

03 Dr Jitendra interacts with DCs, reviews countrywide Beach cleaning campaign

09 Four Ban toll plaza employees arrested for abducting commuter

10 First Sahodaya GBM 2022-23 held at JK Public School Kunjwani

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J&K leads in various health, development indicators across country: LG

Focus on empowering PRIs with 3Fs- funds, functions & functionaries



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with 55 member-delegation of PRI representatives from Kashmir Division on Tuesday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Citing comparison of various parameters in health, education, social welfare, agriculture, rural development and the power sectors, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that these have seen visible improvement across Jammu and Kashmir in the past three years.

"A transparent, responsible and accountable governance system has been established

in Jammu Kashmir and we are completing five times more projects now and average cost has also come down. This is huge achievement as far as transparent system is concerned", the Lt Governor said while interacting with a 55-member delegation of PRI representatives from the Kashmir Division, here.

Sinha said, "Earlier, the Neonatal Mortality Rate was 23.1 in J&K UT. It has come down to single digit, 9.8.

Infant Mortality Rate was 32.4 in 2015-16 , today it has come down to half i.e. 16.3. The under-5 mortality rate was 37.6 in 2015-16, which has come down by half to 18.5 today. And, in all these parameters J&K today leads the national average. The national average of Teacher-Pupil ratio in primary education is 32:1 while in J&K it is 14:1. The national average of water coverage is 50.30% while in

J&K UT it is 57.86. The national average of forest and tree cover is 24.62% while in J&K it is 54 %. The national average of per capita energy consumption is 1208 unit while in J&K it is 1384 units."

While dwelling upon various initiatives taken in the recent years, Sinha observed that the main focus of the Government is to empower the PRIs with 3Fs- funds, functions and functionaries. He said that Jan Bhagidari is the key pillar of people-centric governance, and with the help of PRIs, the government is formulating development plans as per the needs of the people and ensuring government programmes and initiatives are delivered at their doorsteps.

The delegation comprising BDC chairpersons, Sarpanchs and Panchs led by Sheikh Muzaffar, President,

Grenade attack on police post in Ramban

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
R A M B A N / J A M M U : Terrorists hurled a grenade at a police post in Ramban district early Tuesday, prompting police and Army to launch a massive cordon and search operation in the area.

The grenade exploded on the roof of the police post without causing injuries to anyone, sources said.

Additional Director General of Police Mukesh

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PPCPA cell to be established in Planning Deptt: CS

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday approved the establishment of a Public Private Partnership-cum-Project Appraisal (PPCPA) cell within the Planning, Monitoring and Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Administrative Secretary, Planning, Monitoring

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No new levy on items consumed by poor: FM Sitharaman

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said GST Council has not imposed any new levy on essential items consumed by the poor, though such products were taxed in one form or the other by almost all states in the pre-GST era.

The minister, replying to a short-duration discussion on price rise in the Rajya Sabha, also said GST has not increased the burden on families. She also said the government has contained prices of tomato, onion, and potato, while comparing rates with those prevailing in November 2013.

Almost every state, including West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Kerala, imposed levies on items like pulses, flour, curd, paneer, and buttermilk before the GST regime kicked in on July 1, 2017.

The GST Council has not



No GST on chequebooks for customers

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said there is no GST on chequebooks for bank customers, as she tried to clear "misinformation" over issues related to the imposition of the levy on various products and services.

Also, there is no GST on crematorium, funeral, burial, or mortuary services, the minister said and explained the Goods and Service Tax has been levied on the construction of new crematoriums.

"More I listen to issues related to GST, I have a concern that probably the right information is not reaching. And as a result, there's quite a lot of misconception and I would today attempt to clear some of these

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Approval accorded to 28 revised works under Jammu Smart City Project

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar, who is also the Chairman for Jammu Smart City Limited on Tuesday accorded approval to 28 revised projects, which include provision for Mechanized Drain Cleaning Machines, Garbage Transfer Stations, Auto Tipplers, Parks and Walkways, Upgradation of Schools, Modernization of Ranbir Library, Smart Lighting at All Tavi Bridges in Jammu City, Static Advertisement Panels & Signages, Underground Bins, Construction of Parking at

Town Hall, Blue-Green Project Ranbir Canal, Smart Urban e-Mobility & Infrastructure, Tavi River Front and Real Estate Development, E-Governance, Smart Traffic Booths, Solid Waste Processing Facilities and many other related development projects.

