

Early restoration of Statehood to J&K will empower elected Govt: CM Omar

Convenes meet to assess progress of works in Kulgam

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday hoped for an early restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, saying it would give more powers to the elected government and enable it to fulfil the promises made to the people during last year's assembly elections. Talking to reporters in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, Abdullah said he had expected the Centre to fulfil the promise of statehood restoration made to the people of the Union territory from the floor of Parliament and the Supreme Court, but since that has not happened, he would continue pressing for it.

"We are hoping for more powers and that is why we are stressing on the (restoration of) statehood, because that is a promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and that promise should be fulfilled," Abdullah told reporters in Kulgam district in south Kashmir.



porters in Kulgam district in south Kashmir.

"Only the Centre and the BJP can state the reasons for keeping Jammu and Kashmir without statehood. But, we will not stop trying (to make efforts)," he added.

Asked about PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's reported conditions that the government support her party MLA's private member bills

in exchange for backing the ruling party in the Rajya Sabha polls, Abdullah said it is the Speaker who decides which bill can be brought up in the assembly and which not.

"My government will not become a hurdle in the way of any such bill that benefits the people. But neither I nor any other member of the assembly can dictate to the Speaker

which bill to bring and which not. There is a procedure to bring a bill. Whichever bill is good, we will surely support those," he said.

Abdullah said one of his party colleagues has also come up with a bill on the issue of land grant, and he does not know whether that would also come up in the House or not.

"My colleague ► P11



Gulchain Singh Charak passes away at 83

JAMMU: Veteran politician and former minister from Jammu region, Gulchain Singh Charak, passed away here on Friday after a prolonged illness. He was 83. His demise has been widely mourned across political and social circles, with leaders recalling his contributions towards the development of the region and the preservation of Dogra heritage.

According to family sources, Charak had been unwell for some time and breathed his last in Jammu.

A senior political leader known for his long association with the Congress, Charak served as a cabinet minister in the PDP–Congress government ► P11

LG Sinha arrives in Russia to bring back sacred relics of Lord Buddha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha on Friday announced his arrival in Elista, Kalmykia, Russia, as part of his official visit to bring back the sacred relics of Lord Buddha following a week-long international exposition. The visit marks a significant moment in India's cultural diplomacy and spiritual heritage exchange.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Office of the J&K Lieutenant Governor stated, "Landed in Elista, Kalmykia, Russia. Looking forward to paying my obeisance to the holy relics of Lord Buddha and interaction with Batu Sergeyevich Khasikov, Head of Republic of Kalmykia, Head of the Buddhists of Kalmykia, Shajin Lama of Kalmykia, venerable monks and local devotees."

Earlier, Sinha departed for Russia, leading an Indian delegation tasked with bringing back the sacred relics currently on display at an international exhibition in Kalmykia. The week-long exposition, which concludes on



October 18, is being held in Elista, the capital of Europe's only Buddhist-majority region.

The Kalmyks, descendants of the Oirat Mongols who migrated from western Mongolia in the early 17th century, follow Mahayana Buddhism. The sacred relics have been showcased at the Geden Sheddup Choikorling Monastery, also known as the Golden Abode of Shakya-muni Buddha—a major Tibetan Buddhist centre inaugurated in 1996.

Sinha expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for facilitating the sacred mission. In an

other post on X, he said, "Leaving for Kalmykia, Russia, where I will lead the delegation to bring back holy relics of Lord Buddha after a week-long exposition. I sincerely thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this sacred opportunity."

The exhibition was jointly organised by the Ministry of Culture, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), the National Museum, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). The relics form part of the Piprahwa collection housed at the National Museum in New Delhi. Piprahwa, located ► P11

India targets 100 pc indigenisation of defence production: DM Rajnath

NASHIK: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India is determined to achieve 100 per cent domestic defence production to eliminate strategic vulnerability caused by dependence on foreign suppliers. He hailed Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the backbone of India's defence sector and lauded its round-the-clock support to the Indian Air Force (IAF) during Operation Sindoor.

Singh made the remarks after inaugurating a new manufacturing facility for ► P11



MHA directs Judicial probe into Leh violence

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a major development aimed at addressing public concerns following the September 24 incident in Leh, which claimed four lives and left nearly 90 injured, the Government of India has ordered a judicial inquiry to be conducted by former Supreme Court Judge, Justice (Retd.) B.S. Chauhan.

The announcement was made by Dr Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, during a press conference in Leh. He was flanked by Dr. S.D. Singh,

DGP Ladakh.

Dr Kotwal said the inquiry, one of the major demands of local community leaders and civil society groups, will thoroughly examine all aspects of the incident to ensure accountability and prevent recurrence. "The Government of India has taken serious note of the demands.

The order for a judicial inquiry headed by a former Supreme Court Judge has been issued. Justice B.S. Chauhan will chair the commission, assisted by senior administrative and ► P11

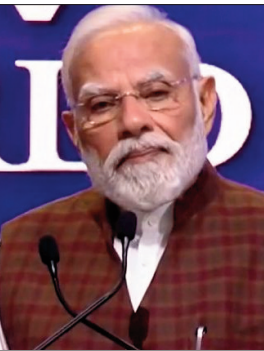
India no longer remain silent after terror attacks, hits back: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that India now does not remain silent after terror attacks but hits back using surgical and air strikes.

