

**03 India's health sector to reach \$50 Billion by 2025: Dr Jitendra**

**03 Burglars' gang busted; 4 arrested, stolen gold ornaments worth Rs 50 lakh, 30 phones recovered**

**12 JKPS Kunjwani girls shine in inter-zonal district level Volleyball competitions**

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## Downtown Srinagar sheds past, emerges as new address of Indian sporting heroes: LG



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after inaugurating Ellahi Bagh Indoor Sports Stadium at Downtown Srinagar on Wednesday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday observed that Downtown Srinagar has shed its past and it is now a new address of Indian sporting heroes.

"I was told by local people that for the first time in 75 years any head of the state visited Downtown Srinagar. They said many areas were known for wrong reasons," Lt Governor said while addressing the Ellahi Bagh Indoor Sports Stadium, constructed at a cost of Rs 4 crore under PMDP.

Congratulating the locals, especially

the youth of Downtown area for the new sports facility, he said the Shahr-e-Khas area has evolved as a hub of sporting activities, with youngsters determined to achieve glory in sports.

The Lt Governor further said, "In the last two years, downtown has witnessed a massive rise in the number of sports being played and a large number of youth pursuing sports professionally".

Amid the cheers of thousands of locals present at the venue, the Lt Governor recounted names of top-class players who recently went to represent the country at the International sporting events.

### Sinha cautions against inordinate delays in execution of projects

SRINAGAR: Emphasizing on dedicated focus to complete the projects within set timelines, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday passed explicit directions to streamline the planning, tendering and execution process.

"It should be ensured that there are no inordinate delays in execution of projects", Lieutenant Governor said while chairing a high level meeting, at Civil Secretariat, to review the implementation and progress of mega road projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Lt Governor directed to develop a robust system for reporting of the damages and potholes on the roads so that corrective measures can be taken at the earliest. He further asked the officials to assess the area specific requirements and prepare projects' plans accordingly.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor took stock of the status of various roads, tunnels,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

"Several youngsters from Downtown Srinagar have proved their mettle in International

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### 323 cases involving juveniles in conflict with law registered in 2021 in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Incidents of cognisable crimes by juveniles in Jammu and Kashmir almost doubled in 2021 over the previous year, while crimes against children continued an upward trend with over 800 such cases being registered last year, official data showed.

As many as 323 cognisable criminal cases involving juveniles in conflict with

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**Govt approves modernisation of 120 schools in tribal areas**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Tribal Affairs Department on Wednesday approved modernisation of 120 schools in tribal areas to provide modern educational facilities in these remotely located schools in an endeavour to promote quality education.

In Phase-I of the plan more than 100 schools have already been modernised at a cost of Rs 20.00 Cr

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Two terrorists of Al-Qaeda affiliate killed in 'chance encounter' at Anantnag

**2 LeT ultras arrested in Shopian**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists of Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, an al-Qaeda affiliate, were killed in a "chance encounter" with security forces in Anantnag district on Wednesday, police said.

The slain terrorists, who were identified as Fayaz Kumar and Owais Khan, were involved in several terror attacks, they said.

"Two #terrorists neutralised in a chance encounter by Anantnag Police in Thajiwara, #Bijbehara area of #Anantnag," a police spokesman said in a tweet.

Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the slain terrorists were affiliated with Ansar Ghazwatul Hind (AGuH).

"Killed terrorists identified as Fayaz Kumar & Owais Khan linked with terror outfit AGuH. They were involved in several terror attacks including attack on

police personnel in Cheeniwooder Srigufwara on 03-07-2022 in which 01 police personnel Firdous Dar got seriously injured and Darashikoh park Bijbehara on 12-08-2022 in which one police personnel Gh Qadir got seriously injured," Kumar tweeted.

Besides, they were involved in a grenade attack at Padshahi Bagh on June 15, he said.

Meanwhile, two 'hybrid' militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested in Shopian district, police said.

A police spokesman identified them as Faizan Fayaz Bhat, a resident of Budden Raffabad Sopore, and Yawar Nizam Mir from Konsoo, Shopian.

A 'hybrid' militant is not listed as an ultra but is radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into routine life.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including two pistols, two pistol magazines, two grenades, 20 pistol rounds, an AK-47 magazine and 50 AK live rounds were seized from their possession," the spokesman said.



## NIA files charge-sheet against 8 accused in conspiracy case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The NIA on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against eight people allegedly involved in a conspiracy hatched by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed to carry out terror acts against security forces in the Valley, an official spokesperson said.

