

**02** Govt employee arrested in Uri with heroin worth Rs 20 Cr

**03** 'Super Senior' pensioners cannot afford to run for following up their cases

**10** J&K deaf Judokas to meet PM Modi

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

## Under-construction tunnel in Ramban collapses; labourer's body recovered, 9 still trapped

### Negligence of NHAI attributed as contributory factor to mishap



Machinery put in place to rescue labourers trapped under the debris of tunnel which collapsed in Ramban district, while ADGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh monitoring rescue operation at site.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BANIHAL/JAMMU: A labourer was killed and three were rescued after a part of an under-construction tunnel collapsed on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway at Khumli Nala in District Ramban, officials said.

Nine workers continue to be trapped in the debris as rescue operations continue. However, their chances of survival are slim, they said.

The sources told **STATE TIMES** that the incident occurred due to negligence of NHAI as well as the main contractor CEIGALL Constructions, which has further sublet the work to Sarla Constructions, which is not yet approved as sub-contractor of NHAI.

The incident occurred when a part of the tunnel in which labourers were working collapsed, whose drawings were

not approved by ICI, which is the approval authority for engineering consultancy for this project.

Further, sources said, the company did not follow any guidelines laid out by MORTH (Ministry of Road Transport & Highway), mandated for tunnel construction and its notice was not even taken by the NHAI.

Despite the failure, the company did not follow any

rules as they were given a free-hand by the authorities. The blast was taken at the face of the tunnel and no mandatory manual excavation was done, sources said, adding that inadequate protection measures like rock bolting, grouting, shotereting and wire meshing are also reported to be the cause of the mishap.

Sources said that no Geologist was present at site

which is a must for rock clarification, adding that patch construction that is in joint venture with CEIGALL Constructions was also not present at site. No safety measures were taken and there was absence of proper lighting system, mandatory for night work.

"Around 10.15 pm on Thursday, the audit tunnel of T3 on the highway near Khooni Nallah in Ramban

collapsed, trapping 11-12 labourers of Sarla Company working there," a senior official told.

The rescue operation on the national highway stretch between Ramban and Ramsu started at midnight and was going on in full swing with rock-breakers being used to reach out to those trapped, he said.

Divisional Commissioner of Jammu Ramesh Kumar and

## LG constantly monitoring situation, rescue ops

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is constantly monitoring the situation in Ramban where nine people are still feared to be trapped.

The Lt Governor also chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials at the Civil Secretariat and discussed the progress of rescue operations.

The rescue operation was started last night with District, Police and Army personnel on the ground. The Lt Governor, who is monitoring the situation from a control room, was briefed about intermittent shooting stones, which have been obstructing the rescue operation. Expressing concern over the incident, the Lt Governor said rescue operations will continue on war footing till the last person is reached.

The Lt Governor had directed Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, ADGP, Jammu, Mukesh Singh, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam and Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma, last night to supervise the rescue operation.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh visited the incident site where a massive rescue operation is underway.

Union minister Jitendra Singh termed the collapse of a part of the tunnel "unfortunate".

"I am in constant touch with DC Mussarat Islam. Nearly 10 labour workers were trapped under the debris. Another three

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K delimitation panel orders come into effect

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Paving the way for conducting the first assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir since it was made a Union territory, the Centre said the orders of the Delimitation Commission which redrew electoral constituencies and provided six additional assembly seats to Jammu division and one to Kashmir would come into effect from Friday.

According to the orders of the commission, set up under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, the Union territory will have 90 assembly constituencies -- 43 in Jammu Division and 47 in Kashmir -- with nine of

them being reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

It also brought areas of Rajouri and Poonch under the Anantnag parliamentary seat.

The erstwhile assembly had 87 seats -- 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and four in Ladakh. In the reorganisation of the erstwhile state, Ladakh was declared as a union territory without an assembly.

In a gazette notification, the Law Ministry said the panel's two orders -- one of March 14 dealing with the number of constituencies reserved for various categories and the second of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K Bank corruption: CBI questions Haseeb Drabu in Mumbai building case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The CBI on Friday questioned former Jammu and Kashmir Bank chairman Haseeb Drabu in connection with a case related to the purchase of the bank's office building in Mumbai in 2010 in which it is alleged that there was a loss of Rs 100 crore to the financial institution's exchequer, officials said here.

The questioning of Drabu, a former finance minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was done by the CBI officials at their Srinagar office for seven hours, they said.

There was no immediate

reaction from Drabu as he did not reply to SMS and messages sent on his WhatsApp.

Earlier this month, the CBI carried out searches at eight locations in Mumbai, Srinagar and Jammu after the agency had registered an FIR in the purchase of the Akriti Gold Building for around Rs 180 crore by the bank for its integrated office in Mumbai on

November 11 last year. The FIR was registered following a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The premises of the then bank directors M I Shahdad and Vikrant Kuthiala, and former executive director A K Mehta were also searched on May 10. The four were members of the estate committee of the bank, the officials said.

"... Incriminating docu-

ments, articles and electronic evidence, several bank account details and bank locker keys have been recovered during searches," CBI spokesperson RC Joshi had said after the searches.

The CBI has alleged that the bank had entered into a deal for its branch office at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) with Akriti Gold at a much higher rate than offered by other shortlisted builders causing a loss of over Rs 100 crore to the bank.

