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We have clear policy of not sparing guilty, not touching innocent: LG

‘Goal is to ensure a feeling of safety, security, happiness in society’



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering at Handwara on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Asserting that development is possible only in the conditions of peace and stability, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that we have a clear policy of not sparing the guilty and not touching the innocent.

"On the path of peace and

progress, it is our collective responsibility to ensure all the citizens lead a life of prosperity and dignity," the Lt Governor said after inaugurating sports and various development projects for all round development during his visit to Handwara area of Kupwara.

Reiterating the commit-

ment of the UT Administration towards the welfare and empowerment of all sections of the society, the Lt Governor said the government is not only ensuring economic development but also delivering social justice by providing land to landless population including tribal communities.

"Our goal is to ensure a feeling of safety, security and happiness in society. We'll ensure expectations of people are fulfilled and all sections work shoulder to shoulder to build a new J&K," he said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the unprecedented progress achieved in

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NIA conducts raids in Pulwama

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids in Pulwama district in connection with a terror-related case on Friday, officials said.

They added that the raids are going on at two places -- Sethergund and Ugergund -- in the south Kashmir district.

The NIA sleuths, accompanied by police and Central Reserve Police

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Encounter in Kulgam; 3 security personnel injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three security personnel were injured in an encounter with terrorists in Kulgam district on Friday, police said.

The encounter broke out in the higher reaches of the Halan forest area of Kulgam district in south Kashmir, they said.

"Three (03) jawans got injured in the encounter.

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Modi to lay foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay on August 6 the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country via video conferencing, his office said said on Friday.

The entire Railways machinery is working to pull off this mammoth logistical exercises, slated to be the biggest foundation stone-laying exercises in one go.

These 508 stations are spread across 27 states and Union territories including 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar; 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana and 13 in

Karnataka.

These also include stations in the northeast such as Assams Bongaigaon,



Kokrajhar, Lumding, Meghalaya's Mendipathar, among others. Bihar's Muzaffarpur, Bapudham Motihari, as well as Shornur and Kasargod in Kerala are also in the list.

The redevelopment project, which will cost Rs 24,470 crore, will install modern passenger amenities apart from ensuring a well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration and

well-designed signage for the guidance of passengers, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said, adding the design of station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

Noting that prime minister has always said the railways is the preferred mode of transportation for people, the PMO underlines that he has prioritised the importance of providing world-class amenities at

railway stations.

Guided by this vision, the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' was launched to redevelop 1,309 stations, it said. As part of this scheme, the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 stations is being laid by the prime minister.

"These stations will be redeveloped at a cost of more than Rs 24,470

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Amarnath Yatra from Jammu to move towards Kashmir as per schedule today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An official spokesperson on Friday described the news story circulated by a news agency, claiming that Shri Amarnath Yatra shall remain suspended on 4th Anniversary of Article 370 abrogation as fake.

"This news item is #FAKE: Yatra will be released as per norms, #DIPRFactCheck", the Directorate of Information and Public Relations tweet late evening.

Meanwhile, the 33rd batch of Amarnath Yatris with 1,181 pilgrims left the base camp here on Friday for the cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

While 706 pilgrims, headed for Pahalgam, left in a convoy of 24 vehicles, another convoy of 22 vehicles carrying 475 pilgrims left for the Baital base camp.

The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Fraudsters charge-sheeted for duping Rs 42 lakhs

Impersonated as BOPEE officials; EOW CB Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Economic Offences Wing of - Crime Branch Jammu produced charge-sheet against five accused persons for their involvement in hatching criminal conspiracy and duping complainant of his hard earned money of Rs. 42 lakhs by luring to providing permission for opening a Polytechnic College at Banihal by impersonating BOPEE Officials.

Those charge sheeted included, Sager Nizam, son of Nizam-ul-Rehman; Dr. Heena, daughter of Nizam-ul-Rehman and Suhail-Ul-

Rehman, son of Nizam-ul-Rehman, all the three residents of Ward No. 08 Near Jama Masjid, Bashioli; Javed Iqbal Lone, son of Abdul Subhan Lone, resident of Bagwan Mohalla, Kishtwar and Amardeep Singh Sassan, son of Harbans Singh Sasan, resident of H.No. 58, Sec-2 Lane No. 01, Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

The charge sheet was produced in the Court of law after allegations of cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy were established against them during the course of investigation on the basis of the oral, circumstantial as

well as documentary evidence gathered during the course of investigation.

Economic Offences Wing of - CB Jammu also produced charge-sheets against 10 more accused persons in 03 different cases viz FIR No. 08/2017 U/S 419, 420, 201/RPC, FIR NO.52/2019 U/S 420/IPC and FIR No. 12/2016 U/S 420, 406, 120-B/RPC in the Courts of law after allegations of cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy were established against them during the course of investigation conducted by the premier Investigating Agency of

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Three terrorist associates arrested in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three terrorist associates of 'The Resistance Front' (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were arrested here on Friday, police said.

They were identified as Imran Ahmad Najar, son of Late Abdul Rehman Najar, resident of Bulbul Bagh Baramulla; Waseem Ahmad Matta, son of Tariq Ahmad Matta, resident of Qamarwari Srinagar and Wakeel Ahmad Bhat son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat resident of Puzalpura Bijbehara.

The three were nabbed by a police team at a checkpoint at Harnabal Natipora in the

city following specific input, a police spokesman said.

He said three hand grenades, 10 pistol rounds, 25 AK-47 rounds and other incriminating material were seized from their possession.

