

03 2,724 officers booked for corruption in year 2021: Dr Jitendra

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

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

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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 years 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."

"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 the terror ecosystem. "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 reporters here.

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

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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 of over

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Tral almost free from militancy now: DGP



DGP Dilbag Singh briefing media at Tral.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

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

abode of peace and prosperity now, the union territory's police chief Dilbag Singh said on Wednesday. He said the youths of the area

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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 of Jammu and Kashmir. He will now be holding additional charge of Joint Director of Chandigarh Zone-1.

Dr Umair Mir was initially appointed as 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 XEs placed as SEs, adjusted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday placed 13 I/c Executive Engineers (XEs) (E) as I/c Superintending Engineers (SEs) (E) and adjusted in 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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J&K Bank mute over Mendhar fraud worth Crores, staffers fear hushing-up of case

■ 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 (NPA).

Why not this scandal be transferred to CBI? employees ask

Talking to STATE TIMES, several employees said that the first reaction of the management should have been to file an FIR with the concerned police station 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



EXCLUSIVE

that the Bank does not want to pursue the matter for the sake of its credibility. This will be 'suicidal' as the fraudsters and the executives may get emboldened and motivated to carry on their sinister schemes.

"Had any such lapse been committed by 'non-influential' officers or staffers, they would have been held respon-

sible for the NPA and delivered exemplary punishments", a staffer 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 a ride by opening an account on e-mail by a bogus organisation, projected as a public sector institution, he

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Jammu Admn suspends 2 revenue officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District 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, LG Sinha review progress of ongoing National Highway projects in J&K Design of Katra Inter-Modal Station Finalised



Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari and LG Manoj Sinha reviewing ongoing National Highway projects in J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister

for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari and

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 Tehsil Bhalwal suspended by the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu vide No. DCJ/SQ/Sus/2022-23/2139-42

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 19.8°C Min: 6.3°C

Humidity
Max: 89 Min: 86

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 11.7°C Min: -4.2°C

Humidity
Max: 93 Min: 64

Sunset : 17:30 Hours
Sunrise : 07:29 Hours

Govt reviews COVID situation; advises people to mask up

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 concerned.

Secretary, while discussing strategies to tackle the pandemic, 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, machinery and equipments including the status of testing capacity, availability of COVID essential

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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 member (Health) Dr V K Paul, after the meeting, said people should take the jab and also wear masks in crowded places.

Paul urged people not to panic and said that there was no change in the guidelines for international air travel so far.

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

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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 Wednesday vowed to put big 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 short-duration discussion in Lok Sabha on the problem of

drug abuse in the country and steps taken by the government to control it, Shah said the Centre has empowered

the Border Security Force, Seema Suraksha Bal and Asam Rifles to register 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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