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## 03 Helpline Numbers for Jammu Division in view of Weather Advisory from Jan 3-9 issued

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# LG launches COVID vaccination for 15-18 yrs old, urges youngsters to get inoculated

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday launched the COVID-19 vaccination drive for children aged 15-18 years in Jammu & Kashmir and urged the youth to get vaccinated.

"Vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the Covid pandemic. Don't be complacent after getting vaccinated. It's crucial to continue following protocols and guidelines", he added.

COVID-19 vaccination for the UT has been started from Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu with the inoculation of the dose to the children under 15-18 years age group.

The Lt Governor asked the health officials to keep the vaccinated children under mandatory observation period.

"As the inoculation drive for the children aged between 15 and 18 years started



LG Manoj Sinha during launch of COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 15-18 years in J&K.

across the country, it has also launched in Jammu and Kashmir. In the coming week, the targeted population (8.33 lakh) will be vaccinated," Sinha told reporters after launching the vaccination drive.

Lauding the contribution of the medical fraternity, including doctors and nurses, in the fight against the pandemic, Sinha said five districts, among a total of 20, have already registered 100 per cent vaccination of the targeted population.

"The government has assured 70 per cent doses (for the children) and the rest will be provided shortly. We are concerned about the completion of the process within the stipulated time," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Referring to the high-level meeting chaired by him to review the COVID-19 status, Omicron and preparedness of health infrastructure here on Sunday, the Lt governor said the meeting was convened in the wake of increase

in the cases of Omicron variant in the country.

"We are keeping our preparations ready. So far, we are saved from this (Omicron) threat," he said, adding "our effort is to provide the best possible (medical) services to the people".

As many as 822 vaccination sites have been set up across 20 districts for the vaccination of the children, officials said, appealing to the youngsters to come forward and get themselves vaccinated.

The officials said hundreds of teenagers, who had registered for the first dose through various modes, turned up to receive the shot. Special vaccination centres have been established in government schools and private coaching centres as well to cover the intended age group of individuals, they said.

J&K Government has made all preparations for the smooth administering

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2021 saw much lesser violence, very little political activity in J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration tightened its grip over the situation in the union territory with very little political activity allowed in 2021 but the draft proposal of the delimitation commission to give more seats to Jammu region briefly threatened to disturb the semblance of normalcy. Protests, which were almost a daily fixture in

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## J&K records 176 fresh COVID cases

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 176 fresh cases of coronavirus on Monday, taking the infection tally to 3,41,802 while no new death due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 70 were from the Jammu division and 108 from the Kashmir division, they said. Srinagar district

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# Intruder killed in Samba; intrusion bid foiled in Poonch

Pak's attempts to push terrorists, smuggle arms, narcotics continue: BSF

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An intruder was shot dead on Monday when BSF troops restored to firing following the detection of suspicious movement along the International Border (IB) in Samba district, a senior officer of the force said while an intrusion bid was foiled along the Line of Control in Poonch by the Army.

The alert troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) detected the suspected Pakistani intruder's movement along the IB in Ramgarh in the early hours and opened fire after challenging him, officials said.

The intruder did not pay any heed and was subsequently shot dead by the troops, they added.

In a related development, an infiltration attempt by terrorists was scuttled along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district in the early hours, officials said here.

Troops guarding the



BSF IG, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora briefing media.

Hampur area of Bimber Gali sector picked up movement of a group of suspected terrorists who were trying to infiltrate into this side from across the border under the cover of darkness, they said.

The alert troops scuttled the infiltration bid by challenging the group, who fled back into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

A landmine, part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, also exploded during this, the officials said.

Meanwhile, a top BSF offi-

cer in Jammu and Kashmir has said that the deployment of troops and surveillance systems has been "strengthened" along the border with Pakistan amid intelligence inputs of heightened activity at terrorist launch pads on the other side ahead of Republic Day.

