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## Ensure benefits of schemes reach last person: LG



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting of Secretaries in Jammu on Monday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that various policies and measures being undertaken by the government must achieve the target of sustainable development. "It is our utmost duty to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the last person, he added", Sinha said while chairing a meeting of secretaries, during which a wide range of policy initiatives, speedy and timely completion of developmental projects were discussed here at the Civil Secretariat.

The Lt Governor directed all the District in-charge Secretaries to regularly review their respective districts and make sure that officers on the ground are delivering benefits of all central and UT schemes with complete transparency. The Lt Governor directed for identifying minimum five talented youths from every Panchayat, who are willing to become entrepreneurs. The Lt Governor reiterated that the UT government is committed to provide livelihood opportunities to the youth of J&K.

The Lt Governor set the deadline of one month for making e-offices functional in all Directorates. He advised the concerned heads of departments for conducting audit and ensuring rationalization of manpower. The Lt Governor asked the concerned departments to submit Utilization Certificates (UCs) for expenditure of works, especially the centrally sponsored schemes on priority.

Directions were also issued for regular reviews of various social security and welfare schemes for their maximum reach covering all eligible beneficiaries, besides ensuring that the relief amount is disbursed to all the farmers immediately, who suffered crop damage due to recent snowfall and hailstorm. Taking note of the reports of unscheduled power curtailment and disruption of water supply in various areas, the Lt Governor asked the concerned administrative secretaries to continuously monitor the ground situation and take proactive measures while sensitizing the field functionaries to avoid inconvenience to general public. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance department; Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department;

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## Civilian shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar 2 Lashkar ultras arrested in Valley

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Terrorists on Monday shot dead a civilian in the Bohri Kadal area here, the second attack carried out by the ultras in the city in the past 24 hours, officials said. Terrorists fired upon Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, a resident of Bandipora district, at Bohri Kadal around 8 pm, they said. The officials said Khan was rushed to a hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed. He worked as a salesman in the nearby Maharajgung, they said. The officials said security forces have cordoned off the area to trace the attackers. Khan's killing was the second attack by the militants in the city in the past 24 hours. A policeman was shot dead in the Batamloo area on Sunday evening. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah condemned the killing of the civilian. "The dastardly killing of Ibrahim is reprehensible & I unreservedly condemn it.



Unfortunately Ibrahim is the latest in a series of targeted killings in the valley, especially Srinagar. May Allah grant him place in Jannat," Omar tweeted. Meanwhile, security forces have arrested two active terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) from Anantnag and Pulwama districts of the Valley, officials said. A team of police and Army apprehended a terrorist from Wahadan village of Ashmuqam area in Anantnag during a search operation, they said. The arrested terrorist was identified as Hafiz Abdullah Malik who was affiliated with

The Resistance Front (TRF), which is believed to be a shadow outfit of LeT by security forces. One pistol and seven rounds were recovered from Malik's possession at the time of his arrest while on his disclosure, the security forces seized an AK rifle, two magazines and 40 rounds from Katsu forests in Aishmuqam. Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said another active terrorist was arrested from Pulwama district. "Acting on specific information about presence of terrorists, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by police, Army and

CRPF in the orchards of village Mirgund, Rohmu area of Pulwama," the spokesperson said. "During the search, movement of a terrorist hiding in apple orchards was noticed who tried to escape but was apprehended tactfully by the joint parties exercising maximum restraint," the spokesperson said. He said the arrested ultras was identified as Sarvir Ahmad Mir, a resident of Bathen, Khrew and linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). Meanwhile, police busted a module of overground workers in Baramulla district and arrested three terrorist associates. "Police and security forces arrested one hybrid terrorist and two terror associates identified as Asgar Majeed Lone, Asif Ganie and Faizan Rasool Gojri," he said. On the disclosure of the arrested terrorist associates, the security forces recovered one grenade and 24 rounds of AK-47, he added.

