

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Under-construction tunnel...

were rescued and hospitalised with injuries. Rescue operations are going on in full swing. Civil administration and police authorities are monitoring the situation," he said.

Those trapped inside the tunnel included Jadav Roy (23), Gautam Roy (22), Sudhir Roy (31), Dipak Roy (33) and Parimal Roy (38), all from West Bengal, Shiva Chouhan (26) from Assam, Nepali citizens Nawaraj Chowdhury (26) and Kushi Ram (25), and Jammu and Kashmir residents Muzaffar (38) and Israt (30), officials said.

Two of those hospitalised workers have been identified as Vishnu Gola (33) of Jharkhand and Ameen (26) of Jammu and Kashmir: The third person, whose name has not been disclosed, has been taken to the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu, police said.

All of them were employed by a company tasked with auditing the tunnel, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Ramban Mussarat Islam and Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma are at the spot along with the deputy inspector general of police, supervising the rescue operation.

Kumar, the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, said the rescue operation is likely to consume more time as rock-breakers are being used to create space in order to reach out to those trapped.

Though officials claimed that the audit tunnel is only three to four metres, Kumar said, "It is not known whether they (those trapped) are inside it or outside the tunnel area. There is debris all-around."

### 4 arrested for...

Subzar Ahmad Parry and Mozin Nazir Bhat," he added.

The vehicle which was used in the commission of crime was also seized, the police spokesman said.

## J&K Bank corruption...

and Kashmir Police, which had registered an FIR following a preliminary inquiry. The inquiry report, now part of the FIR, had said an advertisement was issued by the J&K Bank on November 6, 2008, inviting offers for outright sale of integrated office premises at Bandra Kurla, requiring 20,000 sq ft space.

Twenty-five builders had responded to the advertisement which were opened by the committee formed for the purpose and out of the offers received, eight properties Ashapura Builders (Hallmark Business Plaza), Topaz Akruiti, Crescenzo (BKC), Platin BKC, Naman Centre, Golden Homeland agencies (Wockhardt), Windsor and KRC Towers were shortlisted.

Of these eight, the rates offered by Ashapura Builders were the lowest at Rs 25,000 per sq ft, Ashapura Builders on July 28, 2009, made an offer for its building's third floor of 30,000 sq ft built up area at Rs 22,500 per sq ft chargeable area.

"The application was processed and submitted to the then chairman to take a decision but no decision was taken regarding finalisation of contract with Ashapura Builders' owners. A committee was constituted with approval of the chairman to take a view with regard to the offer received. The committee so constituted has done nothing in respect of offers received," the FIR had alleged.

The bank on the instructions of its corporate headquarters published another advertisement on January 14, 2010, seeking office space 25,000-30,000 sq ft and residential flats in or around Andheri (15 single BHK 600-800 sq ft and 10 double BHK 1000-1200 sq ft) it said. The offer was responded to by 23 builders.

"Ashapura Builders again quoted the lowest rate Rs 25,000 per sq ft It has been found that no heed once again was paid to the lowest rate..." the FIR alleged.

It has been found that in the board of directors meeting held on February 25, 2010, the director estate committee briefed board members about site inspections of the shortlisted properties conducted by the estate committee, it alleged.

"The members were informed that amongst the short listed properties, Akruiti Goki BKC meets requirements of the bank. He further informed the members that total chargeable area of the entire building was around 42,000 sqft at Rs 26,000 per sqft which roughly works out to Rs 109 crore for the entire building and Rs 73 crore for the proposed six floors," the FIR alleged.

It said the board members allegedly gave approval to the proposal and decided that the bank should enter into negotiations with the builders for purchasing the entire building.

"Negotiations were held with Akruiti Gold BKC and finally the rate was finalised at Rs 26,000 per sq ft for nine floors having total chargeable area of 63,776 sq ft. A letter of intent was signed with the builder and a token money of Rs 25 crore was paid to developer Vishal Techno Commerce Limited," it alleged.

The FIR said there was sufficient space available with J&K Bank for functioning

of its branch at Bandra Kurla, Zonal Office and Treasury and as such there was no requirement of purchasing any additional accommodation.