Addressing the NDTV World Summit here, he said there are several roadblocks and speed breakers but India remains "unstoppable".

"India no more remains silent after terror attacks but gives befitting reply through air strikes, surgical strikes and Operation Sindoor," he said.

"When wars became headlines globally, India proved naysayers wrong by



continuing to march ahead as fastest growing economy," added Modi.

Noting that India is not in a "mood to stop", he said as

the world today faces various roadblocks and speed breakers, it is only natural to talk about an unstoppable India.

"We will neither pause nor slow down. 140 crore Indians will move forward together with full momentum.

"Today, India has moved from being among the fragile five to becoming one of the world's top five economies...from chips to ships, India is self-reliant and filled with confidence in every sphere," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also asserted that while earlier governments carried out reforms as ► P11

Man chargesheeted for aiding LeT in terror plot across J&K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against a migrant labourer from Bihar for allegedly aiding proscribed terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in planning terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu. The move comes as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to dismantle terror networks operating through cyber channels across India.

The accused, identified as Akhalatur alias Mohammed Akhlaque Mujahid, a resident of Katihar district in Bihar, has been charged under Sections 196 and 197 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections

13(1)(b) and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The chargesheet has been filed before the NIA Special Court in Poona-mallee, Chennai.

According to the NIA, Akhalatur was working as a labourer at a private construction site in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, when he was arrested by Kayar Police in April this year for alleged involvement in anti-national activities. Investigations revealed that he had established contact with Lashkar-e-Taiba handlers in Pakistan through cyberspace and had conspired with them to target "Kafirs" (non-believers) in Tamil Nadu.

The accused had also attempted to reach out to illegal arms dealers to ► P11

Police worked shoulder to shoulder with security forces during Op Sindoor: DG BSF

HYDERABAD: The Director General of Border Security Force, Daljit Singh Chawdhary, on Friday lauded the exemplary coordination among security agencies during 'Operation Sindoor', saying that the police worked shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces and central armed police forces in moments of great national challenge.

Speaking after reviewing the passing out parade of the 77th (Regular Recruits) batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVP-NPA) here, Chawdhary said the success of such operations reflects that the security of the nation is a shared responsibility.

"We have seen this in op-



erations like 'Sindoor' where the police worked shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces and the central armed police forces," he said.

Such coordination is a reminder that the security of the nation is not the task of one institution but a collective effort, he said.

In those moments, IPS of-

ficers often become the bridge binding the strength of the state with the trust of the people, ensuring that democracy survives in its toughest tests, Chawdhary said.

From preventing and investigating crime to countering terrorism, from tackling narcotics and smuggling to safeguarding biodiversity and enforcing socio-economic laws, the IPS carries a mandate both vast and wide, the BSF DG said.

Above all, it calls upon its officers to uphold integrity of the highest order, he said.

He called upon the officers to respect human rights and remain deeply committed to the service of the people.

"You (IPS officers) are stepping into the ► P11

JDF walks out of ties with Jamaat

SRINAGAR: Less than four months after three political parties in Jammu and Kashmir announced the formation of People's Alliance for Change (PAC), one of its constituents — the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) backed Justice and Development Front (JDF) — on Friday walked out of the coalition due to differences in its "modus operandi."

The alliance, formed just a few months ago, included Sajjad Lone's Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, the People's Democratic Front (PDF) and JDF.

"We wish to announce, with great mutual respect, that the Justice and ► P11

Freight train carrying industrial salt from Gujarat reaches valley

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The first 21-wagon consignment of industrial salt from Gujarat reached south Kashmir on Friday, adding another milestone in freight transportation for the Jammu Division of Northern Railway, officials said.

The train, carrying 1,350 tonnes of industrial salt from Kharaghoda Goods Shed in Gujarat, arrived at the Anantnag goods shed in Kashmir, they said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said,



"The Jammu Division of Northern Railway on Friday received the first 21-wagon consignment of industrial salt from Gujarat at the Anantnag goods shed in Kashmir."

The industrial salt is mainly used in tanning, pulp, soap, and brick kiln industries.

According to officials, the new mode of transport will ensure a steady ► P11

PDP slams Omar for slicing quota

SRINAGAR: PDP MLA Waheed Para on Friday said the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to "slash" the RBA quota is a "calculated attempt to disempower" Kashmiris.

The Pulwama legislator accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of advancing the "disempowerment agenda" and asserted that the Residents of Backward Areas (RBA) quota safeguards Kashmiri representation.

"The J&K government's cabinet sub-committee decision to slash the RBA quota under the guise of 'rationalisation' is a calculated attempt to disempower ► P11

CELEBRATE LEARNING

MY LEARN COFFEE

READING ZONE, CAFE AND BERRY

STARTS AT RS. 100

Veggie Delux PIZZA

espato good food & entertainment

Exchange Road & Channi Himmat, Jammu