

03 Dr Jitendra to lead high-level Joint Ministerial delegation to USA

03 Cardiovascular diseases & treatment accessibility, a paradigm shift: Dr Sushil

10 J&K Carrom meet from Sept 28

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Trust, transparency heart of good governance: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday termed trust and transparency as the heart of good governance, saying the Jammu and Kashmir administration is committed to development priorities and improvement of infrastructure in Anrit Kaal Khand.

In the 18th edition of the 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme, Sinha recalled his recent visits to three districts of Poonch, Kishtwar and Doda, saying hard work, competence, integrity and unwavering loyalty to serve people have opened up exciting new possibilities and opportunities in these districts which were ignored for several decades.

The concerted effort to generate awareness about government schemes is yielding the desired result. People have become conscious of their rights and duties. Transparency in the administration, efficient implementation of policies has helped in developing a constructive



LG Manoj Sinha addressing people across J&K UT through 18th edition of 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme.

system, he added.

By following the path of equality and social harmony, we can attain the goal of self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir, the Lt Governor asserted.

Underscoring that the creation of a new progressive society is possible if every individual is sensitive and strives to bring about a positive change, the Lt Governor lauded the efforts of Benit-Ul-Islam and Shabnum

Masood, two young Civil Engineers from Bandipora, who have come out with a path-breaking solution to prevent cold weather damage to roads. They have used bio-medical plastic waste in bituminous road construction to make the roads resilient and economical.

During snowfall in Kashmir Valley, roads are badly damaged causing inconvenience to the people

and loss of revenue. These two daughters were worried about it and made sincere efforts to bring change, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also shared inspiring stories of citizens who are making a positive impact in the lives of others and driving great change in the society.

The story of Neelam Sharma, Sarpanch of Kothian Panchayat of Reasi district is truly inspiring. She is the epitome of women empowerment. She founded Dogra Haat with the help of district administration and encouraged other women to be self-reliant. Her commendable transformative effort is seen as the catalyst for rural development and social empowerment in the region, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor also spoke about the master carpet weavers of two villages Sanglipura and Laxmanpura of Budgam district, who are making 12 carpets for the new Parliament building.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

51-mm mortar shell destroyed in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 51-mm mortar shell was destroyed Sunday after it was found in a field in Samba district, police said.

The rusted mortar shell was found by some villagers at Surara village, an official said, adding the bomb disposal squad of police was rushed to the village where it destroyed the mortar shell in a controlled explosion.

Meanwhile, the villagers of Bandi Chechian near the Line of Control in Poonch district also noticed an unexploded mortar shell and efforts are on to neutralize the explosive device, police said.

The shell had apparently landed in the village during the cross-border shelling some years back but remained undetected as it was buried underground, Muhtar Hussain, a local resident, said.

He said the recent heavy rains unearthed the shell, which is lying on the village pathway.

A police official said experts of bomb disposal squad have been rushed to the area to defuse the shell.



LG Manoj Sinha after dedicating 120 feet tall National Flag to the nation at Pulwama on Sunday. (Details on page 3)

Counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, reformed multilateralism among key focus areas for India during UNGA session

■ AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS: Counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, reformed multilateralism, climate action and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines will be among the key focus areas for India during the high-level UN General Assembly session that begins this week here.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will arrive in New York on Sunday to participate

in the high-level 77th session of the UN General Assembly, which kicks off on September 20 with the opening of the General Debate.

Jaishankar will address world leaders from the UNGA podium on September 24, after a packed week of more than 50 official engagements including bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral meetings

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three die as mud house collapses in Anantnag

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three people died in a mud house collapse in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said on Sunday.

Manzoor Gors (40), Hajira (55), and Asif Gors (16) were in the temporary structure built in the Mather Patheri Daksum area of the district on Saturday night when it suddenly collapsed, they said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed condolences to the bereaved families, and directed the district administration to ensure immediate assistance.

"Deeply anguished by the loss of lives due to a house collapse in Larnoo, Anantnag. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Directed district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured & immediate assistance to the affected families," Sinha said in a tweet.

Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Basharat Qayoom issued ex gratia relief of Rs 50,000 each to the families of the victims, the officials said. In addition, other necessary

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Woman, son die after car plunges into gorge in Reasi

CISF Jawan killed in road mishap at Assar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two persons were killed and as many injured when their car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Reasi district on Sunday, police said.

The accident took place near Shila Shajroo around 7 am when the driver of the car was negotiating a blind curve on the Reasi-Mahore Road, a police official said.

He said the locals launched a rescue operation and found Sakeena Begum (40) and her son Intiyaz Ahmad (20) dead. Begum's husband Abdul



Locals carrying out rescue operation at Doda.

Majid (45) and daughter Nazmeen Kousar (15) were rushed to the district hospital in critical condition, the police official said.

Meanwhile, a 32-year-old Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan was killed when his car skidded off the road

and fell into a deep gorge in Doda district, officials said.

The jawan, Mohd Jaan, was posted in Kishtwar district and was travelling to his home at Korra village in Udampur following the death of his father a few days back, the officials said.

The jawan lost control over his vehicle on reaching near Assar village and it rolled down into a deep gorge, they said, adding he was rescued in an injured condition but succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital.

Terrorist hideout busted in Ramban; arms, ammunition seized



Security forces along with seized arms and ammunition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/ JAMMU: Security forces on Sunday

busted a terrorist hideout in a forest area in Ramban

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K logs 10 fresh COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday logged 10 fresh Covid cases-eight in the Valley and two in Jammu division-- taking the total number of positive cases to 478935 in the Union Territory.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 478935 positive cases, 211 are active positive, 473940 have recovered and 4784 have died; 2351 in Jammu division and 2433 in Kashmir division. Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases during the past 24 hours, the Bulletin informed that in the Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 04 cases, Budgam 02 and Kupwara and Anantnag districts one each while no fresh case was reported in the remaining districts. Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu district reported two cases while no new case was reported in the remaining districts during this period.

