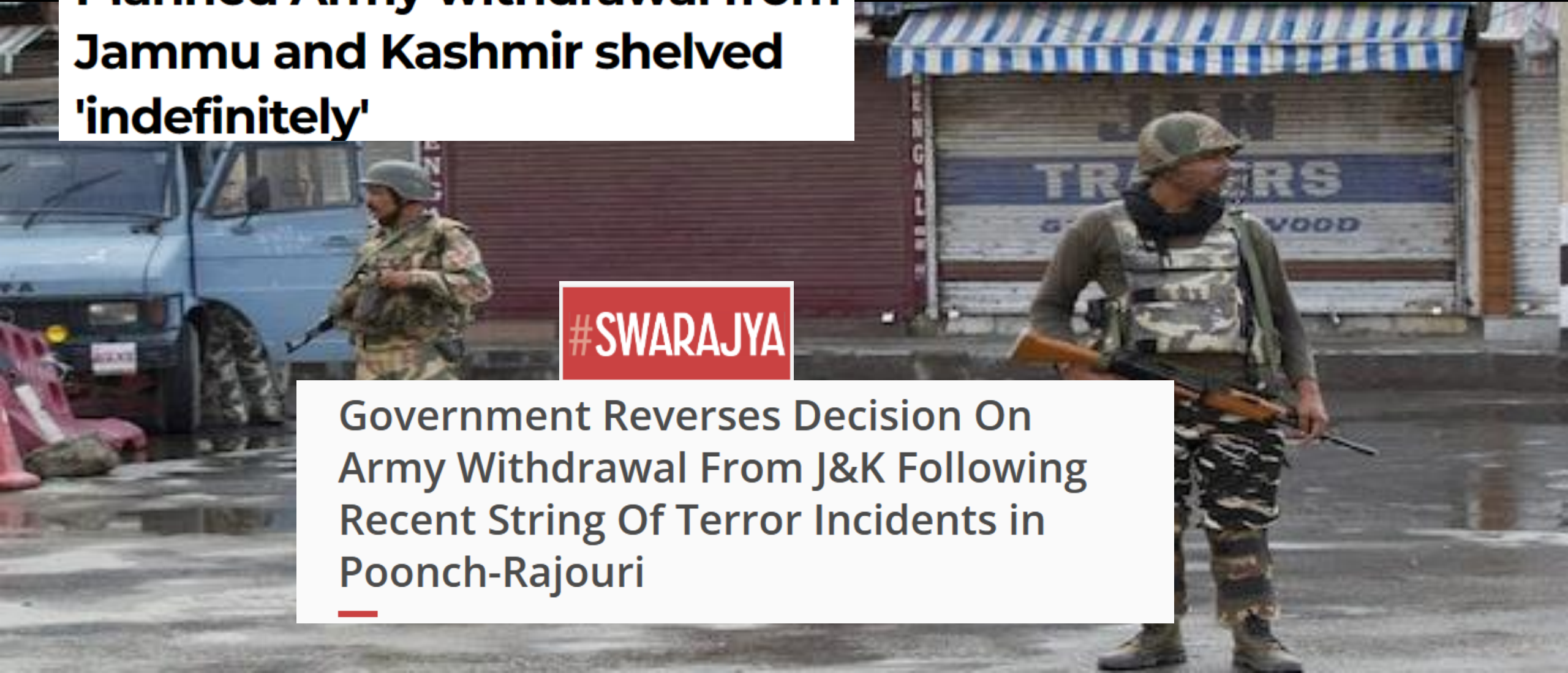


# Planned Army withdrawal from Jammu and Kashmir shelved 'indefinitely'

#SWARAJYA

Government Reverses Decision On Army Withdrawal From J&K Following Recent String Of Terror Incidents in Poonch-Rajouri



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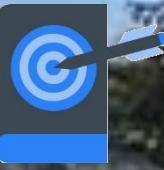
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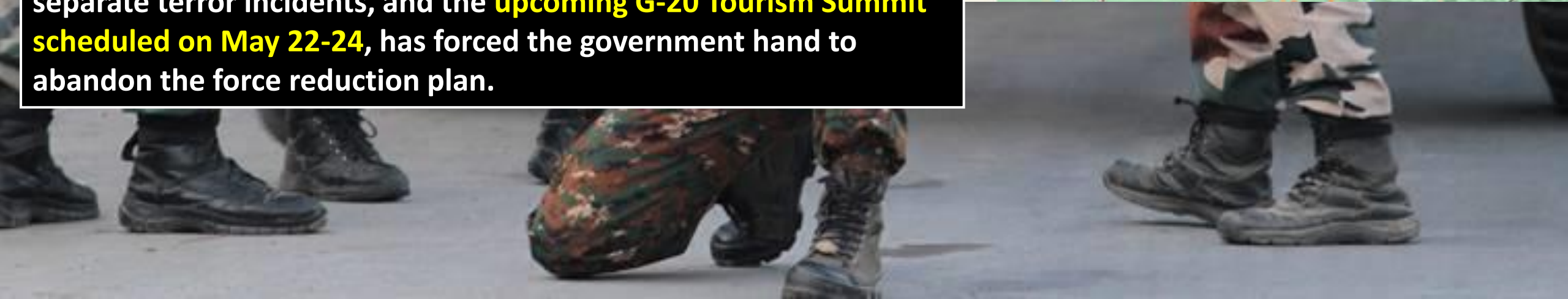
The **government of India (GOI)** has decided to **abandon its plan to withdraw army from Jammu and Kashmir**, in light of the recent terror incidents in Poonch-Rajouri region of Jammu.