"The Zonal Office Mumbai, Branch Bandra Kurla and Treasury were already functioning in the bank's own buildings. The advertisements issued were for 20,000 sq ft and 20,000-30,000 sq ft respectively in response to which, the rates offered by Ashapura Builders were Rs 25,000 and Rs 22,000 a sq ft," it alleged.

The CBI alleged that as part of a "criminal conspiracy hatched among the officers/officials of J&K Bank and the owners of Akruiti Gold BKC", officers of J&K Bank approved purchase of 65,065 sqft at Rs 26,000 per sqft on highly exorbitant consideration of Rs 180.57 crore "in blatant disregard to the tendering process with consequent loss to the bank exchequer".

Their actions allegedly caused a tentative loss of more than Rs 100 crore to the bank exchequer, it said.

## J&K delimitation panel...

May 5 dealing with the size of each constituency -- will come into effect together from May 20.

With the recommendations having been accepted by the Centre, decks are now cleared for holding of the first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir after it was downgraded to a Union territory on August 5, 2019.

The three-member delimitation panel was headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a retired judge of the Supreme Court. Then Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra (now retired) and Jammu and Kashmir Election Commissioner K K Sharma were its two ex-officio members.

Five Jammu and Kashmir Lok Sabha members -- three from the National Conference and two from the BJP -- were associate members to the commission.

The panel submitted its final report on May 5, just a day before its two-year tenure was to end.

In its report, the commission did not reserve any seat for either Kashmiri migrants or refugees from West Pakistan.

The Delimitation Commission had said in its 240-page report that while they found substance in the grievances of Kashmiri migrants as their plight was unparalleled but it was not possible for the panel to reserve or direct the government to nominate their members to the legislature or Parliament as "such legal provisions are absent here".

"However, we feel it appropriate to recommend to the government for sympathetic consideration" for providing at least two seats, including one for a woman, for the community of Kashmiri migrants in the Legislative Assembly at par with the power of nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly under which a member has a right to vote.

The commission, which was entrusted with the work of delimiting the assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of the 2011 Census, also recommended to the government to consider giving the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir some representation in the assembly through nomination.

The population of Jammu region is 53.72 lakh and Kashmir division 68.83 lakh, according to the Census of 2011.

Out of the 90 assembly constituencies, nine have been reserved for Scheduled Tribe -- six in Jammu and three in the Valley.

While there was no immediate reaction from the political parties on Friday's development, the National Conference, the PDP and other Kashmir Valley-based parties had opposed it earlier saying that the delimitation panel was "illegal".

The National Conference had said, "No amount of gerrymandering will change the ground reality which is that whenever elections are held the voter will punish the BJP and its proxies for what they have done to JK over the last 4 years."

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had said that there was nothing more to add as "we have always maintained that the Delimitation Commission was meant only to execute the political game plan of BJP in Jammu and Kashmir and divide people on communal lines". Names of some assembly seats have been changed keeping in view the demand of local representatives and public sentiment.

The commission was set up in March 2020 after the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill in Parliament in August 2019 and was asked to complete its work within a year which was extended by a year due to COVID-19.

It was granted another extension of two months and its term was to end on May 6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir leaders on June 24 last, had said the ongoing delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

### Six IAS, IPS officers...

(IAS AGMUT: 2019) from Mizoram to Goa and Vikramajit Singh (IPS, AGMUT: 2004) on joining AGMUT cadre from Kerela Cadre to J&K.

## Court rejects bail...

of investigation that he had received the cash from an unknown person in Srinagar on the direction of Babu Singh, who told him to give reference to Khateeb while receiving money and before receiving money, he had received whatsapp messages from Pakistan No. (+923005252171).

Accordingly, search was made in the residential house of Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh at Ward No 1 Kathua and number of raids were also conducted through special teams. Finally, on April 9, 2022, the accused Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh was arrested from Kirian Gandial, Kathua.

During the course of investigation, CDR/IPDR of contact No. 9419000214 was analyzed minutely and it was revealed that Babu Singh had links with separatists across the bail handlers.

