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## J&K economy surging, offers best opportunity to investors: LG

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the economy of Jammu and Kashmir is surging ahead and it offers the best investment opportunity to the investors.

Interacting with the business and industry leaders from different regions of the country including Varanasi, Kanpur, Kolkata, Bangalore, Prayagraj, at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor shared the transformational journey of Jammu Kashmir and spoke about competitive advantages and opportunities in the Union Territory.

He reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to meet the aspirations of the people of Jammu Kashmir, saying the path-breaking development has witnessed in the last few years. This is the testimony to our resolve to bring peace, prosperity and establishing transparent, accountable and



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with Business & Industry leaders at Raj Bhawan on Sunday.

responsive governance in Jammu Kashmir, he added.

The Lt Governor observed that the record tourist influx, investor friendly ecosystem and industrial investment is driving sustainable economic growth in J&K. He said the agricultural reforms are also opening new vistas of opportunities for entrepreneurs in agro-based industries.

"J&K has taken transformative reforms in the past few

years to facilitate investment and we are building world class infrastructure to make J&K a hub of innovation. J&K offers myriad opportunities across sectors and soon we will take its economic growth to a higher trajectory," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also lauded the contribution of young government officers in enhancing the efficiency of the government machinery at

all levels. Citizen-centric development, effective and speedy delivery of public services is our priority. Now, the public have more confidence in the delivery system, he said. Bimal Agarwal of Brijlax Group; Sandeep Gupta, Director and Whole-time Director Jagran Prakashan Ltd.; Ashok Lohia, Tea Exporter and their family members were also present.

Two tourists rescued, local missing as part of glacier caves in Sonamarg

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Two tourists were rescued while a local man went missing on Sunday at the Sonamarg tourist resort of Kashmir after a part of a glacier caved in, officials said.

A portion of Thajiwas glacier at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district broke off from the main ice mass in the afternoon following

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NHAI hikes tolls across highways by 5 pc

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Motorists using expressways will have to shell out more from Monday as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to hike tolls across the country by an average of 5 per cent.

The annual revision of highway user fee, which is expected to be in the range of average 5 per cent, was earlier to come into effect on April 1. But the hike

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## Nine counting centres set up for five LS seats in J&K; one in Delhi

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: With two days left for the declaration of results of the Lok Sabha polls, nine centres have been set up for counting of votes in five Lok Sabha constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

In addition, one counting centre has also been set up in Delhi for the counting of Kashmiri migrant votes which were polled by the displaced community at specially set up polling stations in Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seats, they said.

The counting of votes, scheduled for Tuesday, also covering Udampur and Jammu parliamentary seats in J-K, will decide the fate of 100 candidates, including senior BJP leader and Union minister Jitendra Singh, two former chief ministers - Omar Abdullah of National Conference (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti of Peoples



Democratic Party (PDP).

The other bigwigs include former ministers Raman Bhalla and Choudhary Lal Singh of Congress, GM Saroori of DPAP, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Mian Altaf of NC, Ashraf Mir of Apni Party, Sajjad Lone of Peoples Conference. Former MLA Engineer Rashid is fighting from Tihar Jail.

Officials said all arrangements including security and deployment of staff have been made at all the 10 counting centres.

The Combined Voter Turnout (VTR) at the polling stations for the entire Union territory (five Lok Sabha seats) was 58.46 per cent - the highest poll participation in the last 35 years.

The voter turnout of 50.86 per cent from the three parliamentary constituencies in the Kashmir Valley witnessed a jump of 30 percentage points from the 2019 general elections when it was 19.16 per cent. Srinagar, Baramulla and

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## Over 1.5 lakh tourists visit Bhaderwah in May

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BHADARWAH : More than 1.5 lakh tourists visited Bhaderwah in Doda district in May as the northern plains experienced blistering heat and record-breaking temperatures, officials said on Sunday.

More than half a dozen water bodies like Neel Ganga River, Haloni, Puneja, Thanhala, Halyan and Sharekhi that emerge from the Ashapati and Kailash glaciers and flow through Bhaderwah have been attracting tourists in droves, they said.