Earlier in **February 2023**, the **GOI was planning to reduce** the number of **Rashtriya Rifles units** in Jammu and Kashmir and fill the resultant void using **Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**.





However, in light of the recent string of terror incidents in the Poonch-Rajouri region, that saw deaths of 10 army soldiers including four from Special Forces and seven civilians in two separate terror incidents, and the **upcoming G-20 Tourism Summit scheduled on May 22-24**, has forced the government hand to abandon the force reduction plan.







The Army has **three counter-insurgent forces (CIF)** in the Jammu region –

- Delta Force (which looks after the Doda region),
- Romeo Force (looking after Rajouri and Poonch areas) and
- Uniform Force (looking after Udhampur and Banihal areas).

Some units of the **Army had planned to gradually hand over the security and law and order** management **to the local police and paramilitary units** in South of Pir Panjal (Jammu region), the officials said.

However, keeping the situation in mind, especially the killings by terrorists this year, it has been decided to shelve the proposal "indefinitely", the officials said.







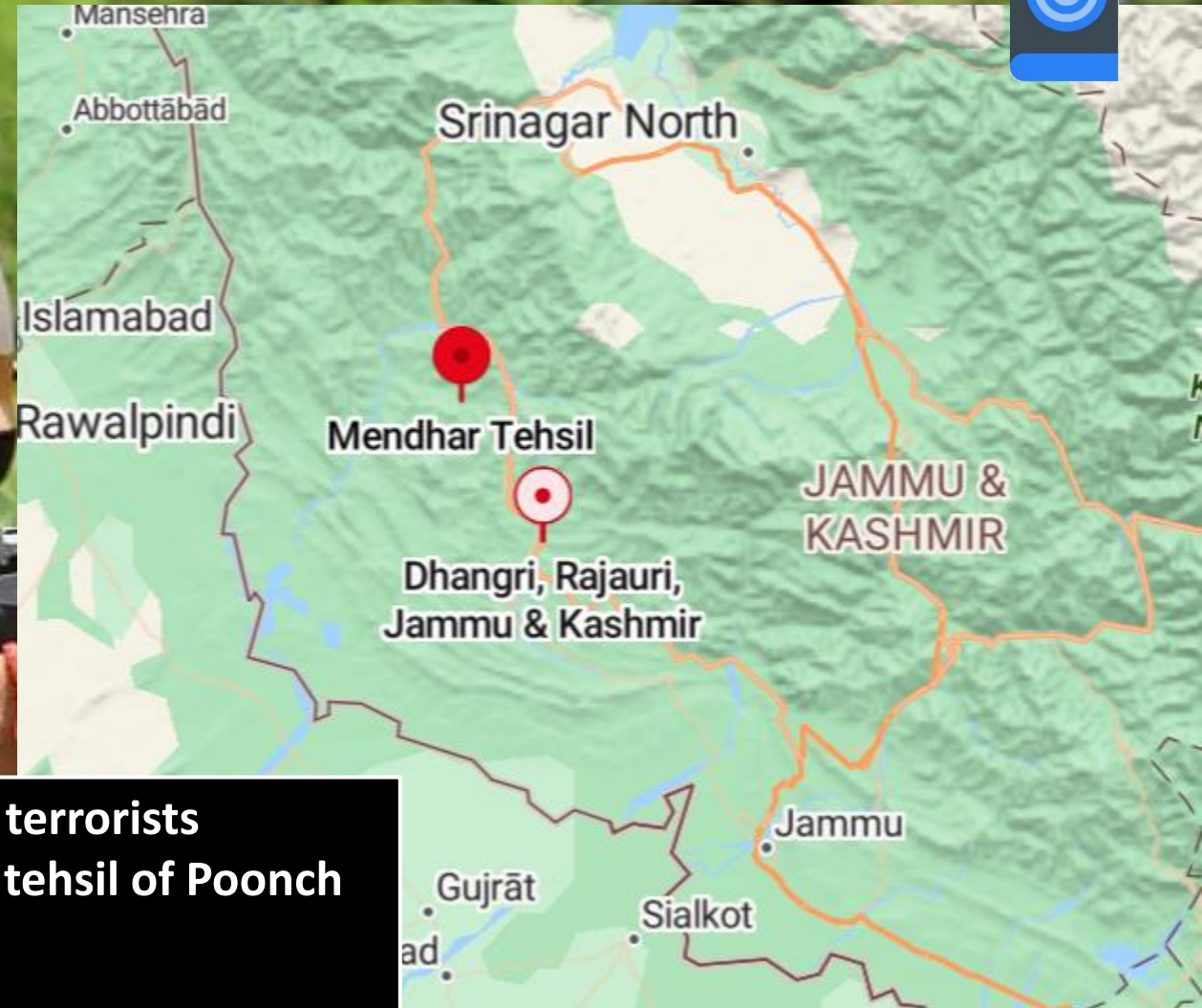
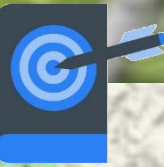
The areas in the Jammu region have seen 17 killings by terrorists, including that of 10 Army personnel.

