

## 90,000 jobs created by KVIB across J&K in 2021-22: LG

## MoU inked with Apollo to establish multi-specialty hospital in Jammu With greater industry engagement & investment J&K will grow stronger: LG



LG Manoj Sinha during signing of MoU by Govt with Apollo Hospitals.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the world renowned healthcare company Apollo Hospitals for the establishment of a multi-specialty hospital in Jammu.

In presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the MoU was signed between Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to J&K Government, Industries & Commerce Department and Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha observed the MoU is another major milestone for J&K.

"We have embarked on a new journey of development & socio-economic growth, which will take J&K UT to levels never seen before", the Lt Governor said.

With greater industry engagement & greater investment, J&K will grow from strength to strength in the years to come, added the Lt Governor.

Besides, providing best healthcare facilities, the venture will bring huge direct and indirect employment opportunities for the locals, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that J&K is the only UT/State in the country with universal health insurance coverage for up to Rs. 5 lakh per family. We are also having an extensive budget for the health sector.

## JKLF Chairman Yasin Malik's nephews arrested for 'attempt to murder'

More healthcare projects and MoUs are in the pipeline to ensure best healthcare within the reach of every citizen of the UT, added the Lt Governor.

In the first phase, Apollo Hospitals will set up a 250-bed hospital in the region. Well-known for clinical excellence, Apollo has a robust presence across the healthcare ecosystem, providing high-quality, patient-focused medical care.

Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to J&K Government, Industries & Commerce Department spoke on the health facilities to be extended to the people of the UT through the MoU.

Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited shared the vision of the Apollo hospitals to establish state-of-the-art health facilities in the UT.

We understand that the health sector creates vast job opportunities and this project will also generate more than 1000 direct employment. That is the responsibility which all of us collectively have set forth to discharge. Apart from this, it will also become the training centre not only for doctors, but also for the nurses, paramedics, technicians, and allied healthcare workers, said Dr. Reddy. Tomorrow ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K beats Bihar in 47th Junior National Volleyball C'ship

## Rajnath unveils 27 BRO projects including 9 bridges in J&K

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defense Minister Rajnath Singh today inaugurated several road and bridge projects constructed by Border Road Organisation (BRO) in four States and 02 Union Territories through an online ceremony from South Block, New Delhi here.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who accompanied Rajnath Singh on the occasion, hailed the inauguration of nine bridges in Jammu & Kashmir, out of which four happen to be in his Lok Sabha constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda. The four bridges in the Lok Sabha constituency of Udhampur-Doda-Kathua include Birhon Bridge-I and Birhom Bridge-II in Udhampur; Gutassa Bridge in district Doda and Nagrah Bridge in district Kishtwar.

Dr Jitendra Singh also made a written request to the Defense Minister to name the critical Birhon Bridge at Udhampur after local martyr Late Captain Tushar Mahajan.

The importance of Birhon Bridge is that it not only facilitates traffic between Udhampur and Jammu and onwards, but the Northern Command is also located near the bridge site. Therefore, this bridge is a vital link between various Army units and the Command Hospital at Udhampur.

The salient feature of Gutassa Bridge on Pul-Doda-Bhaderwah road is that



Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh addressing while dedicating to the Nation 24 bridges and three roads, built by BRO in four States and two Union Territories, through video conferencing from New Delhi.

besides enhancing connectivity for the general public, it is also an important connectivity route for Security Forces in the militancy prone areas. The Nagrah Bridge on Dul-Galhar road will be the lifeline for the traffic coming from Kishtwar towards Gulabgarh and Paddar. This is the only route available to the Holy Yatra Machel Mata.

The other bridges in Jammu & Kashmir include Laspatgarh Bridge on

the Sonamarg Bypass road, Sonamarg-Nallah Bridge, Z-Khushi Bridge on Bandipora-Gurez road, Asthan Bridge on Hazibal-Zaindar Gali and Rajan Bridge on Payarpora-Guthampori road.

