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03 India to send human being 6,000 mts below sea level: Dr Jitendra

03 National Youth Day: Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma flags off marathon ‘Young India Run’

09 Excavator, 6 dumpers among 13 vehicles seized for illegal mining

Amit Shah to visit Rajouri today, review security days after terror attacks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Rajouri district on Friday to review the ground situation days after twin terror attacks left seven people dead. The home minister will visit the spot where the terror attacks happened and meet the family members of civilians who were killed in the incidents.

Shah will also meet top officials from Jammu and Kashmir administration and the security establishment. He may meet some delegations at Raj Bhavan in Jammu as well, according to a national television channel India Today.

On January 2, terrorists opened fire on three houses of a minority community in Dangri area in Rajouri district, killing five civilians and injuring six. On the very next day, two children were killed and six people injured in an IED explosion near the house



of one of the victims in Dangri village.

According to the news channel, the Home Minister will land in Jammu at 11.15 am and take the chopper from Jammu to Rajouri at 11.30am. He will arrive in Rajouri at 12 noon and then visit Dhangri to inspect the

spot of terror attacks and interact with the families of victims.

Shah will return to Jammu at 1.30 pm. Later, he will chair a meeting of officials from the civil administration and security establishment at Raj Bhavan, Jammu at 2pm. He may also meet some dele-

gations and leave for Delhi around 4pm.

Last month, the home minister chaired a meeting with the Jammu BJP leadership, in which they had flagged issues relating to security and administration. The meeting was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Home Secretary, officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, the Director General of Police for Jammu and Kashmir, the chief of the Intelligence Bureau and RAW as well MHA officials.

The CRPF has deployed additional troops in Rajouri Poonch region and started training Village Defence Committees amid fresh intelligence inputs about terror threats. There is a huge cry from the minority community over the security in their areas in border districts after the terror attacks.

LG greets people on Lohri, Makar Sankranti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of Lohri (which falls on 13th January, 2023) and Makar Sankranti (which falls on 14th January, 2023).

In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Lohri and Makar Sankranti, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to the people and wish them every happiness and prosperity".

These festivals are a symbol of our shared ethos, culture and mark the beginning of an auspicious period of the year. The joyous occasion also provides us an opportunity to salute the indomitable spirit of our farmers and to recognize their hard work and contribution to nation-building, added the Lt Governor.

"May the festivals bring prosperity, happiness and joy for all," the Lt Governor said.

Great optimism in world towards India, its youth: Modi



PM Narendra Modi addressing gathering at inauguration of 26th National Youth Festival in Hubballi, Karnataka.

looks to us for solutions it is because of the dedication of our Amrit generation (the youth)," he added.

The Prime Minister earlier inaugurated the National Youth Festival here on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The 26th edition of the festival, which will be held till January 16 at Hubballi-

Dharwad, is being organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka.

Pointing out that India is the fifth largest economy in the world and the goal is to take it to the top three, Modi said this economic growth of the country will bring in

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SSP Mohan Lal among three conferred prestigious Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Training

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, conferred prestigious Union Home Minister's Medal for excellence in training for the year 2021-22 to Mohan Lal, JKPS, SSP, Dy. Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur J&K.

As per scheme of Ministry of Home Affairs, the award of Medal to the trainers and other support staff working in Police Training Institutions of States, UTs and Central Police Forces called Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Trainings awarded every year. The award is given to



SSP Mohan Lal

recognize the importance of training and trainers in Police organization, also to promote the quality of training in Police training institutes in the Country. Mohan Lal Bhagat, a resident

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Govt committed to ensure secure environment for minority employees posted in Kashmir: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring a safe and secure environment for the minority employees posted in Kashmir division and assured them of continuous support.

"We are sensitive to the issues of employees of minority communities and committed to resolve their grievances on priority", Sinha told a delegation of All Minority Employees Association Kashmir, which met him here.

The delegation apprised



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with a delegation of All Minority Employees Association Kashmir.

the Lt Governor about various concerning issues of employees of minority community under PMDP and other employment schemes, who are working in Kashmir

division. The members submitted a detailed memorandum regarding the grievances faced by the employees. The members of the delegation also expressed their

gratitude to the Lt Governor-led UT Administration for taking various measures for the welfare of the employees from minority community.

Shiv Khori-bound mini bus skids off road, 15 injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Fifteen pilgrims were injured when a mini bus skidded off the the road and rolled down a gorge in Udhampur district on Thursday, officials said. The accident took place when the pilgrims were en route to Katra from Shiv Khori. The injured passengers have been hospitalised.

