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# STATE TIMES

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RNI No. : 66908/96  
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24  
Vol. 28 Issue 245 • Jammu • Tuesday • September 5, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00  
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## Collective efforts for successful Amarnathji Yatra reflection of Aspirational J&K: LG



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the felicitation ceremony held at Raj Bhawan Auditorium, Srinagar on Monday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday felicitated officers of Civil Administration, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, Air force, CAPFs, NDRF, SDRF, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the service providers for the successful conduct of 62-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023.

At a felicitation ceremony held at Raj Bhawan Auditorium, the Lt Governor

expressed gratitude to all the officers and the service providers for making the holy pilgrimage memorable for the devotees. "Shri Amarnath Ji yatra is the symbol of our ancient cultural-spiritual heritage. Over the years this annual pilgrimage has influenced the socio-economic life of Jammu Kashmir. It is also a reflection of the diversity, integrity and greatness of the eternal tradition of our cultural val-

ues," the Lt Governor said. The officials of Civil Administration, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, Air force, CAPFs, NDRF, BRO, SDRF, Medical Staff, sanitation workers have worked with diligence, going beyond their call of duty. Various stakeholders including pony-wallahs, pithuwallahs, health care professionals, social organisations, volunteers, workforce and the media fraternity had made commend-

### Sinha expresses gratitude to SASB Members

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 45th Board meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), on Monday at Raj Bhawan.

Members of the Shrine Board - Swami Avdhesanand Giri Ji Maharaj, K. N. Rai, K.N. Shrivastava, Pitambar Lal Gupta, Dr. Shailesh Raina, Prof Vishwamurti Shastri and Manju Garg attended the meeting and shared their valuable suggestions for augmentation of facilities for the devotees. The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the board members for their continuous guidance and support to improve the facilities for pilgrims and successful conduct of the annual yatra.

The Board discussed various ongoing and upcoming projects including creation of new infrastructure and maintenance and restoration of the existing ones.

The meeting also discussed additional measures to further improve the overall spiritual experience for the devotees.

Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Rahul Singh, Additional CEO SASB and other senior officers also attended the meeting.

able contributions in the smooth conduct of the Yatra, he said.

I am extremely grateful to Team Jammu Kashmir and for the love and enthusiasm shown by all sections of soci-

ety towards the devotees who came from all over the country and abroad. The successful conduct of Yatra signifies pursuit of excellence and extraordinary

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## Article 370: SC asks NC leader Akbar Lone to file affidavit saying he owes allegiance to Constitution

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday asked National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone to file an affidavit swearing allegiance to the Constitution of India and accepting the country's sovereignty unconditionally, after the 'Pakistan zindabad' slogan that he allegedly raised in the Jammu & Kashmir assembly in 2018 kicked up a massive row.

Lone, the lead petitioner challenging the abrogation of Article 370 that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, will file the affidavit by Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who represented him in the mat-

ter, told a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud. The senior lawyer said he will not represent Lone if he

Earlier in the day, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that the central government wanted



Lone to apologise for raising 'Pakistan zindabad' (long live Pakistan) slogan in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2018.

Lone has to state that he owes allegiance to the

Constitution and apologises for raising the slogan on the floor of the House, the law officer said, while pointing to the matter having been brought to the court's notice by a Kashmiri Pandit group.

NGO 'Roots in Kashmir', which claims to be a group of Kashmiri Pandit youths, has questioned the credentials of Lone, claiming he was a

does not file the affidavit as sought. "He is an MP of Lok Sabha. He is a citizen of India and sworn to his office by the Constitution. He accepts the sovereignty of India," Sibal told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

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## India should reconsider support to One China policy if Beijing does not change stance: Omar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Asserting that the country's foreign policy should always be based on reciprocity, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday if China does not accept "one India" policy, New Delhi should reconsider support to Beijing's 'One China' policy.

Asking why China should have a problem with any meeting in Jammu and Kashmir or any other part of India, the National Conference Vice President said if China continues with this stance, India should also raise questions on Tibet,

Taiwan and Hong Kong. "I think it's extremely unfortunate that the government of India keeps repeating its (adherence to) One China policy yet for some reason, China doesn't reciprocate.

"Our foreign policy should always be based on reciprocity. If China doesn't accept a one India policy, then why should India accept One China policy," Omar, a former Minister of State of External Affairs, said.

"It shouldn't be one-sided that only China can raise questions about what happens in India and

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## Terrorist killed, 2 security personnel injured in Reasi encounter

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: One terrorist was killed and two security personnel were injured in an ongoing encounter in a remote area in Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh said the encounter broke out in the Tuli area's Gali Sobah village during a cordon and search operation launched by the security forces based on specific inputs received by police about the presence of two terrorists there.

One terrorist was killed and a policeman injured in the



initial gunfight, Singh said, adding efforts are on to neutralise the second terrorist. Jammu-based Defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said an Army jawan was also injured in the encounter.

Both the injured personnel have been hospitalised, officials said.

The encounter broke out around 2 pm when a joint team of police, Army and Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF) zeroed in on a house where the terrorists had taken shelter at gunpoint on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, they said.

After receiving information about the presence of terrorists in the house, the security forces reached the village after trekking for over four hours. They cornered the terrorists, who opened indiscriminate firing to escape the cordon but in vain, the officials said.

The exchange of fire between the two sides stopped late in the

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## Jammu records over 350 cases of dengue, doctors say nothing to panic

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu district has recorded more than 350 cases of dengue, which is showing an increasing trend in the past fortnight in the region, prompting authorities to take steps to deal with the mosquito-borne viral infection.

