

**03** Asia's largest tulip garden opens today, all set to welcome millions of visitors

**09** Narcotic drugs & psychotropic substances worth Rs 19 cr destroyed

**10** J&K all set to host Senior National Table Tennis Championship in Jammu: Hafeez

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## Committee formed to dispel apprehensions over Vaishno Devi ropeway project: LG Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha performing Hawan before dedicating newly constructed Durga Bhawan to devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said a committee has been formed to dispel apprehensions of Katra residents over the proposed ropeway project at the Vaishno Devi shrine. Sinha, who is also the chairperson of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), was speaking to reporters after dedicating the newly constructed Durga Bhawan having the capacity to accommodate 3,000 pilgrims per day near the sanctum sanctorum. Responding to a question about the resentment among the residents of Katra over the proposed ropeway project, Sinha said his administration is open to suggestions and wants them onboard while executing the project which would help

## 4 from Bihar killed, 28 injured as bus overturns in Pulwama

*Nitish, LG Sinha express grief over road mishap*  
**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Four people hailing from Bihar were killed and 28 injured when their bus overturned in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday, officials said. The incident took place on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in the Barsoo area of the south Kashmir district, they added. Four passengers, all residents of Bihar, were killed in the accident, the officials said, adding that 28

## SIA raids 8 places in J&K in connection with terror-funding case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out raids at eight places on Saturday in a case related to collection of funds by Maulvi Sarjan Barkati, the face of "anti-national" protests in 2016, and using the same for personal gains, officials said. The SIA, a subsidiary of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, registered a case against Barkati earlier this year to probe the collection of funds as well as his "anti-national" speeches.



According to the officials, it is alleged that more than Rs 1.5 crore were generated through crowdfunding and from suspected terror sources, and utilised for personal benefits, profiteering and in furtherance of secessionist-terrorist campaigns. Barkati and others are alleged to have made a huge amount of money by making emotional appeals to the public to support them for their day-to-day needs.

## Hours after arrested by CBI while accepting bribe; Head Constable dies during questioning

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Hours after Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Head Constable (Munshi), Women Police Station, Kathua in connection with demand of bribe of Rs. 3,000 from a complainant, he died during questioning in custody on Saturday. As per the details, FIR RC0042023A0005 was registered on March 18, 2023 under sections 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), on the basis of complaint regarding demand of bribe by the accused. It was alleged that in the month of February, 2023, the accused Mushtaq Ahmed, Head Constable asked complainant's father to send him (complainant) to Police Station to meet the accused. After few days, when the complainant met the accused, he told him that another complaint has filed against the complainant for

## DPAP aims for inclusive, progressive J&K: Azad

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chairman, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday said that his politics is based on inclusiveness, development and peace. Speaking at the public meeting in Eidgah Srinagar, he said that unlike other parties who try to divide people for political gains, he aims to develop Jammu and Kashmir inclusively where every person irrespective of religion, caste and creed feels



Chairman, DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad speaking at public meeting in Eidgah Srinagar on Saturday.

politically and socially empowered. "I had never thought that after leaving Congress, the people of Jammu and Kashmir will receive me with

this kind of warmth and love," he said. Azad said that after leaving Congress more and more people are joining his new party and believe in him. "It gives me more responsibilities and challenges to meet the expectations of people. People feel dejected and disappointed with the present governing system," he said. Azad said that those politicians who have no vision resort to communal and divisive politics, but he aims

## J&K people will give befitting reply to politics of deceit, deception: Chugh

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday said those having played politics of poll boycott earlier will have to face the people of Jammu and Kashmir and be prepared for imminent defeat due to their deception and double standards. The opposition has already experienced defeat with the people ignoring their boycott calls and participating in the elections to Panchayats, BDCs and DDCs, he said.



In a statement, Tarun Chugh said that the opposition had miserably failed in their earlier effort to obstruct and stall elections to Panchayats, BDC and DDCs, he said.

**Department of Industries & Commerce**  
**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**

**Manoj Sinha**  
Lieutenant Governor, J&K

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