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No doubt more needs be done but surely after 2019 an era with meaningful difference has arrived for UT of J&K

RNI No.: 66908/96

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Truck falls into Chenab, two feared dead

JKPS Kunjwani welcomes its Rapper extraordinaire Shen BC

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

10 Vaishno Devi pilgrims dead, 57 injured in bus accident

LG approves Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia each for NoK of deceased, Rs 50, 000 for injured; CS visits GMC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JHAJJAR KOTLI: Ten Vaishno Devi pilgrims, most of them from Bihar, were killed and 57 injured on Tuesday as the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and rammed into the railing of a bridge before falling off it, officials

The death toll may go up as Government Medical College Hospital Principal Shashi Soodan said two of the injured admitted there are critical.

The officials said the bus, which was on its way to Katra from Amritsar, met with the accident in Jhajjar Kotli area on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway between 6.30 and 7 am. Katra is a base camp for the pilgrims visiting the famous shrine atop the Trikuta hills.

They said most of the travellers were members of an extended family from Bihar's Lakhisarai and were on pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi temple for a ritual

"The accident took place at Jhajjar Kotli bridge. Ten people have died. Rescue operation is almost complete," Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police



Wreckage of bus at accident spot near Jhajjar Kotli.

Chandan Kohli told PTI. "We are investigating the reasons behind the acci-

Local residents, CRPF and police personnel rushed to the spot and launched the rescue operation.

"The troops of 137 CRPF battalion carried out the rescue operation to evacuate injured driver and passengers from

the bus, which turned turtle and fell down from Jhajjar Kotli bridge on highway" the force said in a tweet

"Two persons were brought dead while others died on the spot," said GMC hospital principal Soodan.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbagh Singh said prima facie, the cause of accident appeared **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Key infrastructure projects inaugurated

J&K can contribute in building India as global superpower: Sinha

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Observing that India is leading the world in digital revolution, growth, and is set to become 3rd largest economy in the world, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called for aiming higher and creating an environment for excellence, so that Jammu and Kashmir can collectively contribute in realizing the dream of building our country as a global superpower.

Inaugurating several key projects, seven Custom Hiring Centres for farmers and Nine Poly Green Houses for Self-Help Groups in Baramulla District, the Lt Governor urged the people to isolate those elements, who are trying to disrupt peace.

On the occasion, he also laid the foundation stone of



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating foundation stones for several key projects at Baramulla on Tuesday.

projects dedicated to the public have the potential to bring transformation not only in Baramulla district but in the entire Jammu Kashmir. The upgradation of Narbal-Tangmarg road will further strengthen the connectivity, he added.

He congratulated the people, public representatives, Deputy Commissioner and the entire district adminisPublic Administration' award to Baramulla Aspirational District category, conferred by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This aspirational district has transformed itself into a centre of economic importance in the last few years. The quality of life that the citizens of Baramulla had dreamed for a long time is being fulfilled to a large

extent, he said. Paying homage to the Lion of Baramulla, Maqbool Sherwani, the Lt Governor said the Youth of Baramulla are scripting new milestones in various sectors and making significant contributions in nation building.

"Youth are the custodians of our future and they have a significant role to play in J&K's progress. In order to provide an opportunity for our youth and sportspersons to demonstrate their skills, we are making all possible efforts and this mission will continue in the future." said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor shared the vision of the government and the reforms introduced. under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to accelerate the pace of socioeconomic growth in all districts of Jammu Kashmir.

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He said that those

involved in this heinous

CEO SASB visits Baltal, reviews preparations for Amarnathji Yatra

GANDERBAL: Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governorand Chief Officer Executive Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, on Tuesday visited Baltal Base Camp where he chaired a meeting of district officers to review the arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2023 via Baltal route.

The CEO reviewed in detail the arrangements for the convenience of the pilgrims at base camp Baltal and enroute including sanitation measures, power and water supply, parking spaces, regis-

J&K Admin approves using satellite phones during Amarnath Yatra STATE TIMES NEWS

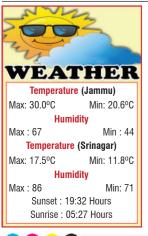
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday approved utilisation of 400 satellite phones for better communication during the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra.

