

**03** GoI becoming a little more caring, expectations of people of UT of Ladakh have increased

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## Positive initiatives must for improving living standards of all sections: LG

**‘Say no to COVID third wave’**

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Listing his administration's "breakthrough steps" for economic growth and equitable development, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said positive initiatives in the economic sector are imperative for improving the standard of living of all sections and creating a discrimination-free society.

"people have the biggest role in stopping the coronavirus and urged them to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and say 'no to third wave'", the Lieutenant Governor said in the monthly "Awaaz ki Awaaz" radio programme aired on all local and primary channels of All India Radio (AIR) in the Union Territory and broadcast on Doordarshan Kashmir.

Sinha highlighted the success stories, and voiced invaluable suggestions and insights received from citizens.

During the first episode of the programme in 2022, the Lt Governor also enlisted various breakthrough steps and initiatives that the administration has been taking for furthering the economic growth and equitable development of J&K UT, bringing investment and creating a host of new opportunities for the



people of Jammu Kashmir.

He said that the first and historic Real Estate Summit organised with the broader goals of ensuring economic prosperity, employment opportunities and financial strengthening of the local business groups, witnessed investment agreements to the tune of Rs 18,300 crores.

Highlighting the recent investment proposals worth Rs 17,000 crores signed between the J&K Government

and well-known business groups at the Dubai Expo at the beginning this year, the Lt Governor noted that these initiatives are essential to accelerate the pace of economic and social change, thereby improving the lives of the common man.

He cited the example of growth story of Gurgaon- where a cluster of few villages was transformed into a vibrant industrial ecosystem, today housing offices of 250 of the world's largest multinational companies bringing in massive investment, opportunities and prosperity for common citizens.

"Not only ideas but belief in development creates revolution in the society. All positive changes that have taken place in the society have been achieved by supporting and not opposing development", the Lt Governor observed.

During the address, the Lt Governor shared several success stories and the suggestions sent by the citizens from across the UT. He also congratulated the Sahitya Akademi Award-2021 awardees - Raj Rahi, Khalid Hussain, and Wali Mohd Aseer Kashtwari, from the region. The Lt Governor made special mention of success stories of young innovator;

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## Vaccination added great strength to fight against COVID: Modi

India's vaccination drive completes 1 yr; 156.76 Cr doses administered

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lauding India's COVID-19 vaccination drive as it completes a year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it has added great strength to the fight against the pandemic and has resulted in saving lives and protecting livelihoods.

When the pandemic first struck, not much was known about the virus. However, our scientists and innovators immersed themselves in developing vaccines, he noted.

India feels proud that our nation has been able to contribute to fighting the pandemic through vaccines, Modi tweeted.

"I salute each and every individual who is associated with the vaccination drive," he said, adding that the role of our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers is exceptional.

"When we see glimpses of



people being vaccinated in remote areas, or our healthcare workers taking the vaccines there, our hearts and minds are filled with pride," he said.

The prime minister asserted that India's approach to fighting the pandemic will always remain science based.

Health infrastructure is also being augmented to ensure that fellow citizens get proper care, he said, asking people to keep following all COVID-19 related protocols.

The countrywide vaccination drive against COVID-19 on Sunday completed one year, during which over 156.76 crore vaccine doses were administered.

According to Health Ministry officials, over 92 per cent of the adult population have received at least one dose while over 68 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

The Centre will issue a postal stamp on Sunday afternoon to mark the completion of one year of the inoculation drive.

The drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase.

Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of the 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.

Vaccination of all people aged over 45 from April 1. The government then decided to expand the ambit of the inoculation drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from January 3 this year for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

India started administering the precaution dose of

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## Cop, civilian hurt in grenade attack in Srinagar



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A police personnel and a civilian were injured in a grenade attack by terrorists on a security forces deployment in the city here on Sunday, officials said.