Suspected drone activity reported in Samba, searches carried out

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A massive search operation was carried out by the police and CRPF in several forward villages along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district following information about a suspected drone activity, a senior police official said on Sunday.

However, nothing objectionable was found during the operation which started around 7:30 pm on Saturday and concluded at 9 am on Sunday, Deputy Superintendent of Police, operations, Garu Ram



Security Forces carrying out search operation.

Bhardwaj told PTI.

He said information was received that an illegal flying object, believed to be a Pakistani drone, hovered for

over five minutes over Sarthi Kalan, Dera and Madoon villages in the border outpost area of Regal, 10 km south of Samba at around 7:25 pm on

Saturday. Bhardwaj said a joint combing operation was immediately launched with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) immediately to ensure there is no dropping of arms and ammunition or narcotic substance by the drone. The searches continued till late in the night and resumed with the first light of the day, covering the entire over five-km radius from the scene of the citing, the officer, who led the search operation in the villages including Chakval and Bandrali in the close vicinity of Jammu-Pathankot national highway, said.

Arrested clerics kept instigating youth despite multiple warnings: ADGP Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Clerics arrested under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) kept instigating the youth despite several warnings, Kashmir Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar said on Sunday.

"We had ample evidence and that is why we had called them several times and tried to convince them not to instigate the youth, the people. When they did not stop, they were booked under the PSA," Kumar told reporters in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. In the last few days, about

half a dozen people, including clerics, have been booked and arrested here under PSA, which the ADGP termed the last resort for the police.

He said the evidence against them can be shared with the media "if need be".

Asked if there were more clerics on the radar, the officer said the police have evidence against others and will act accordingly.

"We have several instruments other than the PSA. We call them up (clerics) and try to make them understand. If they do not understand, then we act... PSA is the last

resort," he said.

Kumar also claimed there are reports against the banned Jamat-e-Islami (JeI) that it is carrying out activities secretly.

"Maintenance of law and order is not just the responsibility of the police, but everyone, be it civilians, forces or the media. This year, law and order was maintained very well, tourists came, the internet wasn't shut down, the markets, schools and colleges were not shut. Who benefited from it? It is the society that benefits. We have to maintain this atmosphere," he said.

After 3 decades, Kashmir gets cinema halls; LG says theatres in every district soon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated a multipurpose cinema hall each in the twin south Kashmir districts of Pulwama and Shopian on Sunday.

"We will build such multipurpose cinema halls in every district of Jammu and Kashmir soon. Today, I dedicate such cinema halls to the youth of Pulwama and Shopian," Sinha told reporters in Pulwama.

Taking to Twitter, Sinha described the occasion as "historic".

"A historic day for J&K UT! Inaugurated Multipurpose Cinema Halls at Pulwama and Shopian. It offers facilities ranging from a movie screening, information and skilling of youth," he said.

Students, youth and people from all walks of life gathered at the new cinema halls at Drussu

Pulwama and MC Shopian to witness the event, an official spokesperson said.

These cinema halls have been established by the government's Mission Youth Department in collaboration with the respective district administrations.

The spokesperson said cinema halls in Anantnag, Srinagar, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar and Reasi will be inaugurated soon.

"The LG dedicated the cinema halls to the people, especially the youngsters, who have waited for a long time for this moment," he added.

Sinha shared the government's vision to similar multipurpose cinema halls in every district under Mission Youth.

Kashmir's first INOX multiplex in Srinagar's Somwar area will be thrown open to the public next week. It will have three movie the-



LG Manoj Sinha at Multipurpose Cinema Hall inaugurated on Sunday at Pulwama.

atres with a total capacity of 520 seats.

"Cinema is a powerful creative medium which reflects the culture, values and aspirations of the people. It opens the door to the world of knowledge, new discoveries and enables people to get a better

understanding of each other's culture, Sinha said.

Jammu and Kashmir has a long association with the world of cinema. The new film policy and facilities created has once again made the Union territory the favourite shooting destination and has

brought back the golden era of film-making here, he added.

According to the LG, the new cinema halls will generate employment for locals and also provide a vibrant space for training the youth and conducting seminars.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to make the youth empowered, the Lt Governor said, the government is ensuring that the talented youth of J&K get the right platform and modern facilities for education and skill development. With the support of Mission Youth, District Administration, Jadooz Group and the society, I am confident the timeless creativity offered by Cinema will be appreciated across generations, added the Lt Governor. Bilgeesha Jan, DDC Chairperson, Shopian; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Abdul Jabbar, DIG; Dr

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO Mission Youth; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Shopian; Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, besides senior officials of civil administration and police department and people in large numbers were present on the occasion. The Valley had seen nearly a dozen stand-alone cinema halls functioning till the late 1980s, but they had to wind up businesses after two militant outfits threatened the owners.

Though authorities made attempts to reopen some of the theatres in the late 1990s, militants thwarted such efforts by carrying out a deadly grenade attack on Regal Cinema in the heart of Lal Chowk in September 1999.

Two other theatres -- Neelam and Broadway -- had opened their doors but had to down shutters due to poor response.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 33.1°C Min: 21.5°C

Humidity

Max: 70 Min: 54

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 28.9°C Min: 12.4°C

Humidity

Max: 70 Min: 37

Sunset : 18:34 Hours

Sunrise : 06:18 Hours