

Arandeep Multispecialty OPD Clinic
 Marble Market Extension, Greater Kailash
 Chowk, National Highway-5A, Jammu.
ORTHOPAEDIC OPD
Dr. Navjot Singh
 MBBS, D(Ortho),
 DNB (Orthopedics)
 Senior Consultant -
 Orthopedics
31st Oct., 2021
 FOR APPOINTMENT CALL:
+91-9622965050
 Visit us at www.arandeeportho.com

03 Court rejects bail plea of SA of Advocate General's office

Officer, Jawan martyred in blast along LoC in Rajouri

Search for terrorists in Poonch-Rajouri forest belt enters 20th day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An officer and a jawan of the army were martyred in a mysterious blast near a forward post along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Saturday, officials said.

The blast took place in Kalal area of Nowshera sector when an army column was on patrol duty as part of measures to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border, the officials said.

They said the two army personnel, including a lieutenant, were critically injured in the explosion and immediately evacuated to a nearby military hospital where they breathed last.

They said the area where the explosion took place is dotted with landmines planted by the army as part of the counter-infiltration arrangement.

The nature of the explosion was not immediately known,



Martyrs Lt Rishi Kumar & Sepoy Manjit Singh.

the officials said, without ruling out the possibility of the use of improvised explosive device (IED) by terrorists to target the patrol team.

Confirming the explosion, a defence spokesman said further details were awaited.

Meanwhile, a search operation to track down a group of hiding terrorists entered the 20th day in the forest belt of twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, where nine soldiers were killed in two separate attacks, officials said.

The operation in Bhatti Durrian in Mendhar along with Surankote forest in Poonch district and nearby Thanamandi in Rajouri started on October 11, they said.

A Pakistani terrorist, who was moved from the Kot Bhalwal Central Jail in Jammu to Mendhar on police remand for questioning in connection with the ongoing operation, was killed when the security forces accompa-

09 130 sacks of polythene bags recovered

JKRTC terminates 15 employees for misappropriation of revenue

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Managing Director JKRTC, Angrez Singh Rana on Saturday issued orders for termination of 15 conductors, who have misappropriated the corporation revenue.

"All these conductors have committed more than ten offenses of misappropriation of the corporation revenue for which they were given a number of opportunities to mend their ways. In order to make the corporation corruption free the services of these conductors were terminated," an official handout stated.

The terminated conductors include Nehru Lal, Reg. No. 2389 (12 offences), Jasbir Singh Reg. No. 2644 (16 offences), V. K Salathia Reg. No. 2386 (11 offences), Jagtar Singh Reg. No. 2455 (11 offences), Tej Krishan Reg. No. 2185 (17 offences), Daljeet Singh Reg. No. 2484 (14 offences), Bhagwan Dass Reg.

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10 Udhampur Club lifts District Volleyball C'ship trophy

5 lakh second dose vaccination target set for J&K in 1 week

UT reports 101 new COVID cases, Ladakh 11

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Saturday asked the divisional and district administrations in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure coverage of 5 lakh people who have completed the mandatory interregnum period and are due to receive the subsequent dose with second COVID vaccination jab within a week.

Chairing a meeting to review the public health response to COVID-19, the Chief Secretary emphasised on early culmination of COVID vaccination drives to ensure safety of local population once the economy is fully opened with resumption of all economic activities, reopening of schools, and large scale tourism activities.

Administrative Secretaries of Health & Medical Education, Revenue, General Administration, besides Divisional Commissioners

Jammu, Kashmir/ Inspectors General of Police, Kashmir/ Jammu, all Deputy Commissioners, all District Superintendents of Police along with MD, National Health Mission, Director, Family Welfare, and other concerned officers participated in the meeting.

The Health and Medical Education Department was asked to ensure regular supply of vaccines to the districts, besides enhancing their testing facilities for early detection of COVID infections and emerging hotspots.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the district administration, Srinagar to remain vigilant to any surge in cases and focus intensively on daily testing of vulnerable population in consonance to the trajectory of infections. "Special focus is to be laid on early testing and isolation of symptomatic patients having influenza like infections

(ILIs) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARIs) due to the sudden change in season" he added.

Dr. Mehta further underscored the need for strict enforcement of the COVID appropriate behaviour (CAB) and COVID SOPs and protocols, besides directing the enforcement agencies to strictly implement the established protocols and levy penalties on defaulters. He also directed continuation of the COVID dedicated IEC campaign to raise awareness regarding DOs and Don'ts for keeping the disease at bay.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 101 new positive cases of novel Corona virus during the past 24 hours -- 11 from Jammu division and 90 from Kashmir division-- thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 332154.

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India's vaccination coverage crosses 106 Cr doses

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 106 crore on Saturday, the Union Health Ministry said.

