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Pandemic situation improves in J&K, Sinha hints at reopening of schools



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing COVID-19 situation in J&K UT.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Observing that the pandemic situation has improved in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the authorities can gradually move ahead for reopening of schools and holding offline classes while ensuring complete adherence to SoPs.

Reviewing the Covid-19

situation in the Union territory during a meeting with Covid Task Force and DCs, SPs of all 20 districts, the Lt Governor issued directions to the district administrations to ensure enabling environment for schools for reopening, cleaning and sanitation, transportation, flexible and staggered timings for students with the help of school education authorities.

There will be flexibility in attendance and consent of parents/guardians will be obtained, as per the guidelines issued by the Centre. Students willing to study from home with the consent of parents will be allowed to do so, Sinha said.

On the issue of vaccination for 15-18 years age group and distribution of Sehat Golden Cards, the Lt

J&K reports 540 new COVID cases, 2 deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 540 new Covid cases, 312 from Jammu division and 228 from Kashmir division, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 449873.

Also, two Covid deaths have been reported the Kashmir Valley, officials said. Moreover, 1626 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been

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Six JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday transferred six JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, JKAS, BDO Khag (Budgam) has been transferred and posted as Collector, Lake Conservation and Management Authority

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Statistical Officer repatriated from Ladakh UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Friday repatriated Nazir Hussain, Statistical Officer from Union Territory of Ladakh.

"Nazir Hussain, Statistical Officer presently working in the Union territory of Ladakh is repatriated to Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with the directions to report in the Finance Department, J&K, for further posting, after

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A view of musical water fountain with laser, light & sound show at Bagh-e-Bahu inaugurated by LG Manoj Sinha on Friday evening. (Details on page-3)

Delimitation panel on J&K likely to get 2 months extension

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delimitation Commission, mandated to redraw the assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir, is likely to get a two-month extension to complete its task, sources aware of the development said.

The term of the panel is coming to an end in early March and it would need more time to ready its final report, they said.

Formed in March, 2020, the panel was granted a one

year extension last year.

Headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, it has Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the state election commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir as its ex-officio members.

In its draft report shared with its five associated members -- all Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir -- the delimitation panel has proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the

union territory.

Jammu and Kashmir at present has no legislative assembly. It is a union territory with a provision for a legislature.

The panel would ask the government for a two month extension which is likely to be given.

The Commission has asked the associate members to give their inputs and objections to the draft in the coming days. Then they would be asked whether their

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10 homestays under Crown of Incredible India project launched in Pahalgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Pahalgam has become the first destination in Jammu and Kashmir for the launch of 10 homestays under the Crown of Incredible India' project, an official spokesman said here on Friday.

He said the project is an initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir administration for rural homestays at tourist destinations across the union territory in collaboration with OYO Rooms.

Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Piyush Singla

said the experiment started in the district a few months ago and the overwhelming response has resulted in the project being upscaled at the UT level.

He said all stakeholders have been taken onboard during the discussion to ensure that the initiative fills the void in supply as well as is a meaningful employment opportunity for the youth.

Singla said the initiative will be instrumental in boosting both domestic and international tourist footfall.

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Former NC Prov VP, six panchayat members join BJP in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former senior provincial vice-president of the National Conference Anil Dhar and six panchayat members were among 13 leaders to join the BJP here on Friday.

Welcoming them into the party fold, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina said it was the party's good governance and its "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" policy that was attracting people in large numbers.

Dhar and the other leaders, along with dozens of their supporters, joined the saffron camp in the presence of Raina, BJP General Secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul, Vice-President Surjit Singh Slathia and prominent party leader Devender Singh Rana.

The Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief said he believed that the new entrants would further strengthen the party.

Koul said while other parties serve single families, BJP workers serve

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Policeman martyred, 4 others injured in terrorist attack at Bandipora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A policeman was martyred and four other security forces personnel were injured in a terrorist attack in Bandipora district on Friday, police said.

They said preliminary investigation revealed that terrorists hurled a grenade at a naka (patrol) party near Nishat Park in the district in north Kashmir, causing splinter injuries to five security forces personnel.

The injured personnel were evacuated to a hospital but one of them succumbed, a

police spokesman said.

The condition of the other injured personnel is stable, he added.

"At about 1700hrs, terrorists hurled a grenade on a joint party of police and BSF in Bandipora resulting in martyrdom of one police personnel and injuries to four other police personnel," the spokesman said.

He identified the martyred policeman as Zubair Ahmad.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers contin-

ue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime, the spokesman said.

He said the area has been cordoned off and a search operation is in progress to trace the attackers.

"We pay our rich tributes to the martyr for his supreme sacrifices in the line of duty and stand by his family at this critical juncture", the spokesperson added.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress has strongly condemned

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No plan to reintroduce three repealed farm laws in future: Agri Min in RS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday said in the Rajya Sabha that the government has no plan to reintroduce the three repealed farm laws in future.

Asked whether the government has any plan of reintroducing the three repealed farm laws in future, the minister said: "No Sir".

Replying to a written question, he said "the subject of compensation etc. to the families of the deceased farmers in the farmers

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Core Group reviews Intelligence, Security situation in Jammu



High rank officials during the core group meeting in White Knight Corps on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A core group meeting consisting of all Security Forces and Intelligence Agencies working in Jammu region, was held on Friday in White Knight Corps.

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh, GOC White Knight Corps, Dilbag Singh, DGP JKP co-chaired a meeting to review the Intelligence and Security situation in Jammu region. High ranking officials to include Spl DG CID, IG BSF, IG CRPF, Divisional Commissioner SB, Director IB, Formation Commanders

of all formations of white knight Corps and Divisional Commissioner Jammu were present. Issues related to present security situation, the inputs of terrorists in Pakistan trying to infiltrate from IB and LC Sectors, terror funding, radicalisation through social media, security situation in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban area, OGW network and the latest modus operandi of the terrorist groups trying to revive terrorism in Jammu region and

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 21.0°C Min: 5.3°C

Humidity

Max: 85 Min: 51

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 12.6°C Min: -2.2°C

Humidity

Max: 92 Min: 82

Sunset : 18:12 Hours

Sunrise : 07:18 Hours

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