

**Arandeep Multispecialty OPD Clinic**  
Marble Market Extension, Greater Kailash  
Chowk, National Highway-1A, Jammu.

**ORTHOPAEDIC OPD**  
Team Dr. Avtar Singh  
D.Ortho, MS, MCh Ortho,  
Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Bone & Joint Replacement Specialist

**ENT, HEAD & NECK OPD**  
(Maj.) Dr. Rajeev Bhagat  
Ex-Army Medical Corps, MBBS, MS (ENT)  
Army Hospital RAR Delhi

Coming on  
**20th OCTOBER, 2021**  
FOR APPOINTMENT CALL  
**+91-9622965050**  
Visit us at : www.arandeepopdclinic.com

**03 Northeast to be developed as India's Bio-Economic hub: Dr Jitendra**

**08 Three OGWs arrested in Baramulla**

**10 Ian Dev back as JKCA names T20 team**

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

## Army intensifies ops against terrorists holed up in Poonch forests

► Gen Naravane visits forward areas along LoC in Jammu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: After suffering nine casualties in as many days, the army has upped the ante against the terrorists holed up in the jungles of Poonch in the Jammu region, asking locals not to venture out of their homes and blocking main roads for a full-scale operation, officials said.

As loud explosions and staccato of gunfire pierced the air in the border district of Poonch with the troops advancing into the dense forests, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Tuesday visited forward areas along the LoC to review the ground situation and ongoing counter-infiltration operations.

"General MM Naravane #COAS (Chief of Army Staff) visited forward areas of #WhiteKnight Corps & undertook a first-hand assessment of the situation along the Line of Control.

"COAS was briefed by commanders on the ground about the present situation & ongoing counter-infiltration operations," the Additional Director General of Public



Army Chief General MM Naravane visiting forward areas along with GOC White Knight Corps to review the security situation and operational preparedness along the Line of Control, in Jammu region.

Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted.

The area where the operation is currently going on falls under XVI Corps of the army, also known as 'White Knight'.

Earlier last week, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat had visited Poonch and other forward areas to review the situation, the officials said.

Before concluding his two-day tour, the officials said the army chief visited the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where the massive operation to track down terrorists hiding in the forest areas of Mendhar, Surankote and Thanamandi has been going on since October 11.

The operation to neutralise the holed-up terrorists intensified on

Tuesday with authorities asking people in Mendhar in Poonch to stay indoors for their safety.

The people were alerted through the public address system in local mosques in Bhatta Durrian and adjoining areas as the security forces were preparing a final assault against the terrorists believed to be hiding in the forest area, the officials said.

The residents were asked not to venture into the forest area and also keep their livestock at their homes in view of the ongoing operation. Those who have gone outside were asked to suspend their activities and return to their homes along with their animals, the officials said.

The deafening sounds of explosions and gunfire shook the forest area shortly after the announcements with security forces launching assaults on suspected locations, mostly natural caves. However, there was no immediate report of any casualty.

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and four other security personnel laid down their lives in a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Works on Tawi Barrage to be completed in 10 months

Project to boost Jammu tourism; add to aesthetic beauty



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha chairing Administrative Council meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here on Monday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the revised project for construction of Balance Works of Tawi Barrage at an estimated cost of Rs.73.34 crore.

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

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Govt opens up agriculture, horticulture & allied sectors to all communities

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, authorized the District Collectors to grant permission to an agriculturist to alienate land to a non-agriculturist subject to certain conditions and procedure for extending primary activities on larger commercial lines and reap benefits under economy of scale.

There have been multiple demands by Mahajans, Khatri and Sikhs for right of sale-purchase of agriculture land for investment in agriculture and allied activities.

Their resentment existed on the statutory provision that defined certain section of the society as agriculturist class who alone were eligible to own agricultural

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K on path of development, prosperity: Piyush Goyal



Union Minister, Piyush Goyal during visit to Rahi Shawl Unit located at Akad Park.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
ANANTNAG: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal

on Tuesday said that the concerted efforts of the government of Jammu and Kashmir towards development have started

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Migrant workers fleeing Kashmir through railway stations, bus stands in Jammu, Udhampur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Thousands of migrant workers fleeing Kashmir along with their families queued up outside ticket counters of railway stations and bus stops here on Tuesday as targeted killing of minorities and non-locals by terrorists triggered an exodus from the Valley.

