

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 29 Issue 151 • Jammu • Saturday • June 1, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

One may ask from whom President has to preserve, UU protect & defend constitution in terms of Art -60?

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

E-Challan drive on NH-244 Doda-Kishtwar Highway at Doda

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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

JK Public School Panjtirthi organizes Parent Teacher Meet

# Jammu bus accident: Six Transport Deptt officials suspended

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Six transport department officials in Jammu and Kashmir were suspended for alleged dereliction of duty on Friday, a day after 22 people were killed and 64 injured in a bus accident in Jammu district.

The tragic occurred on Thursday, when the bus carrying 86 devotees from Haryana's Kurukshetra and heading towards the Shiv Khori shrine in Reasi district skidded off the Jammu-Poonch highway and plunged into a 150-foot gorge. The driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a blind curve at the Tungi morh in the Chowki Chora

Transport Department Secretary Niraj Kumar ordered the suspensions and a probe after a high-level meeting was chaired by Principal Secretary of the department

# Stern action against those found responsible for accident: CS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday said that stern action would be taken against those responsible for the accident that claimed 22 lives and injured 70 others

Dulloo, who flew from summer capital Srinagar, visited the injured at the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital in Jammu this evening to review their treatment and enquired about their well-

"We have launched an inquiry to identify those responsible. Once the report comes to us, stern action will be taken," Dulloo told reporters after interacting with the injured. Dulloo, who was flanked by senior administration and police officers, stressed that

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"Pending enquiry into the conduct and dereliction of duties, officials posted in the Regional Transport Office in Kathua (Lakhanpur) are



negligence was not one-sided, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo enquiring well-being of injured at GMC Hospital Jammu on Friday.

Transport Commissioner, Jammu," Kumar said in an

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: Chief Justice,

High Court of J&K and

Ladakh, Justice N. Kotiswar

Singh, on Friday virtually

inaugurated a two day e-

Courts Phase III Regional

Cluster Workshop for North

Zone, High Court(s), which

is being held at J&K Judicial

The delegates from the

High Courts of Delhi,

Uttrakhand, Rajasthan and

Allahabad along with the

PILs on accidents: DB for implementation

of expert committee suggestions

for implementation of the

said suggestions made by the

Expert Committee with the

concerned authorities and

accordingly, a report be sub-

mitted before this Court

after reopening, for further

consideration on July 15,

When the PIL came-up for

hearing, DB observed that

Compliance report has been

submitted on behalf of the

Divisional Commissioner.

Jammu, the Nodal Officer

appointed by this Court in

terms of order dated

December 7, 2023 in this

matter and report has made

Academy, Srinagar.

The suspended officials are

and multi-tasking staff (MTS) members Ashwani Aman Kumar, Kumar, Keshav Singh and Rakesh

An inquiry into the conduct and performance of the suspended officials will be led by Additional Secretary (Technical) Paramvir Singh, who will submit a report with recommendations within a week, Kumar said.

The officials have been attached to the transport commissioner's office in Jammu, pending the outcome of the enquiry.

The Jammu district magistrate has already initiated a magisterial inquiry into the incident and the report is expected within seven days.

The district administration is closely monitoring the treatment of those injured in the accident, besides communicating with authorities in the passengers' home regions of Hathras and Aligarh

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# Final phase of LS polls in 57 seats today, Modi in fray

VARANASI/CHANDIGAR H: Fifty-seven seats across seven states and the Union

Chandigarh will go to polls in the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha elections on Saturday that include Varanasi, from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term.

Polling is scheduled in all 13 seats of Punjab and four of Himachal Pradesh, 13 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha and three seats in Jharkhand besides Chandigarh. Polling for the remaining 42 assembly constituencies of Odisha and bypolls to six assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh will also take place simulta-

Other prominent candi-

dates among the total 904 contestants in fray are Union



minister Anurag Thakur, Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti and actor Kangana Ranaut.

Over 10.06 crore citizens, including nearly 5.24 crore men, 4.82 crore women and 3.574 third gender electors are eligible to vote in this

polling process that began on April 19 and has already cov-

> Sabha seats in 28 states and Union territories. The assemblies Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh Sikkim also went to polls. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4. In Arunachal Pradesh

counting for the assembly polls will be held on June 2. According to Election Commission guidelines, television channels and news outlets will be able to run exit poll data and its results or June 1 after 6.30 pm.

