

**Neelbha**  
Multispeciality Institute  
Dr. Shitiz Gupta  
M.S., M.Ch.(Plastic Surgery)  
Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon  
Dr. Shikha Dhawan  
M.S.(Obs. & Gynae.), D.N.B.(Obs. & Gynae.)  
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist  
24-A, Shastril Nagar  
(at Dr. Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jammu.  
9419114877

# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

RNI No. : 66908/96  
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24  
Vol. 29 Issue 82 • Jammu • Saturday • March 23, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00  
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

**J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
KUNJWANI, JAMMU  
The School with a Difference  
30  
SOWING SKILLS  
SHAPING INDIA

**03 Congress abandoned Mantalai project, Modi revived it: Dr Jitendra**

**03 Consumption, trade of narcotics are worst possible crime against humanity: SP City South**

**10 JKPS Kunjwani shines in 11th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship 2023-24**

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

## India to stand by Bhutan's quest for development: Modi



PM Narendra Modi receiving warm welcome by people at a grand ceremony held at the Tendrelhang, Thimphu, in Bhutan.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
THIMPHU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday assured Bhutan's top leadership that India will stand by the Himalayan kingdom in its quest for development and that their unique bilateral ties would create avenues for greater cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure, trade and energy sectors.

Prime Minister Modi is here on a two-day State visit to further cement India's unique relations with Bhutan as part of India's 'Neighbourhood First' Policy. The two countries exchanged several MoUs and signed agreements in the fields of energy, trade, digital connectivity, space and agriculture, and finalised the

MoU on the establishment of rail links between the two nations. Modi called on the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and held talks with Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay. "Glad to have met His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. We talked about

ways to improve bilateral relations between our nations," Modi posted on X. "In Bhutan, held productive talks with PM @tsheringtobgay. We reviewed the complete range of India-Bhutan friendship, and agreed to boost our developmental partnership as well as deepen cultural linkages," he wrote on his meeting with his Bhutanese counterpart. This was Modi's second meeting with his Bhutanese counterpart this month. Kejrival visited New Delhi last week, his first foreign trip after assuming the charge of the top office in January. Modi said the MoUs and agreements will add momentum to India-Bhutan relations. "To fulfil your goals, India stands with you for BB - Brand Bhutan and Bhutan Believe. I assure you that the upcoming 5 years will

CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Court sends Kejrival to 7-day ED custody in excise scam case

AAP chief 'kingpin and key conspirator', alleges ED

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was on Friday remanded in Enforcement Directorate's custody till March 28, a day after the central agency arrested him in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy "scam", in a huge setback to an icon of the anti-corruption movement of 2013 and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Kejrival was arrested on Thursday after he had skipped as many as nine ED summonses asking him to appear before it to answer questions about alleged illegalities in formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was eventually scrapped amid allegations of corruption. Special judge for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases Kaveri Baweja ordered



the ED to bring Kejrival back to court on March 28 at 2 p.m. The court remanded Kejrival in ED custody for six days after the agency pressed for his custodial interrogation for 10 days while accusing the AAP national convener of not cooperating with the investigation. It said Kejrival needed to be confronted with the other accused and evidence that the federal anti-money laundering probe agency has gathered. With Kejrival's arrest, AAP, the governing party in Delhi and Punjab, has been shorn of a host of leaders who could have led the party's campaign in the general elections. His once deputy Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, a vocal and articulate leader, are already behind bars in the excise policy case. "My life is dedicated to the service of the nation whether I am inside or outside (jail)," Kejrival told TV9 Network while he was being produced in the court in his first reac-

tion after arrest. The ED told Special Judge Kaveri Baweja at the Rouse Avenue court that Kejrival received several crores of rupees as kickbacks from the 'South Group' for formulating and implementing the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. He demanded Rs 100 crore from some accused from the 'South Group' for contesting elections, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju told the court. The law officer said the money trail showed that Rs 45 crore "kickback" used in the Goa assembly elections came from four hawala routes. He said the statements of the accused and witnesses have been corroborated by Call Detail Records (CDR). The central agency alleged Kejrival was culpable in the case not only as an individual but was vicariously responsible for the actions of his

CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Bhutan's highest civilian award for Modi another proud moment for Bharat: Shah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday hailed the conferment of Bhutan's highest civilian award, Order of the Druk Gyalpo, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying it is a fitting accolade for the man whose diplomatic vision has elevated India to the role of a robust yet compassionate nation in the global arena.



Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck presented the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' to Modi at an event held in Thimphu. Modi, who is on a visit to Bhutan, is the first foreign

head of the government to receive the honour. "It is another proud moment for Bharat as PM @narendramodi Ji has been conferred with the Order of the Druk Gyalpo, Bhutan's highest civilian award, by His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. "This prestigious ceremony also makes Modi Ji the first foreign leader to be adorned with this award. It is a fitting accolade for Modi Ji, whose diplomatic vision has elevated India to the role of a robust yet compassionate nation in the global arena, making every Indian proud," Shah wrote on X. Modi was conferred the award in recognition of "his outstanding contribution to the growth of India-Bhutan relations and for his distinguished service to the Bhutanese nation and people".

## Jolt to Cong, HC dismisses pleas against tax reassessment proceedings

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a massive setback to the Congress party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed its pleas challenging the reassessment proceedings initiated against it by the Income Tax Department, saying the tax authority has collated "substantial and concrete" evidence warranting further scrutiny and examination. A bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Purushendra Kumar Kaurav said the party had challenged the assessment

proceedings at a belated stage as it is to be completed by March 31, 2024. The party filed the petitions only on March 19, it said. The high court said while the notice was issued to the party by the I-T Department on March 7, 2023, the satisfaction note by the assessing officer (AO) appeared to have been provided to the petitioner on June 28 and 30, 2023. The court said the statutory time-frames mandate assessment to be completed within 12 months from the time when the books of accounts or material are

handed over to the AO of the non-searched person. "This would mean that in the present case and taking the date of handing over or recordal of satisfaction as constituting the date from which that period is liable to be reckoned, the assessment is liable to be completed by March 31, 2024," the bench said. It said, "The writ petitioner has thus chosen to approach this court only a few days before the time for completion of assessment would expire and at the proverbial fag end of the proceedings. We consequently find no jus-

tification to interdict the assessment proceedings at this belated stage by invoking our jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution." The court, however, left open the question as to whether the delay in commencement of proceedings would be fatal to the assessment. It said on a prima facie examination, it is evident that the authorities appear to have collated substantial and concrete evidence warranting further scrutiny and examination under the I-T Act.

## Three more candidates file nomination for Udhampur LS seat

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Three more candidates on Friday filed their nomination papers from the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency for the first phase of Parliamentary elections scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir on April 19. The candidates, including Amit Kumar and Tilak Raj both from Bahujan Samaj Party besides Swarn Veer Singh Jaraal as Independent candidate, filed their nomination papers in the office of Returning Officer. With the filing of

CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Four arrested for stabbing man; key evidence recovered

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Police on Friday nabbed four persons wanted in attempt to murder case at Katra and recovered key evidences. As per details, on March 17, 2024 Police Station Katra received an information from reliable sources that some goons stabbed one Deepak Kumar alias Deepu, son of Both Raj, resident of Aghar Jitto, Katra with sharp edge weapon at Aghar Jitto Katra, leaving behind the injured in serious condition. Subsequently case FIR No. 82/2024 under section 307/341/34 IPC and 4/25 Arms Act registered at Police Station Katra and police swung into action and injured person shifted to CHC Katra for treatment. Sensing the gravity of incident SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma constituted a special team to trace out the accused at the earliest. Special team laid Nakas in and around the Katra town to arrest accused

## CS reviews functioning of ARI, Trainings Deptt



CS Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Friday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday had a detailed review of the working of Administrative Reforms, Inspections and Trainings (ARI & Trainings) Department of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides the Secretary, ARI and Trainings, the meeting was attended by HoDs and

other concerned officers of the Department. During this meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of different aspects of working of the department. He reviewed department's performance for the past year regarding administrative inspections, finalization of recruitment rules and printing services being extended to different government departments/organizations. Dulloo asked for devising updated proformas for carrying out inspections as per the concurrent needs. Secretary, ARI & Trainings,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Bihar Diwas celebrated in Raj Bhawan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan hosted Bihar Diwas celebration on Friday. Senior officials, Students and the residents of Bihar living in J&K UT were the special invitees on the occasion. While addressing the guests, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of Bihar on the auspicious day. He said since ancient times, Bihar was known as the centre of spirituality, education and made significant contribution to all aspects of vibrant art and culture of the country. The Lt Governor



