Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Govt sets up panel for appointment of

India beat Singapore 3-0 in third AVC Women's Challenge Cup

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

chairman JKBOSE, Director JKSCERT

# J&K Admn sacks 9 Govt employees over corruption charges

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday sacked nine govemployees, including five officers, on corruption charges.

All the employees have been sacked under 226(2) Article of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations which allows the administration to retire government employees any time after completing 22 years of service or attaining the age of 48 years, an official said.

They all belonged to the Housing and Urban Development Department.

"The charges against the sacked officials were confirmed by the departmental committees and upheld by the designated review committee under article 226(2), including misappropriation of funds, falsification of records and raising fake bills and allowing illegal construc-

tions, and making illegal appointments," the official

Dogri version of Satish Verma's book 'Pakistan

Ki Haqeeqat' gets Sahitya Akademi Award

According to the official, most of the officials have faced probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and were also suspended by the government.

Those sacked include Mehraj-ud-din Buja, Incharge Senior Building Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, who as Head Assistant Revenue Section, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, was arrested by Vigilance Organization Kashmir in a trap case; Ghulam Mohiud-Din Malik, who during his posting as in charge of EO Municipal Council Anantnag was involved in misappropriation, irregularities in financial transactions, illegal constructions, gross negligence and Shabir misconduct: Ahmad Wani, Assistant posting as In-charge CEO Council Municipal Anantnag was involved in misappropriation, illegal constructions, irregularities in financial transactions, gross negligence, and misconduct; Zakir Ali, Sanitary Supervisor, MC Doda; Abdul Latief, Head Assistant, MC Banihal and Sukesh Kumar, Senior Assistant, MC Doda were involved in financial mismanagement by the drawal of fictitious bills against

Safaiwallas The other three employees of the Housing and Urban Development Department ousted for alleged corruption include Tugoo Gowhar All Secretary, Incharge Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir was involved in cases regarding illegal appointments and financial irregularities made during his

non-existing

Shagufta Fazil, Secretary Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir who was found involving in embezzlement and unauthorized withdrawal of TA and 7th Pay Commission arrears and Thakur Dass, Electrician, Municipal Committee Reasi was involved in huge case of embezzlement of funds and financial mismanagement

Article 226(2) of the J&K

Civil Services Regulations, 1956, essentially invoked to remove dead wood from the government services, allows the Government employees to be retired in "public interest" upon completing or 22 years of qualifying service or attaining 48 years of age. The Article js essentially meant to help in removal of deadwood from the government. The employees are retired with a three months notice or three months of pay. However, they retain pen-

#### **Govt notifies draft** rules under Central **Land Acquisition Act** ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In terms of J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, the Central Land Acquisition Act. "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013)" has been made applicable to the Union Territory of Government of

Government of Jammu ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### Narco-terror module of LeT busted in Budgam

Jammu & Kashmir. The

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Friday busted a Lashkare-Taiba narco-terror funding module by arresting four terrorist associates and recovering explosives, ammunition and vehicles from them, police said.

A police spokesman said preliminary investigation revealed the arrested terrorist associates were involved in providing logistical support to the proscribed

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# J&K to host G-20 meetings in 2023

Constitution was withdrawn

and it was divided into two

union territories in August

In September last year,

Union Commerce and

Industry Minister Piyush

Goyal was appointed as

India's Sherpa for the G20.

The Ministry of External

Affairs had said that India

will hold the G20 presidency

from December 1, 2022, and

will convene the G20 leaders'

2019.

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

NEW DELHI: In a significant development, Jammu and Kashmir will be hosting the 2023 meetings of G-20, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies, with the Union Territory government Thursday setting up a fivemember high level committee for overall coordination.