The EC said polling parties have been dispatched along with machines and poll

### Srinagar Airport operations halted for an hour after bomb threat

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Flight operaat the Srinagar International Airport had to be halted for an hour on Friday after a bomb threat as the authorities took preventive measures, officials said.

The Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Srinagar Airport received a bomb threat on an Air Vistara flight from New Delhi, prompting a response from the authorities, including the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which is responsible for the security at the airport, the officials

They said a threat call was

#### Trailer of things to come: Modi on **GDP** figures STATE TIMES NEWS

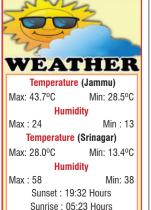
NEW DELHI: Lauding the high GDP growth in 2023-24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said it underlines robust momentum in the economy which is poised to accelerate further.

"As I've said, this is just a trailer of things to come," he said on X.

India's economy clicked growth of 7.8 per cent in the January-March quarter, pushing the annual growth rate for FY24 to 8.2 per cent, mainly on account of good showing by manufacturing, official data showed on Friday.

Modi said, "The Q4 GDP growth data for 2023-24 shows robust momentum in our economy which is poised to further accelerate.

Thanks to the hardworking people of our country, 8.2% growth for the year 2023-24 exemplifies that India continues to be the fastest growing major economy globally."



made to the airport around the noon about the flight, which had 178 passengers onboard. Immediately after the flight landed at the airport, it was directed towards an isolation bay and the passengers and the crew were evacuated, they added.

A thorough search of the plane was carried out, and bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs were also deployed to check any suspicious items, they said. After an exhaustive search, no explosives were found on the plane, they added.

Flight operations, which had to be halted for about

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: In much publicized

PIL highlighting the dance

of death on the roads partic-

ularly on Doda-Kishtwar-

Ramban National Highway

and Mughal Road, a Division

Bench (DB) of Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh High

Court comprising Chief

Justice N Kotishwar Singh

and Justice WS Nagral after

hearing Adv Sheikh Shakeel

Ahmed with Adv Supriya

Chouhan for the PIL where-

as Sr. AAG SS Nanda for the

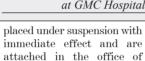
UT of J&K and Vishal

Sharma for the UOI, direct-

ed respondents authorities

will initiate necessary steps

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Ranjeev Bhasin (Motor Vehicle Inspector), Sumit

# Phase III of e-Courts Project would transform Indian Judicial System incredibly: CJ

Chief Justice, N. Kotiswar Singh virtually inaugurating e-Courts Phase III Regional Cluster Workshop for North

Supreme Court of India and the NIC, Pune team.

High Court of J&K and Ladakh are participating in The Chief Justice inauguthe workshop which is being rated the workshop virtually presided over by the memfrom Jammu wing of the High Court, in presence of bers of e-Committee,

basis of the Expert

Committee report, which

after visiting the spots has

made certain suggestions.

which have been enumerated

in para-4 of its report, which

reads as, "Measures with

respect to Ramban, Batote-

Doda and Kishtwar National

Highway 244 are as under:

The road section from

Khellani zig to Ganpat

Bridge Doda and that from

Hasti to Kishtwar need to be

widened as a 2-lane carriage-

way with proper safety meas-

ure. Road studs as per IRC

Code, lane marking and

edges line marking,

Justice

#### Zone, High Court(s) at J&K Judicial Academy, Srinagar. Justice Atul Sreedharan, Chairperson IT, Committee, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar & Rahul Bharti,

# launch search for terrorists in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS POONCH: Security forces and police launched a cordon-and-search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday following reports of movement of suspected terrorists, officials said.

They said there were intelligence inputs about suspicious movement in the Dera Ki Gali-Bafliaz area of the

According to sources, around three armed men were spotted in the area and there was a brief exchange of fire between the suspected terrorists and security

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### High Court of J&K and Sanjay Dhar

graced the occasion in person while other members of the IT Committee along with Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri & Justice Muhammad Yousuf Wani, joined the event virtually from Jammu Wing of the High Court.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Justice while embarking on the journey of the e-Courts project deliberated as to how it helped in streamlining the

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### areas in Jammu region severely affected, with fire

Fire engulfs several forest, urban

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Fire engulfed several forest and urban areas in the Jammu region, devastating vast tracts of land, officials on Friday said.