Border Security Force (BSF) Inspector General, Jammu Frontier, D K Boora's comments came on a day the force shot dead an infiltrator and

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## Amit Shah reviews security situation; threats from global terror groups

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the country's prevailing security situation and emerging challenges that include threats from global terror organisations, illicit use of cyberspace and "movement of foreign terrorist fighters".

This was the first such high-level meeting, chaired by Shah and attended by the top brass of the country's security and intelligence apparatus, in the new year.

"Hon'ble Union home minister conducted a high-level security meeting today to review the prevailing threat

scenario in the country and the emerging security challenges," an official statement said.

He highlighted the continued threats of terrorism and global terror groups, terror financing, narco-terrorism, organised crime-terror nexus, illicit use of cyberspace, movement of foreign terrorist fighters, it said.

The home minister stressed the need for better coordination and synergy among the central and state security agencies in countering the ever-changing counter terrorism and security challenges.

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# Top LeT ultra Salim Parray among 2 terrorists eliminated in Srinagar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists including a wanted Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) ultra Salim Parray were killed in two encounters with security forces in Harwan area on the outskirts of the city on Monday, police said.

"Srinagar police neutralised dreaded terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT Salim Parray," IGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar said.

Top LeT terrorist Saleem Parray & 01 foreign terrorist neutralized in 02 successive operations in Srinagar January 03: Police along



with security forces neutralized two terrorists including top most wanted & dreaded terrorist Saleem Parray of

Ex Guv J&K Malik has bitten hand that fed him: Omar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Monday said Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik has bitten the hand that fed him and asserted that people of Jammu and Kashmir can certify his untrustworthiness.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was reacting to media reports about Malik claiming to have entered into a verbal duel with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the farmers' protest. "This man was their hatchet

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# HC raps Admn for constructing community hall without completing process of land acquisition

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking a serious note of government constructing a multi-purpose community hall without completing the process of land acquisition from its owners in Ramban district, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed the authorities to complete the process within one month and provide additional compensation of Rs 10 lakh within two weeks to the aggrieved party.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani observed that

right to property or land is a constitutional right and no one can be deprived of his or her property without following the procedure prescribed in law and payment of adequate compensation.

Hearing a petition filed by Krishan Singh and others through advocate Rajdeep Singh, the bench in his five-page order said it was crystal clear that the land of the petitioners has been utilised for the construction of a multi-purpose community hall but without there being a formal acquisition.

The hall stands constructed without acquisition of land

and without payment of any compensation...they (respondents) accept that as against the estimated cost of acquisition of Rs 15 lakh, the indenting department has deposited a sum of Rs 4.50 lakh only but even that has not been distributed to the lawful owners of the land, the order said.

The petitioners claimed that they are residents of Batroo village in Pogal Paristan area of Ukhral and are owners of land measuring two kanals and three marlas (11706.8 square feet) with nine walnut trees which

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## Probe ordered into collapse of under-construction bridge

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered a magisterial probe into the collapse of the iron shuttering over an under-construction bridge resulting in injuries to 27 people in Samba district, officials said on Monday.

The major bridge is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) over the Devika river at Ramgarh-Koulpur, the officials said.

"A probe has been ordered into the collapse. The inquiry will be headed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) and the report will be submitted in three days," Samba Deputy Commissioner Anuradha Gupta said.

She said that the district administration will bear the entire treatment cost of the injured out of District Red Cross funds. The iron shuttering connecting two of many pillars caved in

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# COVID: Centre allows work from home for 50 pc of its staff below under Secretary-level Suspends biometric attendance for Govt employees

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre has allowed 50 per cent of its employees below the level of Under Secretary to work from home amid rising coronavirus cases, according to a Personnel Ministry order issued on Monday.

Persons with disabilities and pregnant women employees have been exempted from attending the offices, it said.

Central government officers/staff will have to follow staggered timing to avoid overcrowding in the offices, the order said.

