raids by the National Investigation Agency(NIA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the police forces of the states concerned were spread across 93 locations in 15 states--Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi,



Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, West Bengal, Bihar and Manipur, officials said.

Maharashtra Karnataka accounted for 20 arrests each, Tamil Nadu (10), Assam (9), Uttar Pradesh (8),Andhra Pradesh (5),Madhya Pradesh (4), Puducherry and Delhi (3 each) Rajasthan (2), they said.

The raids began at 3:30 am and involved a total of 300 NIA officials from its various offices across the country. they added.

The raids sparked an angry

Following the mega crack-

The PFI, formed in 2006, claims to strive for a neosocial movement ostensibly for the empowerment of marginalised sections of India. and is often accused by law enforcement agencies of pro-

During the searches, officials said incriminating docuweapons were found and a large number of digital devices also seized.

The offices of the top brass of the PFI and members were searched in connection with five cases registered by the NIA following continued inputs and evidence against the leaders and cadres for their alleged involvement in funding of terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps for providing armed training and radicalising people to join banned organisations, they said.

The 106 arrests were made separately by agencies involved in the operation, with the NIA alone accounting for 45 of them as part of probe in five cases. As on date, the NIA is investigating a total of 19 cases involving the PFI.

As many as 19 accused were arrested by the NIA from Kerala, 11 from Tamil Nadu, 7 from Karnataka, 4 from AP, 2 from Rajasthan, and 1 each from UP

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#### **Security forces** recover explosives near LoC in Poonch ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday recovered explosives near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. During a search operation, Army troops found a bag near the LoC in Noorkot area, they said. They recovered a radio set, grenades, one circuit and one metal box, which is likely be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). from the bag, they said.

### Rajesh posted as Prpl Secy PDD

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday posted IAS officer as Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD). "Consequent upon the transfer of H. Rajesh Prasad, IAS (AGMUT: 1995) from National Capital Territory of Delhi to Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and, the officer is posted as Principal Secretary, Power

Development Department with immediate effect," reads an order issued by Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary, GAD.

### impunity facilitated in UNSC: India Don't think reference to J&K at UN is helpful: India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said any reference to Jammu and Kashmir at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) was not useful or helpful as it needs to be resolved bilaterally in accordance with the Shimla Agreement.

Addressing the ongoing UNGA in New York Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "India and Pakistan, after having established their sovereignty and independence 75 years ago, they still haven't established peace and solidarity between one another. This is much unfortunate. We hope and pray that a fair and permanent peace and prosperity will be established in Kashmir."

Responding to questions on the remarks made by the Turkish President, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said, "I don't think reference to Jammu and Kashmir at the UNGA is useful or helpful". In 2019, during an address at the general debate of ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

General Assembly.

Addressing the Council briefing were UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly and Foreign Ministers of other UNSC

members.

"Politics should never ever provide cover to evade accountability. Nor indeed to facilitate impunity. Regrettably, we have seen this of late in this very Chamber, when it comes to sanctioning of some of the world's most dreaded terrorists, Jaishankar said, with China listening. "If egregious attacks committed in

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### **Cong issues notification for AICC President** polls; contest likely after over 2 decades

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday issued a notification for the party president poll, setting the ball rolling for electing the successor to the longestserving chief Sonia Gandhi. with senior leaders Ashok Gehlot and Shashi Tharoor being seen as potential contenders.

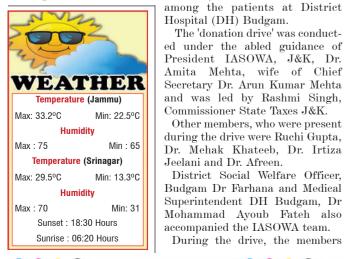
According to the notification issued by the party's central election authority Madhusudan chairman Mistry, the process for filing nominations for the election will be held from September

The scrutiny of the nomi-

#### Govt bans import of bovine animals in J&K, inter-district movement STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday imposed complete ban on import of bovine animals from neighboring inter-district states and movement of bovines within the UT for any purpose, till 25th of October, 2022.

This government order has been issued in the wake of spread of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in J&K and some states of the country as a measure of abundant precaution and in view of declaration of whole UT of J&K as "Controlled Area" for Lumpy Skin Disease vide  $8.0\ 424,\ \mathrm{dated}\ 05.09.2022$ and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 10 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases Act, 2009. The order further said that the decision will be reviewed on the basis of



#### nation papers would take place on October 1, while the last date of withdrawal of nominations would be October 8. The final list of candidates would be pub-

Polling, if required, will take place on October 17. The counting of votes and the declaration of results would be on October 19.

lished at 5 PM on October 8.