9-year old child injured in accidental fire at Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 9-year old child was injured in an accidental fire from a rifle of a hunter in Poonch district on Thursday evening, official sources said. There was an accidental fire from the rifle of a hunter Mohammad Sharief resulting in injuries to a child Afran Ahmed, who was playing near forest area of Sangla in Surankote tehsil, they said. Police reached the area and shifted the injured child to sub district hospital in Surankote, they said. An FIR has been lodged, they said.

Women in Army have performed exceedingly well: Army Chief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Army has decided to commission women officers into the artillery regiments and a proposal on it has been sent to the government, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference ahead of Army Day on January 15, Gen Pande described the move as "significant" and noted that women in the Army have performed "exceedingly well".

"We have decided to induct women in artillery which itself is significant as we believe that they will be able to not only measure up but perform well in all the duties



and appointments," he said. "The proposal has been forwarded to the government . We hope that it will be accepted," he added.

The Army has around 280 artillery regiments that handle various gun systems including Bofors howitzers,

Dhanush, M-777 howitzers and K-9 Vajra self-propelled guns.

The Army chief also mentioned the decision to grant permanent commission of women in the Army.

"You are aware of the permanent commission that we have granted to women officers which will then prepare them for major leadership roles in terms of command of various establishments and units," he said.

"Those who have been granted permanent commission are now training them in other professional courses. They will be then eligible for selection for future

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2 labourers killed after avalanche hits Sonamarg

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two labourers were killed after an avalanche hit Sonamarg in Ganderbal district on Thursday, officials said.

The avalanche hit the Sarbal area close to Nilgrath where Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) is executing work on the Zojila Tunnel.

Two dead bodies, identified as Sandeep Singh and Bal Krishna -- both residents of Kishtwar -- have been retrieved so far, officials said.

The bodies have been shifted to Primary Health Centre in Sonamarg for medico legal formalities, they added.

DB directs for filing status report on parks & gardens in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjay Dhar and Justice Akram Chowdhary, while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on lack of parks & gardens in J&K, directed the Government to furnish a status report indicating follow up action that has been taken pursuant to the instructions issued by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir regarding physical and financial progress of the parks for financial year 2022-23 under their possession or maintenance.

DB also directed the

Divisional Commissioner Jammu to also file a status report on the next date of hearing in terms of order passed on September 19, 2022, while posting matter for hearing on March 1. On September 19, the court had asked the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu as well as Kashmir to hold quarterly meetings with all stakeholders and authorities responsible for developing and maintaining various parks including heritage gardens so as to coordinate their working and submit their independent reports within a period of two months.

Court had passed the directions after a status report

filed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir which was submitted before the court had asked all the stakeholders and concerned departments to submit the physical and financial progress of the parks for the financial year 2022-23 under their possession or maintenance within a weeks' time. The concerned departments were also directed to erect ramps on the entry points of all the parks so as to ensure an easy access for specially-abled persons. Thereafter Divisional Commissioner Kashmir had further asked all the concerned departments to submit the

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CS directs for ending offline mode, making every service online till Jan 15



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

and Chowkidar are very significant in terms of better coordination at grassroots level and can't be kept vacant at the peril of common masses. He termed them as a link between the people and administration therefore the

instruments of empowering rural population.

He directed the district administration to fill all the vacant positions of Numberdars and Chowkidars before the 26th of this month. He also told

them to identify those whose performance is not up to mark and replace them with young and enthusiastic persons as per the relevant rules and acts.


The Chief Secretary further enjoined upon the District Administration to work in close coordination with them so that the requisite flow of information from villages is prompt and hassle free. He suggested them to create a WhatsApp group of all of these basic field workers so that they are able to bring their suggestions/grievances directly to the administration.

Putting emphasis on the cleanliness of all villages, the

Chief Secretary enquired from DCs about the measures taken by them to ensure door to door collection of waste and removal of legacy waste in each of them. He said that each village should look substantially cleaner than before. He told them to include the locals and PRI's in these activities for their sustainability for long. He stated that keeping both our houses and surroundings clean should be our way of life.

Dr Mehta observed that peace is priority over all other things as it ensures safety of lives and livelihoods of people. He made

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 18.3°C Min: 6.6°C

Humidity
Max: 84 Min: 74

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 7.9°C Min: -0.2°C

Humidity
Max: 99 Min: 81

Sunset : 17:46 Hours
Sunrise : 07:34 Hours