

## INBRIEF

### Security forces launch search in Udhampur

**JAMMU:** Security forces on Thursday launched a search operation in Udhampur district following reports of suspicious movement in the region, officials said.

The operation was initiated after locals in Kirchi village of the Latti-Dudu area reported seeing a few suspected persons entering a house and fleeing with some cash. Acting swiftly on the information, security personnel cordoned off the area and began a search to track down the suspects.

Forces have been put on high alert, and residents have been urged to remain vigilant and immediately share any information regarding **►P11**

### Will consider support to NC in RS polls: PDP

**SRINAGAR:** The Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday indicated that it will consider supporting the National Conference (NC) in the Rajya Sabha polls if they back their MLAs' private member bills in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Speaking to reporters here, PDP President Mehbooba Mufti revealed that NC chief Farooq Abdullah had called her to request support for his party's candidates.

Mehbooba said she told Abdullah that while the PDP's senior leadership would discuss the matter, she emphasised that the NC should support the PDP MLAs' private member bills in the assembly, including the Land Bill and the Regularisation of Daily Wagers Bill. "If they (NC) help us pass one or two of these **►P11**

## 21st century belongs to India: PM Modi; vows 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

**KURNOOL (ANDHRA PRADESH):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the 21st century belongs to 140 crore Indians and that the country will become "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047 even as he attacked the Congress saying the grand old party neglected the power sector.

Hailing the country's Make in India ecosystem, he said, "we saw the might" of home-made "things" in Operation Sindoor, the military offensive launched at cross-border terror launchpads in Pakistan, post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Referring to the recent developments such as the hike in Income Tax exemption to Rs 12 lakh and GST rate reforms, Modi said the vision of the NDA government is "citizen-centric development" and pointed out that continuous reforms are being taken up to make people's lives easy.

"As (Andhra CM) Chandrababu Naidu said, by 2047, the centenary year of inde-



pendence, Viksit Bharat will happen. I can say confidently that the 21st century is going to be India's century. The 21st century belongs to 140 crore Indians," the PM said in his address after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore.

Modi said today the world is seeing India as a new manufacturing centre of the 21st century and the basis of this success is the vision of a

self-reliant India even as Andhra Pradesh is becoming a major centre for its success.

He alleged that 11 years ago, when the Congress government was in power, the per capita electricity consumption was less than 1,000 units and at that time, the country had to face challenges such as blackouts. Electricity poles were not even installed in our villages.

"Friends, from clean energy to the total **►P11**

## Restore statehood to solve J&K issues: CM Omar on NC Govt's first anniversary

### Announces restoration of 'Darbar Move' practice

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday used the occasion of the National Conference (NC) government's one-year anniversary to renew a passionate appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the restoration of statehood, calling it the single-most important solution to all the issues facing the Union territory.

Addressing reporters at the NC headquarters here, Abdullah expressed disappointment that the Central government had not honoured its commitment on statehood during his administration's first year.

"We were hopeful that the Centre would fulfil its promise to restore statehood (to J-K) in the first year of our government, but it has not happened," Abdullah said, adding, "We still believe that the solution to all the problems facing Jammu and Kashmir lies in the restoration of statehood."



The chief minister directly urged the prime minister and the Union government to fulfil the "solemn promise" made to the people from the floor of Parliament and the Supreme Court.

Abdullah took a sharp dig at the BJP for its failure to deliver on a key election promise, particularly in the Jammu region where the party secured a large number of seats.

"The BJP had promised statehood to the people of J-

K, why it has not been fulfilled," he asked, recalling that BJP leaders previously taunted the NC, saying statehood would come "from Delhi and not from J-K or Srinagar".

The chief minister also addressed speculation that the delay in restoring statehood was a tactic to pressure his government into a backdoor alliance with the BJP.

It will be a very sad thing if the people of J-K are deprived

of statehood only because the BJP could not form the government, Abdullah said.

"If people wanted a BJP government, they would have made a BJP government in 2024... We have no intention of allowing the BJP from the back door," he clarified.

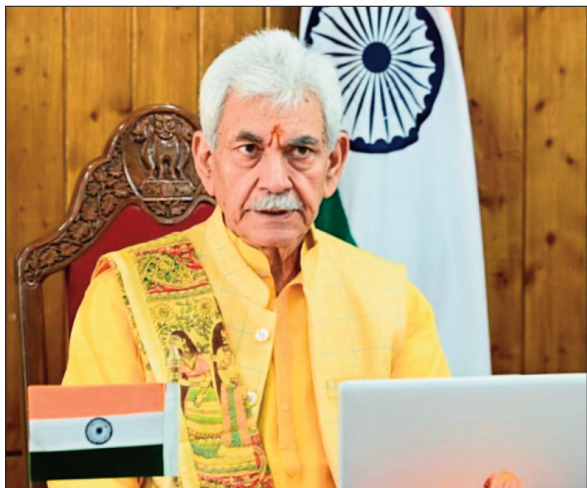
"BJP never said in the Supreme Court or in Parliament that they will give statehood only when the chief minister is from BJP. They only talked about a **►P11**

## J&K youth embraces cultural heritage, driving nation-building spirit: LG Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now deeply engaging with the country's history, values, and aspirations, while forging stronger bonds with India's diversity, heritage, and culture to strengthen the spirit of nation-building.

