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## 2 more labourers shot dead by terrorists in Kashmir

LG condemns despicable attack; Farooq claims Kashmiris not involved

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Terrorists shot dead two more non-local labourers and injured another on Sunday in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, prompting the police to direct that all non-resident labourers in the Valley be brought to nearest security camps "immediately" for safety, officials said.

This is the third attack on non-local workers in less than 24 hours and is the latest in a series of shootings targeting civilians in recent weeks. A street vendor from Bihar and a carpenter from Uttar Pradesh were shot dead by the ultras on Saturday evening.

"Terrorists fired indiscriminately upon #NonLocal labourers at Wanpoh area of #Kulgam. In this #terror incident, 02 non-locals were killed and 01 injured," Kashmir zone Police said on its Twitter handle.



### Police seeks shifting of non-local labourers to nearest security camps

SRINAGAR: Faced with killings of two more non-locals, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has asked all its district chiefs in the valley to gather non-resident labourers and bring them to the nearest security camps "immediately", officials said on Sunday. The move comes after terrorists gunned down two labourers and critically wounded another one in Kulgam in South Kashmir on Sunday evening.

In a message flashed to all district police, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said, "All non-local labourers in your respective jurisdiction should be brought to the nearest police or central paramilitary force or army establishment just now." "The matter is most urgent," the message said. There are 10 districts in Kashmir Valley.

It said police and security forces have cordoned off the area.

According to officials, the terrorists entered the rented accommodation of the labourers and fired on them indiscriminately.

The terror attack drew strong condemnation from political parties across the spectrum.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the "despicable terror attack" in Kulgam district, saying the security forces will give a befitting reply.

"I strongly condemn the despicable terror attack on civilians in Kulgam. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for the speedy recovery of injured," Sinha said in a tweet.

He was reacting to the killing of two non-local labourers in Kulgam

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## We'll hunt down terrorists, their sympathisers to avenge blood of innocent civilians: LG

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday renewed the resolve to hunt down terrorists, their sympathisers and avenge every drop of innocent civilian's blood.

"I pay my heartfelt tributes to the martyred civilians and condolences to the bereaved families", Lieutenant Governor said while connecting with the people and sharing the valuable insights and suggestions received from across the UT during the 7th episode of the monthly "Awaam ki Awaaz" programme.

The Lt Governor dedicated today's programme to the civilians who lost their lives in recent terror attacks.

Attempts are being made to disrupt peace and socio-economic progress of J&K and individual growth of people. We remain committed to fast-paced development and will endeavor to build a prosperous and peaceful UT of J&K, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude to all the citizens for making valuable contributions that will go a long way in formulating policies that are reflective of the development needs and aspirations of the people.

Some of the suggestions received by



the citizens received special mention by the Lt Governor during the programme today.

The Lt Governor welcomed the suggestion made by Shah Fozia Hussain regarding introduction of sericulture as a subject in secondary and master's degree level and said that her valuable suggestion supplements the administration's efforts at the revival and promotion of Silk Industry & entrepreneurship in J&K.

Referring to the suggestion made by Peer Ubaid Qureshi from Baramulla for promoting an integrated culture of 3P's

- People, Police, Policy-Makers in schools, the Lt Governor observed that such interactions are bound to inculcate a strong spirit of leadership in the next generation.

The Lt Governor mentioned Choudhary Ashraf Hussain and Hakim Singh for sharing interesting ideas for the enhancement, widening and enrichment of the nature and scope of the school education landscape.

While responding to the suggestions of Mohamad Younus Dar, Mir Sameer Fayaz from Ganderbal, Sammer Raina from BGSSB University and Grish Chander Raina pertaining to strengthening the rural enterprises, setting up of incubation centres in the Universities, organizing zonal level competitions at various ladders of education system to create a strong sense of competition and a rich pool of talent in the UT, and beautification & development of historic Ranbir canal in Jammu, respectively, the Lt Governor passed directions to the concerned departments and officials in this regard, besides assuring that the valuable insights received from the citizens will be incorporated in the development policies.

