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Frontiers' concludes at JU

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **International Conference on 'Endocrinology,** Metabolism, and Reproduction: Exploring New

Dr Jitendra exchanges MoU in presence of PM Modi, German Chancellor Scholz

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

# **South Kashmir Volleyball** championship concludes

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Attends Opera on Lal Ded 'Lal Ba Drayas'

# LG calls upon youth to connect with cultural roots



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the Opera on Lal Ded at Kashmir University on Friday.

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday called upon the youth to connect with cultural roots and preserve the teachings of great figures like Lal Ded.

"You are the future of this land, the torchbearers of its rich traditions and values. Lal Ded's teachings will guide you at every step, showing you that there is nothing greater than truth, honesty, and patience," the Lieutenant Governor said while attending Opera on Lal Ded "Lal Ba Drayas", conceptualized by Vandana Daftari, Regional Director, The Art of Living, at Convocation Complex,

University of Kashmir. The Lt Governor lauded the efforts of Art of Living foundation, J&K Academy of Art Culture & Languages and Kashmir University to honor the life and teachings of great saint-poet. He said

the Opera is an affirmation of the timeless values taught by revered Lal Ded that continue to shape our society.

contributions and profound impact of Lal Ded, in enriching spiritual and cultural heritage of Kashmir and shaping the society, the Lt Governor said the message of Lal Ded is as relevant today as it was in her time, inspiring us to rise above

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### >> Lauds efforts of Art of Living, JKAACL, KU to honor life and teachings of great saint-poet

Describes Opera an affirmation of timeless values taught by revered Lal Ded that continue to shape our

Lal Ded's message relevant today as it was in her time, inspiring us to rise above religious and societal divides and find strength in shared experience of

Her influence stretches far beyond boundaries of time. Her spiritual wisdom, poetic brilliance awakened entire society to new possibilities

Says, Lal Ded's story teaches us that no matter how great adversity, inner strength, faith, and courage can turn even toughest challenges into opportunities for growth and enlightenment

In a society where women's voices were often silenced, Lal Ded's voice rang out, powerful and clear, and that voice still echoes through the centuries

Lal Ded's teachings guide us along a path of truth, urging us to embark on a journey of inner exploration, cleansing the soul, and seeking purity in

# Intense search op launched, focus on dismantling terror ecosystem: **Northern Army Commander**

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/UDHAMPUR: Security forces on Friday launched a massive search operation along the Line of Control, deploying drones and helicopters to trace terrorists who martyred two soldiers and as many porters in the Gulmarg sector of Jammu and Kashmir, with Army emphasising the focus in on dismantling the terror

The combing and search operation began along the LoC and the area near the attack site, but widened to cover the hinterland by the evening, the officials said.

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar said the Unified Headquarters discussed the spate of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting in Srinagar and formulated a strategy, with focus on dismantling

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Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar briefing media on Friday.

## 'Agreement with China led to disengagement'

UDHAMPUR: Military and diplomatic talks have led to an agreement on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in India-China border areas, facilitating disengage ment and resolution of issues that arose in 2020, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar said on Friday.

He said the consensus reached during these talks also include access to patrolling and grazing in traditional areas. "At the same time, you must be aware that Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in his statement on October 21 2024, mentioned that over the past several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact across various forums," Kumar said responding to a question on the disengagement ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Joint search operation launched in border areas of Samba



## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BSF and police on Friday launched a officials said

### search operation to monitor suspicious activities in border areas of Samba district,

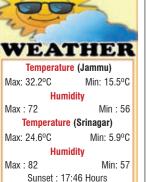
### Northern Railway plans over 3,000 festival-special train trips from Oct 1 to Nov 30 STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Northern Railway planned 3,144 special train trips -- the highest ever -from October 1 to November 30 to help passengers travel to their native places to celebrate festivals with families.

"Northern Railway has planned the highest number, ie, 3144 trips announced so far from 01.10.2024 till 30.11.2024. Around 85 per cent of festival special trains shall cater to passengers going in the East direction to UP. Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal & Assam," Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager, Northern Railway, told reporters here.

