2,724 officers booked for corruption Julin year 2021: Dr Jitendra

Courts Kashmir, Ladakh, in parts of Jammu to observe winter vacation from Jan 2

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Second South Kashmir Volleyball Championship: Spartan Club Anantnag wins boys' trophy, Maroofa Club Kulgam lifts girls title

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Backbone of terrorism broken in J&K, era of outside interference over: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the planned G20 preparatory meeting in Srinagar will be held in a secure and peaceful atmosphere as the backbone of terrorism has been broken and the era of outside interference, an apparent reference to Pakistan, is over.

He also asserted the Union Territory will witness investment of over Rs 70,000 crore in coming vears and said the figures tabled in the parliament on the subject are being corrected.

The LG reviewed the administration's preparations for the G20 meeting and "to chalk out our plan to ensure that J&K is showcased in its right perspective."

"We have requested the Central government for another such event for Jammu but the permission is yet to be granted," the Lt governor told reporters here.

After the meeting, attended by senior officers, he said, "I am hopeful that the event will be held like in other parts of the country. We will not lag behind in the preparations and we all together will make an attempt to ensure that J&K is presented before the world in the best way."

Sinha said his administration solicits maximum public participation and wants that "our institutions and students become part of it. The development which has taken place will be showcased."

On the terror threat over the event, he said there is nothing to worry as "we have heard a lot about (threats) to the annual Amarnath yatra. But the yatra proved a success and witnessed its highest footfall.

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

"There is no need to have any concern on the security front. The backbone of those creating problems (terrorists) have already been broken. The meeting will take place in a secure and peaceful atmosphere," he said.

He also downplayed the reported threat given by terror groups to disrupt any move to open two agriculture centres of excellence by Israel in the twin capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

"Who will stay in J&K and who will not, which office will open or not is a decision which will be taken by the J&K administration and central government. The interference at the behest of someone else (Pakistan) is not going to happen anymore. Those days are gone," he said.

Replying to a question about action against mainstream leaders allegedly involved with the terror ecosystem, he said such things are not discussed openly.

However, he just said police officers and intelligence agencies are keeping a record of who is part of terrorecosystem. "Appropriate action will be taken against anyone who is part of the ecosystem, irrespective of his field



LG Manoj Sinha briefing media in Jammu on Wednesday.

No salaries to those sitting at home, message to protesting KP employees

JAMMU: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday asserted all necessary measures have been taken for the safety of minority community employees including Kashmiri Pandits serving in the Valley, and sent out a "loud and clear" message to those protesting for transfer -- no salary for sitting at home.

Sinha made the remark amid the ongoing protest by migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees and Jammu-based reserved category employees who left the Valley for Jammu in May following the targeted killings of their two colleagues -- Rahul Bhat and Rajni Bhalla. The protesting employees have been seeking relocation outside Kashmir.

They are on a strike and I was in constant touch with them and made sincere efforts to address all their long-pending issues. Almost all of them were transferred to district headquarters in consultation with district commissioners, superintendents of police and other government functionaries," the Lt Governor told

He, however, said some people are placed at tehsil headquarters, and some in villages close to the city as those posted in the rural development department cannot be transferred to the city.

"Minority employees will not be deployed alone in any office and it was decided that two to three more people will be stationed along with them. We have appointed officers in every district and one in Raj Bhavan to look after their grievances. They are listening to them and are looking for necessary ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

or profession."

On investments in the UT, he

"I can name 13 or 14 persons who have invested Rs 100 crore, Rs 200 crore and Rs 900 crore in

J&K. When the prime minister visited here he laid the foundation

Announces 3 new schemes

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday announced three new schemes -- Holistic Development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Aspirational Towns, and Aspirational Panchayat -- which will help the Union territory touch new heights of progress

Announcing the new schemes at a press conference here, Sinha said, "Jammu and Kashmir is determined to move forward to touch new heights of success and will become a role model for the whole country in the coming years.

The projects have been approved recently by the administrative council, chaired by the lieutenant governor.

Sinha said the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors, having an outlay of Rs 5,013 crore over the next five years, shall transform the agriculture economy of the Union Territory putting it on a new trajectory of growth, doubling the output of the sectors, boosting exports and making the sectors sustainable and commercially viable.