The security in and around the railway stations and bus stands in Jammu and Udhampur has been beefed up as a precautionary measure as people have been arriving in large numbers, desperate to leave ahead of

schedule and more are on the way, officials said. Outside the railway station in Jammu, men, women and children were seen waiting on the roadside in long queues without basic facilities of water or shelter.

As per rough estimates, 3 to 4 lakh migrant labourers, most of them Hindus, from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand come to the Valley every year in early March for skilled and unskilled jobs such as masonry, carpentry, welding and farming, and go back home

before the onset of winter in November.

But the selective killings have triggered a fear psychosis among them, propelling them to flee before they had planned to.

On Sunday, two labourers from Bihar were gunned down when terrorists barged into their accommodation in Kulgam district, taking the number of civilians killed in targeted attacks in Jammu and Kashmir this month to 11. Another labourer sustained bullet injuries.

"There is grave fear and terror after the killings of

labourers. This has never happened in the past. So we fled the Valley to save our lives and also our children," Santosh Kumar of Bihar's Sitamarhi district said. A brick kiln worker in the Rajpora area of Pulwama district, Kumar said most of those fleeing are scared as there is no guarantee of their security.

"It is the last gift from Kashmir. I will not go there again to earn my livelihood," said a distraught Mintu Singh, a labourer from Chhattisgarh, holding

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Govt sanctions ad hoc bonus to employees for FY21

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The government has sanctioned non-productivity linked or ad hoc bonus for central government employees for fiscal year 2020-21.

In an office memorandum, the Department of Expenditure under the Finance Ministry said the employees of central paramilitary forces and armed forces too would be eligible for the bonus.

Employees who were in service as on March 31, 2021, and have rendered at least six months of continuous service during 2020-21

fiscal year would be eligible for this ad hoc bonus.

The non-productivity linked bonus (ad hoc bonus) would be paid to the central government employees in Group C and all non-gazetted employees in Group B, who are not covered by any productivity-linked bonus scheme.

The calculation ceiling for payment of this bonus would be monthly emoluments of Rs 7,000.

"The quantum of ad hoc bonus will be worked out on the basis of average emoluments/calculation

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## COVID-19: 84 fresh cases in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 84 fresh COVID-19 cases, which took the tally to 3,31,221, while no fresh death was reported in the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the 84 fresh cases, 12 were from the Jammu division and 72 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said. The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 45 cases followed by 12 cases in Baramulla district. There are 803 active cases in Jammu and Kashmir, while the total number of recovered patients is 3,25,990, the officials said. The death toll in the COVID-19 pandemic is 4,428 as no fresh death was reported in the past 24 hours. The officials said, there were 49 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory since last evening.

## CS chairs meeting of UT Executive Committee for Disaster Management

Sanctions ex-gratia financial relief to COVID victims

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the UT Executive Committee for Disaster Management to review the requirement of funds for proper COVID management.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Finance, Home, and Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) participated in the meeting. The UT Executive Committee approved the



Chief Secretary, Arun Mehta chairing a meeting.

release of ex-gratia relief of Rs. 50,000 to the next of kin of the casualties of the COVID pandemic, besides

sanctioning the release of Rs. 35 crore to districts for its disbursement. The Committee

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Prominent NC leader quits party after Rana's exit

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Former minister Prem Sagar Aziz quit the National Conference (NC) here on Tuesday and extended support to former party colleague Devender Singh Rana, who joined the BJP recently.

Aziz, who was the NC's Bani Assembly constituency in-charge, said he is resigning from the primary membership of the party, along with his supporters.

"I was in the Congress for 45 years and joined the National Conference only because of Rana. As I know that he is working for

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Amarinder Singh says will launch his own party, open to seat arrangement with BJP

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Congress leader and former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh Tuesday said he would soon announce his own political party and is hopeful of a seat arrangement with the BJP if the farmers' issue is resolved in their interest.

Singh resigned as chief minister of Punjab last month after a bitter feud with Navjot Singh Sidhu and infighting in the state Congress. The party replaced him with Charanjit Singh Channi.

"The battle for Punjab's future is on. Will soon



announce the launch of my own political party to serve the interests of Punjab & its people, including our farmers who've been fighting for their survival for over a year," Singh said Tuesday.

