

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 28 Issue 100 • Jammu • Wednesday • April 12, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.50

**19** Jammu Mayor inspects preparedness for Baisakhi fair at Ranbir Canal

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

**Those entering Gazetted Engineering** Services in 'J&K' have reasons to complain of 'unfair' discrimination

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

2 women among 16 narco smugglers nabbed across J&K; haul of contraband seized



## MHA to convene crucial meet on J&K today

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will convene a crucial meeting on Jammu and Kashmir in Delhi on Wednesday to discuss ongoing preparations on G-20 summit, security situation and the developmental pace in the UT.

A top MHA official said that the Ministry has invited officials from J&K including LG Manoj Sinha, DGP Dilbagh Singh,

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# Union Minister, LG Sinha inspect Srinagar-Banihal section of NH-44 Delhi-Srinagar highway will increase tourist arrivals in J&K 4-fold: Gadkari



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari with LG Manoj Sinha inspecting Srinagar-Banihal section of NH-44 on Tuesday.

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

BANIHAL/JAMMU: There will be a four-fold rise in the footfall of tourists in Kashmir after the completion of the Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar highway, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

The minister for Road, Highways and Transport on Tuesday inspected a 924metre-long Banihal-Qazigund tunnel, which will bypass a nearly three-km landslide and accident-prone area in

Ramban district, and various road projects in the Union territory.

The completion of the tunnel will bring much relief to travellers by bypassing a nearly three-km landslide and accidentprone area in the Ramban district.

Flanked by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union ministers Jitendra Singh and Gen VK Singh, Gadkari also conducted a breakthrough of Sita Rama Passi Maroog via virtual

mode through a controlled blast in the

"After completion of this road in the next two years, the tourist arrival (in Jammu and Kashmir) will increase over 4 times. That will increase the number of resorts and restaurants to 9 in the Union territory)," Gadkari told reporters after an inspection of the tun-

The minister expressed confidence that after the completion of road projects, there will be a huge development, people will get employment and poverty will be eradicated in the Union territory.

"The lifeline (highway) will have socioeconomic benefits to Jammu and

"In Jammu and Kashmir, we are constructing road projects at a cost of Rs 1.25 lakh crore. There are 20 to 22 proposals of ropeways and cable cars worth Rs 25,000-30,000 crore that we are doing. It will have a 4-fold increase in the tourism of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir will be self-reliant and prosperous," he said. Referring to the work on the highways, he said there will be three roads **CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

# BJP will return to power by winning over 300 LS seats in 2024 polls: Shah

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DIBRUGARH (ASSAM): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that the BJP will

win more than 300 Lok Sabha seats across the country in next year's general elections and return to power for the third consecutive term with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the helm.

Addressing a rally in Dibrugarh, where he laid the foundation stone for the Upper Assam zonal

BJP office, Shah exuded confidence that the saffron party will win 12 out of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the northeastern state

"Narendra Modi will become the prime minister for the third consecutive term with the party winning over 300 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he

There are 543 seats in the lower house of the

Parliament.



scathing Launching a attack on the Congress, the senior BJP leader said, "Northeast was once considered a fortress of the Congress but despite Rahul Gandhi's yatra (Bharat Jodo Yatra), the party failed to perform well in the recent assembly elections in three

states in the region.'

recently held in Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland. The BJP formed the government

in Tripura, and came in power as alliance partners in the other two

Shah thanked the people of Assam, which was the first in the Northeast to give mandate to the

Alluding to Rahul Gandhi's controversial remarks during his visit to United

Kingdom, Shah, who arrived from neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh, said, "He (Gandhi) insulted India from foreign soil. If he continues defaming the country and the government by peddling lies, Congress will be white-washed from the entire country just like the

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# Dr Sumedha murder case: Five-member SIT reconstituted

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted earlier by the Jammu district police was reconstituted on Tuesday to investigate the murder of Dr. Sumedha, a local girl who was murdered by Johan Ganai on March 7, 2023 in Janipur area. Issuing an order in this

regard, Jammu SSP Chandan Kohli has appointed SP Headquarters Jammu Ramnish Gupta as in-charge of the SIT. Apart from this, SDPO Jammu City South Sharma, SDPO Domana Vishal Shoor, SHO Bakshi Nagar and SHO

## Kashmir to enjoy snow and sunshine STATE TIMES NEWS

SONAMARG: A large number of tourists are visiting Kashmir to enjoy the heady mix of snow-clad mountains and bright sunshine in the union territory, away from the summer heat in the other parts of the country.