LG Manoj Sinha addressing the guests during Bihar Diwas celebrations at Raj Bhawan Jammu on Friday.

also paid homage to the great personalities of Bihar and remembered their valuable contribution to India's free-

dom movement and the building of modern India.

## PILs on deaths on Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban, Mughal Road DB directs Expert Committee to visit vulnerable sites, submit report by April 22

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Expressing displeasure over delay in the visit of the Expert Committee, constituted by the Division Bench vide its order dated December 17, 2023 to visit the vulnerable spots on the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban/Mughal Road and to make recommendations before the Court by 2nd week of February, 2024, the Division Bench of Jammu and Kashmir-Ladakh (Jammu Wing), headed by the Chief Justice N. Kotishwar Singh and comprising Justice M.A. Chowdhary, on Friday directed the Committee to visit the sites for which the

Divisional Commissioner Jammu shall take necessary steps and submit a report thereof without any fail by the next date of hearing i.e. April 22, 2024. The directions came in the much publicised PILs highlighting the dance of death on the roads particularly on Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban National Highway and Mughal Road. When three clubbed PILs titled Intakhab Ahmed Qazi vs. U.T. of J&K and Ors., Bar Association Doda vs. U.T. of J&K and a letter turned PIL by a Social Activist Asif Iqbal Bhat came up for hearing, Advocate S.S. Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina,

Supriya Chouhan and Syed Majid Shah, appearing for the petitioners submitted that it is unfortunate that the Nodal Officer i.e. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu appointed by the Division Bench vide its Order dated December 17, 2023 has taken the directions of the court casually as the Nodal Officer failed to facilitate the inspection of the vulnerable sites of accidents through the Expert Committee constituted by the Division Bench. Advocate S. S. Ahmed vehemently argued that there is no end to the loss of lives on the roads particularly in the hilly terrains

of Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban and Mughal Road and in view of the non-serious attitude of the Nodal Officer, Advocate S.S. Ahmed sought his personal appearance before the Court. The Division Bench headed by Chief Justice N. Kotishwar Singh at this stage, expressed displeasure in the open Court with regard to the non-submission of the Status Report by the Nodal Officer in view of non-visit of the Expert Committee on the vulnerable sites of accidents of Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban and Mughal Road. There was no representation on behalf of UT of

J&K in the instant PIL highlighting rampant road accidents claiming many precious human lives and CGSC Eishan Dadhichi appeared vice DSGI Vishal Sharma. After considering the submissions of Advocate S.S. Ahmed, the Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice N. Kotishwar Singh categorically directed the Expert Committee to visit the sites for which the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu shall take necessary steps and submit a report thereof without any fail by the next date of hearing with an advance copy to the counsel for the other side.

## Intention behind bringing electoral bonds scheme was good, says Gadkari

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AHMEDABAD: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said it is not possible to run a political party without funds and added the Centre had introduced the electoral bonds scheme, now struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, in 2017 with a "good intention". The senior BJP leader said all political parties need to sit together and deliberate if the Supreme Court gives any further direction on the matter. He made the comments at an event organised by a media house in GIFT City near Gandhinagar. "When Arun Jaitley was (Union finance) minister, I

was part of that discussion (regarding electoral bonds). No party can survive without resources. In some countries, governments fund political parties. There is no such system in India. Thus, we chose this system of financing political parties," said Gadkari on a question about electoral bonds. He noted the main intention behind introducing electoral bonds was that political parties get funds directly,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**  
Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 29.2°C Min: 17.7°C  
Humidity  
Max: 71 Min: 49  
Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 15.2°C Min: 7.2°C  
Humidity  
Max: 94 Min: 63  
Sunset: 18:43 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:31 Hours