It also proposed setting up of State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) for better management of the annual pilgrimage. The yatra to the Amarnath

shrine, located at a height of 3.880 metres in south Kashmir Himalayas, will begin on July 1 and conclude on August 31. To address the communica-

tion needs during natural disasters or emergencies, the State Executive Committee (SEC) approved utilisation of 400 satellite phones during Amarnath Yatra, an official spokesman said. The SEC also considered a

proposal for procurement of rescue equipment, including excavators, fire-fighting material, signal units and drones, with an estimated cost of Rs 8.91 crore, which is to be financed through the SDRF,



tration of service providers and ponies, health services, construction of shelter sheds, flood protection works and other arrangements.

At the outset, the DC briefed the CEO about various facilities, langars, tents for yatri accommodation and establishments planned at the Baltal base camp, for which all prerequisites are being undertaken by the District Administration, Ganderhal

The CEO also reviewed the status of registration of ponies and other service providers. He called upon the concerned to carry ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS

Corruption Bureau (ACB)

on Tuesday arrested a Block

Forest Officer (BFO) and a

Forest Guard for allegedly

accepting a bribe from a per-

son involved in illegal felling

of trees in a forest area in

Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi

They were identified as Sat

Pal (BFO) and Abneet

Kumar (forest guard), they

The accused were caught

accepting a bribe of Rs

15,000 from the man

involved in felling of trees to

settle the case against him,

district, officials said.

JAMMU:

Block Forest Officer, Guard arrested

Filled with humility and gratitude, will keep working harder: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As his government completed nine years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his every decision has been guided by the desire to improve the lives of people.

"Today, as we complete 9 years in service to the nation, I am filled with humility and gratitude. "Every decision made,

every action taken, has been guided by the desire to improve the lives of people. We will keep working even harder to build a developed India," he tweeted.

He also shared an info-

for accepting bribe

"Anti Corruption Bureau

received a complaint against

Abneet Kumar presently

posted at Beat Bharakh with

additional charge of Beat

Narla Bambal. In the com-

plaint, the complainant

alleged that he had taken one

dry fallen Chir tree from the

forest and after few days

Munshi of PP Taryath con-

tacted the complainant and

told that Forest Guard name-

ly Abneet Kumar of beat

Narla Bambal lodged a com-

plaint against him for cut-

ting/taking of tree from the

forest without permission,"

the officials said.



graphic on his government's welfare works.

"Over the past 9 years, we have strived to uphold the dignity and enhance the livelihoods of India's poorest.

"When the complainant

met Munshi of PP Teryath,

he told him to settle the mat-

ter with the Forest Guard.

When the complainant con-

tacted forest guard through

another persons, he demand-

ed Rs 22,000 as bribe for

withdrawn of application and

settlement. On this the com-

plainant approached ACB

and lodged complaint in

Police Station ACB Rajouri

for taking legal action

against the above named

"Since the contents of the

complaint disclose demand of

bribe by alleged accused

Through numerous initiatives, we have transformed millions of lives. Our mission continues - to uplift every citizen and fulfill their dreams,

Man held with heroin, cash; 31 phones seized

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A man was arrested with 11 gram heroin in Rajouri district on Tuesday, police said, adding 31 mobile phones and Rs 1.16 lakh in cash were also seized from him.

Aziz Ahmed alias Sonu Chinese, a notorious drug peddler, was nabbed during a raid on his house in Rajouri town in the presence of executive magistrate deployed by district civil administration, police said in a statement.

The statement said two weighing machines, three cameras, three motors, four amplifiers, one inverter, one

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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has planned a month-long campaign from Tuesday to celebrate the ninth anniversary with various mass connect programmes and Prime Minister Modi himself is scheduled to address a rally in Ajmer in Rajasthan on Wednesday.

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers and chief ministers, had on Monday highlighted the government's achievements in a nationwide outreach.

From India's "rising" global stature to emphasis on national security,

Tarun Chugh condemns killing of Udhampur man in Anantnag Says killers will not be spared Jammu and Kashmir.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National General Secretary

and charge Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh on Tuesday condemned the killing

Udhampurman in Anantnag.