All the officers/staff resid-

ing in Covid containment zones have also been exempted from coming to office till containment zones are de-notified, it said in the order issued to all central government departments.

"Physical attendance of government servants below the level of Under Secretary shall be restricted to 50 per cent of the actual strength and the remaining 50 per cent shall work from home, the order said.

Meanwhile, the Centre has also suspended marking of biometric attendance for all its employees till January 31, as a precautionary measure

to check the spread of coronavirus.

Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the decision has been taken in the interest of safety and health of the government employees.

"Keeping in view the rise in #COVID cases in the last few days, the BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE for govt officials and employees is being suspended with immediate effect, till further orders. Under leadership of PM Sh @NarendraModi, this decision has been taken in the interest of safety

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# Impressive Nagar Kirtan taken out in Jammu ahead of Gurgurab

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid tight security arrangements, hundreds of Sikh devotees on Monday took part in a Nagar Kirtan taken out in connection with the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, the 10th Guru of Sikhism who laid down his own life and sacrificed his father, mother and sons for the sake of humanity and protection of right cause of community.

The Nagar Kirtan, organised by the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu started from Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev, Chand Nagar, which after passing through Dogra Chowk, Bikram Chowk, Asia Hotel, Green Belt Park, Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar and Gole Market, culminated at Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha, Nanak Nagar, here.

People of all colours and creeds participated in the religious procession in which Parcharaks Bhai Harjinder Singh Manjhi, Bhai Harmeet Singh



Panj Piyare leading the Nagar Kirtan procession in Jammu on Monday.

(More pics on pg-3)

Ji-Makhanpur Simbal, Bhai Nirmal Singh Ji-Dhadi Jatha, Bibi Davinder Kour Ji-Kavishri, Panthak Kavi Bhai Sulakhan Singh Arshi, Panth Di Awaz Bhai Balbir Singh Kamal and Panthak Kavi Bhai Ranjeet Singh Khalsa- Jagadhari Wale participated,

recited the poetry and threw light on the life history and teachings of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj.

A large number of people from Hindu community also paid their obeisance to Guru Granth Sahib enroute.

The Sikh youth played Ghatka enroute and showed many feasts during the Nagar Kirtan. A large number of devotees were sweeping the road from where from the Nagar Kirtan proceeded.

To greet the Nagar Kirtan the Shopkeepers and Associations enroute had erected welcome gates. Besides, the stalls serving food items fruits, water and juice to participants were also installed at various places by the people to serve the devotees who had taken part in Nagar Kirtan.

Adequate police and paramilitary personnel escorted the procession throughout the route.

The proceedings of Nagar Kirtan was conducted by the General Secretary of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu Fateh Singh. Avtar Singh Khalsa, Member, District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Jammu who thanked the administration and all the departments ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# New satellite image shows China constructing bridge on its side of Pangong lake in Ladakh: Sources

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A new satellite image showing China building a bridge on its side of the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh emerged on Monday amid the prolonged Sino-India military standoff in the border area.

People familiar with the development said the satellite imagery is of an area on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near the Galwan valley region.

The armies of India and China had created a buffer zone in Galwan valley following their deadly clashes on June 15, 2020.

On January 1, Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets and greetings at 10 border posts along the LAC including in eastern Ladakh

to mark the New Year.

The sources said the bridge is at a distance of around 40 km from the alignment of the LAC in the region and that India has also been developing infrastructure in the region at a rapid pace.

Geo-intelligence expert Damien Symon posted a satellite image on Twitter suggesting that the new bridge was being constructed by China to link the North and South banks of Pangong lake.

Military experts said the aim of constructing the bridge in the Khurnak area could be to ensure that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is able to quickly mobilise its troops in the region.

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 17.5°C Min: 7.7°C

Humidity

Max: 81 Min: 66

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 6.8°C Min: 3.0°C

Humidity

Max: 85 Min: 71

Sunset : 17:39 Hours

Sunrise : 07:34 Hours