

Participates in National Voters' Day celebrations

Trust in democracy has solidified in J&K: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

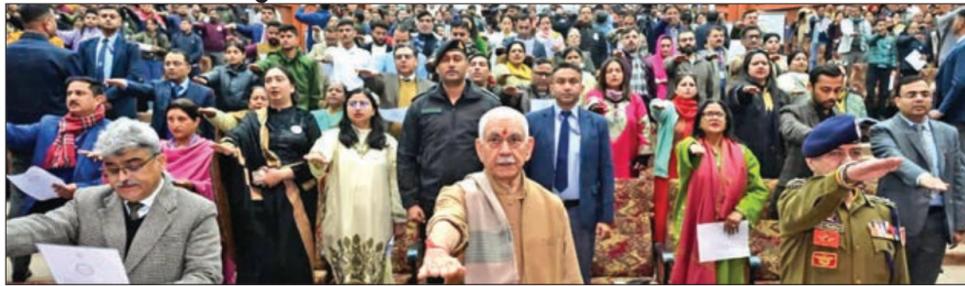
JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, graced the 16th National Voters' Day celebrations today in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the officers to cultivate awareness among citizens regarding profound power of their franchise and motivate them to exercise it with thoughtful prudence to become a true architect of a strong, fair and flourishing India.

"Every ballot cast becomes foundational to our nation's edifice. Thus, elections represent far more than present-day choices- they embody our sacred duty to posterity, to collective destiny, and to democratic resilience.

The franchise reinforces accountability, transparency, and governmental responsiveness. I firmly believe a vote is the potent expression of citizen aspiration, conviction, and purpose. Jammu and Kashmir must never forget: democracy's essence lies in this-our collective will alone determine our nation's path," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that every vote holds the power to shape poli-



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administering National Voters' Day pledge during 16th National Voters' Day celebrations in Jammu.

cies, institutions, and national direction. He said, when exercised responsibly, the ballot becomes our most potent tool for determining the nation's destiny.

"India, the world's largest democracy, has reached remarkable heights while championing equality and harmony. Our democratic foundations are unmatched in depth and strength. Though many nations won freedom when we did, democracy has thrived most vigorously on Indian soil," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated youth and citizens who, after decades, received their first complete opportunity to exercise their franchise.

He also commended the

Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Office of J&K for historic 2024 Lok Sabha and J&K Legislative Assembly elections.

"In Jammu Kashmir, trust in democracy has solidified and democratic values resonate deeply. Unprecedented electoral participation in 2024 confirms that citizens view voting as a duty, not mere right," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the National Voters' Day pledge to the officials and the people.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated District Election Officers from across J&K, senior officials of Civil and Police administration, Youth icons and other stakeholder departments. He also distributed Electors Photo Identity Cards among the new voters.

The celebrations were marked by enthralling performances from artists, members of social organisations and youth. Their creative depictions of the importance of voting received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor.

The event also featured a

video message from the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Gyanesh Kumar.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shaleen Kabra and Shailendra Kumar - Additional Chief Secretaries; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home; Sanjeev Verma, Chief Electoral Officer J&K; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP, Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; senior officials of Police and civil administration; prominent citizens and youth in large number were present.



LG felicitates DC Rajouri Abhishek with Appreciation Award for exemplary election management

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha on Sunday felicitated Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, with an Appreciation Award for his outstanding performance as District Election Officer (DEO) during the elections. The award was conferred at a function held at the Convention Centre, Jammu, in recognition of exemplary election management, meticulous planning and effective implementation of the

electoral process in District Rajouri. Abhishek Sharma was adjudged the Best DEO among District Election Officers for ensuring free, fair and peaceful elections with high standards of transparency and efficiency.

The recognition of DC Rajouri is a testament to the coordinated efforts of all line departments, security forces, polling personnel and stakeholders who worked relentlessly under his leadership to strengthen voter participation and uphold the sanctity of the electoral process.

Omar joins tourists to ski down Gulmarg's slopes



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah skiing at Gulmarg on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday joined locals and tourists to ski down the slopes of Gulmarg, where he had gone to review the ongoing development works.

Abdullah, a keen skier and a fitness and sports enthusiast, had participated in several marathons in the last few years.

The ruling National Conference posted a video of the chief minister in action on social media.

Railway to run special reserved trains between Katra and Srinagar next week

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With recent heavy snowfall disrupting road and air traffic, Northern Railway's Jammu division has decided to run special reserved trains between SMVD Katra to Srinagar next week to provide relief to the stranded passengers, officials said on Sunday.

The decision to operate special reserved train between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Katra and Srinagar on January 27 and 28 was taken under the directions of Divisional Railway Manager (Jammu) Vivek Kumar, the officials said.

They said the trains were planned keeping in mind the convenience of passengers and the absence of Vande Bharat trains on January 27 and 28.

While Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was partially opened on Sunday after remaining closed over the past two days owing to heavy snowfall in Banihal sector on Friday, flight operations also witnessed disruptions in the snow-bound Kashmir.

The weather department has also predicted snowfall in most parts of Kashmir and higher reaches of Jammu from January 26 till January 27 evening.

The officials said the special reserved train will depart on January 27 from SMVD Katra at

8.10 am and arrive at Srinagar at 11 am, with a stop at Banihal Railway Station enroute. On its return journey, the train will depart from Srinagar at 2 pm on the same day and arrive at SMVD Katra at 5 pm with same stoppages enroute.

Similarly, the special reserved train will depart from SMVD Katra at 10.30 am on January 28 and arrive at its destination at 1.30 pm, making a stop at Banihal railway station enroute.

On its return journey, special reserved train number 04630 will depart from Srinagar at 3 pm on the same day and arrive at SMVD Katra at 6 pm. The stops along the route will remain the same, the officials said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Jammu, Uchit Singhal said the decision to operate this special reserved train has been taken in view of the heavy rain and snowfall warning issued by the Meteorological Department for Jammu and Kashmir on January 27 and 28.

"Earlier, on January 23, flight and road traffic were affected due to snowfall. Following this, stranded passengers were transported from Srinagar to Katra by the Vande Bharat train.

"Considering these circumstances and as an alternative to the Vande Bharat train, this special reserved train is being operated to provide passengers with a suitable option for travel to and from Kashmir," he said.

Government of India

Greeting to all fellow citizens on

77th REPUBLIC DAY

Soul of the Nation – Vande Mataram
Strength of the Nation – Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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The inherent spirit of the Constitution is 'We the People.'
We must move forward, with the mantra of 'Sabka Prayas'.
When Viksit Bharat becomes the shared dream of 140 crore citizens, collective resolve turns aspirations into achievements.

- Narendra Modi

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Live telecast of Republic Day celebration from Kartavya Path 9:25 AM onwards on Doordarshan Network