Over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee delegates will vote in the polls. The party had also assured leaders that those wanting to file nomination will be able see the list of all 9,000 delegates from the office of

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

Amarjeet Singh Langeh

granted three days police

remand of one Raman

Sharma, son of Chuni Lal,

a resident of village Nore

in Maira Mandrian area of

Khour, presently posted as

Selection Grade Constable

(SgCt) in JKP, Suresh

Sharma, son of Ram Lal

Sharma, a resident of

Kaink Jageer in Akhnoor,

Sharma son of Dhani

Ram, resident of Masyal

Naravana in Khour, a

Government teacher in

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

BUDGAM: Reaching out to the

poor and needy, IAS officers' Wives

Association (IASOWA, J&K) on

Thursday distributed blankets

The 'donation drive' was conduct-

ed under the abled guidance of

President IASOWA, J&K, Dr.

Amita Mehta, wife of Chief

Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta

and was led by Rashmi Singh,

Other members, who were present

during the drive were Ruchi Gupta,

Dr. Mehak Khateeb, Dr. Irtiza

Jeelani and Dr. Afreen.

tout and Jagdish

JAMMU:

CJM Jammu

#### called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Kerala on Friday and termed the arrest of its leaders as a part of "statesponsored terrorism".

response from the PFI which

down, the PFI stares at a possible countrywide ban.

moting radical Islam.

### PIL on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan stampede

## DB allows month's time to J&K UT Admn, Shrine Board to file response

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a significant development, a Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu (through Virtual Mode from Srinagar) comprising its Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sindhu Sharma allowed a month's time to the General Secretary, Administration Department (GAD), Government of J&K, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K.

SI Exam Scam: Court grants 3-day police

remand of cop, Govt teacher, others

CJM Jammu Amarieet

Singh Langeh after perus-

al of CD file observed that

accused were arrested on

September 13, 2022 and

were remanded to police

custody. "Offence under

section 420 of IPC is non-

Investigation is said to be

at crucial stage in so far

as it pertains to the pres-

ent accused. Considering

the nature of allegations

against accused and over-

all gravity of the allega-

tions in the FIR in ques-

tion, a case for grant of

in nature.

bailable

much publicized SI paper further police remand is

Home Department, J&K Government, ADGP(Jammu Divisional Zone). Commissioner Police

(Jammu), Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Katra), SSP Reasi, SDPO Bhawan and SHO Station Bhawan(Katra) in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL No. 12/2022) seeking directions to the Government of J&K to make public the Inquiry Report of 03 Members Committee constituted vide Commissioner Government Order No. 01-

made out by investigating

accused are remanded to

further police custody for

a period of three (3) days

today

24.09.2022. All accused

present did not complain

about any kind of third

degree torture at the

hands of investigating

agency. On expiry of afore-

said remanded period,

accused be produced

before competent forum

reports of accused may

IASOWA distributes blankets among patients at DH Budgam

examination

the Court

further

agency.

from

Medical

also seen,"

Accordingly,

(Additional Chief Secretary)

JK(GAD) of 2022 dated January 1, 2022 to look into the unfortunate incident of stampede at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine (Bhawan) in Katra, in the intervening night of December 31st,2021 and January 1st,2022 which resulted into the unfortunate death of 12 devotees and injuries to several others. These directions were

issued in a PIL field by Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed through Advocate H.A. Siddiqui wherein the public-spirited lawyer has

### COVID: 26 new cases in J&K

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 26 fresh Covid cases on Thursday that took the infection tally to 4,79,018, officials said.

Of the new cases, three were reported from the Jammu division and the rest from the Kashmir valley, they said. The death toll stands at

4,785. No Covid-related fatality was reported from the Union Territory, officials said.

There are 162 active cases, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,74,071, the officials

sought directions to the UT Administration and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (Katra) to fix the accountability of the delinquent officers/officials who remained remiss in the performance of their duties on the fateful night when 12 innocent Yatris lost their precious lives.