"195 trips of Special Trains have been planned from 26.10.2024 to 7.11.2024. to ensure smooth and comfortable travel during Diwali and Chhat Festivals. Last year, the number of trips during the same period was 138," he According to Verma, in this

13-day period, Northern Railway will operate 65 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunrise: 06:42 Hours

## comes in the backdrop of spate of terror attacks in the

Kashmir valley. Officials said the joint search operation by the Security Force  $\operatorname{Border}$ (BSF) and police is

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Recalling the invaluable

# Farooq urges Pakistan to stop violence

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday said attacks like the one in Gulmarg would continue to occur until India and Pakistan found a way to be friends and that would end Jammu and Kashmir's troubles. "Such attacks will continue to take place in this state. You know where they come from and it will not stop until some way is found to get out of this trouble. I have been witnessing it for the last 30 years, innocent people are getting killed," Abdullah told reporters.

"We are not going to become a part of Pakistan. So, why are they doing this? To disrupt our future? To make us poor-

The former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state said rather than fomenting trouble in the Union Territory, Pakistan should look



towards its own plight and work for its betterment. "They are getting ruined themselves

but are ruining us as well," he said. Abdullah appealed to Pakistan to stop the violence and find a way to form a

friendship with India. "If they don't find a way, the future will be very difficult," he said.

The National Conference president also paid tribute to the two porters and attack. "I pay my tribute to those who have been martyred. I apologise to their families," he said. Asked if he thought Pakistan was frustrated by the record turnout in the recent assembly elections, Abdullah said he did not know what happened. "People voted in the assembly polls and now the assembly will work for the people. We hope the Centre grants full statehood so that the government is able to work for the people," he said.

the two soldiers killed in Thursday's

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent meetings with the prime minister and Union ministers in Delhi, the senior Abdullah said coordination with the Centre was needed for smooth functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir government. "When I was the chief minister, I used to say this every time that coordination is a good thing because everything is with them," he said.

### Terror attack fails to deter tourists from visiting Gulmarg hill resort ■ STATE TIMES NEWS A day later, the famous ski

## $\operatorname{GULMARG}$ : Undeterred by

the terror attack that claimed the lives of two Army porters and two soldiers merely six kilometres from this famous hill resort, tourists flocked the picturesque town of Gulmarg on Fridav. even as a massive operation to hunt down the

attackers was underway. On Thursday evening, terrorists ambushed an Army vehicle in the Bota Pathri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district when it was headed for the Nagin post in the Affarwat range. Another porter and a soldier

resort, however, witnessed an uninterrupted influx of visi-A resident of Tripura visit-

ing the Valley for the first time, Ujjwal said he did not feel any threat to his safety as police personnel and the administration are there to protect them.

He added that the warmth of Kashmir and its people is so special that travellers feel safe here.

"I have come here with my wife and seven-year-old son. We heard about some terror attack yesterday but we did not feel any threat. Even

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# CJ Tashi Rabastan reviews preparations for holding **North Zone Conference on 'Court Dockets'**

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court, Justice Tashi Rabastan on Friday held the meeting of Civil administration and Police Department to take assessment of the preparations made for successfully holding the North-Zone-1 Regional Conference "Court Dockets: Explosion and Exclusion" at SKICC here

During this review meeting, the Chief Justice impressed upon the officers of Civil and Police administration to have close liaison with the Registry of J&K High Court



Chief Justice Tashi Rabastan chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

for holding this Conference in a smooth and conducive environment.

Justice Tashi Rabastan, besides taking note of the requirements of transportation and accommodation of attending dignitaries also rity and other logistics facilities to be made for the con-

Additionally, the Chief Justice advised the participants to work in tandem for better coordination and communication with each other

from each Department who would be the exclusive points of contact for making the arrangements for the pleasant stay and experience of dignitaries coming for this high end conference.

It was learnt that this Conference, besides the Justices from Hon'ble Supreme Court of India would also be attended by the Chief Justices and Justices of the High Courts of six States/UTs including Delhi, Punjab/Haryana, Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand along with the district judiciary.

