

03 Corona 'positive' SHO abuses doctors; SDH Mendhar staff went on strike

08 Court rejects bail of AEE in trap case

10 Firemen list released: 15 pc candidates from Jammu, 9 pc from Kashmir qualify

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India's defence interest compromised by previous Govts: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ROHTANG/SISSU/SOLANG VALLEY (HP): Attacking the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country's defence interests were compromised for a long time as their governments kept "playing around with files" and delayed procurement of fighter jets, arms, ammunition and other strategic equipment.

Addressing public meetings in Himachal Pradesh after inaugurating strategically-important Atal Tunnel, the prime minister also took a swipe at the opposition's protest against farm and labour laws, saying those parties also had similar ideas but lacked the courage to implement these measures because they focussed on elections while his government looked at the country's and farmers' welfare.

"Nothing is more important for us than the defence of the country. But for a long time, the country has also witnessed an era when the defence interests of the country were compromised. The Air Force of the country kept demanding a modern fighter plane, while they kept opening and closing files after files, and kept playing around with those files," he said at Rohtang after inaugurating the tunnel.

Modi's reference assumes significance in the wake of the government's repeated assertion that the UPA regime had delayed

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi after dedicating World's longest highway tunnel - Atal Tunnel to the nation in Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

Atal Tunnel: World's longest highway tunnel to reduce distance between Manali, Leh by 46 Km

ROHTANG (HP): The all-weather Atal tunnel inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and the travel time by four to five hours.

It is the longest highway tunnel in the world. The strategically important tunnel is 9.02 km long and it connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. The valley was earlier cut off for about six months every year due to heavy snowfall.

The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL). The south portal (SP) of Atal Tunnel is located at a distance of 25 km from Manali at an altitude of 3,060 metres, while the north portal (NP) of the tunnel is located near village Teling, Sissu, in Lahaul Valley at an

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

4 Kashmiri youth planning terror strikes in Delhi arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Special Cell of Delhi Police on Saturday said it has arrested a group of four radicalised Kashmiri youth who were allegedly planning terror strikes in the national capital.

In a statement, the police said the accused were nabbed from central Delhi's ITO area and were carrying four sophisticated pistols and over 120 rounds of ammunition.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kashmir website handler booked for uploading 'secessionist' material: Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A website handler has been booked for uploading posts prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of the country and threat to peace and tranquility, a Kashmir police spokesperson said Saturday.

He said the action was taken after Kothi Bagh police station received a tip-off that some propagandist material was being uploaded and circulated through a website with URL <http://kashmirfight.world>

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Won't make hollow announcements, will deliver what I promise: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday asserted that he will not make hollow announcements but deliver what is promised to people.

"I want the Socio-Economic growth of Jammu Kashmir to become an example, a benchmark, for other states of the country. It is my promise, and I will work day and night to ensure that J&K very soon becomes a shining example of equitable growth", the Lt Governor said during his visit to Nesbal, Bandipora on the second day of Back to Village-3 programme.

Delivering on the promise of providing requisite handholding and assistance to at least two young educated aspiring entrepreneurs from every Panchayat in the Union Territory to realize their dreams, the Lt Governor presented loan assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to two educated young aspiring entrepreneurs of Nesbal Halqa. More than 8000 youth will be benefitted



LG, Manoj Sinha addressing a gathering at Bandipora.

from this initiative across J&K.

"Panchayats in J&K to be a new model of equitable development and growth, where people will decide their own priorities and administration will be the facilitator. No hollow announcements, will deliver what I promise", Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said

He said that the farmers, artisans, labourers, start-ups, entrepreneurs, everyone to benefit from the ongoing and upcoming schemes. People will get services at doorsteps; grievance redressal and on-spot delivery of public services is going to be institutionalized, while timelines of projects will be strictly monitored and

no undue delays will be tolerated.

The Lt Governor also handed over Education Assistance for 1400 construction workers amounting Rs 100.75 lakhs and Rs 1.20 lakhs Tuition fee to two children of late Dr. Shabeer, who died while performing COVID duties in the district. Two Sports Kits comprising items for 20 teams were also distributed.

A book titled "Parvaaz" drafted by Mahila Shakti Kendra Bandipora was also released. On the occasion, the Lt Governor launched all phases of the Panchayat Development Index including the dashboard. The

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K: 975 fresh COVID-19 cases take tally to 78,228; death toll rises to 1,231

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 975 fresh instances of COVID-19 infection and 19 fatalities in a day, taking the caseload to 78,228 and death toll to 1,231 on Saturday, officials said.

According to them, the Jammu region recorded 591 cases and the Kashmir Valley 384. District-wise Jammu reported the highest 403 new cases, followed by 150 in Srinagar district, officials said.

There are 15,646 active cases of the coronavirus disease in the Union Territory, while 61,351 patients have

185 inmates test positive for COVID-19; temporary jails being set up across Jammu; DG prisons JAMMU: A total of 185 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19 in different jails across the Jammu region, Director General of Prisons V K Singh said on Saturday.

He said temporary jails are being set up in various districts to isolate the asymptomatic positive detainees as part of efforts to ensure

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Six J&K Armed Police Bns without Comdts; 32 Dy Comdt posts vacant Against sectioned strength of 261 DySPs, only 104 posted

■ VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Six J&K Armed Police Battalions AP-6th/IRP-1 6th /two Border and

two Women Bns are without Commandants. Besides 18 posts of Deputy Commandants in Jammu Zone and 14 posts of Deputy Commandants Kashmir Zone are vacant at present.

It was disclosed by Additional Director General of Police Armed (ADGP), J&K, A K Choudhary in an official communiqué to the Director

General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh.

