

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Terror funding case...

alias Babu Singh in the Jammu region was arrested by SIA for an alleged terror-funding case.

During the search electronic gadgets have been seized from the house of Yasmeen Raja in the presence of Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses.

It is pertinent to mention here that SIA has produced preliminary chargesheet in the instant case along with three supplementary charge sheets. Nine accused are already under Judicial Custody in the instant case, while the three accused are absconding and operating from Pakistan. The court has initiated proceeding to attach property of the absconding accused persons under section 82 and 83 CrPC.

### Two Sessions Judge...

as Director, J&K Judicial Academy. Tasleem Arief, District Judge, whose services have been placed at the disposal of the Chief Justice, is posted as Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. He shall also hold the additional charge of Registrar Inspection, Srinagar till further orders.

Further, the charge of the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar is assigned to Sandeep Kour, 3<sup>rd</sup> Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

### Terrorist associate held...

a police spokesman said. During the search, a terrorist associate linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT was apprehended, he said.

He was identified as Tanveer Ahmad Wani, the spokesman said.

Incriminating material and arms and ammunition, including an AK series rifle, a magazine and 10 rounds, were seized from his possession, he said.

A case has been registered and investigation initiated, the spokesman added.

### Australian HC discusses...

food processing sector. Discussions also focused on areas of interest, including technology, renewable energy, and tourism.

The Lt Governor highlighted the importance of the upcoming G-20 summit in Srinagar as an opportunity to showcase the region's economic potential and ongoing efforts to enhance international investment.

The discussions also touched upon bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

### J&K police files...

from Gujarat, was arrested for allegedly posing as an additional director (strategy and campaigns) in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and enjoying many perks, including a bulletproof car and security cover besides other hospitality, police said.

Patel had claimed that he had been given a mandate by the central government to identify buyers for apple orchards in south Kashmir, they added.

A case under relevant sections of cheating and forgery was registered against him on March 2 and he was nabbed the next day from a five-star hotel here during his third visit to the Valley.

Four FIRs related to cheating were recently registered against Patel in different police stations in Gujarat, including one by the Ahmedabad crime branch for trying to usurp a senior citizen's bungalow.

### Pressure of ‘oil...

and the fuel station's owner had said the blast took place after a short circuit in the underground power board.

Immediately after the explosion, police rushed to the site and cordoned the area.

The fuel station's owner, Sanjeev Kumar, had said it is suspected that the short circuit happened after rainwater leaked into the underground power board.

Sub Divisional Police Officer, Jammu East, Zaheer Abbas Jafri also quoting preliminary investigations had said the explosion was caused by a short circuit.

"The owner of the petrol pump told us that the blast was caused by a short circuit. We have also seen that electric wiring has been damaged," he said, ruling out any foul play or a terror angle.

The petrol pump's employees said there were no customers at the pump when the incident happened.

### Marine, NSG commandos....

attendees during the event. Apart from the security measures, the meeting also discussed the management of foreign NGOs and media personnel during the summit, the police said.

The GOC of Kilo Force assured that all assistance like domination of high reaches, corridor protection, additional area surveillance teams for area domination specifically in the night will be provided.

During the meeting, special focus on emerging threat of VBIEDs and other modes of potential terror attacks including potential fidayeen strikes, standoff fire and grenade attacks were discussed in detail and counter measures to counter these terror threats were also discussed, the police said.

Kumar emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to ensure foolproof security for the summit.

The officials also discussed the deployment of security personnel, traffic management, and crowd control measures to be adopted for the peaceful conduct of the summit.

The ADGP urged all agencies to work in a coordinated manner in order to ensure the success of the summit, which is expected to be attended by several high-profile dignitaries from across the world.

The meeting focused on the deployment of security personnel, counter drone measures and other critical aspects of security planning.

Kumar directed the officials to ensure that the security arrangements are put in place well before the summit, and the deployment of security personnel should be done in a manner that does not cause inconvenience to the local residents and tourists.

He also emphasised the need to be vigilant and take pre-emptive measures to prevent any untoward incident during the summit.

He further advised them that additional security measures should be placed at the vulnerable locations to avoid any untoward incident during the G20 summit.