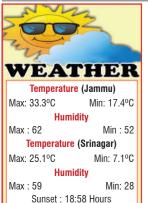
"I had imagined the beauty of Kashmir from my childhood ... And this place is certainly more beautiful than I imagined," Balarata Patra, a Kolkata resident, told PTI here, 85 kilometres from Srinagar on the highway to Ladakh.

Patra said while she is enjoying her time in the "Paradise on Earth", she is anxious how she will cope with the weather back home. "It is so pleasant here. I

wonder how I will cope when we return home. I have been sending photographs of snow to my friends in Kolkata and all they wish is that I could send some to them to beat the heat," she added.

The introduction of various amusement forms tourists like snow

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Sunrise: 06:08 Hours

#### Janipur have been made members. In his order, SSP Chandan Kohli has made it clear to the in-charge and members of the reconstituted SIT that the investigation of the matter should be completed at the earliest and a regarding the

on a daily basis Significantly, the local civil society, religious and social organizations were continuously protesting, raising questions on the SIT constituted by the police, demanding fair investigation into Dr. Sumedha's murder and action against the guilty.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI:

Supreme Court on Tuesday

held government employees

are entitled to annual incre-

ment even if they retire a day

after earning the financial

The significant verdict

government-owned

Power

came on an appeal of the

Transmission Corporation

Ltd (KPTCL) challenging

the judgement of a division

bench of the Karnataka High

Court that employees were

entitled to annual increment

even if they are to superan-

nuate the very next day of

Karnataka

progress in the investigation

should be given to his office

# Modi to distribute 71,000 appointment

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

NEWDELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute about 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted employees on April 13 via video conferencing and also address them on the occasion, according to a statement issued by his office on Tuesday.

The programme is part of the 'Rozgar Mela' drive, under which 10 lakh people are expected to be given jobs. The statement said it was a step towards fulfilment of the prime minister's commitment to accord the highest priority

Govt employees entitled to annual increment

even if they retire next day after earning it: SC

Justices M R Shah and C T

Ravikumar dismissed the

appeal of KPTCL and said,

"Now so far as the submis-

sion on behalf of the appel-

lants (KPTCL) that the

annual increment is in the

form of incentive and to

encourage an employee to

perform well and therefore,

once he is not in service,

there is no question of grant

of annual increment is con-

cerned, the aforesaid has no

The court took note of the

divergent views of various

bench comprising

earning the benefit.



letters on Thursday

Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth

the law on the legal question

whether an employee who

has earned the annual incre-

ment is entitled to the same

despite the fact that he has

retired on the very next day

The bench dealt in detail

with the Regulation 40(1) of

the Karnataka Electricity

Board Employees Service

Regulations, 1997 and

analysed the object and pur-

pose of grant of annual incre-

"A government servant is

granted the annual incre-

ment on the basis of his good

conduct while rendering

of earning the increment.

for their empowerment and participation in national development," it added.

The recruits selected from across the country will join

## **J&K Police busts prostitution** racket in Srinagar

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Police on

Chanpura case led to busting of another prostitution racket in Nowgam area. 1) Shabir Mir of Charlipora Nowgam, 2) his wife Shazia Mir & 3) Adil Gulzar Hazar of Soura arrested on spot for operating this racket. 2 customers & a sex worker also detained (all locals),'

various positions under the central government like train manager, station master, senior commercial-cum-ticket clerk, inspector, sub-inspector, constable, stenographer, junior accountant, postal assistant, income tax inspector, tax assistant, assistant professor, teacher, librarian, nurse, probationary officers, PA and MTS among others.

They will also get an opportunity to train themselves through the 'Karmayogi Prarambh', an online orientation course for new appointees in various government departments, the state-

#### from Baramulla STATE TIMES NEWS They have been identified as

Two LeT OGWs arrested

#### SRINAGAR: Security forces have arrested two LeT overground workers, including a woman, in Baramulla district, police said on Tuesday. "Two terrorist associates Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit were arrested along with arms ammunition Baramulla district," police

said in a statement.

