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## Five soldiers martyred in fierce gunfight with terrorists in Poonch

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Five Army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), lost their lives in a fierce gunfight with terrorists during an operation in Poonch district on Monday, officials said.

The operation was launched in a village close to Dera Ki Gali (DKG) in Surankote in the early hours following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists who had infiltrated from across the Line of Control (LoC).

A Defence spokesman said the ultras opened heavy fire on search parties resulting in critical injuries to the JCO and four other personnel.

All the five soldiers succumbed to their injuries at a nearby military hospital where they were shifted

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## 2 terrorists killed in Verinag, Hajin encounters

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists were killed and a policeman was injured during encounters in Anantnag and Bandipora districts on Monday, police said.

Security forces had launched a cordon and search operation at Khagund in Anantnag district's Verinag area following information about the presence of terrorists there, an official said. The search operation turned

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## Home Minister Amit Shah to visit J&K, other states

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Uttarakhand in the next fortnight, officials said on Monday.

Shah will first visit Goa on October 14 to inaugurate a forensic science laboratory and hold meetings with

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## Security cover of minority communities tightened in Kupwara

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The security cover of minority communities has been beefed up in Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir and no element will be allowed to damage the social fabric and communal harmony in the district, authorities said on Monday.

Kupwara Deputy Commissioner Imamuddin,

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## India, China fail to resolve remaining issues in Ladakh during talks

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: India and China failed to make any headway in resolving the 17-month standoff in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh with the Indian Army on Monday saying the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the latest round of military talks were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor Beijing could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

In a strong statement after the 13th round of talks on Sunday that ended in a stalemate, the Army also said the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) had been caused by "unilateral attempts" of the Chinese side to alter the status quo and it is necessary that China takes appropriate steps to restore peace in the region.

"During the meeting, the

Indian side therefore made constructive suggestions for resolving the remaining areas but the Chinese side was not agreeable and also could not provide any forward-looking proposals. The meeting thus did not result in resolution of the remaining areas," the Army said in a statement on the talks that lasted eight-and-a-half hours.

As the two sides accused each other for the deadlock, it is learnt that the Indian side mentioned about the stalled disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15) as well as issues in Depsang Plains and Demchok.

In its statement released in Beijing, the Chinese PLA's Western Theatre Command claimed that India insisted on "unreasonable and unrealistic" demands, adding difficulties to the negotiations. It

also said that China has made "tremendous efforts to ease and cool down the border situation and fully demonstrated its sincerity."

People familiar with the talks said the Chinese delegation came to the meeting with a pre-determined approach and was not ready to move forward from its position. The talks were held at the Chushul-Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

The talks took place in the backdrop of a brief face-off between the two sides near Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh nearly two weeks ago and there were indications of some "physical engagement" among the troops. Close to 100 Chinese soldiers had also transgressed the LAC in the Barahoti sector

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## Lawyers abstain from work against shifting of debts recovery cases to Chandigarh bench

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The work in Jammu and Kashmir High Court, its subordinate courts and tribunals was hit on Monday as lawyers stayed away to protest the shifting of debts recovery cases of the twin union territories of J-K and Ladakh to the Chandigarh bench.

The lawyers abstained from working in the high court, subordinate courts and all other tribunals in Jammu in response to a call given by the Jammu-wing of J-K High Court Bar Association.

Association president M K Bhardwaj urged the government to revoke the notification issued on September 10, whereby jurisdiction to deal with debts recovery cases of J-K and Ladakh have been transferred to the Chandigarh bench, within a period of 15 days.

If the notification was not revoked, the J-K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, has no other option except to fight against the anti-public decisions for getting their genuine demands fulfilled, he said.

Bhardwaj said at present there is no consumer commission and consumer forum working in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the UT administration still has

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## PM launches 'Indian Space Association', landmark breakthrough for ISRO

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a landmark breakthrough, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) via video conferencing.

Among those present on the occasion were Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and Ashwani Vaishnav, NSA Ajit Doval, Chairman ISRO Dr K. Sivan, CDS Gen Bipin Rawat, Chairman INSPACE Dr Goenka and Sunil Mittal of Bharti Airtel, in addition to representatives from the industry.

Prime Minister also interacted with representatives of the Space Industry.



PM Narendra Modi launching 'Indian Space Association' via video conferencing on Monday. Also seen are Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and Ashwani Vaishnav, NSA Ajit Doval and ISRO Chairman Dr K. Sivan.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister Narendra

Modi noted the birth anniversary of two great sons of the country, Bharat Ratna Jayaprakash Narayan and Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh today. These two great personalities have played a huge role in giving direction to post-independence India. They showed how, by taking everyone along, with everyone's efforts, major changes become reality for the nation.

Their philosophy of life inspires us even today, the Prime Minister said paying tribute to the two personalities. Modi stressed that there has never been such a

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## AC enhances mandate of JAKEDA from 2 MW to 10 MW

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here on Monday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the proposal for assignment and restoration of earlier mandate of Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) for development of Hydro-electricity Projects upto 10 MW capacity and designating Science and Technology Department as the Nodal Department for development of Renewable Sources of Energy including Solar, Wind and Biomass in Jammu and Kashmir.

Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisors to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

With the aim to offer clean, environment-friendly, abundant and inexhaustible energy source from Small Hydro-Projects in remote as well as isolated areas, it has been decided to enhance the mandate of JAKEDA from 2MW upto 10 MW in Small Hydro-Projects and Solar Projects. Besides, fussed attention

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## D K Boora takes over as Jammu Frontier BSF chief



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior BSF officer D K Boora, who has served in the Special Protection Group (SPG) that protects the country's prime minister, Monday took over as the Inspector General (IG) of the

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## Downpour brings winter chill in Kashmir

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Snow in upper reaches and rainfall in plains has brought the extended summer in Kashmir to an end as the mercury dropped several notches on Monday, officials said.