"This will herald a new phase of farmer prosperity and rural livelihood security in J&K," he said. In July, the Union

Defends new land laws

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday threw his weight behind the Union Territory's new land laws, saying some people were trying to mislead the public about the changes.

The new land laws are in line with those in other parts of the country,

"The rule of law is in place in the country and the rule of law will be ensured in Jammu and Kashmir as well. "A large number of changes were made in the land laws in Jammu and

Kashmir to benefit the public as the older ones were regressive," Sinha said at a press conference here. Asked about the outrage in Kashmir over a government directive to

land leaseholders to return possession of properties, Sinha said the new laws would hardly affect 400 to 500 people. It will have no impact on the poorman, shopkeepers or families. "It is true that a property worth over Rs 100 crore was taken on lease

at Rs 5 under the previous laws. There is a Supreme Court ruling, which is now the law in the country. "I will honour the Supreme Court and so the whole country and every

citizen has to do the same," he said, adding ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Tral almost free from militancy now: DGP



DGP Dilbag Singh briefing media at Tral.

SRINAGAR: Once a hotbed of militancy, the Tral town in south Kashmir's Pulwama district is "almost free" from

abode of peace and ty now, the union territory's police chief Dilbag Singh said on Wednesday. He said the youths of the area violence and has become an

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Bank mute over Mendhar fraud worth Crores, staffers fear hushing-up of case sible for the NPA and deliv-

VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Aghast over covert attempts of diluting the damage caused to the reputation of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) in the wake of sensational fraud committed by well-knit gang after opening a fake account of the so-called National Horticulture Mission in Mendhar Branch, the officers and the staffers fear the case to be hushed up and the amount advanced to fraudsters waived off to save the organization from the Non Productive Assets

Why not this scandal be transferred to CBI? employees ask

Talking to STATE TIMES, several employees said that first reaction of the manage

have been to file an FIR with and press for a probe, ideally by the Central Bureau of Investigation. That such an action has not been taken yet, the motive is evident

that the Bank does not want to pursue the matter for the sake of its credibility. This

cidal' as the fraudsters and the executives may get emboldened and motivated

"Had any such lapse been committed by 'non-influential' officers or staffers, they would have been held responered exemplary punishstaffer told STATE TIMES on the condition of anonymity. He said the Mendhar fraud is extraordinary and nobody knows how deep it has spread its tentacles in the peripheral areas and even in the other districts. Only a fair and independent probe will unveil the facts as to how the Bank was taken for : ride by opening an account on e-mail by a bogus organisation, projected as a public sector institution, he

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Ten suspended revenue officials reinstated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday re-instated 10 revenue officers who were placed under suspension pending inquiry for various corruption cases. Former Tehsildar Bahu Rohit Sharma who was suspended, after his arrest allegedly while taking bribe of Rs 50,000, is also likely to be re-instated in next few days.

The government order reinstatement of ten suspended revenue officials. "As recommended by the Review Committee, pending inquiry into the matter, the ten offi-

Gadkari, LG Sinha review progress of

ongoing National Highway projects in J&K

cials of the Revenue Department who were placed under suspension vide Order No's and date as mentioned against each are hereby reinstated with immediate effect." reads an order issued by Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department.

According to the order, those who were re-instated include Ashok Kumar, the then Naib Tehsildar, Gharota Tabeil Rhalwal suspended by the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu No.DCJ/SQ/Sus/2022-

23/2139-42

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Dr Umair Mir appointed as Joint Director ED

STATE TIMES NEWS

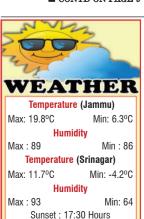
JAMMU: The Enforcement Directorate has appointed Dr Umair Mir, IRS, as Joint

Director of Union Territory $J\,a\,m\,m\,u$ n d Kashmir. He will now

holding additional charge of Joint Director Chandigarh Zone-1.

Dr Umair Mir was initially appointed Deputy Director of Jammu Zone in May 2019 and now he has been promoted to the rank of Joint Director. Besides J&K. he will also hold additional charge of Chandigarh zone -1 which covers sub zonal office of Shimla and Dehradun also

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Several prominent citizens, youth join DAP **Development core agenda of DAP: Azad**

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Democratic Azad Party Chief and former Chief Minister on Wednesday said that his party has development as its core agenda that is inclusive and pro people.