## Srinagar joins UNESCO network of creative cities; gets praise from PM

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has joined the UNESCO's network of creative cities, the world body announced on Monday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailing the inclusion as a "fitting recognition" for the vibrant cultural ethos of the old city. It has been designated as a creative city of craft and folk arts, it said. Worldwide, 49 new cities have joined the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN) following their designation by UNESCO Director-General Audrey

Azoulay, in recognition of their commitment to placing culture and creativity at the heart of their development and to sharing knowledge and good practices, the UNESCO said in a statement. Prime Minister Modi congratulated people of Jammu and Kashmir on the achievement. "Delighted that beautiful Srinagar joins the @UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) with a special mention for its craft and folk art. It is a fitting recognition for the vibrant cultural ethos of

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## Sushma, Jaitley, Fernandes conferred Padma awards

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Former Union ministers George Fernandes, Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj and former President of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth were on Monday conferred the Padma Vibhushan posthumously for their exceptional and distinguished service in two civil investiture ceremonies held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The face of women boxing in India M C Mary Kom, who is a six-time AIBA women's boxing champion, Shri Shri Vishvesha Theertha Swamiji of Udipi (posthumous), popularly known as Shri Pejavara Swamiji, were also

### Sinha congratulates Padma awardees from J&K

honoured with the Padma Vibhushan by President Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah among others. Former defence minister Manohar Parrikar (posthumous), who had also served as chief minister of Goa, chairman of Mahindra Group Anand Mahindra, chairman of Sundaram-Clayton Group, Venu Srinivasan, former Nagaland chief minister of Nagaland S C Jamir were given Padma Bhushan. Badminton star P V Sindhu, Kashmiri political leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig, Tsering Landol, the first gynaecologist from Leh, bilingual author Manoj Das (posthumous), Krishnammal Jagannathan, a social activist from Tamil Nadu, were also among those who received the Padma

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## India will continue to oppose aggression attempts on land, sea: Defence Secy

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PANAJI: Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar on Monday said India will work with all willing nations for peace in the region, push for a rules-bound world and continue to oppose attempts of aggression on land and the sea. He lauded the Indian Navy's contribution in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and said it not only remained alert in safeguarding marine borders, but went an extra mile to provide assistance to a large number of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) littoral nations. Kumar was addressing the third edition of 'Goa

Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021' hosted by the Indian Navy here under the aegis of the Naval War College, Goa. The theme for this year's edition of GMC is Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies. Kumar lauded the Indian Navy for its contribution in fighting the pandemic and also commended it for saving precious lives at the sea during cyclones and other natural calamities. Among the armed forces, the Navy has a cardinal role in not only ensuring safe

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## J&K logs 111 fresh COVID cases, 3 deaths

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 111 fresh Covid cases on Monday, taking the infected number of persons to 3,33,187, while three deaths due to the virus were reported in the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 19 were from the Jammu division and 92 from the Kashmir division, the officials said. Srinagar district recorded the highest of 44 cases followed by 15 cases in Budgam district. There are 1,165 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,27,579, the officials said. The death toll in the Union Territory due to the pandemic was 4,443 as three new fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours. The officials said there were 49 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black

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**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 28.1°C Min: 12.2°C  
Humidity  
Max: 74 Min: 53  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 17.4°C Min: 2.2°C  
Humidity  
Max: 91 Min: 70  
Sunset: 17:36 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:56 Hours

## Army ties up with KU for providing distance education courses to soldiers

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Army on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Kashmir for providing distance education course to soldiers posted in the valley. The MoU was signed by Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Talat Ahmad and General Officer Commanding of Chinara Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey at Gandhi Hall, University of Kashmir, a Defence



VC UOK Prof Talat Ahmad and GOC Chinara Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey after signing MoU at Srinagar.

Spokesman said here. He said it was a historic

day for the UoK, Srinagar

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## Unity imperative for lasting peace in J&K: Azad

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Former Union Minister and former Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday called for collective efforts in strengthening brotherhood and bridging gap between various communities for brining harmony in the society. "Jammu and Kashmir has a glorious ethos of amity, which should be sustained and further promoted," Azad said at Diwali Milan held in Jammu, adding that unity is imperative for lasting peace. Galaxy of intellectuals,



Former Union Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing media at Diwali Milan in Jammu on Monday.

political leaders, prominent citizens and people from all walks of society were present in the function.

