

INBRIEF

Bus falls into gorge, two dead

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR/SAMBA:

Two persons, including a minor girl, were killed and 15 others injured after a passenger bus veered off a hilly road and plunged into a deep gorge in a remote area in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah voiced grief over the incident, and assured all necessary assistance to the victims and their families.

The bus was travelling from Pechound ▶P11

J-K Govt ‘doubles’ medical interns’ stipend to Rs 25K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Ending the stalemate with protesting medical interns in Jammu and Kashmir, the Omar Abdullah government doubled their monthly stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 25,000.

The enhancement of the stipend comes after protests by the medical interns seeking an increase to Rs 30,000.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the enhancement of the monthly stipend payable to MBBS/BDS interns, including Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs), in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, from Rs 12,300/- to Rs 25,000/-

per month, with effect from 01.10.2026," an order issued by the Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department read.

The medical interns in Jammu and Kashmir had earlier gone on strike in September to press for hike in monthly stipend.

On September 8, the government asked the interns to end their strike and sought a month to address their issues.

However, on Tuesday, the interns resumed their strike, saying that despite the deadline having passed, the government has not fulfilled its assurance.

AFHQ extols timely promotions; discusses issues with Dr Jitendra



NEW DELHI:

A delegation of the Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Association expressed appreciation for timely promotions being undertaken by the Department of Personnel and Training

(DoPT) under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as well as for the opportunity provided to employee associations to present their service-related concerns regularly from time to time.

The delegation conveyed its appreciation during a meeting with Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who heard the issues raised by the association and discussed their examination through the appropriate administrative channels.

Led by Pavan Kumar National General Secretary (Org) Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Pankaj Yadav, General Secretary of the AFHQ Association, affiliated with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) and GENC, the ▶P11

◆ PM pays homage to police martyrs

Police forces should work together to make India drug-free: Amit Shah

Significant success had been achieved in curbing terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir

NEW DELHI:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that narcotics threaten future generations and provide financial support to organisations involved in anti-national activities as he asked police forces across the country to ensure the drug menace is eliminated by the end of 2029.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a deadline of December 31, 2029, to make India drugs-free.

Paying homage to police martyrs at the National Police Memo-



rial (NPM) here on Police Commemoration Day, Shah said the remaining months of 2026, along with 2027, 2028 and 2029, would be devoted to a united fight against drugs.

He described the target as a major national priority, warning that drug abuse threatens future generations, places an undue burden on the economy and provides

financial support to organisations involved in anti-national activities.

Police forces across the country should work towards the government's goal of a drug-free India, he said, stressing the campaign was essential to protect the country's future generations.

The minister noted that the country has eliminated decades of Naxalism by March 31, 2026, crediting Chhattisgarh Police, the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and CoBRA for their role in combating insurgency.

Shah said more than 3,600 security personnel and approximately 13,700 civilians had been killed in violence associated with Naxalism between 1981 and March 2026. He praised the CRPF, its CoBRA ▶P11

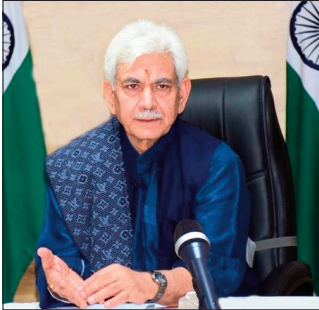
LG Sinha vows to wipe out terror from J-K, honours police martyrs

“The valour of our martyrs inspires us to strengthen peace, unity, & security

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to police martyrs on Wednesday and resolved not to rest until the region is free from separatist and terrorist elements.

On Police Commemoration Day, he reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to strengthening peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor (LG) called on citizens to uphold unity, communal har-



mony, and mutual trust while remaining vigilant against forces seeking to disrupt peace and stability.

"Our goal is to identify and root out terrorism and every element associated with it in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, we must resolve that we will not rest until this land is freed from separatist and terrorist elements," he said.

Sinha warned those elements within J-K who support terrorism that "your days are over".

"Even if you attempt to hide in pataal, we will find you and ensure that you are ▶P11

Terror hunt, narco-terror crackdown to intensify: IGP

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu Zone Inspector General of Police (IGP) Tejinder Singh on Tuesday said the police would continue to target the terror ecosystem and the remaining terrorists while intensifying its crackdown on narco-terrorism and drug trafficking to maintain peace in the Union Territory.