Doctors at the city's Government Medical College and hospitals, however, said there's no need to panic as the season always witnesses such increase in dengue cases.

A total of 486 dengue cases have so far been detected in the Jammu region and out of these, a maximum of 357

infections are recorded in Jammu district, officials said.

They said 46 cases were reported from Kathua, and 42 cases from Samba district. In other districts, there are dengue 10 cases in Rajouri, eight in Reasi, five in Udhampur, six in Poonch, four in Doda, one in Kishtwar, four in Kashmir, and three in other regions.

The majority of cases are reported from three districts of the Jammu region - Jammu, Samba, and Kathua, they said.

As many as 33 and 77 cases have been reported

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## Chairperson PNGRB calls on LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Dr A K Jain, Chairperson, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed the plans to bring CNG and piped natural gas to valley's households.

The Lt Governor was apprised of the Board's action plan to award

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## J&K Bank organizes 3rd bank-wide customer-meets Customer feedback always encourages us to do better: Baldev Prakash

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: As a responsible financial institution playing key role in the economic development of its operational geographies especially in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, I believe, we owe our existence as well as our success to the unflinching trust and emotional equity of our valuable customers across the country.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash made these remarks today while chairing the main function of Bank's 3rd country-wide customer-outreach program at corporate



J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash chairing function of Bank's 3rd country-wide customer-outreach programme.

headquarters here in presence of General Manager Peer Masood Ahmad, DGM, Cluster Head (Srinagar) and other officers amid a gathering of valuable customers. These country-wide cus-

tomers-meets were organized to listen, understand and resolve the issues faced by its clientele across its operational geographies. MD & CEO Baldev Prakash

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## Fire at restaurant in Samba, one injured

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A man was injured in a fire at a restaurant on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district early Monday, officials said.

He was an employee of the restaurant and was sleeping when the fire broke out, they said and added that he has been hospitalised.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire has been doused, the officials said. The reason behind the incident is being investigated, they said.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 34.6°C Min: 25.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 82 Min: 56

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 32.0°C Min: 16.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 71 Min: 31

Sunset : 18:48 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:01 Hours

## Kishtwar SSP reviews security measures ahead of Janmashtami

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police Khalil Poswal on Monday reviewed security measures in Kishtwar district ahead of the Janmashtami celebrations and directed officials to take action against people involved in anti-national activities.

He also directed police personnel to undertake cordon and search operations as well as area domination exercises in vulnerable areas of the district

The SSP directed officers to be vigilant and ensure that no anti-national elements can disrupt peace in the district.

The officers at the meeting were told to actively gather actionable intelligence

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## No scope of corruption in J&K now as all services made online: CS "Digitalisation holds key for future development"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta has said that there is no chance of corruption in the Union Territory now as all services have been made online.

He said various schemes and platforms have brought transparency in the system which has ensured that no money can be withdrawn fraudulently from the public exchequer.

"We have taken the initiative of making all services online. The aim is to create a corruption-free environment. Earlier it was said that out of one rupee, less than 10 paise would reach the ground. Today such a system has been created where the entire rupee reaches the ground,"



CS A K Mehta addressing gathering after launching 'Bhrashtachar Mukti J&K' campaign at Srinagar on Monday.

the officer told reporters after launching the 'Bhrashtachar Mukti J-K' campaign here.

No money can be withdrawn without administrative approval, e-tendering and geospatial photography, he said.

Mehta said there were still some complaints of malpractices which the administration is working to address.

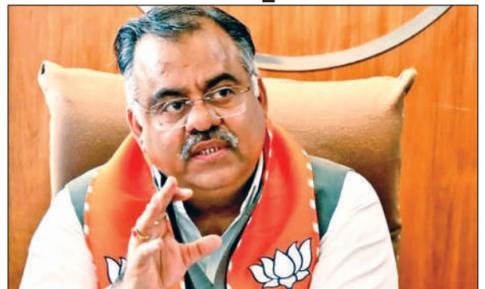
"Our aim is to address the remaining complaints as well. The government is doing whatever possible, but the people also have to come forward and support this ini-

## Upgradation of Khellani tunnel will open doors for development: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday welcomed the decision of the Modi government to upgrade the Khellani tunnel, saying this will open new avenues of development and progress in the region.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Roads & Highways Nitin Gadkari for announcing upgradation of Khellani tunnel, Chugh said it would pave the way for employment opportunities to the local population besides giving a



boost to tourism in the area. It is pertinent to mention that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced upgradation of Khellani tunnel into 2-lane structure.

"Uni-directional Khellani tunnel in Doda district is being upgraded into a two-lane structure on NH-244. It is part of Sudh Mahadev-Goha-Khellani-Chatroo-

Khanabal which will serve as an alternate highway to Batote-Kishtwar," Union Minister for Roads and Highways, Nitin Gadkari had announced.

According to experts, it will shorten the distance between Doda and Kishtwar by 30 kilometers. The project will span 2.419 kilometers and fall within package 3. The cost of the project will be over Rs 431 crore.

The project is set to be completed this year.

Chugh expressed gratitude to the Union Minister, adding "Post abrogation of

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## Machail Mata Yatra witnesses record-breaking footfall, around 2 lakh pay obeisance



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The annual Machail Mata pilgrimage witnessed a record-breaking footfall this year with nearly 2 lakh pilgrims paying obeisance at the Himalayan temple in Kishtwar district, officials said on Monday.

Over the years, the 43-day pilgrimage, rooted in decades-old tradition, has instilled deep faith in devotees travelling to seek the blessings of Mata Chandi Devi at the 9,705-foot high shrine, they added.

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