Seven civilians were killed in Dhangri village of Rajouri on January 1 this year.

Of them, **five civilians were killed in a terrorist firing** on January 1 evening while **two minors lost their lives when an IED**, left behind by the terrorists before fleeing, exploded the next day.





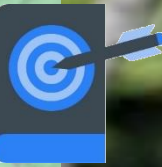
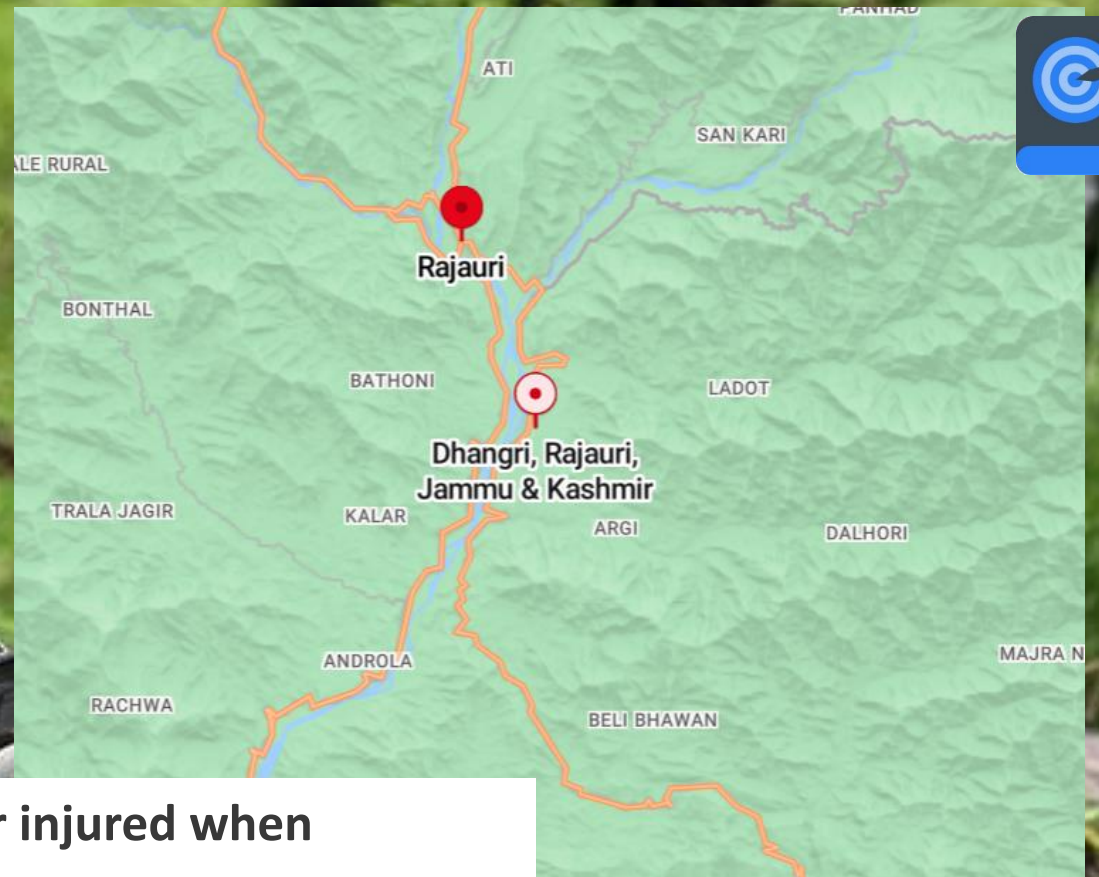


**Five Army personnel were killed in cold blood when terrorists attacked their vehicle at Bhatta Durrian in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district on April 20.**

**The Army personnel were on their way to distribute 'iftar' material to a nearby village during Ramzan**







Five para commandos were killed and a major-rank officer injured when terrorists set off an IED in Kandi forest, Rajouri on May 5.