This will be the first major international summit to be held in Jammu and Kashmir after the erstwhile state's special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the

summit in 2023 for the first time. According to an official urban development department principal secretary will be the chairman of the committee which was formed in response to a June 4 communication from the Ministry of External Affairs. "Sanction is hereby accord-

Territory's housing and

ed to the constitution of a committee...for overall coordination of G-20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory of J&K,"the order issued Principal

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### 2002 Guj riots: SC upholds SIT clean chit to Modi

order issued here on

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DELHI: Supreme Court on Friday upheld the SIT's clean chit to the then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the 2002 communal riots in the state, saying there is no tittle of material to show the violence after the Godhra train carnage was

The allegations were estab-

lished during the probe of

verification which resulted

into the registration of FIR

No. 12/2018 u/s 5(1) (c), 5

(1) (d) r/w 5 (2) of J&K PC

Act Svt. 2006 and section

467, 468, 471, 201 & 120-

B/RPC P/S VOJ against

Krishan Kumar, son of Late

Uttam Chand, resident of H.

No. 359 Channi Himat

Jammu, T. R. Padha, son of

criminal conspiracy allegedly hatched at the "highest level" in the state.

Observing that inaction or failure of some officials of one section of the administration cannot be the basis to readily infer a pre-planned criminal conspiracy by the authorities or to term it as a state-sponsored

plea by slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia. terming it as "devoid of mer-

nity, the court dismissed a

Bringing the curtains down on the bid to reopen the probe into the 2002 riots, a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar also spoke of the devious stratagem to

CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### NIA carries out searches at 14 locations in terror conspiracy cases in J&K

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three days after registering a suo motu case to investigate a conspiracy by terror groups to target minorities and pilgrimages including the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, the NIA Friday carried out multiple searches in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said

The searches were carried out at 14 locations in Baramulla, Pulwama, Anantnag and Budgam districts in the Kashmir valley and Kathua district in the Jammu region, a spokesperson for the National Investigation

#### Tapan Kumar Deka made IB chief, Samant Goel gets another year as R&AW chief STATÉ TIMES NEWS

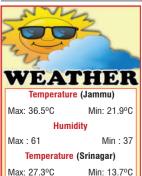
NEW DELHI: Tapan Kumar Deka, the "crisis man" who was put in charge of the counter-assaults during the 26/11 Mumbai attack, was on Friday appointed the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) while the tenure of Samant Goel, who has been heading the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been extended by one more year.

Deka, who has been handling the operations wing of the IB, takes over as the new chief for a tenure of two years, according to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry. He is a 1988 batch officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre.

He takes over from Arvinda Kumar, who will demit his office on June 30 after getting a one-year extension last year.

The fate of A S Rajan, a 1987 batch IPS officer. Special Director in

**■ CONTD ON PAGE 9** 



Sunset: 19:42 Hours

Sunrise: 05:24 Hours

Max: 73

Agency (NIA) said. The spokesperson incriminating including digital devices have been seized during the daylong raids.

Sanitation Officer, MC

Shopian, who during his

"The case relates to terror conspiracy hatched by Pakistan-based commanders of proscribed terrorist organisations for furtherance of the terrorist activities by way of targeting minorities, security personnel and religious pilgrimages including holy Shri Amaranthji Yatra, Shri Vaishno Devi Yatra and other similar religious activities." the NIA said. The spokesper-

CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### ACB produces chargesheet against ex-AD, **TSO** for misappropriation of funds Organization served as material evidence.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu wing on Friday produced chargesheet against the then Assistant Director and then Tehsil Supply Officer, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Udhampur against misappropriation of government money.

ACB spokesperson said, "Anti-Corruption Bureau produced charge-sheet in case FIR No. 12/2018 u/s 5(1) (e), 5 (1) (d) r/w 5 (2) of J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and section 467, 468, 471, 201 & 120-B/RPC Police Station Jammu (VOJ) now ACB in the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Udhampur against Krishan Kumar, then Udhampur and Subash Chander Gupta, then Tehsil Supply Officer, Majouri, Udhampur, Department of Food, Civil Supplies &

"The instant case was registered on the basis of outcome of the verification conducted Vigilance  $_{
m the}$ Organization Jammu (now ACB). During enquiry it has been found that officers/offiofFCS&CA

Consumer Affairs.

Department, Udhampur by abuse of their officials position, fraudulently and dishonestly misappropriated Govt money on account of incidental charges to the tune of Rs. 92,51,021.75 during the period commencing from January 2007 to March 2008 thereby causing loss to the State exchequer, spokesperson said.