## DB directives in PIL Seeking Modern Slaughter Houses in J&K

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation regarding Modern Slaughter Houses in J&K, A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal after hearing Adv Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed for the PIL, directed Sr. AAG SS Nanda appearing for Srinagar Municipal Corporation to file composite compliance report without any fail, before the next date. When the PIL Came-up for hearing, the Division Bench observed that Harshwardhan Gupta, counsel appearing for the Jammu Municipal Corporation, submits that the report in terms of order dated 13.12.2022 is ready to be filed. DB directed he may do so within a week's time by furnishing the copy thereof to the other side also. During the course of hearing Vishal Sharma, Deputy Solicitor of India submits that he has submitted the report on behalf of the Union Territory of Ladakh as well.

DB directed S. S. Nanda, Senior Additional Advocate appearing for the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, may also file the same, without any

fail, before the next date with an advance copy thereof to the other side. These directions were passed in the much publicized Public Interest Litigation (PIL) No.06/2018 filed by an NGO working for the Welfare of Animals (SAVE) through its Chairperson Devinder Kaur Madaan alias Rumpy Madaan seeking closure of un-regulated and unregistered/un-licensed slaughterhouses/meat shops in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir including Jammu/Srinagar Cities. The PIL further seeks directions to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir/ JMC/SMC to establish modern slaughter houses in both capital cities and the slaughter houses already existing in the various Districts/Tehsil Headquarters be modernized as per the directions of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of Laxmi Narayan Modi Vs Union of India & Ors. When the PIL came-up for hearing, DB after hearing Adv Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed for the PIL, observed that in terms of order dated 14.02.2023, the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu and Srinagar, were directed to file a composite compliance report by the next date in terms of earlier order dated

13.12.2022, but the same has not been filed till date. DB directed the same be filed by or before the next date of hearing with an advance copy thereof to the other side.

DB further directed S S Nanda, Senior Additional Advocate General shall also apprise this Court about the completion of the slaughter house(s) in Srinagar and Mr. Harshwardhan Gupta, counsel on behalf of the Jammu Municipal Corporation also may apprise this Court of the latest stage of upgradation of the slaughter house(s) which are under construction at Jammu.

## Bhanu among 5 in Indian team for Moscow meet

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As many as five J&K players are part of the Indian team presently taking part in the Moscow Wushu Championship which started today.

These selected players, Surya Bhanu Partap Singh, Abhishek Singh Jamwal and Jiya, Priyanshu Chib and Aman were given send off amidst best wishes by Dronacharya Awardee from the Union Territory,

Kuldeep Handoo before they left for the venue.

While Surya Bhanu and Abhishek Singh Jamwal have been spotted from the National Wushu coaching camp for the Asian Games for the foreign exposure while as Jiya Sharma picked from the Khelo India National League Wushu Championship considering her Gold medal.

All three included in the team at Cost to government. Other two players

## Man attempting to...

to be a former employee of the bank but dismissed in 2021 for his alleged involvement in a fraud. He entered the bank during working hours on Monday and managed to hide inside the false ceiling, an official said.

However, he failed to hack the bank's security system as he tried to transfer the money, alerting the officials, they said.

The local police station was immediately informed and the accused arrested, he said. The officials said Abrar is being questioned to ensure that no other bank employee was involved in the attempted robbery.

## Defamation case: No...

The former Congress president had prayed in the HC for stay of conviction, which if granted, will pave the way for his reinstatement as a Member of Parliament.

Justice Prachchhak said he will pass a final order only after going through the records and proceedings, and posted the matter for verdict after reopening of the HC post- summer vacation, which will be from May 8 to June 3.

Advocate Nirupam Nanavati, who appeared for Gujarat Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Purnesh Modi, the original complainant in the case, opposed Singhvi's prayer for interim relief to the Opposition politician who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019.

Being a leader of a national political party, which has ruled the country for over 40 years, Gandhi must "learn a lesson" that using abusive language for his political opponents cannot be tolerated, the counsel for Purnesh Modi said.

If Gandhi cannot apologise for his defamatory utterances, then he should also not approach the court with prayer for relief for stay of conviction, Nanavati said.

Nanavati said even after the pronouncement of conviction and his subsequent disqualification as an MP, Gandhi continued to stand by his statement and refused to apologise, and cited a newspaper report in which the Congress leader had said he will not apologise as he is a "Gandhi and not Veer Savarkar".