The spokesman said Bhat was earlier an active terrorist linked with proscribed terrorist outfit ISJK and was lodged in jail for two years. He was released recently from the Central Jail on bail.

During preliminary investigation, it came to the fore that the trio had collected the explosive substances and ammunition from active terrorists of the TRF for

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Mission Youth approves Rs 238 Cr outlay under Mumkin, Tejaswini

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Mission Youth, Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday approved an outlay of Rs 238 Cr for self-employment cases under the customised livelihood schemes Mumkin and Tejaswini schemes with target to fund 1875 applications for multi-utility vehicles and 1000 women enterprises over next two months which include the cases approved by the District Level Task Force.

The Governing Body of Mission Youth headed by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has approved a number of youth empowerment initiatives under Mission Youth in the current financial year. Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta earlier reviewed the progress under various schemes. Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D Vaidya, in a meeting with Deputy Commissioners, emphasised on according top priority to Mission Youth

SC stays Rahul Gandhi's conviction in defamation case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday got a huge relief from the Supreme Court after it stayed his conviction in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his Modi surname remark and paved the way for his reinstatement as a Lok Sabha MP.

The stay which will also enable Gandhi, 53, to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was given on the grounds the trial court in Surat in Gujarat failed to explain why he deserved the maximum two-year punishment upon his conviction that led to his disqualifica-



tion from the Lower House of Parliament. The top court also noted that the sentence would not have attracted disqualification had it been a day lesser.

Observing that the utterances of Gandhi were not in

good taste and a person in public life is expected to exercise caution while making public speeches, the court at the same time said his conviction and subsequent disqualification not only affected his right to continue in public life but also that of the electorate which elected him to represent their constituency.

Gandhi represented Wayanad in Kerala.

"Truth always triumphs, if not today then tomorrow or the day after. I thank people for their support," the former Congress chief told a packed press conference at

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CRPF always alert for any event in Kashmir: IG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The CRPF on Friday said the force always remains alert for any event in the Kashmir Valley to ensure the safety and security of the people.

"The CRPF is never under-prepared for any event and we are ready for every event like August 15 (Independence Day), January 26 (Republic Day), Muharram, or Eid, and we are alert for every duty," IG CRPF, Srinagar Sector, Ajay Yadav told reporters on the sidelines of a sporting event here. The CRPF had organised a hockey tournament at Polo View ground here in which 22 valley-based CRPF battalions participated.

J&K set to achieve ODF+ status by Aug 15: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday impressed upon the officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to work in coordination with each other to realize the set targets of providing 'Housing to All' and prevalence of 'Zero Poverty' in J&K by the year 2024.

Dr Mehta was speaking in a meeting called to review the overall functioning of the RDD.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Director Panchayat; Director Rural Development Kashmir/Jammu; Director Rural Sanitation besides



CS A K Mehta chairing a meeting to review functioning of RDD.

other officers of the Department.

The Chief Secretary said the accomplishment of goals like developing rural infrastructure and ensuring the sanitation of rural areas are the thrust areas of the Department.

"As discussed time and again the officers of the Department especially those manning the local offices should work towards making these areas livable offering best of the facilities to the rural population", Dr

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POST ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION: 2,327 terrorists, associates arrested in J&K

■ VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Over 2,327 terrorists and their associates have been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir post Article 370 abrogation from August 5, 2019 to June 20, 2023 against 427 arrested from October 10, 2015 to August 4, 2019, pre Article 370 period, marking 444 percent increase.

Comparative analysis reveal a sharp decrease of incidents of grenade attacks, IED blasts, stone pelting and civilian casualties as a positive impact on the security situation in J&K following the abrogation of Article 370.

There is substantial decrease of 19 per cent in terrorist recruitment for pre to post 2019 comparison. 550- youth joined terrorist ranks after October 27, 2015

►► Only 427 nabbed from Oct 27, 2015 to Aug 4, 2019

►► 90 pc decrease in Hartals, Bandhs; 77 pc decrease in IED blast related casualties

►► From October 27, 2015 to August 4, 2019, 345 police personnel martyred in J&K; Post 370 repeal, 150 martyred, marking 57% decrease

upto August 4, 2019 and 448 after abrogation of Article 370 and also there is decrease of 68 per cent in cases of abductions. 28 abductions were reported after October 27, 2015 upto August 4, 2019 while only 9 kidnappings took place post Article 370 abrogation. This reduction indicates a positive impact on disrupting the terrorist ecosystem and their ability to attract new recruits.

In the cases of weapon snatching, there is 69 per cent decrease from pre to

post August 5, 2019. 45 weapon snatching incidents took place from October 27, 2015 upto August 4, 2019 while only 14 after August 5, 2019. The comparison also reveals that there is 90 per cent decrease in hartals and bandhs. While 302 hartals and bandhs took place from October 27, 2015 upto August 4, 2019, only 31 bandhs and hartals were reported from August 5, 2019 to June 20, 2023.

Comparison report further reveals 15 per cent decrease in incidents of grenade attacks. 162 attacks were reported during pre-abrogation period and 138 after 2019. There is no change in incidents of IED

blasts. Both remain around 19 incidents. However, there is 77 per cent decrease in IED blast related casualties. While 57 casualties in IED blasts were reported from October 27, 2015 upto



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.9°C Min: 28.5°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 86

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 32.4°C Min: 20.0°C

Humidity
Max: 79 Min: 51

Sunset : 19:23 Hours
Sunrise : 05:39 Hours