In total, Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation 24 bridges and three roads, built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in four States and two Union Territories, through a virtual event from New Delhi on December 28, 2021. Of the 24 bridges, nine are in Jammu & Kashmir; five each in Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh; three in Uttarakhand and one each in Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh.

Of the three roads, two are in Ladakh and one is in West Bengal. The main highlight was the inauguration of India's first indigenous Class 70 140-feet Double-Lane Modular Bridge, built at the height of 11,000 feet at Flag Hill Dokala, Sikkim and Chisumle-Demehok road at Umiling La Pass at over 19,000 feet in Ladakh which also holds the Guinness World Record of world's highest motorable road.

The projects e-inaugurated by Rajnath Singh have been completed on important road axis and laterals along the Northern and Eastern borders of the country. Speaking on the occasion, he termed the inauguration as a reflection of the BRO's commitment to the progress of border ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 143 crore COVID vaccine doses administered in country: Govt

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country reached 143 crore on Tuesday, the Union health ministry said.

More than 57 lakh (57,76,358) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm.

The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night, the ministry said.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with health-

care 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 from April 1. The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

## Hyderpora encounter: Police SIT rules out any foul play by SFs

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Jammu and Kashmir Police, probing the Hyderpora encounter, on Tuesday said while one civilian was killed by the foreign terrorist, the owner of the building and a local terrorist died in "cross-fire" after being used as a human shield by the hiding ultra.

A Pakistani terrorist and three other persons were killed in Hyderpora here on November 15 and police claimed that all the slain men had links to militancy. The families of the three had, however, claimed that they were innocent and had

alleged foul play, prompting the police to order the inquiry.

On Tuesday, the head of the SIT, DIG Sujith K, virtually gave a clean chit to the security forces but added the team was open to reviewing its findings if any other evidence comes to light.

"Our investigation so far has revealed that Dr Mudasar Gul was killed by the foreign terrorist hiding inside the building as his body was recovered from the attic. The security forces did not go to the attic at all during searches or subsequent operation," head of the SIT, DIG Sujith K Singh, told reporters here. Giving details of the investi-

gations, Singh said the probe has revealed that Amir Magray, the employee of Dr Gul, was closely associated with the foreign terrorist 'Bilal Bhai', who was killed in the operation while trying to flee.

"Mohammad Altaf Bhat (building owner) and Amir were killed in the crossfire with security forces as they were used as a human shield by the foreign terrorist. It is substantiated by the fact the Altaf fell (after being hit by bullets) outside the door, while Amir had managed to run few more steps and the foreign terrorist's body was found 83 feet away," he said. The officer said besides

examining the CCTV footage and call detail records, the SIT has also examined more than 20 witnesses so far. "Statements of six of these witnesses have been recorded before the magistrate at well," he added. Asked why the civilians were sent in for house searches if the security forces had information about the presence of terrorists inside, the officer said Bhat had volunteered to go inside as "he was very sure that there was no one hiding inside".

"At no point of time did any of them tell the security forces about the presence of the terrorist inside or

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## Congress flag falls from post as Sonia Gandhi tries to unfurl it

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Congress

Congress worker later climbed up the flagpole to string the



presence of mind, Gandhi along with party treasurer Pawan Bansal and AICC general secretary KC Venugopal held the party tricolour in their hand and displayed it briefly. A

party tricolour. Senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Mallikarjun Kharge were among those present at the party headquarters.

## Barring Srinagar, sub-zero temperature recorded across Kashmir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The mercury fell below the freezing point across Kashmir, except Srinagar city, as cold wave conditions returned to the valley on Tuesday after a brief spell of respite due to snowfall and rains over the past two days, officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous tourist destination in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius. It was a plunge of 3.4 degrees compared to the previous night, the officials said.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 7.9 degrees Celsius down from minus 4.1 degrees Celsius the previous night.

They said Srinagar, the only place to record minimum temperature above the freezing point, saw a low

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 20.8°C Min: 7.7°C

Humidity

Max: 73 Min: 59

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 9.0°C Min: 1.4°C

Humidity

Max: 87 Min: 60

Sunset : 17:34 Hours

Sunrise : 07:33 Hours

## Ex-Tehsildar convicted in disproportionate assets case in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A former government official was sentenced to three years in jail by a special court on Tuesday in a disproportionate assets case, an official said.