The ADGP has stated that there is acute shortage of Gazetted officers in Armed Zone for which Commandants are requesting time and again for postings of GOs in their Units in view of present security scenario. The zone wise sanctioned posts and posted

strength of Gazetted officers has been submitted to the PHQ.

The ADGP has further requested for taking up the matter regarding posting of Commandants and Deputy Commandants with Government on priority. In case of DySPs, deficiency may be made good as far as practi-

ble, more importantly rationalisation may be carried out to ensure that every Battalion has at least 04 DySPs. At present IRP-3rd/IRP-4th/IRP-8th/IRP-1 6th and IRP-1 7th Bns have been posted with only one DySP each. Against total sectioned strength of 261 DySPs, only 104 are posted and 157 posts are vacant.

Shopian fake encounter: Bodies of slain trio exhumed, handed over to family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Bodies of three men from Rajouri, killed in an alleged fake encounter by Army in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir in July this year, have been exhumed and handed over to their families, officials said on Saturday.

The exhumation was done late Friday night at an unidentified location in north Kashmir -- hours after Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said the

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Zone	Commandant			DyCO			DySP		
	Sanc	Post	Vac	Sanc	Post	Vac	Sanc	Post	Vac
Jammu Zone	17	13	04	45	28	18	123	62	61
Kashmir Zone	19	17	02	47	31	14	138	42	96
Total	36	30	06	92	59	32	261	104	157

General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh.

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 35.0°C Min: 17.9°C

Humidity
Max: 64 Min: 44

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 27.5°C Min: 7.8°C

Humidity
Max: 66 Min: 41

Sunset : 18:15 Hours
Sunrise : 06:28 Hours

J&K SSB holding written test of 6 lakh candidates in ending October 10,460 class III, IV vacancies being filled up through competitive exam

■ AHMED ALI FAYYAZ

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (SSB) is currently preparing to hold the history's largest competitive test to fill up over 10,000 class 3 and class 4 vacancies in the Union Territory.

Vide notification No: 01 of 2020-21, SSB had advertised 8,575 class IV posts in the month of July 2020. As the process of online submission of forms lasted for over two months, well over four lakh candidates applied for the government jobs in this particular category.

Chairman SSB and an officer of the Kashmir Administrative Service, Khalid Jehangir, said that 8,575 vacancies existed in the UT cadre, the divisional cadre and the district cadre in Jammu and Kashmir. The Government decided to fill up these vacancies by way of holding a written exam and no inter-

views. As many as 4,04,475 candidates applied. Similarly, there were 1,885 newly created vacancies of Accountants Assistants in Panchayat bodies for which 1,90,045 candidates applied.

While the 10th pass and the 12th pass candidates were eligible to apply for the class IV vacancies, graduation in any discipline was fixed as an essential qualification.

"We are shortly going to conduct the history's largest written test in Jammu and Kashmir. Over four lakh candidates are eligible to write the exam which we are trying to conduct for the Class IV vacancies in the last month of October. Selection of the recruits will be made on the general merit in the written exam. Separately, we are going to hold another major written test for the 1,885 vacancies of Accounts Assistants (Panchayat)", Jehangir told STATE

TIMES. The SSB will be drawing the staff from different district offices which are currently preoccupied with the preparations for elections on around 13,000 vacancies of Panches and Sarpanches in the UT. "Things will become clear in a few days. If the government goes ahead to hold the part-2 of the Panchayat elections, we will have to wait. But if the Panchayat polls are deferred, we will be holding the written test for the class IV and Accounts Assistant vacancies in the last week of October", another officer in SSB said.

He asserted that both the exams would be fair and transparent and the candidates would be selected purely on the basis of their performance in these tests. There would be no viva voce. Selection by SSB for 10,460 vacancies, initiated by the former Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu,

would be the first major employment drive after conversion of the State of Jammu and Kashmir into the two UTs of J&K and Ladakh in August 2019. On 29 September 2020, the newly constituted J&K Public Service Commission declared final results for 70 vacancies in the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, the Jammu and Kashmir Police (gazetted) Service and the Jammu and Kashmir Accounts (gazetted) Service. Their appointment orders are expected to be issued after the medical test in the current month. Meanwhile, official sources said that the General Administration Department would be completing compilation of the KAS vacancy list in a couple of weeks. Sources said that the J&K PSC would start the process of filling up around 100 vacancies in the KAS in October or November.

Jammu ropeway starts commercial ops, expected to boost tourism by linking 3 ancient temples

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The first phase of the much-awaited Jammu Ropeway Project (JRP) commenced its commercial operations Saturday amid adequate COVID-19 precautions, a senior official said, adding the second phase is expected to open later this year.

On completion, the project will link three ancient temples -- Bawe Wali Mata, Mahamaya and Peer Kho -- and is expected to give a boost to religious tourism as



Jammu ropeway starts commercial operations from Saturday.

the three places are very

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army builds memorial in Ladakh for soldiers martyred in Galwan Valley clash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has built a memorial for its 20 personnel who were martyred while valiantly fighting Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on June 15, official sources said on Saturday.

The memorial, located at Post 120 in eastern Ladakh and inaugurated earlier this week, mentions the heroics of the 'Gallants of Galwan' under operation 'Snow Leopard' and the way they evicted the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops from the area while inflicting "heavy casualties" on them in "hand-to-hand combat".

China is yet to disclose the

number of its soldiers killed and injured in the clash though it officially admitted to have suffered casualties. According to an American intelligence report, the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

Post 120 lies along the Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) road. The names of all the 20 Indian Army personnel were inscribed at the unit-level memorial.

Colonel B Santosh Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, was among the Indian Army personnel martyred in the clash that had significantly escalated the border tension between the two

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9