Almost 62 lakh (61,99,429) vaccine doses were administered on Saturday till 7 pm and this number is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night, the ministry said.

The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly

reviewed and monitored at the highest level, the ministry underlined.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years

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India ready to produce over 5 billion COVID vaccine doses by 2022 end: Modi

AGENCY

ROME: India is ready to produce over 5 billion Covid vaccine doses by the end of next year to help the world in its fight against the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his remarks at the G-20 meeting here on Saturday, as he highlighted India's contributions to fighting the deadly disease.

Briefing reporters on Modi's engagements in Rome, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the prime minister also stressed on the need for facilitating international travel and spoke about having a



On the sidelines of G-20 Rome Summit, PM Narendra Modi interacting with various leaders.

mechanism of mutual recognition of vaccine certification as a means for this. Noting that the WHO approval for the emergency use authorisation for Covaxin, India's indigenous vaccine, is pending, India

suggested that a nod for the job will help India assist other countries.

A technical advisory group of the UN health agency will meet on November 3 to conduct a final risk-benefit assessment for Emergency Use Listing of Covaxin. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and AstraZeneca and Oxford University's Covishield are the two widely used vaccines in India.

Modi also highlighted India's medical supply to over 150 countries and contribution in maintaining the global supply chain

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NSD opens TIE Centre in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta and noted Bollywood actor and chairman, National School of Drama (NSD), Paresh Rawal jointly inaugurated a Theatre in Education Centre (TIE), of the NSD here on Saturday.

The centre was inaugurated during a function held at Tagore Hall under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Among others, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Niteshwar Kumar, Secretary Culture, Sarmad Hafeez and Secretary JKAA-CL, Rahul Pandey were present on the occasion.

As part of the event, an MoU was signed and exchanged between Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAA-CL), and NSD Acting Director, Dinesh Khanna.

The TIE centre will engage in promoting theatre activities among children in Kashmir and will be developed for offering one year diploma courses shortly.

In terms of the MoU, NSD will hold all theatre activities in Kashmir in collaboration and consultation with JKAA-CL.

Coinciding with the event, NSD theatre artists

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T20 WC: Mehbooba writes to Modi over action against Kashmiri students, seeks his intervention

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Expressing shock at the punitive action against some Kashmiri students for allegedly celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in a cricket match, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and sought his intervention so that their future is not destroyed.

She noted that such punitive actions will only further the sense of mistrust and alienation between the younger generation in Kashmir and the rest of the country, and added patriotism and a sense of loyalty have to be cultivated with compassion.

Her letter to Modi came after medical students living in hostels of the Government Medical College Srinagar and the SKIMS Hospital here were booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 28.0°C Min: 12.5°C

Humidity

Max: 80 Min: 61

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 19.4°C Min: 2.9°C

Humidity

Max: 84 Min: 57

Sunset: 17:43 Hours

Sunrise: 06:47 Hours

Innovative steps taken to ensure swift justice delivery system: Rijiju

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said the Centre is committed to provide justice to every citizen and that various innovative steps have been taken to ensure a swift justice delivery system in the country.

The minister was addressing an awareness-cum-mega legal aid camp at Chandigarh in Lolab valley of Kupwara district.

He said the objective of his visit to the north Kashmir district was to assess the implementation of various development and welfare-oriented programmes initiated by the central government.



Rijiju said he felt satisfied with the feedback received from the administration regarding effective implementation of various schemes.

The minister said horticulture and handicrafts of Kashmir are world famous for quality and uniqueness

and added that the central government is making every possible effort to make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of prosperous economy.

The minister said Rs 9000 crore has been allocated for the development of lower judiciary in the country. He praised para legal volunteers and said that the legal aid system is going in a proper direction in the union territory.

The programme was part of a pan-India awareness-outreach campaign under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and organised under the supervision of the J-K Legal Services Authority and the

District Legal Services Authority of Kupwara in association with the district administration.

The Union Minister of Law and Justice also inaugurated a mega legal awareness and services camp at ITI Pattan in Baramulla district.

The camp was organised by the District Legal Services Authority of Baramulla under the aegis of the J-K Legal Services Authority with an active collaboration of the district administration.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman of the J-K Legal Services Authority, and Justice

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Harsh Dev comes to rescue of Lal Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After getting vacated from the government accommodation in BJP's rule, the Panthers Party Chairman Harsh Dev Singh, who lost its sheen by virtue of deserting the party by many senior panther leaders, has come to the rescue of Ch Lal Singh and alleged that turncoat politician Lal Singh known for his acidic tongue, is victim of BJP's political vendetta.

Accusing the BJP government of abusing institutions for settling its personal and political scores, Harsh Dev Singh said that Lal Singh the Dogra Sangram Sena (DSS) leader and his family

were the victims of the conspiracy hatched by the saffron leadership.