Addressing the inaugural function of the Veshaw Literary Festival in Kulgam through video conferencing, the Lieutenant Governor said the younger generation of



Jammu and Kashmir is actively contributing to building a shared cultural identity rooted in India's pluralistic ethos.

"Youth of Jammu Kashmir are now deeply engaging with the country's history, values and aspirations," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said. He said youth are forging bond with diversity, heritage and fostering a shared cultural identity for nation-building.

The two-day lit fest is celebrating literature by bringing together writers, artists and readers to share **►P11**

## India's defence self-reliance shines through Operation Sindoor: Rajnath

**PUNE:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday hailed Operation Sindoor as the finest example of India's growing self-reliance in the defence sector, asserting that the majority of the equipment used during the mission was indigenously produced.

Addressing the 6th convocation of Symbiosis Skills & Professional University in Pune, Singh said India has "broken the barrier" that existed since Independence and has given a strong push to manufacturing weapons within the country.

India has now "broken



the barrier" that had existed since Independence, and the government has given a

strong push to manufacturing weapons within the country, Singh said.

In the last 10 years, defence production has increased from Rs 46,000 crore to Rs 1.5 lakh crore. The government's target is to take domestic defence manufacturing to Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029 and increase defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore, he said.

The Union minister was addressing the 6th convocation of the Symbiosis Skills & Professional University in Pune.

"We have started working towards **►P11**

## SED faces criticism over nod to private coaching institute's entry into schools

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The School Education Department (SED), Jammu, is facing mounting criticism after authorising a private coaching institute to conduct a Career Counselling Seminar and the Unacademy National Scholarship & Aptitude Test (UNSAT) for students of Classes 8th to 12th across Kendriya Vidyalayas and private schools in the Jammu region.

The directive, issued under order number JD/JSK/2025/1862-74 dated October 9, 2025, by the Joint Director, School Education (JSK), Jammu, instructed all Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of Jammu Division to "extend all neces-

sary support and coordination" for the smooth conduct of the event. The order described the initiative as a free programme for students, requiring no participation fees.

However, the department's move has triggered strong backlash from educators and policy watchers, who see it as a clear deviation from established norms that prohibit government endorsement of private coaching entities. Critics argue that the SED's directive effectively grants official legitimacy to a commercial institution, undermining the integrity of the public education framework.

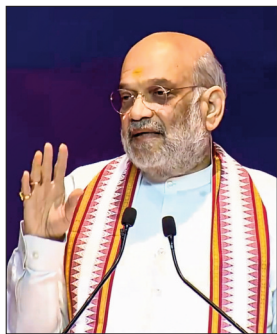
"This is an alarming precedent," said a senior educationist, requesting

anonymity. "Government institutions are meant to remain neutral spaces for learning, not platforms for corporate outreach. Such directives risk normalising private influence within the school system."

Sources within the department also expressed unease over the order, calling it "unprecedented" and inconsistent with earlier circulars that had explicitly advised against associating schools with private coaching ventures. "It's not just about one event—it's about the message it sends," another official remarked. "Tomorrow, every private player will seek entry into classrooms under the garb of career counselling."

The decision **►P11**

## Zero tolerance against those involved in terrorism: Shah



**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said a ruthless approach must be adopted towards economic offenders, cyber criminals, those involved in terror activities and all other fugitives to ensure they are brought before the Indian justice system.

Addressing a conference

on 'Extradition of Fugitives - Challenges and Strategies', organised by the CBI here, Shah also asked all states to set up at least one prison cell of international standards in their respective state to counter plea of poor standards of jails given by fugitives in foreign courts.

He said a zero tolerance approach must be adopted not only against corruption, crime and terrorism, but also against those criminals who are operating from outside India.

Efforts must be made to bring all fugitives within the ambit of the law and to establish a definite mechanism for this, he said.

"Whether they are economic offenders, cyber criminals, those involved **►P11**

## NC led Govt completes one year of blatant betrayal: Tarun Chugh



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday lashed out at Omar Abdullah's NC-Congress alliance Government for completing one year in office, calling it a regime of deception and false promises.

holds has not moved beyond speeches and statements. "Women are still running their kitchens on costly gas while the government hides behind excuses," Chugh said.

He added that NC had claimed 200 units of free power and relief from arrears, but the reality on the ground is continued power cuts, inflated bills, and no sign of arrear waivers. "Instead of relief, they have pushed ordinary families deeper into hardship," he remarked.

Chugh highlighted that the promise of one lakh jobs and the enactment of a Youth Employment Generation Act within three months stands completely abandoned. "Our youth **►P11**

## 1614 policemen martyred fighting Pak, its proxies: DG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Over 1,614 Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel have sacrificed their lives in the past three decades battling Pakistan and its proxies, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat declared on Thursday.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 10th All India Police Games Judo Cluster at Indoor Stadium, Prabhat reaffirmed the force's commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

"The supreme sacrifices of our martyrs reflect the unwavering courage and dedication of J&K Police," he said.

He highlighted the force's pivotal role in counter-terrorism operations while emphasizing their efforts in youth outreach and sports activities across the Union Territory to foster community engagement and security.

Police have not only remained at the forefront of counter-terrorism operations but have also been actively engaged in youth outreach and sports activities across the Union Territory, he said, adding, "We conduct such programmes so that our connection with the locals remains strong and meaningful."

Referring to **►P11**

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