Two other accused in case filed in 2008 were acquitted by the court for want of sufficient evidence, a spokesperson of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said in a statement. He further said that special anti-corruption Judge Ritesh Dubey convicted former Tehsildar Janak Singh of Shastri Nagar area in Jammu in FIR No.4/2008 registered at Police Station

VOJ (now ACB Jammu) for acquiring assets disproportionate to income, acquiring assets without permission from Government and also acquiring assets in benami transactions under sections 5 (1) (e) read with 5 (2) J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and Sections 109 and 120-B RPC, Section 12/2014 Public Men & Public Servant Declaration of Assets Act and Section (3) of J&K Benami transactions (Prohibition) Act, 2010.

After hearing APP Irshad Ahmed for ACB whereas Adv K S Charak for the accused, the Court awarded three

years' simple imprisonment and one-year simple imprisonment for offences under Public Men & Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and two years' simple imprisonment for commission of offences under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act to the former government official, the spokesman said.

The case was registered against the revenue official on the basis of a verification conducted into the allegations that he had raised assets disproportionate to his known sources of income

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## Govt notifies new rules for direct selling industry

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Tuesday banned direct selling companies from promoting pyramid and money circulation schemes as it notified new rules for the direct selling industry.

The entities have to ensure compliance with the rules within 90 days.

The direct selling companies will also be liable for the grievances arising out of the sale of goods or services by its direct sellers.

Tupperware, Amway and Oriflame are among the key players in the direct selling industry. The

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## J&K reports 91 new COVID cases, Ladakh 14

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 91 Covid cases-- 32 from the Jammu division and 59 from the Kashmir division, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 340924.

Also, one Covid related death has been reported from the Valley, an official said.

Moreover, 127 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 29 from Jammu Division and 98 from Kashmir Division.

According to a Media Bulletin, out of 340924 positive cases, 1296 are Active

Positive (347 in Jammu Division and 949 in Kashmir Division), 335103 have recovered and 4525 have died; 2197 in Jammu division and 2328 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 19133058 test results available, 340924 samples have tested positive and 18792134 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 56,954 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 5157331 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 8293 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1296 in iso-

lation and 432472 in home surveillance. Besides, 4710745 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, the Covid death toll in Ladakh has climbed to 219 following a fatality in Leh, while 14 fresh cases pushed the overall infection tally to 22,105 in the union territory, officials said.

All the 14 fresh cases were reported in Leh.

The number of active cases has declined to 193 in the union territory -- 141 cases in Leh district and 52 in Kargil district.

While 161 people died because of the coronavirus

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## Two Inspectors among 14 police officers transferred

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Chandan Kohli on Tuesday transferred two Inspectors among 14 police officers.

As per order, Inspector Rakesh Roshan has been transferred from Police Post (P/P) Chhatta, Inspector Ankuj Kumar from P/P Chowki Chaura, Sub Inspector Ajit Singh from P/P Chhatta, ASI Sanjeet Singh from P/P Beli Charana, ASI Tirth Ram from Border Police Post (BPP) Chakrohi and ASI Joginder Singh from BPP Jogwan have been posted to District Police Line (DPL)

Jammu; Sub Inspector Saroop Singh has been transferred from P/P Chowki Chaura and posted as Incharge P/P Chowki Chaura; PSI Ranjit Singh from P/P Panjirthi as Incharge P/P Chhatta; PSI Rahul Sharma has been transferred from Police Station (PS) Gandhi Nagar and posted as Incharge P/P Panjirthi; PSI Arun Kumar Shan from P/S Channi as Incharge P/P Chhatta; PSI Wasim Bhatti from P/S Nagrota as Incharge BPP Chakrohi; PSI Jyoti Choudhary from P/S Nagrota as Incharge P/P Chowk Chabutra; PSI

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