The approvals were accorded at the 13th Board of Directors meeting of Jammu Smart City Limited, chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, along with Additional Director General of Police, Mukesh Singh.

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Taliban under scrutiny as US kills Al-Qaida leader in Kabul

■ **AGENCY**

ISLAMABAD: The US drone strike that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri on the balcony of a Kabul safe house intensified global scrutiny Tuesday of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and further undermined their efforts to secure international recognition and desperately needed aid.

The Taliban had promised in the 2020 Doha Agreement on the terms of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan that they would not harbor al-Qaida members. Nearly a year after the US military's chaotic pullout from Afghanistan, al-Zawahri's killing raises questions about



the involvement of Taliban leaders in sheltering a mastermind of the 9/11 terror attacks and one of America's most-wanted fugitives. The safe house is in Kabul's upscale Shirpur neighbourhood, home to several Taliban leaders who had

moved into mansions of former top Afghan officials of the toppled Western-backed government. The Taliban initially sought to describe the strike as America violating the Doha deal, which also includes a Taliban pledge not to shelter those seeking to attack the United States something al-Zawahri had done for years in internet videos and online screeds. The Taliban have yet to say who was killed in the strike.

Meanwhile, rumors persist of unease in the Taliban ranks particularly between the powerful group known as the Haqqani network, which apparently sheltered al-

Zawahri, and other Taliban figures. The killing of Ayman al-Zawahri has raised many questions," said one Pakistani intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press as he wasn't authorized to speak publicly to reporters. Al-Zawahri took over as al-Qaida's leader after Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan in 2011, in an operation by US Navy SEALs.

The Taliban were aware of his presence in Kabul, and if they were not aware of it, they need to explain their position," the official said.

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BSF fires at flying object along IB in Jammu; search launched

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The BSF opened fire at a flying object near the International Border (IB) in Kanachak sector, a senior official said on Tuesday. The unidentified flying object with a blinking light was detected at 9.35 pm on Monday as it tried to intrude into the Indian territory from across the border, he said.

The Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fire and the blinking light was not observed thereafter, he added.

A search operation was launched in the area along

with police and other agencies, the officer said, adding nothing has been recovered so far. Earlier, police had busted three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) modules, arrested seven of its members and recovered a huge cache of arms, ammunition, and explosive material reportedly dropped by 35 drone sorties from Pakistan. Reportedly, LeT had set up three terror modules in Jammu and Rajouri districts to collect and transport weapons dropped by drones in border areas of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Rajouri districts to terrorists in Kashmir.

16 Corps commander visits forward posts along LoC in Poonch, reviews security situation

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: General Officer Commanding, 16 Corps, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh on Tuesday visited forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district and reviewed the security situation, officials said.

Lt Gen Singh visited troops of Ace of Spades Gunners

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Mughal Road blocked due to landslide

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Vehicular traffic on the historic Mughal Road in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir was suspended on Tuesday after it was hit by a massive landslide, officials said.

The road, which connects Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian, is an alternative road to the Jammu-Srinagar

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 34.2°C Min: 24.4°C

Humidity

Max : 82 Min : 61

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 28.9°C Min: 17.5°C

Humidity

Max : 84 Min: 53

Sunset : 19:29 Hours

Sunrise : 05:48 Hours

Sinha performs Amarnath Chhari Mubarak Pujan at Dashnami Akhara

Asks pilgrims to visit cave shrine before Aug 5, cites inclement weather

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday took part in Shri Amarnathji Chhari pujan in presence of Deependra Giri, Mahant ChharriMubarak Shri Amarnathji, at Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhara here.

