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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

03 Stern action will be taken against youth involved in cheap video shoot at Hazratbal: Dr Darakhshan

09 Narwal recovery case: Duo sent on 20-day remand

10 Pink Panthers' defender bats for infra development in J&K

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

Congress absorbed slave mentality by working with British before Independence: Modi

India forged close ties with Islamic nations post-2014, says PM; slams Cong on EVM tampering claim

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted India developed strong relations with Islamic nations like Saudi Arabia after he assumed office in 2014 and said Congress claim of tampering with voting machines shows it has already accepted defeat in the Gujarat Assembly polls as he gave last minute push to the BJP's high-decibel campaign.

On the penultimate day of campaigning for the second phase of Assembly polls covering 93 seats on December 5, Modi addressed election rallies in Patan town of north Gujarat, Sojitra town in Anand district, Kankrej village of Banaskantha district and Ahmedabad, where he also held a road show.

Addressing an election rally after leading a road show in Ahmedabad, he slammed the Congress and claimed the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking out road show at Ahmedabad.

opposition party and its governments splurged taxpayers' money on "family, relatives, and for their personal use".

"After 2014, India has developed strong relations with Islamic nations. It is a matter of pride for me as well as for every Gujarati that nations like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have

conferred their top awards to me. Yoga is now part of the official syllabus in Saudi Arabia," said Modi.

Hindu temples are also coming up in Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, the prime minister told the gathering.

Unlike the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which puts nation first, the Congress has always given

priority to just one family, said Modi.

According to the PM, the Indian economy ranked 6th in the world when the country got Independence in 1947 and went down to the 10th position by 2014, when the Congress was last in power at the Centre.

"After I assumed office and the BJP came to power in

2014, the economy rose from the 10th spot to the 5th position (in 2022) in eight years. The Congress could not do it because of dynastic politics, scams and appeasement politics," said Modi.

The Prime Minister said the Congress alleging tampering of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) is an indication it has already accepted defeat in the Gujarat Assembly elections.

"The way Congress has started blaming EVMs after yesterday's voting in Kutch, Saurashtra and south Gujarat (in first phase of polling), it is evident the opposition party has conceded defeat and has accepted that the BJP will win the elections. Alleging EVM tampering is an indication the Congress is on its way out," said Modi at an election rally in Patan town.

"The Congress knows

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Minibus carrying Baratis turned turtle at Akhnoor, ten injured.

AC approves regulations for functioning of Agri Markets across UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved Regulations for the functioning of Agriculture Produce & Market Committee (APMC) Act, 1997 ceased to exist after the operation of J&K State Reorganization Act-2019. This Board will

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar,

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K attended the meeting.

The Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Produce & Market Committee (APMC) Act, 1997 ceased to exist after the operation of J&K State Reorganization Act-2019. This Board will

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Chauhan posted as Dy Secy Home

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Central Government on Friday appointed J&K-AGMUT cadre IAS Officer Sushma Chauhan as Deputy Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Sushma is 2009 batch IAS Officer.

Chauhan served as DC Jammu, Administrative Secretary Higher Education

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Chief Secretary bids farewell to Rohit Kansal

Terms Kansal as strategic thinker who had a great career in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta along with other administrative secretaries on Friday bid farewell to Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department and Information Department at a function organized here at Civil Secretariat.

Dr Mehta described Kansal as a professional with kind heart who proved his mettle during his 25 year long service in Jammu and Kashmir.

He credited Kansal for handling job of government

spokesperson with great ability due to which he became a household name in the entire Union Territory.

"Kansal had a great career in J&K. He was an officer with strategic thinking and was able to bring fundamental changes in the higher education sector," Dr Mehta said about the outgoing Principal Secretary.

He also wished him good luck in his future assignments and hoped that will keep supporting J&K in any manner.

Speaking on the occasion,

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HC grants bail to Tehsildar & DySP Crime Branch in trap cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Rahul Bharti of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court while hearing two different bail applications of Rohit Sharma then Tehsildar Bahu (now under suspension) and Varinder Singh then DySP Crime Branch (now under suspension) who were caught red-handed by Anti-Corruption Bureau while accepting bribe money.

Justice Rahul Bharti after hearing Sr Adv Sunil Sethi with Adv Parimoksh Seth for Rohit Sharma and Sr Adv RS Thakur with Adv Ashwani Thakur whereas Sr.