The charge sheet was filed before the NIA special court here against Naseer Ahmad Malik alias 'Moulvi', Intiyaz Ahmad Rather, Rayees Ahmad Sheikh alias 'Jugpeer', Yawer Rashid Ganaie, Suhail Ahmad Khan alias 'Sahil', Sahid Ahmed Shergojri, Anayat Gulzar Bhat and Jahangir Ahmad

Dar all residents of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

"The case (in which the eight accused were charge-sheeted) pertains to the conspiracy hatched by local/Pakistani terrorists of JeM, along with Over Ground Workers, to execute terrorist acts against security forces in south Kashmir," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the case was initially registered on March 11 at Pulwama police station and re-registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on April 8.

"Investigations have revealed that the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Asstt Comm (Panchayat) Rajouri suspended for hurting religious sentiments; panel led by Addl DDC Rajouri to hold inquiry

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) posted in Rajouri district has been suspended on Wednesday for making objectionable remarks against a particular religion.

As per details, taking action over a complaint submitted by one of the subordinates of Assistant Commissioner (AC), the District Magistrate Rajouri, Vikas Kundal has ordered the action against Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat) Abdul Rashid Kohli (JKAS).

"This office has received a complaint that AC

Panchayat has made some objectionable remarks about a particular religion," Kundal said in an order.

**JKAS officer's these remarks can create law & order problem**

According to order issued by District Magistrate, the officer's conduct was not only a violation of service conduct rules, but also hurt religious sentiments of another community and had the potential of creating a law and order problem in the district. The District Magistrate further ordered that a committee led

by Additional District Development Commissioner Pawan Parihar would probe the matter and submit detailed report within 15 days.

As per complaint submitted to the District Magistrate by Sanjeet Sharma (Secretary Panchayat) that Abdul Rashid Kohli made objectionable remarks over a particular religion, while having lunch at Hotel Blue Start Muradpur, Rajouri along

with four more subordinates Zaheer Malik (Secretary Panchayat), Utish Ashok (Secretary Panchayat) and Tahir Mirza (MIS operator) during office hours.

Sanjeet further said that the Abdul Rashid Kohli allegedly made objectionable remarks when he ordered vegetarian food while all others ordered non-vegetarian food.

As per complainant, "Abdul Rashid asked me to go thorough religious scriptures, after which I would change my religion. The objectionable comments on my

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Eight JKAS officers transferred

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday transferred eight JKAS officers.

According to a government order, Sandesh Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner Billawar, holding additional charge of Sub Registrar, Billawar, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Revenue Department; Tilak Raj (JKAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Basholi, holding additional charge of Sub Registrar, Basohli, as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Udhampur; Ravi Mohan Khajuria (JKAS), Additional Secretary, Revenue Department, as

Registrar, District Udhampur; Ajeet Singh (JKAS), Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Bani-Basohli with headquarters at Basohli, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Basholi. He shall also hold the charge of the posts of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Bani-Basohli and Sub-Registrar Basohli, in addition to his own duties, till further orders; and Vinay Khosla (JKAS), Additional Secretary in the J&K Services Selection Board, has been transferred

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Inflation no longer red-lettered; job creation, growth remain priorities: FM

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

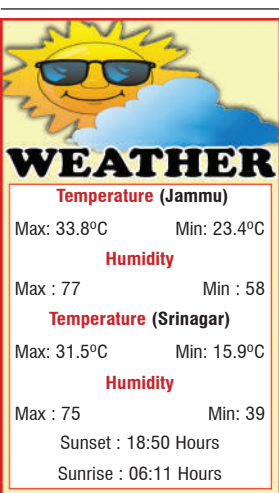
NEW DELHI: With inflation easing from a record high, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said it is no longer "red-lettered" and the priority for the government now is job creation and boosting growth.

Besides, equitable distribution of wealth remains the other focus area, she said at the India Ideas Summit here.

"Some of course are red-lettered (priorities), some may not be. Red-lettered ones would of course be jobs, equitable wealth distribution and making sure India is moving on the path of growth.

"In that sense inflation is not red-lettered. I hope it doesn't surprise many of you. We have shown that in the past couple of months that we were able to bring it to a manageable level," she said at the event. Retail inflation touched a high of 7.79

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 33.8°C Min: 23.4°C

Humidity

Max: 77 Min: 58

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.5°C Min: 15.9°C

Humidity

Max: 75 Min: 39

Sunset : 18:50 Hours

Sunrise : 06:11 Hours

## Will right to dress also mean right to undress?, asks SC in Hijab case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked whether right to dress will also mean right to undress after a submission was made in the Karnataka Hijab case that right to freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Constitution includes choice of dress.