He said recruitment into terrorist groups had been reduced over the past ▶P11

OIC has no locus standi on J-K: Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade

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JAMMU: The Maharaja Gulab Singh Brigade, under the chairmanship of Sh Shivang Satya Gupta, on Wednesday condemned the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) over its recent resolution on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, the Brigade described the OIC's references to J-K as "malicious, biased and false", alleging that they had been orchestrated by Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh Shivang Satya Gupta, ▶P11

accompanied by other members of the Brigade, said the Instrument of Accession was the definitive document governing Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India. He said the abrogation of Article 370, which he described as having been introduced through political manipulation of history, had ended what he termed an unnecessary political controversy over the region. Gupta further asserted that Jammu and Kashmir had been part of India for centuries.

The Brigade members said the OIC had "no locus standi whatsoever" to ▶P11

Fake ‘agent’ held for duping yatris

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a crackdown on fraud targeting pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a man in Katra town, Reasi district, for allegedly duping both pilgrims and hoteliers, an official said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Vivek Sharma, was arrested on October 14. Sharma, a resident of Garnai village in Udhampur district, allegedly collected money from pilgrims for accommodation and tour packages and issued bills in the name of a reputed travel firm without its authorisation, a police spokesman said. The case came to light when the supervisor ▶P11

7 held with arms, over 3 Kg heroin

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CHANDIGARH: Seven people have been apprehended along with a hand grenade, two pistols and 3.491 kg of heroin in Punjab, an official said on Wednesday.

In a post on X, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the recovery was made by the Amritsar Rural Police while dismantling a drug trafficking, illegal arms and explosives smuggling network.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were ▶P11

Highest-altitude HC bench commences hearing in Leh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a historic milestone for the Indian judiciary, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Sanjay Parihar on Wednesday presided over the first regular division bench at Leh.

The newly established Ladakh Bench of the high court, located at a breathtaking height of over 11,500 feet above sea level, began regular hearing of the cases from Wednesday, an official said. He said the day began

with the hearing by the division bench in which the chief justice heard the matters through virtual mode while Justice Sanjay Parihar was present physically at the Ladakh Bench.

After the conclusion of the hearing of five listed Division Bench matters, Justice Parihar dealt with as many as 60 matters listed before the single bench, the official said. He said the Wednesday's proceedings made use of technology to facilitate a sort of hybrid hearing with the chief justice hearing through virtual mode and Justice ▶P11

LG calls for making Basohli a Global Centre of Art, Culture and Creativity

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has congratulated the Department of Culture, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the Vishwasthali NGO, the Divisional Commissioner and the District Administration on the successful organisation of the 4th edition of the Basohli Utsav. In a message on the occasion of the festival's culmination, the Lieutenant Governor appreciated the people of Basohli for their contribution in elevating the festival to new heights.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Basohli is not only deeply rooted in its traditions but is also recognised for its imagination and creativity. He said that the Utsav seeks to establish Basohli among the cultural capitals

of the country and envisioned its emergence as a vibrant centre of art and literature where artists, writers and scholars from across the world can engage in meaningful dialogue.

"Our objective is very clear that Basohli should secure its place among the cultural capitals of the country and that various genres, from literature to art, should take root here. I wish to see Basohli develop as a centre of art and literature where renowned artists, writers, and practitioners from across the world come together and engage in dialogue. We have taken steps in this direction, but there is still a long way to go," he said.

Highlighting the rich legacy of the renowned Basohli school of painting, the Lieutenant Governor observed that art preserves the

memories of a civilisation and connects generations through a shared cultural heritage. He expressed confidence that the ongoing cultural renaissance in Basohli would inspire the present generation to create a lasting artistic legacy.

"It is a matter of pride for the entire nation that Basohli is once again witnessing a cultural renaissance. I am fully confident that the present generation will create an invaluable artistic heritage for the generations to come," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, artists and artisans are receiving growing recognition and support in line with the vision of 'Vikas Bhi, Vivasat Bhi'. The Lieutenant Governor urged ▶P11

JAI MATA DI

JAMMU KA ASLI
DESI GHEE KA
KHAANA

ESPATO SPECIAL

POORI
CHANNA

Whole Wheat - Atta Pori • Cooked in Cow Desi Ghee

espato

da' Musica

PURE VEGETARIAN