The case was earlier probed by the anti-corruption branch of the Jammu

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 4 arrested for impersonating as ACB officials in J&K

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Four persons were arrested for allegedly impersonating as officials of anti-corruption bureau and extorting money from a brick kiln owner in Anantnag district, police said on Friday.

Fake ID cards of Crime Investigation and Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), besides cash amount of Rs 24,000 was also seized from their possession, police spokesman said.

"On May 15, Police Post Janglatmandi received a complaint from Javid Ahmad Dar of Mirgund Khanabal, an owner of brick kiln stating there in that four persons impersonated as

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ACB officials came to his brick kiln situated at Bulbul Nowgam Anantnag and demanded Rs one lakh and later he gave them Rs 20,000 on which they agreed," a police spokesman said.

He said a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Anantnag and investigation was set into motion.

"During the course of investigation, a police party from Police Post Janglatmandi after utilising all available means were able to arrest four accused persons identified as Shariq Mohi ud Din Sheikh, Ameer Hassan Naikoo,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Terrorist killed, infiltration bid foiled in Kupwara

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Security forces on Friday killed a terrorist and foiled an infiltrator bid along the the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector of Kupwara district, officials said here.

The soldiers noticed some suspicious movement along the LoC near Darshan Post and challenged the intruders, who opened firing, the officials said.

The troops retaliated, leading to the killing of an

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Court rejects bail of ex-minister Babu Singh in Hawala case

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Special Judge NIA Ashwani Sharma on Friday rejected the bail application of Ex-Minister Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh in Hawala case.

During the course of hearing, APP Anil Magotra submitted that applicant is involved in the commission of FIR No 73/2022 under Sections 13/17/18 of UA(P) Act at Police Station Gandhi Nagar Jammu and a sum of Rs 6,90,000 have been recovered from the possession of



accused/applicant, Mohd Sharief Shah, co-accused, who was coming from Kashmir to Jammu to hand over Hawala money to Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh (Ex-MLA/Ex-

Minister), resident of Kathua for the purpose of financing Jammu based separatist and secessionist groups and parties to carry out subversive activities against sovereignty, integrity and security of India.

The investigation of the case was transferred to SIA Jammu vide PHQ order 1337 of 2022 dated April 12, 2022 and the CD file along with other relevant documents have been handed over to the SIA for further investigation.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

During the course of investigations, the SIA seized all the items and conducted the personal search and cash worth Rs 6.90,000 Indian currency of Rs 500 denomination total 1380 notes, cell phone (Samsung), Cheque books of J&K Bank, ATM Card of J&K Bank, ATM SBI Bank PAN Card, Aadhaar Card and other items were seized/sealed by them on spot.

Mohd Sharief Shah disclosed during the course

## Six IAS, IPS officers transferred; Navin Choudhary shifted to Mizoram, Raju to Arunachal

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday ordered transfer of five IAS and one IPS officer including Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education Department and M Raju, Commissioner-Secretary, Mining Department with immediate effect. Belonging to joint (AGMUT) cadre--Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Mizoram and eight UTs, namely Andaman & Nicobar,

Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, NCT Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, J&K and Ladakh, Navin Choudhary has been transferred to Mizoram while M Raju to Arunachal Pradesh, according to an order issued by MHA.

Naveen and Raju both were recently posted in Health & Medical Education and Mining departments respectively by J&K administration. Recently, CBI raids were also conducted in their

houses separately following their alleged involvement in Insurance scam, Power Project scam and fake arms licenses scam, three FIRs registered against them-two against Navin and one against M Raju.

Others transferred include Sudhir Kumar (IAS, AGMUT:2005) on return from deputation to GNCTD, MRM Rao (IAS, AGMUT: 2007) from Mizoram to Goa, A Ashwin Candru

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Issues faced by KPs working in valley will be addressed: Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha talking to reporters on sidelines of a function at Srinagar on Friday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the issues faced by Kashmiri Pandits working in the valley, including their safety concerns, will be addressed.

"I would not like to go into the statistics of now and then. You are from here and you know it as well that the situation now is better than before. But unfortunately an

odd incident (of violence) takes places once every few months. We are working out a strategy with police and other security forces to tackle this," Sinha told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He was responding to a question about claims made by political leaders like National Conference's Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party's Mehbooba Mufti that the

security situation in the valley was deteriorating.

Sinha said the "unfortunate" killing of Rahul Bhat was being probed by the special investigation team (SIT).

Bhat, who had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 2010-11, was gunned down by terrorists inside the tehsil office in Chadoora town of central Kashmir's Budgam district last week.

"The SIT is investigating the matter. Once the report comes, we will examine it. Every resident of Kashmir, including minorities and Kashmiri Pandits, have a right to remain safe and we are making efforts in this direction," he said.

Sinha said the Kashmiri Pandits living the valley should not leave as the local residents of the valley

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Secure the Claims of your Loved Ones!

Avail Nomination Facility Today

To Avail the facility visit your Base/Home Branch Today!

Follow us on

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL 1800 890 2122

LOG ON TO [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

CAUTION: Bank does not ask for your Password / PIN / OTP / CVV / Card Number.

J&K Bank  
Serving To Empower

\*T&C APPLY.