Chugh said the killing of the Udhampur man was the desperation of terrorists as they could not digest ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 the developments in

crime should be brought to

justice at the earliest. Chugh also expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies

Admin gears up to host Chamliyal Mela along IB next month

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamliyal mela, considered as a symbol of Indo-Pakistan bonhomie in the past, will he held next month at the famous shrine of Baba Chamliyal near International Border (IB) in Samba district, an official said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Abhishek Sharma chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the mela, which is scheduled to take place in Ramgarh sector on June 22.

Singh Manhas, popularly

The shrine of Baba Dalip

known as Baba Chamliyal after whom the village on the zero line is named, lived over 300 years ago and is revered by the people of all faiths because of his saintly qualities and spiritual powers.

Thousands of devotees from across the country throng the shrine but no delegation from Pakistan was allowed to take part in the fair over the past five years after cross-border firing left four BSF personnel includan Assistant ingCommandant dead on June 13, 2018. Earlier, the delegation used to take 'Shakkar' (clay) and 'Sharbat' (water) believed to have healing powers against various skin ailments from the shrine. Chairing the meeting, the

deputy commissioner emphasised the need for wellplanned arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the mela, an spokesman said.

To enhance the overall experience and safety of the attendees, he said, the power Development Department (PDD) was instructed to ensure proper lighting arrangements and uninterrupted power supply throughout the mela.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 India to host SCO summit in

Deepu Kumar killed by terrorists in Anantnag cremated LG approves Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia for NoK; political parties condemn terror act

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Forest Guard.

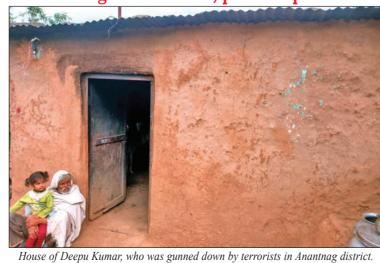
STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Deepu Kumar, who was gunned down by terrorists in Anantnag district, was cremated near his native village here on Tuesday, with Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina terming the killing as unfortunate that has shamed humanity.

Kumar (27), who worked at a circus in the Janglat Mandi area in the south Kashmir district, was shot dead by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists when he had gone to the market to buy milk around 8.30 pm on Monday.

His body was on Tuesday moved to his remote Thial village in Udhampur district where it was received by villagers amid anti-Pakistan sloganeer-

The body was later taken to a nearby cremation ground where the last last rites were performed. The pyre was lit by Kumar's nephew in accordance with family tradition and ritu-



"This is a very unfortunate incident which shames humanity. His father is on the death-bed and his elder brother is blind. He was the only bread earner for the family," Raina, who

was among several BJP workers who joined the last rites of the deceased, told PTL

He said the perpetrators of the gruesome crime have done a great

Protests held over targeted killing, anti-Pak slogans raised

UDHAMPUR: Scores of people on Tuesday took to the streets in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, protesting the targeted killing of a man by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in Anantnag.

Led by Khayal Sunhal panchayat member Rajesh Kumar, the protesters assembled at Batal Chowk, blocking the Dhar Road and raised anti-Pakistan slogans.

"A wave of sorrow spread across Majalta when news of his killing spread in the area. Entire family was dependent on him. The terrorist came on a motorcycle and fired on him as he was **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

injustice to the poor family.

"What was his crime for which he was brutally killed? An innocent blood was shed and those who have done this have **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

virtual format on July 4 ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India will host the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the virtual format on July 4, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Tuesday.

However, it did not cite reasons for holding the summit in the virtual mode.

Last year, the in-person SCO summit took place in the Uzbek city of Samarkand that was attended by all top leaders of the grouping including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart

Vladimir Putin. India assumed the rotating chairmanship of the SCO at the Samarkand Summit on September 16 last year.

"Under India's first-ever chairmanship, the 22nd summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State will be held in the virtual format on July 4, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the MEA

said in a statement. India hosted the foreign ministers of the SCO at a two-day conclave in Goa earlier this month.

The MEA said all the SCO member states -- China. Kazakhstan. Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan -have been invited to attend the summit.

"In addition, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia have been invited as observer states. As SCOtradition. Turkmenistan has also been invited as the guest of

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