AAG Monika Kohli for the ACB, directed that petitioners are held entitled to be released on bail subject to furnishing of bonds, personal as well as surety, to the amount of Rs 1 lakh each to be furnished to the Investigating Officers.

Justice Rahul Bharti while granting bail to Tehsildar, observed that it seems that even the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Rajouri (Camp Jammu) is conscious of the fact that the custody of the petitioner in reference to FIR under investigation might not enjoy any further extension from the court of

law and, as such in order to lend a more serious note to the case, the respondent in its fresh objections have come forward with the plea that the petitioner is also under enquiry for disproportionate assets. It is not understandable as to how in the FIR relating to trap case the fact of enquiry against the petitioner for alleged disproportionate assets has any bearing except as an attempt to put off the indulgence of the Court in considering the grant of bail in favour of the petitioner and the petitioner has come to seek the bail after his bail application filed

before the Court of Special Judge, Anti Corruption, Jammu came to be rejected vide an order dated 21.11.2022 passed on file no. 1611/2022. From reading of the said order, the Special Judge, Anti Corruption, Jammu seems to have been weighed down by the fact that by reference to FIR no. 02/2022 which has been registered only for the incident of demand of bribe from the complainant by the petitioner, the Investigation Officer is stretching the investigation to case of alleged disproportionate assets against

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5 arrested for carrying out robberies by posing as terrorists in Kulgam



Arrested accused with recovered Arms & Ammunition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police have arrested five persons from

the Kulgam district for carrying out robberies by

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HC upholds detention under PSA of two including OGW of TRF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjay Dhar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court while hearing two different petitions seeking quashment of detention order, upheld the detention order passed by District Magistrate, Baramulla and District Magistrate, Kulgam and dismissed the petitions of Adnan Shafi Kana, a criminal and Aqib Bashir Teli, Over Ground Worker of TRF outfit.

Arms, drugs recovered along LoC in Uri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces foiled an attempt on Friday to infiltrate arms and drugs along the Line of Control in Uri sector, officials said.

A joint team of the army launched a cordon and search operation around the LoC in Rewand Nallah area of Kamalkote in

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BJP nominates new Districts Presidents in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Announcing large-scale organizational changes in J&K BJP, Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominated new Presidents for various Districts of J&K.

After consultation with BJP National President JP Nadda, National General Secretary (Org.) BL Santhosh, National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh, Seh-Prabhari J&K Ashish Sood and J&K General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina nominated new District

Presidents.

Chander Mohan Gupta (former Mayor) has been nominated as Vice-President J&K UT; Ayodhya Gupta as Secretary J&K UT; Adv.

Chander Mohan nominated as Vice President: Ayodhya Gupta, Purnima Spokesperson

Purnima Sharma as Spokesperson J&K UT; Parmodh Kapahi as President of Jammu District; Omi Khajuria as President of Jammu North District; Rekha Mahajan as President of Jammu South District; Sunil Shastri President of Jammu Border

District; Kashmira Singh as President of Samba District; Rajeev Sharma as President of Akhnoor District; Neena Sharma as President of Nowshera District; Dinesh

Sharma as President of Rajouri District; Rajesh Kumar as President of Poonch District; Rohit Dubey as President of Reasi District; Gopal Mahajan as President of Kathua District; Darshan Singh Thakkar as President

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885 Kg poppy seized in Jammu, 2 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) on Friday arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 885 kilograms of the poppy from their possession in Jammu's winter capital city, officials said.

On a tip-off, the team swung into action and spotted the truck found parked behind Nehru market in Jammu, they said.

During its search, 885.55 kilograms of poppy was recovered by the team in the vehicle, they said.

The peddlers identified as Arif Ahmed and Aijaz Ahmed of South

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HC upholds order of corruption charges against Executive Engineer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjay Dhar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court today upheld order of Special Judge, Anti-corruption (CBI Cases), Kashmir, Srinagar, whereby charges for offences under Section 120-B read with Section 420 RPC and Section 4-H read with Sections 5(2) and Section 5(1)(d) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act have been framed against Ram Gopal Meena XEN CPWD and the co-accused.