According to reports, it is believed **that two Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist groups are operating in the Kandi forests** of Rajouri, since 2021.

The fact that the two terrorist groups have been operating in the area since 2021, without being flushed out is a **cause for concern**.



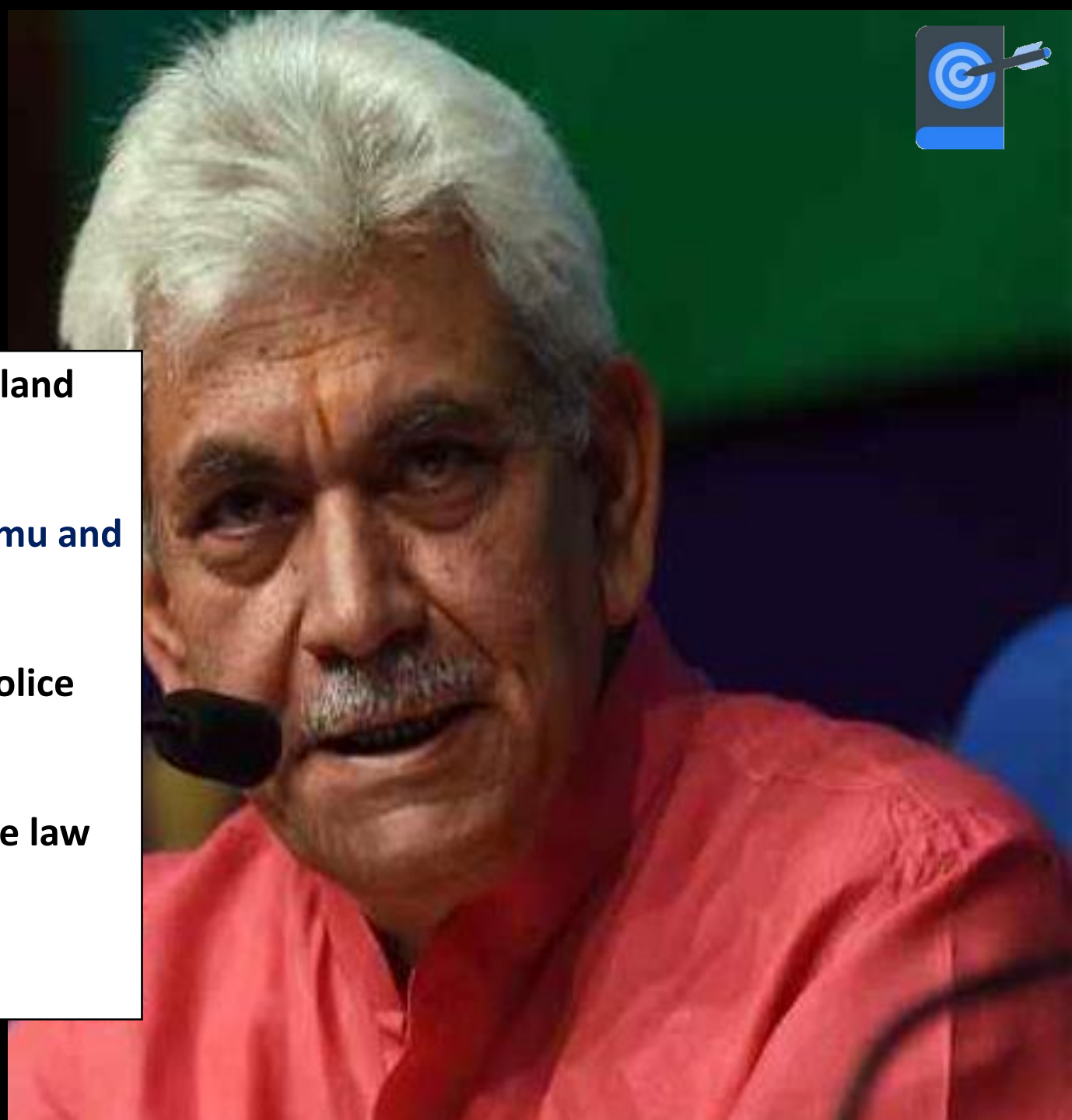




The proposal to withdraw the Army from the hinterland was under discussion for some time and a final recommendation was to be taken at the **Unified Headquarters (UHQ)** headed by **Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha**.

The UHQ has top representatives from the Army, police and paramilitary forces.

Post **abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019**, the law and order and terror-related incidents had shown a decline with the **number of stone pelting incidents reduced to zero**.





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