Spokesperson further said. "Verification also reveals that the officers/ officials of FCS&CA Department have deliberately destroyed the record pertaining to the disbursement of aforementioned amount which could have

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Corruption charges framed against 4 RDD officials including BDO, JE

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Anticorruption Jammu Ritesh Dubey on Friday framed corruption charges against several officials of the Rural Development Department for fraudulent withdrawal of payment.

According to the VOJ (now ACB), the Challan under FIR No. 09/2011 P/S VOJ U/S 5 (1) (d) r/w 5 (2) J&K PC Act 2006 and section 419,420,465, 467,468,471, 120-RPC, was produced in the Court of Spl Judge Anti-Corruption Court Jammu. against Sita Ram, the then BDO Bishnah, Sunil

Kumar, then JE Bishnah, Subash Chander, then VLW and Kewal Krishan, then Accountant/Cashier, posted in the Office of BDO Bishnah.

The accused entered into a criminal conspiracy and in pursuance thereof, fraudulently withdrew payment to the tune of Rs 4.98 lakh against the construction of lane and drain at village Chak Hassal. Bishnah in the name of one Ashok Kumar of Chak Hassal, tehsil Bishnah on the basis of his fake signatures and also misappropriated an amount of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## LG visits Baltal, Pahalgam; reviews preparedness, inaugurates DRDO hospital for quality healthcare

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

GANDERBAL/ANANT NAG: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday, in a day-long tour, visited both the Baltal and Pahalgam Axis of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and reviewed the preparedness and response mechanism of all the stakeholder departments during the visit.

The Lt Governor also conducted on-site inspection of facilities on travel routes of Baltal & Pahalgam and chaired review meetings at the base camps which discussed lodging, health care, communication network,



LG Manoj Sinha during his visit to Baltal and Pahalgam.

sanitation, water supply, weather forecasting, emergency response, fire safety and all other basic necessi

At Baltal, the Lt Governor

inaugurated 70-bedded fully-

equipped DRDO hospital for

quality healthcare services to

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris.

The Hospital, funded CONTD ON PAGE 9

### J&K logs 54 fresh COVID cases, Ladakh 5

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday reported 54 new cases of COVID-19, taking the overall infection tally in the union territory to 4,54,677, officials said here. While Jammu division reported 35 cases, Kashmir valley recorded 19, they said. The death toll due to the virus in the union territory

was reported in the past 24 hrs, they said. There are total 250 active cases of COVID-19 in the union territory, they said.

stood at 4,755 as no fatality

The number of recoveries till Friday stand at 4,49,672. Total 51 confirmed

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Asa Ram Padha, resident of Patel Nagar, Tehsil Kathua, the then Assistant Directors. FCS&CA Department, Udhampur, Subash

# **Bribery Case: Court grants interim** bail to JMC Corporator Joyti Devi

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Judge Sessions Anticorruption Jammu Ritesh Dubey on Friday granted interim bail to Joyti Devi Corporator, Ward number 53 (Trikuta Nagar) of Jammu Municipal

Corporation.

Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Anticorruption Ritesh Dubey, after hearing Sr. Adv M.K Bhardwaj appearing for the applicant, observed that there is no doubt that the accused are alleged to have committed the offence of demand and acceptance of bribe which is



highly serious and antisocial, and that too by a public representative, yet I have given a little consideration to the fact that the IO has stated that the applicant Jyoti Devi was neither present on

the spot nor accepted the bribe money. Without being meant as observations on the merits of rival submissions, and for the purpose of present application only, it is further noteworthy that the mulba clearance certificate has not been signed by the said accused. The submission that the same was not written by her, and actually written by the contractor himself is a matter of evidence, and need not be commented at this stage. However, it is clear that the same was not ready for its delivery to the complainant on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### fout of bounds' for Jammu Hindus Jammu inclusive for all; Kashmir