While dismissing the petition, Justice Sanjay Dhar observed that mere omission

to make mention of a particular offence, though allegations contained in the sanction order constitute such offence, would not make the order of sanction illegal. As per the prosecution case, the FIR was lodged on the basis of preliminary enquiry conducted by the respondents into the allegations that the petitioner, who was posted as Executive Engineer, CPWD, at the relevant time, along with the co-accused had entered into a criminal conspiracy with the contractor M/s Sheikh Sons to cause wrongful loss to the state exchequer and corresponding

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wrongful gain to others in the contract for construction of boundary wall of 9.1 Km for Central University, Kashmir, at Ganderbal. It was alleged that the wrongful loss to the state exchequer was caused to the tune of Rs.3.4 crore with corresponding gain to the accused. According to the prosecution case, during the year 2013, the Central University, Kashmir, had approached the CPWD, Central Division, Humhama, for the work of construction of boundary wall around the land of the University. A preliminary

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Every form of 'elite understanding' of democratic process must be rejected: CJJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud said on Friday every form of "elite understanding" of the democratic process that educated people are better decision-makers must be rejected.

He said the concept of universal adult franchise is linked to the idea of participatory democracy and individuals, whom the society has "despised" as being uneducated, have shown tremendous political acumen and awareness of local problems, which even the educated may not understand.

He was delivering the 8th Dr L M Singhvi Memorial Lecture on the theme "Universal Adult Franchise:

Translating India's Political Transformation into a Social Transformation" here at an event where Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was the chief guest.

The CJI said the introduction of universal adult franchise was a revolutionary act at a time when such a right had only recently been extended to women, people of colour, and the working-class in supposedly "mature" western democracies.

"In this sense, our Constitution was a feminist document, as well as an egalitarian socially transformative document. It was a break from the colonial and pre-colonial legacy, the boldest move adopted by the Constitution that was truly a

product of Indian imagination," he said.

Besides Dhankhar and the CJI, Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate A M Singhvi, Founding Vice Chancellor of O P Jindal Global University Prof C Raj Kumar also addressed the gathering.

The CJI said universal adult franchise was a solid determination of India's founding leaders to create a democratic state, however, the translation of the right to vote being bestowed upon citizens and its realisation has not been a simple journey.

He said preparation of the first electoral roll was also a "momentous task", as the majority of the population (86 per cent) was illiterate and the new Republic of

India was grappling with the horrors of partition, war and famine.

Justice Chandrachud said the Election Commission of India at that time had innovated with outreach campaigns and the poll panel now has, on multiple occasions, set up polling booths for a single voter.

"In the same vein, the plight of the migrant workers must be considered, who most often are unable to effectively cast their vote in their constituency. Most migrant workers leave their hometowns and have to migrate to different cities, different states and different corners of the country in search of livelihood for

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Amarinder, Jakhar made BJP National Executive Members

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Friday appointed ex-Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh and Sunil Jakhar, both former Congress leaders, and its previous Uttar Pradesh president Swatantra Dev Singh as members of its national executive.

BJP president J P Nadda also appointed former Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill its national spokesperson. The party said in a statement. The Supreme Court lawyer had quit the Congress in August, alleging that sycophancy is eating into the organisation like termites.

His appointment also puts an official seal on his

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US designates 4 leaders of AQIS, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan as global terrorists

■ AGENCY

WASHINGTON: The US has designated four top leaders of al-Qaeda and the Pakistani Taliban groups as global terrorists, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said as he emphasised that the Biden administration will ensure that terrorists do not operate with impunity in Afghanistan.

The terrorists who were designated on Thursday were Osama Mehmood, the emir of al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), Atif Yahya Ghouri, the deputy emir of AQIS and Muhammad Maruf who is responsible for the group's recruiting branch.

Qari Anjad, the deputy emir of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), who over-

sees operations and militants in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, has also been slapped with sanctions.

"As a result of these actions, all property and interests in property of those designated yesterday that are subject to US jurisdiction are blocked, and all US persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with them," Secretary of State Blinken said on Thursday.

"Yesterday's actions again demonstrate that we will continue to use all relevant tools to uphold our commitment to see to it that international terrorists are not able to operate with impunity in Afghanistan," Blinken

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 22.1°C Min: 11.1°C

Humidity
Max: 88 Min: 86

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 11.5°C Min: -0.2°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 79

Sunset : 17:26 Hours
Sunrise : 07:16 Hours