Acting on specific information regarding movement of terrorist associates, Police alongwith Army (29RR) and SSB (2ndBn) busted a terror module at Pattan Baramulla and arrested two terrorist associates linked with pro-

Farooq Ahmad Parra son of Gh Ahmad Parra resident of Par Mohalla Pattan and Saima Bashir daughter of Bashir Ahmad Mir resident of Chinkipora Sopore. They have been shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. On their disclosure, a pistol,

two pistol magazines, five pistol rounds, a two-kilogram Improvised Explosive Device and a remote control were recovered, it said. A case under sections of the Arms Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been registered in Pattan Police station and investigation set into

Tuesday busted a prostitution racket in Nowgam area of the city, arresting three people and detaining two customers and a sex

"Investigation

# No need to panic about spike in **COVID** cases: Experts to CS

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: In a meeting with health experts Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta was on Tuesday assured that there is no need to panic in view of little spike in Covid-19 cases reported across the UT recently.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Health; Director SKIMS; Principals of Medical Colleges and Heads of Medicine and Microbiology of Medical Colleges; Directors of Health Services Kashmir/Jammu besides other experts from the Medical field.

these health experts to take all the necessary measures to tackle any issues that may arise fully. He asked them to perform the precautionary testing of individuals as per the set protocols and not to resort to either under testing or over testing in the health facilities. He impressed upon them to create ample awareness among public so that no unnecessary scare is created among them.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized on taking stock of medicines and other paraphernalia before hand so that people are served better. He asked the department to give booster doses to the vulnerable groups like elderly and persons with comorbidity. He also directed them for encouraging people to observe the Covid appropriate behavior for safety of all.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary directed for constituting a three member committee under Director SKIMS with Principals of Government Medical Colleges of Jammu and Srinagar as members for working out a standard protocol for treatment of patients across the health facilities of J&K for

# Situation in J&K normal, waiting for EC to announce polls: Bukhari

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Asserting that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is as normal as in any other part of the country, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday credited the youth for choosing peace over violence.

The former minister said his party is ready for assembly elections and is waiting for an announcement by the Election Commission.

He claimed that not a single youth has joined militancy in the Union Territory over the past eight months.

"J-K is as normal as any other place in the country. Over the past eight months, not a single local youth joined militancy and we congratulate the people and the security forces for this achievement," Bukhari told

reporters here.

substance.

He said smuggling of narcotics from across the border has emerged as the major challenge rather than the

"Our present challenge is drugs and not guns. The government of India is more mature to decide what should be done or not," Bukhari He was responding to a

question about demands from certain quarters for the resumption of cross-border trade in J-K alongside efforts for a "religious corridor" to facilitate pilgrims to visit Sharada Peeth in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

Asked about the situation in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, he

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# Three Union Ministers, LG pay obeisance at Vaishno Devi Shrine



Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Jitendra Singh and V K Singh along with LG Manoj Sinha after paying obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Tuesday.

## **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI/JAMMU: ministers Nitin Gadkari, Jitendra Singh and V K

along with Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine aton

LtTrikuta hills on Tuesday, officials said. Gadkari, the Union Road Transport

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# Operation of 45 drug retail outlets suspended for violation of norms

#### STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Drug Control

Organisation on Tuesday suspended operation of scores of Drugs retail sale establishments across Jammu Province for violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. As per the department, an

extensive drive was conducted in Jammu Province wherein Supervisory Checks Drugs Establishments were carried out under the direct supervision of respective Assistant Drug Controllers & overall supervision of Deputy Drugs Controller, Jammu Mohammad Iqbal Palla.

The drive was targeted to ensure that the pharmacies operate strictly in consonance with the mandate of law and don't indulge in any

unethical sale of habit forming formulations.

During the said drive,

Operations of Forty Five

Retail Sale Establishments ( 15 in Jammu, 08 in Samba 05 each in Kathua & Rajouri, 03 in Doda, 03 in Udhampur , 02 in Poonch ,02 in Ramban,01 each in Reasi & Kishtwar) were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot. The reason for suspension was particularly Non maintenance of Sales records in violation to the rules mandated under the Act. The Licenses were warned of severe action in case the violations are not removed/rectified within stipulated period of time.

Statutory Drug samples of than Hundred Pharmaceutical

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