The poser by the apex court came during the hearing of arguments by the lawyer for one of the petitioners challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict declining to lift the state



government's ban on Hijab in educational institutions of the state.

"You cannot take it to an illogical end," a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia said when a previous judgement of the apex court was cited by senior advocate Devadatt Kamat and an argument raised regarding Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution and the freedom to dress.

When the bench asked "Will right to dress mean right to undress also?," Kamat responded to say "nobody is undressing in school.

Kamat referred to the Karnataka government's order of February 5, 2022, by which it had banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

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■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K reports 80 fresh COVID cases

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday reported 80 fresh Covid cases-10 from the Jammu division and 70 from the Valley-- taking the total number of positive cases to 478495 in the Union Territory.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 478495 positive cases, 692 are Active Positive, 473020 have recovered and 4783 have died-- 2350 in Jammu division and 2433 in Kashmir division.

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

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Associate Professor ends life inside JU campus: Police

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The body of an Associate Professor was found hanging inside his residential quarter at the Jammu university campus here on Wednesday, a day after he was suspended following a complaint of sexual harassment against him by some students.

A university official said psychology professor Chander Shekhar (45), hailing from Meerut, was living on the campus along with his wife and daughter and was upset over the complaint filed on September 1.

Police broke open the door



Police taking out body of professor from JU campus.

and found his body hanging with a rope, a police official said, adding it was sent to Government Medical College hospital for postmortem.

The complaint against the Associate Professor was forwarded to the internal committee against sexual harassment for investigation and the professor was

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## No plans to merge NEET, JEE with CUET for next 2 years: Pradhan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOTA (RJ): There are no plans to merge engineering entrance exam JEE and medical entrance exam NEET with the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for next two years, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday.

He said the merger of exams is currently only a "concept" and not "decision", adding that students should not be afraid.

University Grants Commission Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar had last month said JEE and NEET will be merged with the CUET in future.

"Merger of NEET, JEE and CUET is currently a concept, a thought, and the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

government has not yet decided upon it in principle," Pradhan said while interacting with students, mostly hailing from his home state Odisha, of Allen Career Institute here during his one-day visit to the city on Tuesday.

"There is no proposal of merging NEET, JEE with CUET and it will take at least two years to decide upon the concept of a merger of the three exams and to conduct a combined test," he added.

The UGC Chairman had told PTI last month that glitches in CUET-UG will not affect the expansion plans of the crucial exam but the merger will not be "hurried up". "As per the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Many delegations call on Azad, extend support KPs' return, rehabilitation will not be done forcefully: Azad

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A number of delegations called on former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on his maiden visit to Jammu & Kashmir after his resignation from Congress party. Apart from addressing a public meeting on his arrival, Azad met more than 350 delegations cutting across region, religion and sections from all 43 constituencies of Jammu region.

The people, from various delegations, who called on Azad, extended full support in all his future endeavours.

A deputation of All Migrant (Displaced) Employees Association Kashmir (AMEAK) also called on Ghulam Nabi Azad and submitted a memorandum of demands, highlight their genuine demands which are pending for a long time. The members briefed the leaders that KP employees posted in valley are on indefinite protest from last 116 days



A delegation meeting Former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad at his Gandhi Nagar residence.

after martyrdom of their colleague Rahul Bhat, who was brutally murdered by terrorist at his work place, Tehsil office Chadoora Budgam. They further stated that fear-psychosis among valley-posted Hindu employees has elevated extremely

after successive killings of other employees in valley like Rajni Bala, Vijay Kumar etc. While interacting with the visiting delegation, Azad said that killings must immediately stop. He further assured that return & rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits

back to valley will not be done forcefully. He further said that he would take up the issues like withholding of salaries of employees with concerned at the earliest. Pertinent to mention here that the employees are demanding that they should be allowed to work outside the Valley till normalcy prevails. The employees are seeking relocation, attachment, deployment or deputation at Relief Commissioner's office or any other office in Jammu till conditions became conducive in valley.

Besides political delegations, many delegations from civil society, unemployed youth, refugees, Kashmiri Pandits, PoJK migrants, Rajput Sabha Jammu & Kathua, Christian Peace Missionaries, Jammu Adhikar Manch, Traders Federation and Bar Association also called on Azad and apprised him about their concerns and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9