

# Neighbour getting unnerved by J&K's transformation: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, July 20 (IANS)

JAMMU and Kashmir Lt Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha said on Saturday that the neighbour is getting unnerved by J&K's transformation adding that the security forces will wipe out terrorism in the Jammu division as they did in the Valley.

"Our neighbour is not able to digest the peace prevailing in J&K. Efforts are being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region. We will not allow the revival of terrorism in Jammu at any cost and adopt the Kashmir model to wipe out terrorism in Jammu," Sinha said while addressing the launch of Hausla 2.0 and Start-ups portal at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

He said that the people of Jammu have never supported



J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addresses a gathering during the launch of 'Hausla 2.0' for women entrepreneurs in Srinagar. (PTI)

terrorism and have always stood against it.

"Today all terror outfits in Kashmir are headless. There is a peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Valley and one could have never thought about it some five years ago," he said.

He said that J&K has seen a huge transformation and in all

ten districts of Kashmir peace prevails and young boys and girls are shaping their future in innovations and other sectors including Agriculture.

"A series of steps were taken to shape the future of youth. We launched back to the village, my town my pride, the identification of youth for skill development and entrepre-

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neurship at the Panchayat level," he said.

He said that 540 boys and girls are becoming entrepreneurs on a daily basis in J&K while a total of 840 start-ups have come up in J&K of which 265 are run by young women.

"With peace in the past four to five years, J&K has seen transparency in the Government recruitment process. Not a single person was appointed on the basis of any sort of influence. Children of cart pullers, vegetable vendors and street vendors have got Government jobs for the first time," he said.

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# Army chief, J&K LG review security situation in Valley

JAMMU, July 20 (PTI)

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AMID concern over growing terror activities and successful cross-border infiltration, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired back-to-back high-level joint security review meetings here on Saturday, an official said. The meeting at the Raj Bhawan and police headquarters were also attended by the director generals of the BSF, CRPF, J&K Police, heads of Intelligence agencies and other senior security officials, the officials said.

General Dwivedi first chaired an over an-hour long meeting at the police headquarters before almost all the participants moved to the Raj Bhawan for another round of meeting when LG Sinha, who was in Srinagar, returned to Jammu. Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with the Army Chief, various heads of security and law enforcement agencies on the security situation and asked them to pro-actively conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations in Jammu Division.

“We must launch meticulous and well-planned counter-terrorism operations with greater synergy between all the agencies to wipe out terrorists and those aiding and abetting them,” the LG said. Sinha also directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero cross-border infiltration, an official statement said.

The officials said the senior officers of Defence and Home Ministry also attend the meeting chaired by the army chief in Jammu.

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# UPSC Chairman **QUITS** 5 years before term ends

NEW DELHI, July 20 (PTI)

**UPSC** Chairman Manoj Soni has resigned citing personal reasons before the expiry of his tenure in May 2029, official sources said on Saturday.

His resignation is "not in any way connected to controversies and allegations surrounding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar issue came to the fore," they said.

"The UPSC Chairman had tendered his resignation citing personal reasons over a fortnight back. It is yet to be accepted," a source said.

Eminent educationist Soni, 59, took over as a member of the Commission on June 28, 2017. He



## Manoj Soni resigns citing 'personal reasons'

took oath as the UPSC Chairman on May 16, 2023 and his term was to end on May 15, 2029. Sources said Soni was not keen on becoming the UPSC chairman and had requested to be relieved. However, his request was not accepted then, the sources said. They said Soni has now desired to devote more time to "socio-religious activities."

The development assumes significance as the UPSC on Friday said it has lodged a criminal case against Khedkar for faking her identity to fraudulently avail attempts in the civil services examination beyond eligibility, and taken steps to debar her from future selections.

Since Khedkar's case of misusing power and privileges came to fore, social media is abuzz with claims and counter-claims on use of fake certificates by serving Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, among others.

Social media users have shared names, pictures and other details of a few IAS and IPS officers, claiming they used bogus certificates to claim benefits available for those belonging to Other Backward Class (non-creamy layer) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Prior to his appointment in the UPSC, Soni had served three terms as Vice-Chancellor.

# Nepal PM Oli likely to win trust vote today

KATHMANDU, July 20 (PTI)

NEPAL'S newly appointed Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli is expected to win a vote of confidence in Parliament on Sunday, nearly a week after he was sworn in to lead another coalition government in the Himalayan nation facing frequent power struggles.

The 72-year-old veteran Communist leader was sworn in on Monday as the Himalayan nation's prime minister for the fourth time. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy along with 21 other members of the Cabinet.

According to Nepal's Constitution, Oli needs to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment, which he is likely to secure easily.

The minimum number to form a government in the 275-strong House of Representatives is just 138.

The Chairman of the CPN-UML, Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister on Sunday by President Ram Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition government with the Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from other smaller parties. Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) have a combined strength of 167, and two other ruling parties, Janata Samajwadi Party and Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party, have seven and four seats, respectively.

With this, the ruling alliance has a strength of 178 in the 275-member HoR. Apart from the ruling alliance, Oli is also likely to get votes from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal (JSP), Nagarik Unmukti Party (NUP) and Janamat Party.