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# LG pays tributes to martyrs of **Butapathri terror attack**

Compensation of Rs 6 lakh paid to families of each porter

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha laid wreath and paid homage to Rfn Jeevan Singh, Rfn Kaisar Ahmad Shah, and Defence Porters Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdary and Zahoor Ahmad Mir, who laid down their lives for the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X:

"Paid homage to the brave soldiers and Defence Porters who made the supreme sacrifice in the service to the nation in Butapathri Sector on October 24, 2024. India



LG Manoj Sinha paying homage to brave soldiers and Defence Porters who made supreme sacrifice in Butapathri Sector.

will never forget their selfless service & their supreme sacrifice. We stand in solidarity

Meanwhile, on the direc-Lieutenant Governor, Deputy

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# J&K Bank Q2 net profit rises 44.6pc to Rs 551 Cr, H1 net up 36.6 pc We are well-positioned to maintain this growth momentum and capitalize on emerging opportunities: Baldev Prakash

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Continuing its growth trajectory, J&K Bank's net profit rose substantially by 44.6 % Year-on-Year (YoY) to Rs 550.92 Cr for the September Quarter (Q2) of current financial vear (CFY) when compared to Rs 381.07 Cr recorded for the corresponding quarter of previous year. The Bank's net profit for half-year (H1) grew 36.6% to Rs 966.41 Cr from Rs 707.52 Cr recorded for H1 last FY.

The Bank announced financial numbers today Bank's Headquarters. Key Highlights

after its Board-of-Directors reviewed and approved the quarterly and half-yearly figures during a meeting held at Corporate

non-core income growth, the Bank's operating profit for Q2 rose more than 47% YoY and 32% QoQ to Rs 787 Cr. The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) is up by 7.7 %YoY to Rs 1435.93 Cr for the September quarter from Rs 1333.83 Cr and has increased by 7.2 % to Rs 2805.15 Cr for the H1 when compared to corresponding periods of previous year. The Bank's other income surged 55.6% YoY to Rs 296.08 Cr

Backed by both core and

for the September quarter. The Bank's NIM improved to 3.90% QoQ from 3.86%recorded for the Q1 of CFY, while as the Cost to Income Ratio has improved significantly to 54.56% YoY from 64.93% and in sequential terms from 61.96% recorded in June quarter, 2024. Commenting on the Bank's Q2 numbers, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "Our Q2 results are almost in line with our expectations. The bottom-line growth underscores our financial prudence and operational excellence while reflecting our commitment to deliver consistent value for our stakeholders as we stay steady on course to achieve the annual numbers."

"I believe, with a healthy balance sheet, a diversified portfolio and consistent focus on digital transformation, we are well-positioned to maintain this growth momentum and capitalize on emerging opportunities", he added. Asset-Quality

The Bank's Gross NPA Ratio has decreased by 131



basis-points YoY to 3.95% as against 5.26% recorded in September, 2023. The Net NPA ratio has also moderated by 19 basis-points to 0.85% YoY from 1.04%. Meanwhile, during the quarter the Return on Assets (RoA) has jumped to 1.41%YoY as well as QoQ as against 1.08%. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of the Bank has also improved 55 basis-points YoY to 90.54%.

On the Bank's asset-quality, MD & CEO expressed satisfaction, saying, "Keeping our gross NPA below 4% highlights the success of our robust risk management practices. We have been focusing on proactive assetquality management and ensuring long-term sustainability in lending. Another highlight of this quarter is RoA, which has surged to

"With continued improvement in key performance indicators, the Bank is reinforcing its position as a leading financial institution focused on profitability and sound asset management", he said

**Business Growth** 

Deposits and Advances of the Bank have grown YoY 9% and 9.5% respectively to Rs 137918 Cr and Rs 96139 Cr. The Bank's CASA stood at 48.60%, which continues to be one of the highest in the industry.

Regarding business growth, MD & CEO said, "During the September quarter, our growth in advances is near 10% while we have maintained the deposit growth within the range of industry average. Going forward, we will intensify our efforts to strengthen our deposit base and increase loan book to achieve our top-line growth

Capital Adequacy Capital The Bank's Adequacy Ratio (CAR) for

numbers.'

the quarter stood at 14.99% as against 14.53% recorded last FY. In his remarks on capital position, the MD & CEO said, "With a CRAR of almost 15 %, we remain wellcapitalized, ensuring that the Bank is positioned to support future growth opportunities while maintaining financial discipline. Pertinently, the CAR is exclusive of half-vearly profit of Rs 966 Cr, which would otherwise result in taking the ratio to 16%. Digital Momentum

On the occasion MD & CEO emphasized upon the prioritization of carrying forward the digital momentum, saying, "Since our role as a developmental financial institution here is not just to provide credit, we have to

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