

"Mondays offer new beginnings 52 times a year!"
—David Dweck

Making the Truth

IN BRIEF

Pahalgam attack: MHA appoints public prosecutor

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has appointed a special public prosecutor for the trial of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is expected to file a chargesheet in the matter soon.

Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) carried out the attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead at Baisaran valley, near Pahalgam, in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The central government hereby appoints Mr Shri Singh, advocate, as Special Public Prosecutor for conducting trial and other matters related to NIA case No. RC-02/2025/NIA" P11/

Lt Gov Sinha pays homage to Sardar Patel

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday paid rich tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his 150th birth anniversary and urged citizens to uphold the values of unity, integrity, and national harmony that Patel stood for.

In his message on the eve of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Sinha said the day serves as a reminder of Sardar P11

Opposition walkouts over debate rejection; Pathania among three MLAs marshalled out

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Tensions flared in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Thursday as opposition BJP legislators staged a walkout after their demand for a discussion on the recent floods was rejected.

The protest, marked by loud slogans and heated exchanges, led to the marshalling out of three BJP MLAs—R.S Pathania, Sunil Bhardwaj, and Surinder Kumar—who had entered the well of the House amid chaos.

The uproar began soon after the Assembly convened for the day, with BJP leaders demanding that the Question Hour be adjourned for a special discussion on flood-hit areas of Jammu. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, however, disallowed the adjournment motion under Rule 58 (12), citing that the issue had already been rejected P11



Eye-opener: Construction of bunkers in Samba needs probe

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In the wake of the multi-crore scam recently unearthed in the Public Works (R&B) Department, Nowshera Division—where tendering norms were allegedly violated to favour select contractors. Now, serious allegations have now surfaced from Samba district that point to a similar pattern of corruption.

The shocking revelations demand urgent intervention from the Jammu and Kashmir Government, as they expose deep-rooted irregularities in the construction of bunkers meant for border residents in the Vijaypur Division during 2022 and 2023.

According to highly placed sources, the tenders for bunker construction in the Vijaypur Division were reportedly reissued by the Samba Division despite the fact that identical works had already been sanctioned and tendered by the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) of the Rural Development Department (RDD). What makes the matter even more disturbing is that these tenders were allegedly allotted to the same beneficiaries—without the authorization of the then Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Vijaypur, late Sanjeev Kumar Gupta.

Sources revealed that the late officer, who was known for his integrity, had raised serious objections to the misuse of his P11

BJP accuses Govt of huge fraud in PWD

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition in Jammu & Kashmir, Sunil Sharma, launched a strong attack on the National Conference (NC) government, accusing it of deceiving the people through false promises and indulging in massive corruption.

He said that while Omar Abdullah and his government promised ration, electricity, and gas cylinders, what they actually delivered were crores in corruption and neglect of the poor. "The people of Jammu & Kashmir waited for relief and development, but were betrayed by a government that prioritized its own interests over public welfare," Sharma said. The Leader of Opposition P11

2 Teachers axed over terror links; LG enforces zero-tolerance policy

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a stern move reaffirming its zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday dismissed two government employees for their alleged links with the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The terminated employees, Ghulam Hussain and Majid Iqbal Dar—both teachers—were accused of acting as overground workers (OGWs) and aiding terrorist activities in Reasi and Rajouri districts.

Officials said the dis-

missals were ordered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha under Article 311 of the Constitution, which empowers the government to remove employees without departmental inquiry in the interest of state security. So far, around 80 government employees have been dismissed under this provision in the past five years.

According to sources, Hussain was covertly working for LeT to carry out terrorist activity. As an overground worker (OGW), he was tasked to strengthen the terror network in Reasi and the surrounding areas and

was arrested in 2023.

"The evidence collected by the investigators from law enforcement and intelligence agencies have revealed that Hussain was in touch with LeT terrorists Mohd Qasim and Ghulam Mustafa through encrypted messaging applications.

"Both were his handlers, and Ghulam Hussain was carrying out the terror activities as per their directions. He received terror funds via a local conduit, which he subsequently delivered to families of known terrorists as a means to support terrorism, and also distributed P11

Four Bills passed in House

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today passed the "Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025."

