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STATE TIMES

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03 Dr Jitendra calls for expediting J&K Lithium exploration in Inter-Ministerial meeting

10 J&K Badminton Tourney from August 16

10 Youth Day celebration begins at JK Public School Panjtirthi

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J&K's GSDP expected to grow 7.5 pc during 2024-25 fiscal: LG



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with media persons on J&K Budget 2024-25 at Srinagar on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's GSDP is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent during the current fiscal, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday.
"The GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) for 2024-25 has been projected at Rs 2,63,399 crore (Rs 2.63 lakh crore), showing a growth of 7.5 per cent over the GSDP of 2023-24," the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing a press conference.
The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for accelerated and inclusive growth to fulfill the aspirations of citizens.
The Lieutenant Governor dwelt in detail about the key features of the Budget 2024-25, tabled before the Parliament on July 23, 2024 and passed in both Houses on August 8. He said the size of the Budget 2024-25 is Rs. 1,18,390 crore, which is Rs. 30889 crore higher than the expenditure of 2023-24.
He said while the Revenue Receipt Estimates for 2024-25 is Rs 98,719 crore and Capital

Receipt Estimate is Rs 19,671 crore, the Revenue Expenditure has been pegged at Rs. 81,486 crore with sector-wise allocations, Administrative Sector Rs. 9881.68 crore, Social Sector Rs. 24870.50 crore., Infrastructure Sector Rs. 15719.40 crore, Economic Sector Rs. 5555.48 crore., Capital Expenditure (i.e Developmental Expenditure) for 2024-25 is Rs. 36,904 crore with broad sectoral allocation to Administrative Sector Rs. 1190.50 crore and Social Sector Rs. 4217.65 crore, 40 per

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Key Challenges & Initiatives of J&K Government

- ▶ As we all know, historically Jammu and Kashmir has faced challenges in fiscal management due to the unabated pressures of externally sponsored terrorism.
- ▶ The high levels of committed expenditure and ATC losses in power sector had accentuated these challenges.
- ▶ Hence over the past year, the UT government has stressed on revenue augmentation, improving project execution, reducing ATC losses, and improving quality of governance.
- ▶ **REVENUE AUGMENTATION**
- ▶ The UT government improved GST return compliance, initiated e-Stamping system, expanded dealer registration and conducted transparent excise auctions.
- ▶ Tax revenues have increased from Rs 12753 crore in 2022-23 to Rs. 13,900 crore in 2023-24 registering growth of 9%.
- ▶ GST collection increased by 12% and excise collection increased by 39% in FY 2023-24 as compared to FY 2022-23.
- ▶ As part of power sector reforms, 5.74 lakh smart meters have been installed by June 2024 resulting in 25% reduction in Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses and 10% increase in tariff collection per month.
- ▶ The UT government's efforts to undertake metering and improve billing and collection efficiency have resulted in non-tax revenues increasing from Rs 5148 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 6500 crore in 2023-24 registering growth of 25%.
- ▶ **EXPENDITURE REFORMS**
- ▶ The UT government has effectively leveraged Centrally Sponsored schemes. The UT government intensified efforts to harness central funds through faster execution of works.
- ▶ This has led to a sharp increase in receipts of funds under CSS from Rs 6400 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 10300 crore in 2023-24.
- ▶ The UT government has steadfastly undertaken technology reforms to enhance transparency and accountability in budgeting and expenditure management. A systematic drive was

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Terror module busted in Kathua; 8 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested eight over-ground workers of terrorists involved in facilitating the infiltration of foreign terrorists into the country, officials said on Monday.
The terror module was busted in Kathua district, where the group operated to aid terrorist movements in the upper reaches of Doda, Udhampur, and Kathua districts along the India-Pakistan border.
More than 50 local residents are under investigation for their connections with these terrorists, and for providing them with food, shelter, or communication assis-

tance, a police spokesperson said on Monday.
In an encounter in the Gandoh area of Doda district on June 26, three terrorists responsible for attacks on security forces were neutralised, resulting in injuries to five soldiers and a special police officer (SPO).
While the kingpin has been identified to be Mohd Lateef alias Haji Lateef, 08 other members of the module have been taken into custody as enemy agents.
They have been identified as Mohd Lateef alias Haji Lateef, son of Late Meer; resident of Ambe Naal, Tehsil and District Kathua. He is the kingpin in the whole net-

work of OGWs in the area. He acted as guide /logistics etc. for the groups of terrorists passing through the area. He engaged and directed others in their role as guide/food provider in the area; Akhter Ali, son of Late Rashid, resident of Ambe Naal, Tehsil and district Kathua; Saddam, son of Late Baza, resident of Bhadu Billawar, District Kathua; Kushal, son of Late Baza, resident of Bhadu Billawar, District Kathua; Nooran, son of Late Meer; resident of Juthana, district Kathua; Maqbool, son of Mohd Lateef, resident of Soffian, district Kathua; Liaquat, son of Haji

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Fresh batch of 380 pilgrims leave for Budha Amarnath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chanting "Bum Bum Bhole" with enthusiasm, more than 380 pilgrims left a Jammu base camp on Monday for the shrine of Budha Amarnath in the Poonch district amid tight security arrangements, officials said.
The sixth batch of 382 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 5.15 am in a convoy of 10 vehicles escorted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police, they said.
The batch comprising 283 men, 90 women and

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Security forces widen search in Anantnag to flush out terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The anti-terror operation in the forest area of Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the third day on Monday as security forces widened the search area to flush out terrorists, officials said.
Three persons, including two soldiers, were killed in the exchange of fire with terrorists on Saturday following which a massive manhunt has been launched in the Ahlan Gagarmandu forest area of Anantnag district to eliminate the ultras.
The operation to hunt down



the ultras continued for the third day despite the challenging topography.
The firefight started on Saturday evening during a cordon and search operation that was initiated by the security forces based on intelligence reports indicating the presence of terrorists in the remote Ahlan Gagarmandu forest.