It was also submitted that the investigation of the case is at its initial stage and the electronic gadgets seized from the applicant and co-accused Mohd Sharief Shah have been sent to FSL Srinagar for expert opinion while collection of technical evidence, questioning of suspects/witnesses, arrest of other accused is under way.

"If the accused will be enlarged on bail the same will definitely hamper the investigation", it submitted.

It was also submitted that accused Jatinder Singh also received funds from abroad which were sent to him through Western union and the same were drawn by him somewhere in Punjab in cash. Under the aegis of his party Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party, he has also received funding from abroad for spreading anti India propaganda against the Union of India which needs further investigation, it was stated.

Special Judge NIA Ashwani Sharma after hearing APP Nail Magotra for the SIA whereas Adv Kuldeep Singh Parihar appearing for the accused/applicant Jatinder Singh, observed that the investigation of the case is still pending and the allegations against the applicant are yet to be investigated by the Investigating agency.

It was observed that the applicant being an Ex MLA/Ex Minister of the erstwhile State of J&K and if enlarged on bail at this stage, there are chances of tampering with the witnesses of the prosecution and exercising influence over the witnesses of the prosecution and intimidating them also and nobody would come against the applicant to make the statement either before the Investigating agency during investigation or before the court. The Court further observed that taking into consideration the nature and gravity of the charge, the severity of the punishment, the seriousness of the crime, the position and status of the accused viz-a viz the victim/state and opportunity to approach the victim/witnesses, the likelihood of the accused fleeing from justice the possibility of tampering with the evidence and or the witnesses, obstructing the course of justice and attempting to do so, the possibility of repetition of the offence, the prima facie satisfaction of the court in support of the charges including frivolity of the charge, and the peculiar facts of each case and nature of supporting evidence, the accused does not deserves the concession of bail at this stage and it is settled law that at the time of consideration of bail application, it is neither desirable nor necessary to weigh the evidence meticulously to arrive at a positive findings whether or not the accused has committed offence. What is to be seen is whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accusation are prima facie true. The Court further observed that in the present case the question of unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of India in general and UT of J&K In particular is involved in the case in which the applicant herein is alleged to have played a key role. The investigation of the case is at its infancy and if the accused/applicant would be enlarged on bail, the course of justice would be thwarted.

The embargo contained u/s. 43-D (5) of UA(P) Act is also attracted in the present case. Thus in the larger interests of the security of the state the accused is not entitled to bail at this stage. The application, as such, is accordingly rejected and be consigned to record after its due completion.

### Terrorist killed, infiltration...

infiltrating terrorist, they said, adding that the operation to nab the others was underway. The killed terrorist's body has been recovered and the ID-card recovered from his possession identified him as Mohd Nazeer resident of Athmuqam area of PoK. Huge cache of narcotic substances and arms and ammunition including 10 packets of Heroin, two AK rifles, two AK magazines, two Pistols and four Pistol magazines have been recovered from his possession.

### Issues faced by...

also want them to stay. "We will take care of all concerns of the Kashmiri Pandits including their security. My request to them is to have patience. People of Kashmir also want that the multi-religious culture and harmony should continue. We will try to resolve whatever problems that have been brought to my notice," he added.

## Security situation in J&K getting worse day by day: Omar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Asserting that tourism activity and the number of flights to Kashmir cannot be considered as signs of normalcy, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the security situation was getting worse day by day.

Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, said the state of fear was such that Kashmiri Pandit employees were ready to leave their jobs and run away from Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing protests by Kashmiri Pandits since the killing of community member and government employee Rahul Bhat by terrorists inside his office in Budgam's Chadoora on May 12.

"Fights and tourism are not (signs of) normalcy. Normalcy is that there should be no fear and terror. Kashmiri Pandits should not run away. They are ready to leave their jobs. Is this normalcy?" he told reporters at his party's office here.

He said that Kashmiri



Former CM Omar Abdullah briefing media in Jammu.

Pandit employees met leaders of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) seeking justice. "PADG leaders went to Lieutenant Governor to ensure that they don't leave valley. It is not normalcy," he added. Abdullah, replying to a question on the government's claim that normalcy has returned to Kashmir as there is a heavy rush of tourists and flights amid decrease in stone pelting, said that his government had also brought stone pelting under control several times.