"His public stand, and his stand in the courtroom are different. If this is your public stand, then whatever the matter -- disqualification, sentence or conviction -- you motor mouth and speak whatever, then don't come (to the court) with a prayer. You are well within your right not to apologise, nobody will compel you to apologise," he said.

"Either you stick to your stand -- which is your public stand -- or say that I spoke but I never meant that, I never intended that, never wanted to defame anyone," Nanavati said.

Nanavati said Gandhi neither apologised before the commencement of the trial in Surat nor said sorry or expressed regret and offered no explanation even during hearing on sentencing.

"Coincidentally, the surname of the Prime Minister of the country is also Modi. What message are you giving by this utterance to the world -- that an Opposition leader of India brands the PM as a thief in a public rally attended by thousands of people? Is this the language?" he asked during his submission.

Nanavati said Gandhi is facing 12 criminal defamation cases for his remarks in different courts across the country.

He said it is Parliament which made the law regarding disqualification of an MP.

"Parliament says it (his crime) is serious, and it involves moral turpitude. And the application of such an offender cannot be considered for stay of conviction," he said.

Nanavati said, "Seriousness of offence is considered by Parliament (for disqualification). Disqualification is because of the operation of law and not judgment. The court's function has ended but it is a law enacted by Parliament which deals with disqualification."

In his final arguments, Gandhi's lawyer Singhvi said per se, the category for defamation makes it the simplest offence, and CrPC section 389 (for stay of conviction) will not find "a simpler conviction to suspend than defamation which is non-cognizable, which is simple imprisonment, bailable and not anti-society."

"If there is a classic offence which is the mildest form of offence which must lead to section 389 suspension then it is this," said the senior counsel.

Singhvi said a parliamentarian has a greater "irreversible prejudice" than a non-MP convict, because the former happens to lose his seat due to two-year imprisonment, "and that is a point in my favour and not against me for relief under section 389 (of CrPC)."

"It is wrong to think that the moment you are convicted, Parliament becomes a barred area for you. Under a controlled condition, you are entitled to be in Parliament, and that controlled condition now is suspension," Singhvi said.

As far as the original complainant, a former Gujarat minister, is concerned, he was offended by a remark in which he was not mentioned, he said and added politicians must develop a thicker skin.

"Thick skin is a great attribute and a great virtue in public life...This whole approach that he being an ex-minister involved in public life should be more protected, just the opposite is true. As they say, if you go into public life, you are submitting yourself to the brickbats of public life and be more thick skinned," Singhvi said.

He said there was hardly any instance in criminal defamation where an accused was convicted, and none sentenced to more than 3-6 months in jail.

"To say that maximum punishment is desirable -- what is it desirable for? He (Gandhi) is a first-time offender, how is maximum punishment desirable to him? And how many defamation cases have you found where two years (sentence) is imposed?" Singhvi asked.

The HC heard Gandhi's appeal against the Surat sessions court's order last month refusing to stay his conviction in the case after the trial court on March 23 sentenced him to two years in jail under IPC sections 499 and 500 (criminal defamation), leading to his disqualification as an MP.

BJP MLA Modi had filed a criminal defamation case against Gandhi over his "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" remark made during an election rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019.

## Congress locked up...

which is believed by many to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman. The BJP has decided to build a grand Hanuman temple at Anjanadri hill and develop the region.

Accusing the Congress of widening the "rift" between urban and rural areas, Modi said everywhere people have rejected Congress, which once boasted of ruling the country from panchayat to Parliament.

"Congress today is reduced to just three states where it is in majority. Its greed for corruption is never ending in these three states and now it has set its eyes on the income of people of Karnataka and make the state an ATM of its loot," he alleged.

## PIL relates to regulation of traffic to provide access to the Ambulances on different routes in Kashmir DB appoint Div Com Kashmir as Nodal officer, directs to file affidavit

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation relates to regulation of traffic to provide access to the Ambulances on different routes in Kashmir, A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, observed that in view of involvement of various departments, who may have different views, it will be appropriate that a Nodal Officer be appointed, who will give a consistent view on behalf of the various agencies

before this Court.

