

## 02 Mother, daughter charred in Kishtwar fire

## 03 NABARD's augmented-support boosts rural economy in J&K, Ladakh

## 10 J&K body builders shine in National Championship 2021

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# Jan Bhagidari imperative for accelerating dev process: LG

## Visits Kathua, e-inaugurates Rs 7.52 Cr WSS; says all remaining Panchayats to get Panchayat Bhawans



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering at Hiranagar during 'Block Diwas'.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: To take a firsthand appraisal and review the effectiveness of Block Diwas platform in redressal of public grievances, besides to assess the on-ground coverage under various government services and welfare schemes being provided to the people, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday participated in Block Diwas at Hiranagar, Kathua.

The visit of Lt Governor proved to be yet another milestone in augmenting the water supply in the region, with Lt Governor e-inaugurating 04 Water Supply Schemes worth Rs 7.52 cr, besides other developmental projects costing Rs 90 lakhs.

At the outset, the Lt Governor inspect-

ed the stalls displayed by various departments, and enquired about the grievances received and the measures taken by the respective departments for redressal of the same.

Speaking on the significance of Block Diwas, the Lt Governor observed that the aim of the public outreach initiative being organized across the UT is to address the day to day grievances and issues of the people by making the public welfare services of various departments available at one place.

The Lt Governor asked the concerned officers to be well versed with all the welfare schemes and put in their best efforts to mitigate the problems of people, and be sensitive to their issues. "Strict action shall be taken against offi-

cials not attending to public grievances", he asserted.

The Lt Governor said that the government is putting untiring efforts to remove all difficulties and making services & welfare schemes easily accessible to citizens.

"Government is working on the mission mode to ensure availability of basic necessities viz. roads, drinking water and electricity, to every citizen of the UT, besides working earnestly towards bringing substantial Industrial Investment, promotion of tourism and creating employment avenues for youth. We are committed to ensure 100% saturation of all Farmers' welfare, Social Security and beneficiary oriented schemes so that the benefits of such schemes reach to every eligible beneficiary. Besides, providing better livelihood to farmers by tapping the vast potential of the agriculture and horticulture sector in J&K is the focused area of the government", the Lt Governor maintained.

The Lt Governor observed that the Government is sensitive towards the issues of farmers and population living in border areas. Their issues would be resolved on priority. Various farm centric initiatives have been taken by the government,

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## 2 die as oil tanker falls into gorge

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Two men were killed and two injured when an oil tanker skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said on Wednesday.

The tanker was on its way to Dugga from Reasi and the accident occurred at Karka late on Tuesday night when the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a blind curve, a police official said.

He said rescuers immediately swung into action and retrieved the bodies of Mohinder Pal and

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## Army hands over boy from PoK, who strayed across LoC, to Pak authorities

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Army handed over a boy to Pakistani authorities at the Titwal crossing point along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday, a defence spokesperson said here.

Mausam, the son of Manzoor Ahmad and a resident of the Lipa area in Pakistan-occupied

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# Highest single-day spike in J&K this year with 812 COVID cases

## Control measures intensified in Jammu region, panels formed to check violations

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded its highest single-day spike this year as 812 new COVID-19 cases, including 257 travellers, taking the tally to 1,34,827, even as six fresh deaths due to the virus in the past 24 hours took the toll to 2,018, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 347 were from Jammu division and 465 from Kashmir division of the Union territory, they said.

This is the highest number of single day cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far.

The UT had less than 1,000 active cases on March 15 while the number of fresh cases crossed the three-digit mark from March 16.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 238 cases, including 57 travellers, followed by 138 in Jammu and 79 in Udhampur district.

For the first time in past several months, all 20 districts of Jammu and



Div Com Dr Raghav Langer addressing media persons in Jammu.

## Farooq discharged from hospital

SRINAGAR: Veteran politician and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah was on Wednesday discharged from a Srinagar hospital, where he was admitted last week as a precautionary measure after testing positive for COVID-19, officials said.

Abdullah, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, was discharged as doctors were of the opinion that he could recover at home since all his parameters were fine, they said.

The NC president will, however, continue to remain in self-isolation at his residence for some time, the officials added.

"Five days after being admitted

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Kashmir have reported fresh COVID cases.

The number of active cases has now breached 5,000 mark again, rising to 5,035 in the UT, while 1,27,774 patients have recovered so

far, the officials said.

The death toll in the UT due to the pandemic is 2,018 as six fresh deaths -- four from Jammu region and two from Kashmir valley

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## Firing outside contractor's residence; jail employee arrested

### Jail employee was providing cell phones to Royal Singh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police has arrested an employee of Kot Bhalwal jail for managing cell-phones for Royal Singh, a convict in Amandeep Singh murder case. The accused jail employee identified as Kuldeep Kumar was working for Royal Singh and managing his gang outside the jail.

Earlier, police arrested a suspect Ajay Kumar in firing case outside the house of contractor Choudhary Nagar Singh at posh Gandhi Nagar locality on late last Saturday night. All the assailants, four to five in number, had man-

aged to flee in two cars after firing over a dozen rounds.

Contractor Nagar Singh has also disclosed the name of Royal Singh in his interviews to various new portals alleging that Royal Singh is operating from inside the jail premises. On verification, name of jail employee Kuldeep Kumar was surfaced who was consequently arrested. Further investigations are under process, police said.