The Lt Governor also made a special mention of

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## Body of co-pilot of crashed Army helicopter recovered after 2 months

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The body of a co-pilot of an Army helicopter that crashed and sank into Ranjit Sagar Dam in August was recovered from the water body in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, ending nearly two-and-a-half-month-long search for him, officials said.

The mortal remains of Captain Jayant Joshi were fished out from the dam around 2 pm in one of the longest search operations in recent history and were later taken to Pathankot military station, a police official said.

The Army aviation squadron's Rudra helicopter

had taken off from Mamun military station near Pathankot and crashed into the lake during a routine sortie on August 3.

After a hectic rescue and search operation, the body of Lt Col Abheet Singh Baath - pilot of the helicopter -- was retrieved from the dam on August 15.

Persistent efforts by Indian Army and Navy for 75 days which were going on day and night to recover the body of Captain Joshi has finally succeeded and body have been recovered from the lake bed using hi-tech equipment, Jammu-based

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## Poonch-Rajouri encounter: 3 detained as search ops enter day 7

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three persons, including a mother-son duo, were detained for questioning during an ongoing search operation in the forest belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri border districts where nine soldiers were killed in two separate gunfights with terrorists over the past week, officials said on Sunday.

Five Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), laid down their lives in a fierce gunfight during a counter-insurgency operation in Surankote forest on Monday.



Four soldiers, including another JCO, died in another encounter in the Mendhar sector on Thursday evening. A man along with a 45-

year-old woman and her son, all residents of Bhatta Durrian forest, were taken into custody for questioning on the suspicion of giving

logistic support to terrorists, the officials said.

It was a matter of investigation whether they provided food and shelter to the terrorists voluntarily or at gunpoint, they said.

The officials underlined that the area is mountainous and the forest is dense, which makes the operation difficult and dangerous.

So far, contact with hiding terrorists was established three -- first on October 11 in Poonch's Surankote which was followed by another exchange of fire between the security forces and the

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## Govt yet to decide on 12 names reiterated by SC collegium for appointment as judges

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government is yet to decide on 12 names reiterated by the Supreme Court collegium between March and September this year for appointment as judges in four high courts, sources aware of the procedure of appointment in the higher judiciary have said.

On different occasions, the government had returned these names to the Supreme Court collegium with a request to reconsider its recommendations to elevate these people as judges of high courts.

While five names are for

the Calcutta High Court, three are for the Jammu and Kashmir HC. Two names each are for Karnataka and Allahabad high courts.

Between March and September this year, the Supreme Court collegium had reiterated to the government its recommendations to appoint these 12 candidates as high court judges, the sources said.

While HC judges are being appointed from the list of fresh recommendations made by the SC collegium, the government is yet to take a call on the names reiterated by the three-member

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## COVID: 95 new cases in J&K, Ladakh 5

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 95 fresh COVID-19 cases on Sunday that took the infection tally to 3,31,062, officials said.

No fresh Covid-related death was reported in the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said, adding the death toll

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## Petrol, diesel prices hiked again

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel price on Sunday was hiked again by 35 paise a litre and the auto fuels now cost a third more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines.

The fourth straight day of 35 paise per litre hike sent petrol and diesel rates to record highs across the country.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 105.84 a litre and

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## Kashmir's pol discourse has changed; topic of autonomy replaced with democracy, development: Madhav

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The political discourse in Kashmir has changed, and the topics of autonomy and separatism have now been replaced with democracy and development, which is a welcome step, said senior RSS functionary Ram Madhav.

Madhav, who was the BJP general secretary for almost five years and also incharge of the party's affairs in Jammu and Kashmir, said that anti-India forces in the valley are on the wane and isolated.

"Kashmir, today, is treading on a totally different path.



Until now, the effort was to buy peace and manage conflict but now it's about establishing peace. When you buy peace, you have to make some compromises, but when you have to establish peace,

you have to be in a position of strength which the establishment is as of now..," he told PTI.