DB appointed Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to be the Nodal Officer, who may file the comprehensive affidavit on behalf of the respondents, based on the inputs received from the various departments, so that there is unanimity and consistency in the stand taken by the respondents and directed the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir will file the affidavit taking into consideration various averments/assurances/undertakings made by the respondents in this Public Interest Litigation.

from J&K, Priyanshu Chib and Aman have been short-listed at No Cost to Government.

In total, Sports Authority of India (SAI) sanctioned 34 members team for the championship comprising of 19 members from Junior and rest from Asian Games probable.

Also National Chief Coach, Kuldeep Handoo flagged the selected players for Moscow and wished them success.

The Congress is governing the states of Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

Ridiculing the 'guarantee' schemes of the Congress, he charged that the party, which has lost the trust of people and whose existence itself is in danger, can only lie in the name of guarantees.

Congress does not have the track record of fulfilling the guarantees but to loot the poor, Modi alleged.

"Congress had given the guarantee to wipe out poverty. The poverty did not reduce during the Congress rule but the Congress leaders became millionaires and billionaires," the Prime Minister alleged.

He also said the Congress is an "85 per cent commission government".

According to him, the whole world is looking at India to play a major role as the country became the globe's fifth largest economy and is aiming to break into the top three.

In this journey, Karnataka has to play the role of a leader and hence, this state has to be made number one. The Prime Minister told the crowd that the BJP is committed to make Karnataka a number one state and "I pray for the accomplishment of this vow by bowing by head at the feet of Lord Hanuman".

"BJP will never let anyone damage the honour and culture of Karnataka," Modi vowed to the crowd.

He said the Vijayanagara dynasty and its history are the pride of India. Invoking the name of the glorious ruler of Vijayanagara dynasty, he said Sri Krishnadeva Raya with his resources immortalised this region and had strengthened business ties with various countries and had made the culture of Karnataka famous worldwide.

Modi said the Government of India is inspired by the Vijayanagara dynasty and is moving ahead in the path shown by Sri Krishnadeva Raya.

"The entire world is proud of Hampi but the Congress with its mindset filled with slavery never ever showed its pride towards the history and legacy of India, due to which the places like Hampi had to bear the loss," Modi claimed.

He added that the BJP government at the Centre published the picture of stone-made chariot of Hampi in the new Rs 50 currency notes.

## Senior police, civil...

Singh chaired a meeting which was attended by functionaries of different departments besides the representatives of Mata Kheer Bhawani Committee, the spokesperson said.

The Yatra will start on May 26 after its flagging off from Nagrota here, the Committee members informed the meeting and called for making available hassle-free transportation services for the pilgrims.

Kheer Bhawani melas are organised at five shrines -- Ragnya Bhagwati at Tulumulla in central Kashmir's Ganderbal, Manzgam and Devsar in Kulgam and Logripora in Anantnag and Tikkar in Kupwara.

Among these temples, the Tulumulla temple nestled in the shade of mammoth Chinara trees witnesses massive gatherings with pandits settled in and outside Kashmir visiting the shrine to seek the blessings of the presiding deity in one of the biggest religious functions of the displaced community.

The spokesperson said a threadbare discussion was held regarding the arrangements for Yatra with a major focus on transportation facilities for devotees and security arrangements.

The Committee members listed different requirements for the smooth conduct of the Yatra from Jammu to Mata Kheer Bhawani temple at Ganderbal district, he said, adding it was informed that the advance party of the management committee will move on May 22 for making arrangements at the temple.

The DC directed the Relief Commissioner and JK Roads Transport Corporation to deploy an adequate number of buses to ferry the pilgrims to the temple.

Kumar also issued directions for effective traffic regulation and foolproof security arrangements for the safety of the pilgrims, the spokesperson said.

He said the health department has been asked to establish medical camps and make arrangements for an ambulance at Government Higher Secondary School Nagrota, the Yatra flag-off venue.

The DC instructed the Deputy Commissioners of Udhampur and Ramban to make community kitchen arrangements in designated places near Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The Deputy Commissioner of Ramban was also told to ensure that road clearance machinery is in place in case of landslides or road blockades, the spokesperson said.

## Four SEs, 18...

SE Abdul Wheed Iqbal has been transferred from PHE Mech. Circle North Srinagar and posted to PHE Mech. Circle South Srinagar; SE Fayaz Ahmad Patiguroo from PHE Mech. Circle South Srinagar to I&FC Mech. Circle, Srinagar; SE Prithi Pal Singh, awaiting orders of posting, to PHE Mech. Circle North Srinagar; SE Sandeep Dogra, awaiting orders of posting, to PHE Mech. Urban Circle Jammu.