Diwali Milan is being organised for the past couple of years in which Ghulam Nabi Azad always remained

the Chief Guest. Azad said that it is a non-political function and everyone should participate irrespective of any political or religious considerations. Azad also recalled and mentioned the name of former Jammu Bar President late B.S Sathia for organising such events. He said that such occasions further cement bonds of brotherhood, communal harmony and national integration and we should optimally utilize these events for creating a harmonious society.

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## Can LG's Grievance Cell afford to plead ignorance about norms?

**Withdraw all anonymous complaints; punish erring unscrupulous officials**

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. According to Latin maxim 'ignorantia juris non-excusat,' it is generally presumed that every party is aware of the law and hence cannot claim ignorance of the law as a defence to escape liability. If so, how can the officials in the Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell in Jammu and Kashmir claim that they are not aware about the guidelines being issued by the government from time to time. Some of the ignorant or unscrupulous officials, who act on the anonymous complaints, actually are unaware about the harassment being felt by the concerned persons while being subjected to investigations. Such officials should be sternly dealt with and all

the anonymous complaints should be withdrawn from all the departments. The question arises how the government will compensate the victim of the fake or motivated complaint when he or she is absolved of the allegations leveled in duly carried out verification or investigation? And, how a complainant-anonymous or pseudonymous -- be taken to task for falsely framing someone when the designated authorities don't even know his or her identity? It is perhaps these situations which have made the Government of India to take course correction by way of framing and issuing guide-

lines. The communication or the memorandum F No. 104/76/2011-AVD-I by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, New Delhi, dated the 08th October, 2018 refers to the instructions regarding dealing with anonymous and pseudonymous complaints, was issued vide Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 18.10.2013 prescribing that no action is required to be taken on anonymous complaints, irrespective of the nature of the allegations and that such complaints need to be simply filed. Subsequently, the said Office Memorandum has been clarified vide Office Memorandums of even

F No. 104/76/2011-AVD-I  
Government of India  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions  
Department of Personnel & Training  
New Delhi, dated the 08<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.  
**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**  
Subject: Guidelines regarding handling of complaints in Ministries/Departments.  
The undersigned is directed to say that instructions regarding dealing with anonymous and pseudonymous complaints were issued vide this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated 18.10.2013 prescribing that no action is required to be taken on anonymous complaints, irrespective of the nature of the allegations and that such complaints need to be simply filed. Subsequently, the said Office Memorandum has been clarified vide Office Memorandums of even number dated 18.06.2014 and 31.03.2015. In this regard, the Central Vigilance Commission's Circular No.07/11/2014 dated 25.11.2014 may also be referred to. A copy each of the DOP&T's aforesaid Office Memorandums and CVC's Circular are enclosed herewith.  
2. The instructions contained therein are reiterated and all Ministries/Departments are requested to follow the same while handling complaints received in their respective Ministry/Department.  
Encl: as above.  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Tels. No. 23094799

number dated 18.06.2014 and 31.03.2015. It also refers to the Central Vigilance Commission's Circular No.07/11/2014 dated 25.11.2014 which reiterates that all Ministries/Departments should follow the same while handling complaints received in their respective Ministry/Department. Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory and, therefore, it is supposed to take cue from such instructions, in case the separate guidelines have not been formulated. As per these instructions, "no action is required to be taken on anonymous complaints, irrespective of the nature of the allegations and that such complaints need to be simply filed." How come the LG's

Grievance Cell is ignoring these instructions? Someone needs to look into the sordid affair to find out whether acting upon the anonymous complaints is because of ignorance or motivated by some other consideration, obviously with malafide intentions. After all, the fallout of the anonymous complaints is being borne out by the victim, who never knows why he had been framed and at whose behest. Some victims must be falling prey to blackmailers and extortionists. Truth must come to the fore and the 'dubious practice' of acting on 'anonymous complaints' needs to be halted in the larger public interest besides maintaining the sanctity and credibility of the LG's Grievance Cell.