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Malik now Goa guv, Murmu to be J&K LG

R K Mathur Will Be LG Of Ladakh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ahead of the formal reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into a separate Union Territory along with Ladakh on October 31, the Centre moved governor Satya Pal Malik to Goa and appointed a serving and a retired bureaucrat as lieutenant governors of the two UTs.

While expenditure secretary Girish Chandra Murmu, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, was named LG of the UT of J&K, retired 1977 batch bureaucrat Radha Krishna Mathur, a former chief information commissioner, will take over as LG of Ladakh.

Malik's stint saw the decision to do away with J&K's special status and the reorganisation of the state, which was followed by 70-odd days of complete mobile and internet lockdown that has only been partially lifted. Malik's appointment,



A security personnel keeps vigil at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Friday

given his socialist background, was watched with interest and the governor attracted attention for his free-wheeling comments that could be scathing of separatists and regular politicians and at times seemed to exceed his brief as governor of a sensitive state.

Only two days ago, he had commented that the position of governor was that of a weak person who "cannot hold a press conference or talk his heart out". "I keep worrying for three days if someone in Delhi got angry with me after my lecture," Malik was quoted as saying.

Murmu had served as principal secretary to PM Narendra Modi during his

stint as chief minister of Gujarat. His background in the finance ministry is expected to come in handy as the Centre rolls out schemes and incentives aimed at welfare of people in J&K and as assets and resources are divided between the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Mathur, who belonged to Tripura cadre, was CIC between January 2016 and November 2018, after having retired as defence secretary in May 2013. In another appointment, BJP leader P S Sreedharan Pillai was named governor of Mizoram and long-serving J&K interlocutor Dinesh Sharma was named administrator of Lakshadweep.

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