The BJP leadership was all praise for the veteran leader as long as he remained in their party but overnight he became a tainted leader after he started opposing and exposing them. And not only was he being targeted maliciously but his spouse and brother too were made to bear the brunt of BJP's machiavellian designs and dirty politicking, Harsh Dev said while addressing press/media persons in Jammu today.

Referring to the demolition of eight shops and a residential building of Rajinder

Singh, the brother of Ch. Lal Singh last year, Harsh Dev Singh said that if it was a case of encroachment why was it allowed to be constructed in the first instance. And though demolition of unauthorized structures is to be welcomed, the aforesaid move being selective had certainly originated from a bad intent. He said that Rajinder Singh the brother of estranged BJP leader had been in possession of the aforesaid property for the last around 20-25 years.

And during all these years it never occurred to the government to dismantle the said structures supposed

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Dogra Certificate Controversy

A definition parallel to Kashmiriat had been laid down officially of Dogriat by Raman Bhalla in 2011

Why did leadership from Jammu Division not unitedly carry provision for issuance of Dogra Certificate?

DAYA SAGAR

Earlier it was Gulam Nabi Azad who had talked of Dogriat but could not stand much with it. But then it was Raman Bhalla in April 2011 the then J&K Revenue Minister (of course with the support of Omar Abdullah) who had once again ventured into the subject in the name of Dogra Certificate for all the subjects of Jammu Division (J&K Revenue Department Order No. Rev.(LB) 69 of 2011 dated: 25-03-2011 issued with the approval of the then Revenue Minister Raman Bhalla). But this time it had pushed the then government into some 'regional' controversies. On the call of Sayeed Ali Shah Geelani a strike was observed in some parts of Kashmir valley from 2nd to 4th April 2011. Even the Middle East's English language daily Arab News said on 8th April that March 25th Dogra Certificate order of J&K Government may stir unrest in Kashmir.

Let us look at what had been reported. (i) Minister for Revenue Raman Bhalla asked the people of Jammu division to avail the benefit of Dogra

Certificate" (ii) sanction has been given by the government vide Order No. Rev. (LB) 69 of 2011 dated: 25-03-2011 (iii) residents of J&K (PRC) were eligible to get the Dogra Certificate (iv) Tehsildar (Territorial) shall be competent to issue such certificate (v) and above all residents of Jammu division irrespective of ethnicity, cultural background and mother tongue would be classified as Dogras, provided their forefathers were residents of Jammu Division prior to 1944 (cut-off date of 1944 shall not apply to displaced persons from POJK). So in my opinion it was the definition of Dogra as laid by Revenue Minister that had disturbed the Kashmiri conservative mindset. Defining all people of Jammu Region / Province (irrespective of ethnicity, religion, cultural background and mother-tongue) as Dogra is what appeared having disturbed only 'the players' of political game plans for securing to seats of governance belonging to Kashmir valley. A definition parallel to Kashmiriat had been got laid down in Dogriat by Raman Bhalla in more clear terms extending over

whole of Jammu Province / Division. That was surely going to weaken the evil designs of those who are working to divide the people of Jammu Region / Division on communal lines.

The questions that I had asked then were like i. Why the objections to Dogra Certificate and demands for withdrawal of any orders / policy issued by J&K Government had particularly come only from some leaders belonging to Kashmir Valley? ii Why there were not any impressionable objections to calling whole of Jammu Division as 'Dogra' from any part of Jammu region or Ladakh region? iii. Why do some leaders react when someone talks of Dogriat where as they themselves talk of Kashmiriat, why so much hue and cry? iv. Why apprehensions for disturbance of even peace in J&K on the issues like of Dogra Certificate had been expressed by some "leaders" from Kashmir Valley only, was the common man in Kashmir valley like some leaders' there' too was also that much agitated over issues like Dogra Certificate and how far some Valley leaders have been able to cul-

tivate doubts in the minds of common man of Kashmir Valley about the truthfulness of the people outside Kashmir Valley (more particularly after 1990)? v. Why do the valley leaders not react when New Delhi refers to J&K issues in the name of Kashmiri only like Kashmiri youth unemployment or Kashmiri aspirations and the like? vi Have the valley leaders succeeded in exploiting the innocent Kashmiri masses in the name of Kashmiriat?

Sheikh Mohd Abdullah too in 1947 was particularly concerned for the welfare of the people of Kashmir Valley. But Sheikh Mohd Abdullah did not carry any discriminatory wills against other regions. He did start with the socio economic welfare of the Kashmir Muslims but was surely not envious to the identity / progress of others (common masses).

Simultaneously Sheikh Abdullah's National Conference identified her interests also in non muslims as well people outside Kashmir Valley. Whereas the manner in which the political affairs of J&K were handled by New Delhi over

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