"If an employee become target on his own seat in a busy office, or cop gets killed at home, if this is new

face of normalcy, I cannot say anything," he added.

"We feel sorry that innocent people are being killed one after another. Minorities are being killed. Police persons are being killed. Civilians are getting killed in cross-firing and targeted killings," he said.

Taking a dig at the government over its claim that the situation would become normal after Article 370 was scrapped, he said, "Two-and-half years have passed, where is improvement in the situation? Targeted killings had stopped (in the past). I cannot remember when the circle of targeted killings took place last time. Today, people are not feeling secure

in Kashmir."

He said terrorism was returning to the places which had earlier been cleared of terrorists, particularly Srinagar and its adjoining areas and those in north Kashmir.

"There has been a lot of difference between what is said and what is done by the government. The situation is getting worse day in and day out," he said.

Asked whether the targeted killings started after the release of "The Kashmir Files" movie, he said such incidents took place even before and referred to the killing of chemist Makhhan Lal Bindroo and Akash, the son of the owner of the popular food joint Krishna Dhaba in Srinagar, last year. Abdullah said it is for the people to decide whether the movie has contributed to improving the situation or worsening it.

Replying to another question on the ban on loud-speakers in Jammu, he said the authorities should adopt a middle path so that sentiments of the community are not hurt.

## Admn being service provider needs to develop, evolve, equip itself to fulfill peoples' aspirations: LG

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Emphasizing that administration being a service provider needs to develop, evolve and equip itself to fulfill people's aspirations, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday directed officials to ensure effective and efficient response mechanism to serve the public with total integrity, commitment and unflinching loyalty.

"Our grievance redress mechanism today is more resilient and accountable. Citizen is in the centre of governance and their complaints are being handled in fair, transparent and just manner, Sinha said while interacting with the applicants of Jammu Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JKIGRAMS) during "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Public Grievance Hearing programme, at the Civil Secretariat.

He observed: "Regular orientation of staff from concerned department is being conducted by JK-IGRAMS".



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with people during LG's Mulaqaat.

The Lt Governor also gave on-spot directions for resolving the grievances of several applicants.

Taking serious note of the delay in issuance of RIBA certificate to one Ruqaya Hassan of Ganderbal, the Lt Governor directed Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal to conduct a probe in the delay.

All Deputy Commissioners were further directed to submit the data regarding breach of predefined time-lines under Public Service Guarantee Act while extending various public services and redressing grievances, within a week's time.

While listening to the issue of Farooq Ahmad from Srinagar regarding the lack of playfield in his area, the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioner to explore the possibility of finding a suitable place near the locality as per feasibility. On the grievance of Girdhai Lal from Panchayat Makwal, Tehsil Ramkot of Kathua regarding the commissioning of a constructed Water Pump House in his area, Deputy Commissioner Kathua apprised the Lt Governor that the same shall be made functional in a time bound manner.

Responding to the grievance of Nizam Din regarding the issuance of ST Certificate, the chair was informed that the certificate has already been issued. The applicant expressed his gratitude to the Lt Governor for receiving a prompt response from the authorities.

In another issue of availing a small business loan from the SC, ST and OBC Corporation, the applicant Suresh Kumar from Reasi informed that the issue was resolved within one month of filing the grievance on JK-IGRAMS.

The Lt Governor directed Commissioner/Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda to ensure hassle free processing of all such cases of Business loans from SC, ST and OBC Corporation.

Similarly, on various other grievances that were pre-

sented in today's LG's Mulaqaat programme, the concerned Deputy Commissioners apprised the Lt Governor of the status of the grievances.

The Lt Governor while taking stock of the issues highlighted by public during the interactive programme directed the concerned officials to make the delivery of services easier and more expeditious. He also said modification in policies and procedures should be undertaken by concerned authorities to reduce the cause of grievances.

Rehana Batul Commissioner/Secretary, Public Grievances informed the chair about the progress and status of grievances received on JK-IGRAMS.

It was informed that more than 2, 12,000 grievances have been received on the JK-IGRAMS so far, out of which 97% have been resolved.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; R K Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Heads of the Departments, and other senior officers were present during the interaction, in person and through virtual mode.