At about 7:20 pm, the terrorists hurled a grenade on a deployment of police and the

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Saraf Kadal area of the city, a police official said. He said the grenade explosion caused injuries to police constable Mehraj Ahmad and a civilian, Sartaj Ahmad, a resident of Saraf Kadal. The injured were shifted to the SMHS hospital, the official added.

## Two brothers killed after earthmover plunges into gorge in Doda 4 labourers hurt as landslide hits under-construction railway tunnel in Reasi

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADARWAH/REASI: Two brothers including a teenager were killed while another was seriously injured in a late night road accident after the JCB skidded off the frozen road and fell into a deep gorge at Shalala area under Gandoh police station in Doda district, police said.

According to reports, their bodies were sent to Government Hospital Gandoh for postmortem, while the seriously injured was shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Doda.

Police said that the accident took place at 11:30 PM

when the brothers, aged between 19 to 22 years, were coming from Bharthi area and were heading towards Bhatyas on Thathri-Kilhotran road. SSP Doda Abdul Qyoom said that according to preliminary investigation the speeding JCB machine bearing registration number JK17-7162, driven by operator Mushtaq Ahmed when it reached near work shop Shahalala, met with an accident and the JCB rolled down about 100 feet from the frozen road, resulting in operator died on the spot.

"With the help of locals, Police shifted injured and the

deceased operator to Gandoh Hospital, where the younger brother of the operator also succumbed to his injuries whereas their third accomplice was shifted to GMCH Doda," SSP added.

The deceased brothers have been identified as Mushtaq Ahmed (22) and Ishfaq Ahmed (19) sons of Atta Mohd Sheikh of village Maniole-Bhatyas of Tehsil Chilli-Pingal, while the injured is Fareed Ahmed Gujjar son of Alaf Din of Bagla-Bharat Doda.

Meanwhile police has lodged a case FIR No 02/2022 under sections 279,337,304-A IPC at Police Station Gandoh.

Meanwhile, at least four labourers suffered minor injuries in a landslide that struck an under-construction railway tunnel in Reasi district, officials said on Sunday. The landslide, triggered by heavy rains, hit the front side of the tunnel at Sakalkote in Arnas tehsil late Saturday, the officials said.

They said four labourers working on an earthmover near the tunnel suffered minor injuries and were shifted to hospital where they were discharged after necessary treatment. An earthmover and some other machines suffered extensive damage in the incident, the officials said.

## CBI nabs Patwari red-handed while accepting bribe

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The sleuths of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have arrested one Ashok Kumar, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Jassore, Tehsil R S Pura, District Jammu was demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 from complainant for issuing Fard in respect of land owned by his father. "During verification, allegations mentioned in complaint were found to be genuine and bribe amount was negotiated at Rs 35,000. Accordingly, a trap was laid by CBI and accused was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 35,000 from the complainant. Searches

As per an official spokespersons of investigating agency, FIR RC0042022A0002 was registered on January 15, 2022 under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (as amended in 2018), on basis of a complaint regarding demand of bribe by accused Government servant. He further said that in complaint it was alleged that accused Ashok Kumar, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Jassore, Tehsil R S Pura, District Jammu was demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 from complainant for issuing Fard in respect of land owned by his father. "During verification, allegations mentioned in complaint were found to be genuine and bribe amount was negotiated at Rs 35,000. Accordingly, a trap was laid by CBI and accused was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 35,000 from the complainant. Searches

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## Two held with 397 kg poppy straw in Udhampur

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two alleged interstate narcotic smugglers were arrested after 397 kg poppy straw was recovered from a truck in Udhampur district, police said on Sunday. The contraband was found hidden in a specially fabricated chamber in the Haryana-bound truck during inspection at Jakhon on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Saturday evening, a police official said. It was packed in 19 bags and was being transported from Kashmir; he said.

The truck driver Nand Kishore and his accomplice Niti Nain, both residents of Rohtak, were arrested and booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he mentioned. During preliminary investigation, the official said, the accused revealed that they had brought the consignment from south Kashmir's Kulgam district in order to sell it outside the union territory.