Soon after the firing at Nagar Singh's house, the CCTV footage helped

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## J&K Film Policy to be among best across country: LG

### 'All stakeholders to be taken onboard while finalising Policy'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high level meeting to review the proposed J&K Film Policy-2021, here at Civil Secretariat.

"J&K Film Policy will be among the best in the Country and all the stakeholders would be taken onboard while finalizing it", observed the Lt Governor.

During the meeting, point wise discussions were held on measures needed to be incorporated to attract and facilitate the film-makers coming

to the UT, besides maximizing the potential of promising local film sector and talents for transforming J&K into the most preferred film destination.

The Lt Governor advised the concerned officers to consult the renowned names in the Indian Film Industry to seek and incorporate their suggestions.

He also emphasized on streamlining the Single Window Clearance & Facilitation System, and bringing renowned filmmakers from across the

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# Kin of CRPF Jawan abducted by Naxals stage protest, demand assurance for his safe release

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Relatives of a CoBRA commando held hostage by Naxals after a recent gun battle with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district blocked the Jammu-Poonch highway on Wednesday, demanding an assurance from the government for his safe release.

"He is the responsibility of the government, which should take immediate action to ensure his safe return to us. We want the government to inform us about the action it is taking for his release," Meenu, wife of abducted



(L to R) Family of Rakeshwar Singh Manhas blocking Jammu-Akhnoor highway in Jammu on Wednesday and picture of abducted jawan released by Naxals.

jawan Rakeshwar Singh Minhas, said in a fervent appeal from the protest site.

Thirty-one jawans were injured while CoBRA commando Minhas, belonging to

its 210th battalion, went missing after the

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## COVID vaccination at public, private workplaces from Apr 11

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government will allow COVID-19 vaccination at public and private workplaces having about 100 eligible beneficiaries from April 11 across states and Union territories.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan in a letter to the chief secretaries said a substantial proportion of

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## Pak smuggler shot dead along IB in Amritsar; heroin, arms seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AMRITSAR: A Pakistani smuggler who crossed over to the Indian territory with over 22 kg of heroin was shot dead along the International Border (IB) here in a joint operation by the Amritsar rural police and the BSF, officials said on

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# Do not fear exams, value free time: PM Modi's Mantra to students ahead of board exams

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi told students on Wednesday not to fear exams but to see them as a test to improve themselves, and said social and family environment at times create pressure around students that is not desirable.

He also advised students to value free time as without it life will be like a "robot" and should leave tension outside the examination hall. He noted that the students may



PM Narendra Modi interacting with students during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2021', through video conference in New Delhi.

have lost a year of their lives during COVID-19 pandemic

but they have learnt lots of lessons and true value of

essential things.

Interacting with students virtually in his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme, he said they sometime become over conscious regarding exams and asked them to take them as a small destination in their long lives.

"The fear is mainly due to the atmosphere that has made examination be all and end all of life, which makes students over conscious.

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## Cop among four involved in raping minor girl arrested

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested four persons including a police Constable accused of raping a minor girl in Kulgam district.

As per the details, Police Station Qazigund received a written complaint from an individual alleging therein that her daughter (name withheld) was raped by three persons at Bonigam Qazigund with the help of a woman of Damjen area. The said offence as per the complainant surfaced during the course of a medical examination where she was found pregnant.

On receipt of the complaint, FIR 61/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station

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### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday reviewed the measures undertaken by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) to contain COVID spread, particularly in the wake of the recent spike in positive cases.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Union Secretary DoPT Deepak Khandekar, Union Secretary Administrative Reforms Indevard Pandey, Union Secretary and Establishment Officer K Srinivasan, Union Secretary Alok Ranjan, Secretary (Equivalent) Sujata Chaturvedi, Joint Secretary Pension S N Mathur and other senior officers in the Ministry of Personnel including DoPT, ARPG and Department of Pension.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh convening meeting of senior officers of Union Ministry of Personnel including DoPT at New Delhi on Wednesday.

Pertinent to mention that in view of the recent spike in COVID cases, DoPT has issued an Office Memorandum (OM) advising all the Central government employees of the age of 45 years and above to get themselves vaccinated so as to effec-

tively contain the spread of COVID-19. Such government employees are also further advised to continue to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour even after the vaccination, like frequent washing of hands/sanitisation, wearing a mask/face cover, observing

social distancing etc.

Briefing about the meeting, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Ministry of Personnel including the DoPT have been, from time to time, issuing instructions and preventive guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19. He said, the government has been monitoring the situation very closely and based on the strategy adopted for prioritising vaccination, all persons of the age of 45 years and above can participate in the exercise. He said, it is imperative for all the government employees to avail of this vaccination facility in order to ensure their own safety as well as of those who come in their contact.

Dr Jitendra Singh also called upon the various State and Union Territory governments to adopt the guidelines/advisories issued for the Central Government employees. He said, it is essential not only for the well-being of the government functionaries

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**

Max: 30.5°C Min: 15.8°C

**Humidity**

Max : 54 Min : 27

**Temperature (Srinagar)**

Max: 18.2°C Min: 5.2°C

**Humidity**

Max : 90 Min: 44

Sunset : 18:56 Hours

Sunrise : 06:12 Hours