He also said he will not rest until he secures the future of

"my people and my state". "Punjab needs political stability and protection from internal and external threats. I promise my people I will do what it takes to ensure its peace and security, which is today at stake," he was quoted as saying by his media adviser. "Hopeful of a seat arrangement with BJP in 2022 Punjab Assembly polls if Farmers Protest is resolved in farmers' interest. Also looking at alliance with like-minded parties such as breakaway Akali groups, particularly Dhindsa & Brahmputra factions," Singh said.

## NIA to probe killing of minority community members in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The NIA is likely to take over cases related to the killing of minority community members, including those of two teachers and a pharmacy owner, who were among 11 civilians shot dead in targeted attacks by terrorists in different parts of Kashmir this month, officials said on Tuesday. Five of those killed were non-local labourers and these included four residents of Bihar. The killings triggered panic among skilled and unskilled migratory workers who started leaving Kashmir a fortnight ahead of their normal schedule. Lakhs of labourers from different parts of the Valley every year in early March for jobs such as masonry, carpentry, welding and farming, and

go back home before the onset of winter. Makhani Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and the owner of Srinagar's most noted pharmacy, was shot dead at his shop on October 5. Two days later, two teachers -- Supinder Kaur, a Srinagar-based Sikh, and Deepak Chand, a Hindu from Jammu -- were killed inside a government school here.

The probe into the three killings, which drew widespread condemnation from across the country, is likely to be taken over by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the officials said, adding that the notification for takeover of the cases is yet to come. They said that the NIA is also likely to take over the killing of non-local labourers. On the same day when

Bindroo was killed, two more civilians -- a chaat' vendor Virendra Paswan from Bihar and a taxi driver Mohammad Shafi Lone - were shot dead at Hawal in Srinagar and Naidkhai in Bandipora district, respectively.

Besides the five killings, terrorists gunned down Majid Ahmad Gojri at Srinagar's Karan Nagar locality and Mohammad Shafi Dar at the city's Batmaloo area on October 2. Two non-locals -- Arvind Kumar Sah of Bihar and Saghir Ahmad of Uttar Pradesh were killed in Srinagar and Pulwama districts, respectively on October 16.

In another attack on non-locals on October 17, two labourers from Bihar were killed and another injured in Kulgam district of south

Kashmir. The officials said that the Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), a wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, is also likely to take over cases related to the killing of two members of the Gujjar gang along with a case related to the killing of Mehran Ali Sheikh, who was shot dead outside his house at Nawa Kadal locality here in July.

Sheikh and Gojri were friends and part of a group called "16 Gujjar Gang". After a spate of civilian killings, security forces shot dead 13 terrorists in nine separate encounters this month till October 16. The dead included four terrorists who, according to police, were responsible for four civilian killings in the first week of October.

## Govt failed on all fronts, innocent people being killed in J&K: Cong

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday said innocent people are being killed or forced to leave Jammu and Kashmir and the alleged the government has failed on all fronts.

"Innocents are being killed in Jammu and Kashmir. There is exodus of hope from Jammu and Kashmir. The Modi government, which speaks all the time of security, is missing," party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

The Congress also said that the Modi government made tall claims about eradicating terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir after Article 370.

"But today everyone

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## India must not play Pak in T20 WC game, says Athawale; slams spurt in J-K terror incidents

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PUNE: Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Tuesday slammed Pakistan for the spurt in terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir, including targeted killings of migrant labourers, and said India must have an 'aar paar ki ladaai' with its neighbour to set things right.

He also said India should not play its scheduled T20 World Cup match against Pakistan on October 24 in order to teach the latter a lesson.

"If Pakistan does not stop its activities in the (J-K) Valley, then there has to be an aar paar ki ladaai (all out war to settle things once and for all). In J-K, attacks are taking place on migrant labourers, local Kashmiri Pandits are being targeted. It is Pakistan's

play to not allow development in the Valley," the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment told reporters.

"By resorting to such militant attacks, there is an attempt to spread fear among the workers who are coming to the Valley from UP and Bihar. But the Centre will not fall prey to such tactics and a strategy is being formed to end militancy. There is need to conduct another surgical strike against Pakistan, which needs to vacate PoK and stop terror activities," the minister added.

Queried on the upcoming T20 match between the two nations, Athawale said India should not play Pakistan, adding that he would express his opinion on this matter to BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 31.0°C Min: 17.1°C

Humidity  
Max: 76 Min: 50

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 21.3°C Min: 7.7°C

Humidity  
Max: 95 Min: 64

Sunset : 17:54 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:40 Hours