



Modi calls for
unity to tackle
divisive forces,
societal evils

NEW DELHI: Highlighting emerging challenges and societal ills over the decades, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for collective efforts to address them, unite society against divisive forces and inspire citizens towards self-reliance. Inaugurating the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan here, Modi said he had spent the last 25 years serving the ► **P11**

CM inaugurates, lays foundation of projects worth Rs 25 Cr in Beerwah

Bridge over Nallah Sukhnag opened to public

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BEERWAH: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a series of infrastructure projects worth ₹25 crore in Beerwah, Budgam, aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving electricity supply, enhancing civic amenities and boosting the area's tourism potential.

The Chief Minister inaugurated a two-span truss girder bridge over Nallah Sukhnag, with each span measuring 35 metres worth ₹8 crore. He also laid founda-



tion stones for the beautification of Nallah Sukhnag, including the development of walkways and installation of lighting, and the beautification of Beerwah town at an

estimated cost of around ₹6.33 crore. Describing the bridge as a long-pending demand of the local population, the Chief Minister said its completion and ► **P11**

Chrysanthemum Garden beckons visitors: Abdullah

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday invited tourists and locals to visit the Chrysanthemum Garden here and make lasting memories as the garden opened for the second consecutive year. "Not only do ► **P11**

Govt revises medical reimbursement rules, caps bills at premium pvt hosp

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has amended the Civil Services (Medical Attendance and Allowance) Rules, 1990, revising the definition of dependent family members and updating provisions governing reimbursement for cardiac devices and artificial appliances.

Under the revised rules, family members will qualify as wholly dependent if their monthly income does not exceed Rs 9,000 plus dearness allowance (DA). The definition of eligible family members has also been expanded to include dependent divorced or separated daughters and stepmothers. The amendment also

broadens the list of cardiac devices eligible for reimbursement and introduces a fixed ceiling on payments for artificial appliances, revising the framework governing medical claims by eligible government employees and their dependants.

A key change concerns treatment at select premium private hospitals, including the Apollo group, Escorts Heart Institute, the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in Delhi and Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai. Reimbursement for treatment at these institutions will be restricted to the rates payable at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

The revised provisions are aimed at standardising reimbursement limits and clarifying eligibility for medical benefits. Patients treated at the specified private hospitals may, however, have to bear any difference between the hospital's charges and the admissible reimbursement, subject to the applicable rules.

The amendment updates the medical reimbursement framework that has governed eligible government employees and their families under the 1990 rules. The detailed schedule of admissible rates and the revised list of covered devices will determine the extent of reimbursement available under the amended provisions.

Thieves flee with 193 animals from meadows, 3 held

SRINAGAR: A highland cattle raid unfolded in the pastures of Kulgam district earlier this month as thugs left with a bounty of wool and horns.

They drove away with a staggering 193 animals -- a bleating fortune worth Rs 25 lakh.

However, police, which had launched a massive hunt, finally caught up with the thieves this week. Three suspects have been arrested and all livestock recovered, police said.

On October 8, a group of thugs descended upon Humpathri meadows in the D K Marg area of south Kashmir district, beat up women guarding the livestock, before ruthlessly rounding up the only source of their livelihood.

An astonishing 181 sheep and 12 goats vanished, as if into thin ► **P11**

Regional workshop of Sadhana Shrinkhla 2026 UP emerges as a model for administrative reforms, capacity building: Jitendra Singh

LUCKNOW: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said Uttar Pradesh had emerged as a model for the country in administrative reforms and capacity building, citing its performance under Mission Karmayogi and the completion of training courses on the iGOT Karmayogi platform.

Addressing a North Zone workshop on Mission Karmayogi in Lucknow, Singh said the Narendra Modi government had prioritised administrative reforms since 2014 to strengthen public trust and make government services simpler, more transparent and accountable.

He said, "Uttar Pradesh had secured the top position under Mission Karmayogi and completed the



highest number of training courses on the iGOT Karmayogi platform while emerging as a model for the

country in administrative reforms and capacity building." Expressing ► **P11**

Leh, Kargil to vote in civic polls on Nov 21

LEH/JAMMU: The chief electoral officer of Ladakh on Friday announced elections to the municipal committees of Leh and Kargil, comprising 38 wards, on November 21.

The last panchayat and municipal elections in Ladakh were held in 2018 when it was part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Both the bodies have completed their terms.

According to a press note issued by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rahul Sharma, the electoral rolls for ► **P11**

J&K Bank to offer customised services to govt staff MoU reinforces preferred banker status; personal accident cover hiked to Rs 1 Cr

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Strengthening its longstanding institutional relationship with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Jammu & Kashmir to provide customised, hassle-free and personalised banking services to all permanent Govt. employees. The agreement reinforces the Bank's preferred banker status while enhancing financial protection for employees and their families with convenient banking and preferential financial services.

The MoU was signed in pres-



ence of Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department, Sh. Shailendra Kumar (IAS) & MD & CEO J&K Bank Sh. Amitava Chatterjee.

Chief General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen and Director General (Resources) Finance Department Mohd Youqub Ittoo signed on behalf of the J&K Bank and ► **P11**

ACB books Girdawar in DA case, searches assets in Jammu, Doda

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a disproportionate assets (DA) case against Mohd. Iqbal, a Girdawar posted at Tehsil Headquarters Gandoh in Doda district, over allegations that his assets exceed his known sources of lawful income.

The case has been registered under FIR No. 03/2026 under Sections 13(1)(b) read with 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, at Police Station ACB Doda.

According to the ACB, the case followed a verification by its Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) unit into allegations that Iqbal had amassed movable and im-

movable assets in his own name and in the names of family members.

The assets identified during the verification reportedly include four commercial buildings, two residential buildings, two plots in Doda and Jammu, a vehicle, costly household items and bank accounts. The bureau said the value of the assets was found to be disproportionate to his known sources of income, forming the basis for registration of the case.

During the investigation, the ACB obtained a search warrant from the competent court and conducted searches at the accused official's residential, commercial and office premises in Doda and Jammu districts. The searches were carried out in the ► **P11**

Suspected IEDs detected during search operation

POONCH: Security forces on Friday recovered suspected improvised explosive devices and other explosive material from a hideout in Mankote sector of Poonch district, officials said.

The recoveries were made during a search operation launched by the Army's Rashtriya Rifles in Kasbalari and adjoining areas following an input from the Territorial Army, they said.

According to officials, the operation was initiated to search suspected locations in the area after security personnel received information about the possible presence of explosive material. ► **P11**