While meeting with various delegations in Jammu, Azad said that DAP is a political platform that envisages a development of the UT while taking all sections of society on board.

"We are pro people and want development of the region that benefits its people," he told the delegations.

13 PDD XEns placed as SEs, adjusted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday placed 13 I/c Executive Engineers (XEns) (E) as I/c Superintending Engineers (SEs) (E) and adjusted Power Development Department.

"Pending clearance of the Departmental Promotion Committee/Competent Authority, sanction is hereby accorded to the placement of 13 I/c Executive Engineers (E) as I/c Superintending Engineers in their own pay and grade with immediate effect," reads an order issued by H. Rajesh Parsad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department.

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DAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad along with new entrants in Jammu on Wednesday

On the occasion various prominent faces from Doda district, Marh and other areas from Jammu Province

joined the party and took

resolve to reach out the

Jammu Admn suspends 2 revenue officials

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU:

Administration Jammu on Wednesday suspended a Naib Tehsildar and a Girdawar for illegal mutation of JDA Land in favour of Private Parties.

As per the concerned authorities, the JDA had brought to the notice of District Administration that JDA land was illegally mutated in favour of private parties.

"Taking cognizance of the matter and following it up with strict action, one Naib Tehsildar and One

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Gadkari and LG Manoj Sinha reviewing ongoing National Highways projects in J&K.

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Union Minister

for Road Highways, Nitin Gadkari and

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin

Design of Katra Inter-Modal Station Finalised Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha held a review of the ongo ing National Highways projects in J&K on Wednesday. Union Minister of State, General (Retd.) V.K. Singh; Union Minister of State, Jitendra Singh, and Central & UT officials were also present in the meeting. After a detailed discussion, the meeting finalized the design for the upcoming Inter Modal Station, Katra. It will improve the travelling experience of pilgrims visiting

> Shri Mata Vaishno ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

drug abuse in the country

and steps taken by the gov-

Govt reviews COVID situation; advises people to mask up

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In view of a sudden spurt in COVID cases in China and some other countries, the Union health minister Wednesday reviewed the situation in the country and asked people to follow COVID-appropriate behavincluding wearing masks in crowded places, and get vaccinated.

"COVID is not over yet. I have directed all concerned to be alert and strengthen surveillance. We are prepared to manage any situation." Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

During the meeting, attended by experts and sen-

Preparedness to tackle COVID in J&K reviewed

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar, on Wednesday convened a meeting to review the COVID-19 situation besides assessing department's preparedness for early detection, isolation, testing and timely management of suspected and confirmed cases to contain outbreak of Corona variants, in the wake of alert issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The meeting was attended by all Head of Departments of Health and Medical Education Department besides other con-Secretary, while discussing strategies to tackle the pandem-

ic, emphasized the need of ensuring a strict vigil over the situation besides keeping ready the infrastructure and requisite supplies to tackle with any such cases Secretary reviewed in detail the available infrastructure,

capacity, availability of COVID essential **CONTD ON PAGE 9** ior officials, the minister was briefed on the global COVID-

19 situation and the domestic scenario, including the

preparedness of all stakeholders.

Noting that only 27-28 per cent of India's eligible population have taken the precaution dose of COVID-19, NITI Aayog (Health) Dr V K Paul, after the meeting, said people should take the jab and also wear masks in crowded

Paul urged people not to panic and said that there was no change in the guidelines for international air travel so machinery and equipments including the status of testing

"People should wear masks in crowded areas. Those with comorbidities and old should especially adhere to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Criminals involved in drug trade to be put behind bars in two years: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on ernment to control it, Shah Wednesday vowed to put big said the Centre has empow-

criminals involved in narcotics trafficking behind bars in the next two years, saying profits from the

drug trade were being used to finance terrorism and the "dirty

money" was detrimental to the country's economy.

Responding to a shortduration discussion in Lok Sabha on the problem of

Suraksha Rifles to cases under the Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Shah also lashed out at

those politicising the issue, saying agencies cannot

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Sunrise: 07:29 Hours