Snowfall was witnessed at Affarwat in Gulmarg tourist resort and other

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 33.7°C Min: 20.1°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 55 Min: 43

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 16.4°C Min: 9.8°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 93 Min: 67

Sunset : 18:05 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:33 Hours

## 7 districts achieve 100 pc first dose COVID vaccination; J&K reports 53 new cases

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir--Anantnag, Budgam, Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Samba and Shopian have achieved 100 per cent coverage of first dose Covid vaccine for the age group of above 18 years old.

"1,38,779 doses of COVID vaccine were administered in the last 24 hours across the UT bringing the cumulative number of doses administered here to 13,146,342", an official bulletin stated, adding that 97.98 percent of the population above the age of 18 years has been vaccinated across Jammu and

Kashmir.

On Covid status, the bulletin stated that 53 new positive cases of novel Corona virus (COVID-19), 09 from Jammu division and 44 from Kashmir division, have been reported today, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 330586.

Moreover, 95 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 10 from Jammu Division and 85 from Kashmir Division.

"No new case of Mucormycosis has been reported during the past 24

hours", the officials said.

According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 330586 positive cases, 1049 are Active Positive (281 in Jammu Division and 768 in Kashmir Division), 325111 have recovered and 4426 have died; 2174 in Jammu division and 2252 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 15394415 test results available, 330586 samples have tested positive and 15063829 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 44,136 COVID tests have been

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## NC gets another jolt, 6 prominent faces among 3 dozen workers resign

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The National Conference has got yet another jolt as over three dozen party activists, including a provincial secretary, two district presidents and two Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) corporators, resigned on Monday.

The fresh resignations came a day after two prominent leaders of the NC -- provincial president Devender Singh Rana and former minister S S Slathia - quit the party. Both the leaders joined the BJP in Delhi on Monday.

Provincial secretary, two district presidents,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## After resigning from NC, Devender Rana, Slathia join BJP

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A day after resigning from the National Conference, Devender Rana, the former head of its Jammu division, along with another party leader Surjit Singh Slathia joined the BJP on Monday.

Rana and Slathia joined the BJP at its headquarters here in the presence of Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Hardeep Singh Puri and Jitendra Singh.

Rana, who is a former MLA and the younger brother of Union minister Jitendra Singh, has also served as a political advisor to former Jammu and



Devender Rana and Surjit Singh Slathia joining BJP at party headquarters in New Delhi.

Kashmir chief minister and National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah.

BJP general secretary in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh and its Jammu and Kashmir unit

chief Ravinder Raina welcomed them in the party.

Rana has been advocating for the Jammu declaration - a joint declaration of several political, social and

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## Sikh delegation meets LG



Sikh delegation calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Srinagar.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A Sikh delegation led by President, Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

The delegation comprising office bearers of DSGMC and members of Sikh Gurdwara Management Committees of Kashmir region held discussion with the Lt Governor on the concerning issues of minorities

in the UT including their safety and security.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the members of the delegation. He noted that incidents of terrorist attacks on innocent civilians will not be allowed to happen again in future and the perpetrators of these heinous attacks will be brought to justice soon.

The Lt Governor observed that concerted efforts are being made for

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## PM's idea of inclusive growth roadmap to J&K's rapid development: Murugan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L. Murugan on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of inclusive growth and good governance and the approach adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir administration has put the UT on the path of massive development.

Dr. Murugan was speaking on the occasion of his visit to All India Radio Srinagar where he inaugurated the renovated Prasar Bharati Auditorium. The auditorium was damaged in devastating floods in the year 2014.

In his address, Dr. Murugan praised the role played by All India Radio

Srinagar and Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar. He said that both these institutions have been making quality programmes in several languages for the past many decades. He made a special mention of the role played by both AIR Srinagar and DDK Srinagar during the devastating 2014 floods and during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Murugan said that being stationed in a border area, All India Radio and DDK Srinagar are playing a vital role in countering the propaganda and obnoxious narrative unleashed by the adverse neighbouring countries.

A cultural programme was also presented on the occasion. Earlier, Additional Director General, AIR and Doordarshan, North Zone,

M S Ansari, delivered the welcome address and DDG Projects AIR, Aditya Chaturvedi, presented the vote of thanks.

Later, the Minister visited the Trout Culture Farm Laribal Dachigam. The Minister inspected the rearing units, machinery and other facilities available at the farm and interacted with the fish farmers. He handed-over Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) trout unit allotments to the beneficiaries.

During his interaction with the farmers, the Minister said that the government of India is committed to double the farmers' income and has taken several initiatives under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

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## Cong attacks Modi Govt over its 'failure' on national security front in J&K

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Congress hit out at the government over its "failure" on the national security front in Jammu and Kashmir after five Army soldiers lost their lives in an operation in Poonch on Monday.

The opposition party said the Union territory is burning and terrorists are killing innocent people due to the government's "weakness".

"This incident is not only a reflection of the Modi government's failure on the national security front but also exposes their 'nationalism' facade. J&K is burning, terrorists are running rampant through the region and our people are paying for this government's weakness with their lives," the Congress said on its Twitter handle.

The party also sent its

deepest condolences to the families of the soldiers who died in the operation.

"The nation is shocked and saddened to learn about the martyrdom of 5 brave soldiers in an encounter with terrorists in J&K's Poonch," the party said.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh, when asked, said Kashmir was once again burning even when it was directly under the control of the central government.

He said innocent people, including teachers, were being killed in Kashmir and asked why was the valley burning despite being directly under the central government's control.

"My only question is that has investment in the Kashmir valley increased, or employment risen or

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