The fire, which spread to Rajouri, Samba, Reasi and Udhampur districts, and urban parts of Jammu city, destroyed large areas of plantation and other forest wealth, they said.

In Samba, the fire broke out in Chiladanga, Nund and Purandare areas, where both forest officials and local residents were working tirelessly to extinguish the flames, the officials said.

Udhampur has also been

reported in the forest regions of Rakh, Nehra Nall, and Krimchi. Efforts to control the blaze are ongoing, they said. Reasi district is grappling

with multiple wildfires, intensifying concerns about forest fires throughout the region, the officials said. The Jammu and Kashmir Management Disaster

Authority (JKDMA) has issued an extreme forest fire risk warning for the coming week as temperatures soar and the dry conditions persist. Authorities are mobiliz-

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# Educationists' role essential in achieving tobacco free society: Justice Tashi

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** S R I N A G A R

Commemorating the World No Tabacco Day, the J&K Legal Services Authority in collaboration with Crescent School, Bagh, Srinagar, Bilaliya Educational Institute, Srinagar, Nageen Lake Conservation organization, Kashmir Concern, Agri Industries Vikaas Chamber and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, on Friday organized an awareness programme on "World No Tobacco Day".

The event, held at the main Auditorium of Crescent



Justice Tashi Rabstan speaking at a programme at Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar.

Public School. Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, witnessed participation of various dignitaries, educators, students and volunteers.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Senior most Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, was the chief guest on the occasion. He underscored the importance of today's event held collectively by the legal

# Chief Secretary chairs 13th UT-Level Bankers' Committee meeting

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**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: Banks operating in the UT of J&K need to deepen their presence further in the rural spaces and sharpen their focus on lending to critical sectors of economy especially agriculture, housing and education.

meeting at Srinagar on Saturday

Chief Secretary, J&K Atal Dulloo said this while chairing the 13th meeting of UTLBC of J&K on Friday to

review the performance of

banks and financial institution in dispensation of credit and other banking services during the financial year 2023-24.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary

Stated that banks operating in the UT of J&K need to deepen their presence further in the rural spaces and sharpen their focus on lending to critical sectors of economy especially agriculture, housing and education. Credit Plans prepared should not be limited to issuance

of guidelines only, it should rather be reflected in the e conomic growth of the UT and prosperity of its people. Santosh

Commissioner (Industries & Secretary Commerce Department) Vikramjit Singh, Regional Chandrashekhar Azad, MD & CEO J&K Bank- Convenor UTLBC-Baldev commissioner Secretaries to Government, and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, Departmental Heads of J&K

Government, insurance com-

panies and Lead District

Directing the banks to push credit flow into agriculture through schemes like HADP and Investment Credit Schemes in agriculture, Atal Dulloo said, "You need to pump more funds into agriculture and its allied activities because J&K's economy is largely dependent upon it.' "Also the Banks must pri-

vital sectors like

oritise to extend credit line to ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Delhi court to hear Kejriwal's interim bail plea today

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court is likely to hear on Saturday an application moved by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking interim bail for a week on medical grounds in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja had on May 30 directed the ED to file its response to Kejriwal's plea by June 1, when period of his interim bail, granted by the Supreme Court, ends.

The court had also directed the ED to file its response by June 7 to Kejriwal's plea seeking regular bail in the

The Supreme Court registry on Wednesday refused urgent listing of Kejriwal's plea seeking extension of his

interim bail by seven days for undergoing certain medical tests, saying since he was given liberty to move the trial court for regular bail, the plea was not maintainable. The AAP leader had sought

extension of his interim bail to undergo a host of medical tests, including a PET-CT scan, in view of "sudden and unexplained weight loss coupled with high ketone levels", which are indicative of kidney, serious cardiac ailments and even cancer

The top court had on May 10 granted 21-day interim bail to the chief minister to enable him to campaign during the Lok Sabha polls. It had directed him to sur-

render on June 2, a day after the last phase of the sevenphase poll gets over.

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