JAMMU: A raging undercurrent is discernible across Jammu post Article 370 abrogation that why the Hindus of this side of the Banihal Tunnel are not encouraged to buy lands for residential purposes in the Valley notwithstanding over one lakh accommodations of the majority community from Kashmir having reportedly come up around the city of temples during the past three decades (in addition to the houses constructed by the migrant Kashmiri Panidts). The Hindus of Jammu too want to have residential facilities in the Valley to cool their boots during scorching summers like the Muslims of Kashmir do by cozying themselves in the warmth of Jammu during harsh Valley winters. Being the subjects of the same Union Territory, the Jammu Hindus too aspire to establish businesses in the tourism-rich Kashmir for sustenance and growth. Any issue? The government needs to answer, as Jammu Hindus are not outsiders-a phobia with the Valley based so-called mainstream political parties

Jammu has unequivocally demonstrated their 'big heart' by making this land of Dogras all inclusive and. therefore, why should the Valley be averse to inclusiveness or 'out of bound' for the Hindus of Jammu. The onus lies on the apolitical UT administration, which should now work on exchange of cultures and

ethnicities rather than focusing on 'Kashmiri Migrant settlements' alone. Such a move will not only be in the larger interest of national integration but also to break the iron curtain drawn by radicals, who want Kashmir to be the epicentre of radicalism--free of infidels or Kafirs. For themselves, they want to have the best of both worlds

The recent selective killings of KP PM Package employee Rahul Bhat and Jammu based teacher Rajni Devi have necessitated such a measure, more than ever before. There were many of the targeted killings to scare away minorities in the recent past. Raniit Singh of Rajouri, one of the four injured non-Kashmiri Hindu employees of a wine

shop in Baramulla in a terror attack, succumbed to his injuries on May 17. The other three injured Hindu employees were Govind Singh from Rajouri, Goverdan Singh and Ravi Kumar, both from Kathua Prior to this, on April 13, a non Kashmiri Pandit Satish Kumar Singh became target of the radical fanatics on April 13, nearly four months after a non-Kashmiri Hindu teacher Deepak Chand, who along with his local Sikh lady Principal Supinder Kaur were segregated from all their local colleagues and shot dead barbarically.

The issue here is not to count the dead bodies of hapless and innocent Hindus in the Valley but the larger point remains that why should Kashmir be a forbidden land for non-Kashmiri Hindus of the Jammu region-part and parcel of the erstwhile state

and the present Union Territory? The current Kashmir society, irrespective of political affiliations or economic conditions, is appreciative of the Jammu's pluralistic ethos because it reconciled with the subtle demo-

graphic change. According to a report prepared by a

Jammu based NGO Ikkjut-'as part of a statesponsored effort to convert Jammu into a Muslim-majority province so that it could be

made more like Kashmir, legislative and executive interventions were made to achieve this objective. It says migration was induced through specific policies. Dubious NGOs who receive funds from Islamic countries helped Muslims buy property in Hindu dominated localities. As a consequence, a ring of Muslim colonies has been formed around Jammu. Ikkjut says that the Waqf Board has also been accused of illegally capturing lands from poor people. Thousands of Kanals of land from the poor people of Jammu have

been illegally captured by the Waqf and allotted to people from 'Samuday Vishesh' (a particular community). Stunningly, the NGO says that 100,000 residential accommodations have been constructed for a particular community around Jammu since 1990 According to demographic experts, the organisation claims, the Hindu character of Jammu will no longer remain intact in the next few decades and it will become a Muslim majority region.

To reverse the wrongs, the gubernatorial administration should show its will and grit in drawing a roadmap

for retrieving Kashmir from radical tentacles The self-styled mainstream leaders of the Valley-the beneficiaries of the Jammu hospitality and big heart edness-- should also step in by stopping the rants of Kashmir being incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits or adopting resolutions for their return. They should in fact, work towards making the Valley all inclusive with equitable presence of the Jammu Hindus, which will be a pragmatic solution to erase the footprints of alien radical culture reinforced during the past 32 years. They should shun the hypocrisy of enjoying free environs of Jammu and close down the Valley for the Hindus of the Jammu region, even if it remains restricted to earning their livelihood as of now.

(To be continued)