The Chhari-Pujan was performed on the auspicious occasion of Shravan Shukal Panchami, and is one of the important rituals prior to the culmination of the annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji Shrine.

While performing the



LG Manoj Sinha performing Shri Amarnath Chhari Mubarak Pujan.

Chhari Mubarak Pujan, Lt Governor prayed for sustained peace, progress and

prosperity in J&K and well-being of people.

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Celebrating ED Summons: Will Farooq Abdullah follow suit after Sanjay Raut



DOST KHAN

JAMMU: For 75 years, the Congress has been taking credit for the independence of India from the British--rightly so. Will now the grand old party also take credit for celebrating the summons of the Enforcement Directorate in the cases of corruption, malpractices and other unfair means? They should, since the trend has been set in motion by none other than the Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi-the heir apparent of the legacy left by Mahatma Gandhi. It is different that Babu had sought disbanding of the Congress after independence.

What has happened to this nation?

Emulating Sonia and Rahul, currently on bail in the infamous National Herald case, the most vocal Member Parliament of Udhav Shiv Sena, Sanjay Raut, under the custody of Enforcement Directorate following his arrest after hectic 10 hour grilling in an alleged money laundering case, kept waving hands at the media persons as if he had conquered the Everest or won for India gold medal in Olympics. Such a fanfare must be

unheard anywhere in the civilized world where even Prime Ministers have faced judicial dispensations and convictions. Why should it be only in India where even investigations into the cases are a taboo? A day earlier, Shiv Sena supporters assembled outside the residence of Raut and created a ruckus. As if it was not enough, the supremo of the party and former Chief Minister Udhav Thakerey visited the residence of his MP to show solidarity. Having held constitutional position till a month ago, shouldn't he have allowed the law to take its course?

The Congress has invoked the pre-independence mode of Satyagrahs for bullying the investigating agencies and to corner the Centre. This is anarchy. This is like creating obstacles in the dispensation of rule of law.

But for the seizure of the mountains of currency truck loads from a female aide of the axed West Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee, the Trinamul Congress too had started the song of victimization when its senior leader was arrested. The TMC spokespersons had unleashed an orchestrated tirade against the BJP, describing the ED as its 'Extended Department'. However, seizures in raids after raids brought the TMC on

the back foot. Otherwise, things would have been quite different now, given the anarchist mindset of the TMC. A glimpse of such anarchy was visible in Delhi also after the arrest of Health Minister Satynder Jain. Despite being in custody for two months, he continues to be a minister in the Arvind Kejriwal ministry. Kejri's adventurism and anarchy too got brakes after the Lieutenant Governor recommended CBI probe into the new excise policy. Apprehending trouble and the arrest of his deputy, the Arvind Kejriwal government rolled back the policy, lest the corrupt practices get exposed.

With such a culture being pushed by the opposition, the campaign against corruption seems to be a Himalayan task. The opposition is so emboldened that it has virtually held ransom the proceedings in the both houses of Parliament. In such a scenario, the law enforcing agencies must be thinking twice while initiating action against the corrupt.

Now that Sanjay Raut has been remanded to ED custody till August 4, the nation is poised to yet another high profile appearance of former Union Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah. He has been summoned by the agency in the alleged

Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Scam on August 27. The last time he was summoned on May 31 for allegedly making appointments in the sports body so that the BCCI funds could be laundered. Dr Farooq Abdullah had extended full cooperation to the investing agency in the earlier appearances. Will he respect the summons at this point of time as the nation is gripped by the new-found culture of celebrating corruption and mocking the probe agencies?

For their love of the Nehru-Gandhi clan, the Congress has vitiated the political environment of the country by setting the trend of defiance and non-cooperation.

This was not the case decades ago, despite the party having touched the lowest depths, when former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, along with his home minister Buta Singh, was convicted for three years on September 29, 2000 by a special court on charges of bribing lawmakers to support his government in a confidence vote in 1993.

Though the Delhi High Court had later overturned the lower court's decision and cleared both of them of charges yet there was no hulla-baloo because they were not the Gandhis.