"Traditionally, this time of the year always remains con-

ducive for tourism as after board exams, visitors start thronging hill stations. Bhaderwah has emerged as a favourite destination among them," said Bal Krishnan, CEO of Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA).

"Bhaderwah is fast emerging as the favourite destination in Jammu province. This year we have received more than 5 lakh tourists so far while a record 1.5 lakh tourists visited Bhaderwah in May," he added.

Set amidst the Himalayan ranges, the picturesque Bhaderwah valley is

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## People who kept 'hisab-kitab' for Pak in past queued up to vote this time: DGP

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: People who kept "hisab-kitab" (accounts) and acted as eyes and ears of the "enemy" in the past took part in the electoral process this time as the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the police ensured a safe space free from external threats, DGP Rashmi Ranjan Swain said.

This year's Lok Sabha election saw a remarkable voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir which signalled towards a shift in the region's political landscape, Swain told PTI, highlighting a newfound sense of freedom from



fear among the people.

In the first major electoral battle in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile

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## 'Launch pads across LoC active, around 70 terrorists waiting to cross'

SRINAGAR: Around 60 to 70 terrorists are "active" on launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) and its "degraded capability" has not stopped Pakistan from sending men and material to Jammu and Kashmir, according to Director General of Police Rashmi Ranjan Swain.

Giving an overall assessment of the current security situation along the border areas and the challenge posed by drone droppings, Swain at the same time said Indian security personnel will make it "absolutely hard" for the adversary to succeed.

"In our meetings with our security partners, we generally have come to the conclusion that it is a fact that the adversary or the enemy has not stopped from sending men and material," Swain, who holds the dual charge of the J&K Police and the CID, told PTI in an interview.

He also mentioned the presence of foreign terrorists from the western neighbour operating

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## Murder accused arrested after 16 years

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KISHTWAR: A man, wanted for killing a sarpanch in 2008, was arrested in Kishtwar district on Sunday, police said.

Mir Hussain, a resident of Keshwan, was the most wanted fugitive in the district and was arrested by a special team following specific information from Kishtwar, a police spokesman said.

Hussain had gone underground after abducting and killing Bashir Ahmad, the then sarpanch of Nagri Ghad Keshwan area 16 years ago, the spokesman said. A case under

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## 2 dies, 16 injured as bus overturns near Akhnoor's Kaleeth village

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

AKHNOOR: Two passengers were killed and 16 sustained injuries when a bus overturned in the Akhnoor sub-division here on Sunday, police said.

A police official said the accident occurred near Kaleeth village in the evening after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

Kewal Kumar and V Bhagat died on the spot, he said.

The injured were taken to a nearby hospital and three of them were later referred to Government Medical College Hospital for specialised



treatment, officials said.

This was the second major accident in the Akhnoor area of Jammu in the last four days.

On May 30, a bus carrying pilgrims fell into a 150 feet gorge at Tungi-Morh result-

ing in the deaths of 22 people and injuries to 57 others.

In a separate incident, a man was killed and another injured when a two-wheeler collided with a bus at Nud village on the

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## Heat wave persists in Jammu, relief likely after June 4

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The heat wave conditions on Sunday persisted in Jammu which recorded the maximum temperature at 41.6 degrees Celsius, 2.2 notches above season's average, the meteorological department said.

However, the day temperature in Jammu was 1.3 degrees Celsius less than that of the previous day, a spokesperson of the Met department said, adding that the city may witness relief from the prevailing conditions after June 4.

The minimum temperature recorded in Jammu was almost near normal at 25.8 degrees Celsius, he said.

He said hot and dry weather over plains of Jammu division is likely to continue till June 4. After that during the next three days, Jammu may see light to moderate rain or thunder at many places with gusty winds at few places.

The weather is likely to remain partly cloudy on June 8 and 9, the spokesperson said.

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## Modi asks officials to ensure fire drills in hospitals, public places

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday stressed the need to ensure regular fire and electrical safety audits in hospitals and other public places as he reviewed the heatwave situation in the country amid fire incidents which have claimed many lives.