According to officials, a group of terrorists -- believed to be three to four in number -- opened fire at the joint search parties comprising Army personnel, including para commandos, and local police.
In the ensuing gun battle, six Army personnel and two civilians were injured, officials said, adding the injured soldiers were promptly taken to a nearby hospital where two succumbed shortly after arrival.
The slain army personnel have been identified as Havildar Dipak

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SC concerned over non-implementation of central law on health care professions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Concerned over non-implementation of a 2021 central law on allied professions in the field of health care, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre, states and the UTs to ensure compliance of the Act by October 12 or be ready to face coercive action.
The top court, which had issued notices to the Centre, all state governments and union territories on a PIL in September last year, was irked over non-implementation of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021.
The NCAHP Act provides for "regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by allied and health care professionals, assessment of institutions, maintenance of a Central Register and State Register" of allied health care professions in the country. The law mandates setting up of regulatory

JU ranks 50 among top Indian universities

VC lauds vision of LG, dedication of entire University fraternity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) on Monday crossed yet another significant milestone by achieving the distinction of bagging 50th rank among the best universities of India.
The proud moment for the University came with the latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by the Ministry of Education, Government of India this afternoon.
This marks a significant improvement for the University by moving ahead 13 steps and touching 50th mark from the previous rank

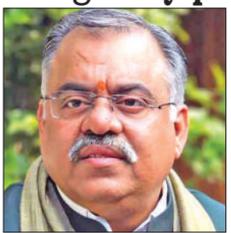
LG congratulates JU, other institutions

of 63.
The NIRF has been evaluating the performance of the institutions across the country since 2015 in five key areas, Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practice, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception.
"Touching 50th rank for the first time reflects the hard work and dedication of the entire university fraternity", said Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu. He said earning a place in the top 50 is not

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Punjab CM colluding with disruptive forces to scuttle highway projects: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday hit back at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, saying that he was deliberately trying to scuttle the Modi government's development plans in Punjab.
"Taking a strong exception to the manner in which the Bhagwant Mann government has allowed the lumpen elements and criminals to subvert the national highway projects in the State, Chugh said the law and order situation in Punjab has completely collapsed due to which no



development works are being undertaken.
Chugh said the National Highway Authority of India has already terminated three major projects worth Rs 3263 crores in the State, which were supposed to cover 104 kms of highway in

Punjab.
"Now other major projects like that of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway are also under threat due to unlawful elements having a free play in the State", he said, adding that there were eight other projects that the Centre wanted to undertake to cover 293 kms of highway at a cost of Rs 14,288 crores which are facing termination in view of the law and order situation in the state.
Chugh regretted that instead of unleashing a crackdown on disruptive elements, the Bhagwant

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Anti-infiltration grid to be further strengthened: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The anti-infiltration grid along the Indo-Pakistan border is being further strengthened to prevent infiltration attempts by terrorist, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said.

Blaming Pakistan for being the "source" of terrorism, the LG said it will never succeed in its attempt to disturb peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.
"The anti-infiltration grid has been strengthened compared to the past. It will be further reinforced to prevent any infiltration attempts," Sinha told PTI in an interview on Sunday.
Security forces have foiled several infiltration bids in the Poonch, Kupwara, Rajouri, and Bandipora sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, killing

'People should not strengthen those detrimental to peace, development'

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir not to support those who were detrimental to peace and development in the Union Territory.
Describing the abrogations of Article 370 and Article 35A as a historic change, he also claimed half the population would have continued to be denied their rights without this move.
"I want to tell the people not to empower or strengthen elements that are detrimental to peace and development," Sinha told PTI Videos in an interview on Sunday.
Sinha was responding to a question about his message to the people in light of criticism from some political parties regarding jailed leader Engineer Rashid's election to Parliament and concerns that it could lead to increased separatism in democratic politics.
"It is true that such elements have reached Parliament. The country knows them and we know them too. I urge voters, who have total freedom in a democracy, to make decisions with national interest in mind," he said.
Rashid was sworn in as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha following his victory from the Baramulla constituency, where he defeated National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah by more than two lakh votes. The Independent MP was arrested in a 2017 terror-funding case.
The lieutenant governor further said the administration would take necessary steps to prevent such individuals from advancing in politics. Sinha also termed the

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has adopted a twin strategy - redeployment of forces in the hinterland and 1000 police personnel to be deployed along the border.
The security apparatus will be strengthened in the hinterland by redeploying troops and reinforcing the three-tier Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS) with more forces, including Jammu and Kashmir cops.
"Considering previous incidents, forces, police, and administration have formulated a strategy. The redeployment of forces has begun in the hilly areas, where forces were previously deployed. The deployment of the army, CRPF and police has increased. During the peak of militancy in J&K, there were operational and minority pickets.

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.9°C Min: 24.2°C
Humidity
Max: 74 Min: 63
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 33.1°C Min: 19.5°C
Humidity
Max: 82 Min: 58
Sunset: 19:19 Hours
Sunrise: 05:52 Hours