As per another order, XEn Rajinder Kumar Trisal has been transferred from Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar and posted to Office of the Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir; XEn Ramesh Kumar Kesar from PHE Mech. Division Kathua to Office of Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu; XEn Kashmir Singh from PHE Mech Div. Udhampur to PHE Mech. Div. South Jammu; XEn Vijay Suman Gupta from PHE Mech. Div. South Jammu to PHE Mech. Div. Udhampur; XEn Mohammad Iqbal Kirmani from Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla to Jal Shakti QC&P Division Srinagar; XEn Mamohan Singh from PHE Mech. Division Rajouri to Mech. Irrigation Construction Division Srinagar; XEn Mohammad Amin from PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar to Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K.

XEn Rakesh Bhatti, awaiting orders of posting, has been posted to PHE Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu; XEn K.K. Chopra, awaiting orders of posting, to PHE Mech. Division Kathua; XEn Dalip Wali, awaiting orders of posting, to Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K; XEn Atul Chib, awaiting orders of posting, to Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division Jammu; XEn Manzoor Ahmad Dar, awaiting orders of posting to PHE Mech. Rural Division, Srinagar; XEn Mohammad Farooq Khan, awaiting orders of posting, to Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla; XEn Manoj Gupta, awaiting orders of posting, to PHE Mech. Division Rajouri; XEn Jagtar Krishan Singh, awaiting orders of posting, to Mech. Div. RTIC Kathua; XEn Anitabh Manhas, awaiting orders of posting, to Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla; XEn Hakeem Mushtaq Ahmad, awaiting orders of posting, to PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar; XEn Chander Sheikh, awaiting orders of posting has been posted to PHE Mech. Div. Srinagar.

## CBI seizes Rs 20 crore from premises of ex-CMD of WAPCOS, files case

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Tuesday recovered a whopping Rs 20 crore in cash from the premises of Rajinder Kumar Gupta, former chairman and managing director (CMD) of WAPCOS Limited, and booked him and his family for allegedly accumulating illicit wealth, officials said.

The CBI has filed the FIR against Gupta, his wife Reema Singal, son Gaurav Singal, and daughter-in-law Komal Singal, for amassing assets disproportionate to known sources of income during Gupta's tenure from

April 01, 2011 to March 31, 2019, they said.

The CBI teams fanned across 19 locations in Delhi, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Sonipat, and Ghaziabad in a coordinated search operation leading to detection of staggering wealth.

During the searches, the agency seized Rs 20 crore in cash, a significant quantity of jewellery, valuable items, and property documents, a CBI spokesperson said.

The spokesperson stated that it was also alleged that Gupta and his family had started a consultancy business after his retirement

from service in the name of a private company based in Delhi.

The alleged immovable properties of the accused consist of flats, commercial properties, and a farm house spread across Delhi, Gurugram, Panchkula, Sonipat, and Chandigarh, he said.

WAPCOS Limited, previously known as Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, is a central public sector enterprise wholly owned by the government and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

## J&K spiker's motivational address at DU

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Address of international volleyball player from Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, Saqlain Tariq turned out to be a motivational and encouraging speech for the students and participants of annual sports meet of Faculty of Law, University of Delhi (DU). Saqlain as invited as chief guest by the Law Center-2, Faculty of Law, DU at the valedictory of three-day sports meet. The event was attended by students, faculty, staff and guests.

"We were honored to have Saqlain Tariq, international volleyball player at our event as chief guest. Saqlain delivered an inspiring keynote address that motivated and encouraged our students to pursue their goals with passion and

determination. The audience was captivated by his insights and the relevance of his message," said Yasser Shabir Chowdhary, Joint Secretary Sports, Law center-2, Faculty of Law, DU. The annual sports event included a wide range of sports and activities, including Volleyball, Cricket and Athletics. The event was competitive, yet friendly, with students showcasing their skills and talents in a spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. "We would like to express our gratitude to Saqlain Tariq for taking the time to attend our event and for sharing his knowledge and expertise with our students. We would also like to thank all the participants and attendees for making the event a success," further said Chowdhary.