Madhav has discussed the Kashmir issue at length in his recent book 'The Hindutva Paradigm'.

Emphasising that anti-India forces in the valley have weakened and are isolated, he said, "The political discourse in Kashmir has totally changed. Now even those who oppose us talk about democracy and elections, instead of separatism and autonomy. It is a welcome step and we would

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## Army Chief expresses condolences to kins of 2 soldiers martyred in Poonch

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Army Chief General M M Naravane offered his deepest condolences to the families of Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh who were martyred in action during an operation at Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir on October 14.

Ajay Singh and Harendra Singh made the supreme sacrifice during a fierce counter-terrorist operation that was undertaken in the Nar Khas forest in the Mendhar.

"General MM Naravane, COAS (Chief of Army

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## Air Chief visits Leh, takes stock of IAF's operational readiness

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari visited the IAF's Leh station and deployments at forward areas in the northern sector on Saturday to take stock of operational readiness of the service's units.

The Chief of Air Staff also interacted with the personnel stationed at the airbase and units on deployment.

In a tweet, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said on Sunday that "Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Chief of Air Staff (CAS), visited Air Force Station Leh and the IAF deployments at forward



Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari on his arrival at IAF's Leh Station.

areas in the northern sector on October 16."

The border standoff between the Indian and

Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the

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## Pak to get befitting reply under leadership of Modi, Shah: Rana

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After ending his long association with the National Conference (NC), the new entrant in the BJP, Devender Singh Rana, on Sunday said he will continue to respect former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah with whom he had worked for over two decades.

He termed the civilian killings in Kashmir a conspiracy hatched by Pakistan to harm communal harmony and said that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, will defeat the nefarious designs of the neighboring country.

"I have worked with (NC president) Farooq Abdullah and (vice president) Omar



Abdullah for the past nearly 23 years. I have respect for both of them and it will continue," Rana told reporters at the BJP headquarters where he was accorded a warm welcome after joining the party in Delhi on Monday.

He was responding to a question about Omar Abdullah's recent statement that Rana's departure from the NC was more of a person-

al loss to him, rather than the party, as he had invested a lot in him.

Rana, the younger brother of Union minister Jitendra Singh, had taken over the post of provincial president of the NC in 2011 after relinquishing his office as political advisor to the then chief minister Omar Abdullah. He, along with senior party colleague and former minister S S Slathia, joined the BJP in Delhi on Monday.

"Politics brought me at a stage where I had to change the direction and way," he said.

In reply to a question about the recent targeted killings in the valley, the BJP leader said these are part of Pakistan's conspiracy aimed at harming the communal harmony and brotherhood in

Jammu and Kashmir:

"Terrorism has no place in civil society... Under the leadership of Modi and Shah, a befitting response will be given (to Pakistan). The people of Jammu and Kashmir will also stand united to defeat the designs of Pakistan and the forces who want to harm our brotherhood," he said.

The BJP leader said Jammu and Kashmir is an example of brotherhood and "we will join hands to uphold it and defeat the inimical elements who are out to harm it. They will get the answer and will be finished here."

Asked about his reaction to the ongoing operation in the forest areas of Poonch and Rajouri which left nine Army personnel dead in two

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## Two 'lovers' commit suicide in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two people, who were in separate marriages, allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substances in a forest area on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said on Sunday.

Vijay Kumar, 36, of Tanda and Jyoti Devi, 33, of Chakkarh were found in a semi-conscious state inside the Sole-Pangadi forest in Akhnor area on Saturday night, they said.

The officials said while Kumar died during treatment at Akhnor sub-district hospital, Devi died at Government Medical College (GMC) hospital, where she was referred for specialised treatment. Quoting preliminary investigations,

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 30.2°C Min: 21.1°C

Humidity

Max: 91 Min: 54

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 15.1°C Min: 11.3°C

Humidity

Max: 91 Min: 84

Sunset: 17:58 Hours

Sunrise: 06:38 Hours