He chaired a host of meetings, including one on the post-Cyclone Remal situation, especially in the north-east region, and another to review the 100-day agenda of the new government to be sworn in after the Lok Sabha results are announced on



June 4.

Exit polls broadcast on Saturday predicted a massive win for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), with Modi

set to retain power for a third straight term.

In the meeting to review the heatwave conditions in parts of the country, Modi

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## BJP sweeps elections in Arunachal; SKM back to power in Sikkim

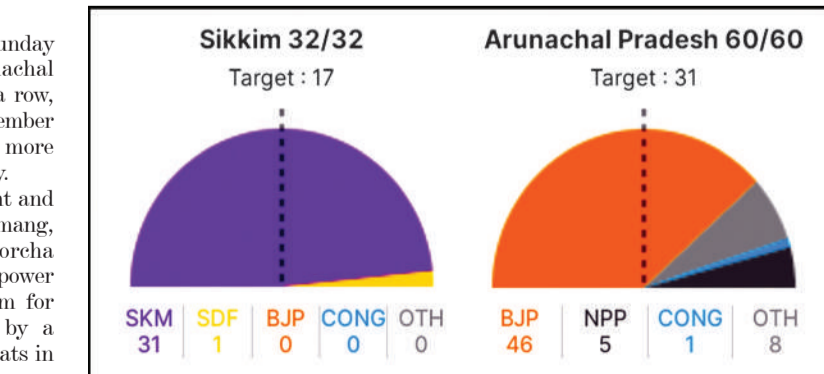
■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Sunday returned to power in Arunachal Pradesh for the third time in a row, winning 46 seats in the 60-member assembly, and bagging four more seats compared to its 2019 tally.

Meanwhile, led by its president and Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) on Sunday returned to power in the Himalayan state-Sikkim for the second consecutive term by a landslide victory, winning 31 seats in the 32-member assembly.

In sweeping the assembly elections, the counting of which was held during the day, the BJP decimated the opposition parties, especially the Congress which was relegated to the fifth position with only one seat after NPP (5), NCP (3) and PPA (2). Three seats went to Independent candidates.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu



asserted that the momentum of what happened in the 'Land of the rising sun', a sobriquet for Arunachal Pradesh, will spread to other parts of the country on June 4 when votes for the Lok Sabha elections will be counted.

"This is a historic occasion for the BJP and entire Arunachal Pradesh. The people of Arunachal Pradesh

have declared that they want BJP to stay in power for the next five years. This time, the mandate is more than what we got in 2019. In the 2019 Assembly polls, BJP won 41 seats, while we have won 46 seats this time," Khandu told PTI Video.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of Arunachal Pradesh for the landslide

win. "Thank you Arunachal Pradesh! The people of this wonderful state have given an unequivocal mandate to politics of development. My gratitude to them for reposing their faith in @BJP4Arunachal yet again. Our Party will keep working with even greater vigour for the state's growth," Modi said in a post on X.

In response, Khandu said, "Your guidance and vision have played a monumental role in our success. We shall continue with greater vigour to work for Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas."

Khandu himself won uncontested from the Mukto assembly constituency. Nine other BJP candidates also tasted victory unopposed.

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## Delhi court sends Kejriwal to judicial custody till Jun 5

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A court here on Sunday sent Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to

judicial custody till June 5 in a money laundering case related to the alleged scam.

Duty judge Sanjeev Aggarwal passed the order after the chief minister was produced before the court through video conference after surrendering at Tihar jail upon the expiry of his interim bail granted by the Supreme Court for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls.

The judge passed the order

on an application filed by the Enforcement Directorate, seeking extension of judicial custody by

14 days. The application was moved by the ED on May 20 while Kejriwal was out on interim bail.

The court sent Kejriwal to judicial custody till June 5, noting that the judge concerned was scheduled to pass an order on his interim bail plea on health grounds on that day.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 41.6°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity  
Max: 27 Min: 19

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 30.3°C Min: 13.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 56 Min: 25

Sunset : 19:33 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:23 Hours