The Bill was moved in the House by Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar.

"A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (Act No. IX of 1989) (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 2025)," reads the Bill passed in the House.

The Bill was passed by the House through a voice vote. Meanwhile, the Jammu and P11

Termination without Court trial 'unfair': CM



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that government employees suspected of involvement in narco-terror activities should be prosecuted through courts rather than dismissed summarily, arguing that everyone

deserves a fair opportunity to defend themselves.

Speaking to reporters in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Abdullah said the present system of terminating employees without trial denies them a chance to explain their side. His remarks came hours after Lieutenant P11



Justice Surya Kant is next CJI

NEW DELHI: Justice Surya Kant was on Thursday appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India and he will assume charge on November 24.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued a notification announcing his appointment. Justice Surya Kant succeeds Justice Bhushan R Gavai, who demits office on November 23.

He will be the CJI for nearly 15 months and will demit office on February 9, 2027 on attaining the age of 65 years. "In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th November, 2025," Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a post on X. P11

One-time exception: Speaker allows debate past 'Zero Hour'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday allowed the legislators to raise issues beyond the 'zero hour' as an exception.

"Today, I am allowing members to raise certain important issues beyond the Zero Hour. It is a one-time exception and will not form a precedent for future proceedings," Rather said, while allowing MLAs to speak on public issues, including the plight of the flood victims.

Earlier, Rather rejected an adjournment motion moved by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta for a discussion on the post-flood situation in the Union Territory.

The Speaker said the House rules (Rule 58) do not permit an adjournment motion to be taken up after it has already been rejected in a session.

He said issues related to the people's grievances and their rehabilitation must be taken up in the House and accorded equal priority.

Initiating the debate, Gupta said extensive damage was caused to residential structures, schools, and other public infrastructure by the floods in August in the Jammu divi-

sion, including his own constituency.

The relief efforts so far have been both inadequate and delayed, leaving affected people in continued hardship, he said.

Earlier, Speaker had rejected an adjournment motion moved in by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta for a discussion on the situation in the aftermath of the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir. Citing procedural rules, Speaker said the House rules (Rule 58) do not permit an adjournment motion to be taken up after it has already been rejected once in the session.

However, he said that the entire House shares the plight of flood victims of September 2025, adding that their grievances and rehabilitation issues have to be taken up in the House and addressed with equal priority.

Later, initiating the debate, Pawan Kumar Gupta highlighted the severe damage caused by recent floods in the Jammu division, including his own constituency. He pointed out that the floods have extensively damaged houses, schools and other public infrastructure. Gupta emphasized that the relief efforts so far have been P11

Accelerates progress under Mission YUVA JKB observes "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" across J&K, disburses 1250 cases

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming its commitment to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's flagship program aimed at empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship, J&K Bank today observed "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" across the UT to fast-track disbursements under the initiative.

Marking the successful conclusion of the single-day disbursal exercise, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee pressed a symbolic button culminating in 1250 disbursements under Mission YUVA against a set target of 1000.

The event was attended by Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar, General Man-



agers Rakesh Magotra and Nishikant Sharma, DGM Aneet Kanwal Singh, and other senior officers at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta participated in the event virtually besides all the Zonal Heads of J&K.

The MD & CEO congratulated all the operational

heads and frontline teams for surpassing the day's milestone and lauded their commitment towards the successful implementation of the program.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "J&K Bank has been playing a pivotal role in implementing Mission YUVA across Jammu & Kashmir. Today's focused and P11

Finance Dept retains 7.1% GPF rate

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department has announced that the General Provident Fund (GPF) will continue to carry an interest rate of 7.1 percent for the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26, covering the period from April 1 to June 30, 2025.

According to the government order issued by the Principal Secretary, Finance Department, the interest rate remains unchanged from the previous quarters of 2024-25. The decision aligns with the notifications issued by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

The move ensures continuity in savings returns for government employees who contribute to the GPF scheme, reflecting P11

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