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

UNITED NATIONS: India

said on Thursday that it is regrettable that in the UN

Security Council, when it

comes to sanctioning some of

the world's most dreaded ter-

rorists, impunity is being

facilitated and politics pro-

viding cover to evade

accountability, in a veiled jibe

at China which has blocked

blacklisting of Pakistan-

based terrorists on many

"The fight against impunity

is critical to the larger pur-

suit of securing peace and

justice. The Security Council

must send an unambiguous

and unequivocal message on

this count," External Affairs

Minister S Jaishankar told

the 15-nation UN Security

Council briefing on Ukraine

The briefing, chaired by

French Minister for Europe

Catherine Colonna, was held

Thursday as world leaders

gathered in the UN head-

quarters for the high-level

77th session of the UN

Affairs

Foreign

Fight against impunity'.

occasions.

and

After hearing a battery of lawyers appearing for the petitioner in the above said PIL and the petitioner-inperson, the Division Bench headed by Chief

#### J&K highway to remain shut for 4 hours daily till Sept 27 for undertaking repairs STATE TIMES NEWS days from Friday, they said.

### RAMBAN/JAMMU: The

Jammu-Srinagar national highway will remain closed for traffic for four hours daily till September 27 to undertake repairs in various landslides prone areas, officials said.

Traffic would be halted from 3 am to 7 am during the repair work, according to the direction issued by Chief Secretary A K Mehta.

To carry out urgent repairs on shooting stone prone NH-44 stretches by NHAI, including Cafeteria Morh-Mehad, the chief secretary called for a four-hour halt of ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 traffic for a period of five

Mehta asked officers to ensure smooth movement of fruit-laden trucks on the highway.

He also asked officers to complete the double laning of stretches between Banihal and Ramban and its subsequent black topping within a period of 10 days.

The chief secretary underlined the need for creating minimum obstacles for the movement of traffic during the five days and asked officials to halt traffic only during the night when traffic is lean and minimum. He asked officials to look for

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### India's success in popularising digital payment proved sceptics wrong: Sitharaman

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PUNE: The successful implementation of digital payment systems in India has proved the naysayers wrong Union Finance

Minister Sitharaman has said. Speaking on '20 years of Modi gover-

nance' before a gathering of BJP workers here on Wednesday, she credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approach to

Speaking about the initiative,

Rashmi Singh said that aim is to

reach out to the underprivileged

and all weaker sections of the soci-

She said taking forward the char-

ity work started by this associa-

tion, today blankets were distrib-

uted among the patients in

She added that similar activities

and donation drives are being held

people for this success. During the lockdown induced by the COVID-19

governance and his trust in

pandemic, people received money in their bank accounts just by pressing a button, she



"If they could not go to the bank or did not know how to take it, the bank Mitra went to the village and delivered their money," she said.

During the same period some "advanced economies" were writing (aid) checks,

putting them in an envelope and sending them to people through the post, she

Several doubts were raised about how electronic payments would work, especially in rural areas where Internet

connectivity is patchy, but now "in spite of COVID India leads the world in UPI payments," said the minister. It

was Modi's approach to ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### J&K Admn issues orders to hold salaries of KPs on strike in valley

agitating Kashmiri Pandits,

The employees have been staging a dharna since May this year when one of the employees, Rahul Bhat, was shot dead by terrorists in broad daylight inside his office in Budgam in Central

After several back channel talks with the agitating employees, the Labour

Department of Kashmir and Additional Commissioner, Anantnag. had on Wednesday issued orders to stop the salaries of Kashmiri migrant employees on strike in the valley. In his order, Deputy

Commissioner Labour (DLC) Kashmir Ahmad Hussain Bhat directed the Assistant Commissioners across districts in the Kashmir valley to stop the salaries of these employees for September.

Bhat sought the leave accounts of all the employees of the department and said: 'Further, salary for the month of September 2022 should not be drawn

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Members of IASOWA, J&K, distributing blankets among patients at DH Budgam.

District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam Dr Farhana and Medical also inspected various wards and Superintendent DH Budgam, Dr interacted with patients and atten-Mohammad Ayoub Fateh also dants to enquire about the health accompanied the IASOWA team. care facilities the During the drive, the members

Superintendent, apprised the members about overall functioning of the health institution and treatment and facilities being provided occasion, Medical to the patients.

in others districts of the UT. The members informed that IASOWA is also adopting a learn-

ing centre in Jammu to help underprivileged children and provide them whatever assistance they need to grow in their studies and career. She said the motive is to sustain and carry forward this charity work and get in more and more members to join this association for the great social cause.

# ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

### JAMMU: Cracking down on

who have been demanding their relocation to safer places outside the valley, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has issued orders to stop their salaries prompting angry reaction from the employees who threatened to intensify their agitation.

Kashmir.