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## J&K LG says 'security in Valley better than Bengal', TMC hits out

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STATING THAT the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has "significantly improved" since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday stoked a controversy, saying that the security situation in the Union Territory "is better than that in Bengal".

Addressing a programme organised by the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce in Kolkata, Sinha said, "The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved to a large extent than what it was earlier, after the abrogation of Article 370."

Responding to queries from chamber members, Sinha compared the security situation in Kashmir to that in Bengal, stating, "The security situation in Kashmir is better than that in Bengal. Please visit the state, and you will see the difference."

Later, when questioned by reporters about the comment, Sinha clarified, "My remarks should not be twisted politically, as I meant to say that the security situation in Kashmir is as good as in Bengal."

Reacting to Sinha's remarks, the ruling Trinamool Congress accused the Lieutenant



J&K LG Manoj Sinha in Kolkata on Friday. He later said his remarks should not be twisted politically. PTI

Governor said is all lies and baseless. I will request him to speak to his predecessor Satyapal Malik. He will tell you about what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir and what kind of governance and law and order is there. The Lieutenant Governor is speaking like a mouthpiece of the BJP. According to the Central government, Kolkata is the safest city in India. Atrocities of women take place in states like Uttar Pradesh and others," said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh.

On the terrorist attack on an army convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, resulting in the death of four soldiers, Sinha said: "It is a very unfortunate and sad incident. We condemn such violence. Our neighbour has been doing such things to disturb the