## Pak mercenaries tricking J&K youth into terrorism: Officials

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Pakistani mercenaries operating in Jammu and Kashmir are tricking the youth into terrorism and using them as "terror mules" who can even be eliminated if they plan to shun the path of violence, senior security officials said on Sunday.

Referring to an encounter in Budgam earlier this month and the call details of 24-year-old Wasim Qadir Mir, a resident of Shahzadpora, the officials said he was the latest victim of the despotic behaviour of the Pakistani terrorists who eliminated him during a gunfight with security forces in village Zoiu in the central

Kashmir district on January 6.

Mir along with his two Pakistani accomplices were trapped in a cordon-and-search operation, leading to a fierce gunfight, they said, adding by dawn, it was common news that the security forces had eliminated yet another group of terrorists in an encounter but what was uncommon was the way the series of events unfolded during the encounter the preceding night.

"During the encounter Mir wanted to put down his arms probably with an aim to come out and surrender to the security forces but was forced by the two Pakistani

terrorists to keep firing back.

"Details that emerged later including the post-mortem report further confirmed that Mir was actually killed by members of his own group, as a result of their failed attempts to resist him from surrendering," a senior official involved in the gunfight said.

Mir was a school dropout who initially worked as an Over Ground Worker and subsequently was recruited into the terror folds in December 2020 by JeM commander Saifullah alias "Lambu Bhai", a Pakistani terrorist.

Even though Mir's stint as an active terrorist was short,

he had a long list of acts of terror attributed to him, including the Zewan attack in which three police personnel were killed and 11 others were injured on December 13 last year, the officials said.

They said it was probably his involvement in a long list of terror-related incidents that prevented him from rejoining the mainstream and eventually when he was given an opportunity by the security forces to save his own life, he did not stand a chance at the hands of the very companions for whom he was working as the "terror mule".

He said as it would have exposed the facade of the

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## Minimum temperature in some places in Kashmir settles above normal

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: There was some respite from the intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir as the minimum temperature improved by several degrees, officials said here on Sunday.

The night temperature at most places in the valley on Saturday night was above normal for this part of the season, the officials said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, settled at a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius over three degrees up from the previous night's minus 4.5 degrees



Celsius, the officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir,

recorded a low of minus 7 degrees Celsius, up 2.5 degrees from the

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## NIA files supplementary chargesheet in LeM terror conspiracy case in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against four alleged Lashkar-e-Mustafa operatives in a case related to a conspiracy to carry terror activities here, an official said on Sunday.

The chargesheet against Mohd Arman Ali alias 'Arman Mansuri' and Mohd Ehsanullah alias 'Guddu Ansari', both residents of Bihar, and Imran Ahmad Hajam and Irfan Ahmad Dar of Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, was filed in the NIA special court, Jammu, on Saturday, a spokesperson of the agency said.

The NIA said the case against the alleged terrorists

was filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The spokesperson said the case relates to hatching of a conspiracy by the operatives of the Lashkar-e-Mustafa (LeM) at the behest of proscribed Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed to carry out terrorist activities in the Jammu area with an intention to threaten the sovereignty, integrity and security of India.

Initially a case was registered at the Gangyal police station in Jammu on February 6 last year and later, the NIA had taken

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 12.7°C Min: 8.4°C

Humidity

Max : 95 Min : 87

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 8.4°C Min: -1.2°C

Humidity

Max : 90 Min: 66

Sunset : 17:48 Hours

Sunrise : 07:33 Hours



A health worker taking sample for COVID testing in Gandhi Nagar.

officials.

Professor and Head of Department, Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar, Dr Salim Khan said 145 doctors, 130 MBBS students and 130 paramedics have tested positive for COVID-19 in GMC Srinagar and

associated hospitals since January 1. He said most of the infected have mild symptoms.

"No one among them has been hospitalised, but, they are in isolation. Hopefully, they will report back in a week's time," Khan said.

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