

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

“We must be willing
to get rid of the life
we’ve planned, so as
to have the life that
is waiting for us.”
—Joseph Campbell

PM charts next decade roadmap with 3 key goals

Decade of defence reforms exhibit
outcome during Op Sindoor: Modi

NEW DELHI: The benefits of a decade of defence reforms were evident during Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, asserting that India has to be prepared at all times to deal with security challenges.

As a country that is playing an increasingly important role in the world, India has a duty to modernise its defence sector in line with current realities, Modi said in an exclusive interview.

Citing the allocation of Rs 7.85 lakh crore to the defence sector in the Union Budget 2026-27, the prime minister said the outlay is 15 per cent higher than the previous budget and is also the "biggest chunk" given to any ministry or department.

Since day one, the government has been clear -- it will



India AI Impact Expo to commence today

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India AI Impact Expo 2026 on Monday at the Bharat Mandapam, his office said. The India AI Impact Expo 2026 will be held from February 16-20, alongside the India AI Impact Summit at the Bharat Mandapam, a statement issued ► **P11**

do whatever it takes to support the country's defence forces and strengthen them, he said.

Modi said the Indian armed forces must be equipped with the best of Indian innovation and industry as technology is reshaping the world and that the NDA government has been working on modernisation and self-reliance in this sector for the last 11 years.

On Operation Sindoor, the prime minister said the entire country is proud of the courage shown by the armed forces.

"During the operation, one could see the benefits of the reforms we have undertaken in the last decade. Therefore, defence budgets, modernisation, etc., all these are parts of our continuous effort and need not be ► **P11**

Sinha attends Sant Kabir’s Nirvan Diwas

Tech & Tradition India’s twin strengths; ancient roots, novel tools blueprint for 21st Century: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday has urged the people to harness power for societal transformation and craft a blueprint for a prosperous India that lights the world's path.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the commemorative event on the occasion of 508th Nirvan Diwas of Sant Kabir, organised by Shiromani Sant Kabir Bhawan at Chak Avtara Bishnah, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Sant Kabir's eternal wisdom and his message paves a brighter societal path, deepening our unity while forging spiritual and material triumphs for the nation.

He said that the legacy and philosophy of Sant Kabir is shining brightest today, awakening society's inner soul.

"India's greatest strength is its ability to mas-



ter Tech and Tradition, Microchip and Mantra. Our ancient roots and digital branches, modern tools and timeless values of ancient sages are perfect blueprint for 21st Century success and prosperity.

India is stepping forward to guide the world toward peace and prosperity through its great saintly tradition and timeless values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that India's timeless mantra "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world as one family—holds unprecedented relevance today.

"As global divisions deepen in economic and strategic realms, India's timeless wisdom offers a vision where unity, peace, and joy become a universal way of life. In the face ► **P11**

Huge ‘mule accounts’ racket busted in J&K; fear misuse by terror groups

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: Security agencies have busted an ever-growing ecosystem of "mule accounts" in Jammu and Kashmir that serves as the financial backbone of global scam networks, with officials fearing that the funds routed through these accounts could be used for separatist and anti-national activities.

The officials said more than 8,000 mule accounts operating in the region have been identified and frozen over a period of three years, exposing

a sophisticated network of money laundering.

They described these accounts as the "weakest yet most crucial link" in the cyber-crime chain, as without them, the conversion of stolen money into untraceable cryptocurrency would be impossible. Central security agencies have asked the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other law enforcement agencies to hold consultations with banks to curb the mushrooming of 'mule accounts' and identify middlemen, commonly referred to as "mulers", who facilitate such financial frauds,

they said.

Officials suspect that after the National Investigation Agency's 2017 crackdown on the flow of illicit money into Jammu and Kashmir, anti-national elements may have shifted to a newer model of "digital hawala", wherein commissions earned by mule account holders or mulers may be used for activities against the country.

A muler is typically not the person who contacts victims or sends fake links. Instead, their role is covert but critical -- arranging and maintaining a steady supply of ► **P11**

6 AGMUT IAS officers get key roles in Admn

NEW DELHI: In a major administrative reshuffle, the Delhi Government has ordered the transfer and posting of 72 IAS officers across departments on Sunday.

Among them are six IAS officers of the AGMUT cadre who have served in Jammu and Kashmir union territory or are transitioning from the J&K segment to take up important assignments in the national capital.

As per the official order, Bipul Pathak, the 1992 batch AGMUT Cadre IAS officer, presently serving as Additional Chief Secretary (Social Welfare) holding additional charge of Director (UTCS), has been posted as Addi-

tional Chief Secretary (Social Welfare), while continuing to hold the additional charges of Director (UTCS) and Additional Chief Secretary (SC/ST/OBC).

Similarly, Santosh D Vaidya, the 1998 batch AGMUT Cadre IAS officer, presently serving as Principal Secretary (Finance) in Jammu and Kashmir, on joining GNCTD, has been posted as Principal Secretary (Home) with additional charge of Principal Secretary (Finance/Planning), Principal Secretary (Industries) and Chairperson, DSIIDC.

In another key move, Pandurang K Pole, the 2004 batch officer, ► **P11**



Devotees offer prayers at Shri Ranbireswar temple in Jammu on Mahashivratri
Pic by: Sewa Ram

Avalanche hits Doda; road choked

BHADERWAH/JAMMU: An avalanche blocked the Bhaderwah-Pathankot interstate road in Doda district of the Union Territory on Sunday, leaving dozens of vehicles stranded, a police officer said.

Bhaderwah Superintendent of Police Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma said the avalanche struck between Thanthera and Guldanda, around 18 kms from Bhaderwah town, around 5 pm. No casualties were reported.

Guldanda is a famous winter destination in the Jammu region, and over 250 vehicles carrying tourists had crossed the area when the avalanche occurred, he ► **P11**

White-Collar Terror probe: Doctors form ‘Ansar Interim’ for J-K, hinterland strikes

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: The 'white-collar' terror module recently busted by the Jammu and Kashmir Police indicates that the doctors arrested in the case had been radicalised since 2016 and formed a new terror organisation named "Ansar Interim" to carry out subversive activities in the Union Territory as well as in the hinterland, officials said on Sunday.

The case, which is now being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), also brings to light that Dr Umer-un Nabi—the man behind the wheel of the explosive-laden car that exploded outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing over a dozen people -- had unsuccessfully attempted to join terror groups in 2016 and 2018, they said.

Piecing together evidence gathered so far, officials said the accused doctors -- Muzamil Gannie, Umer-un Nabi (now dead), and Adeel Rather, along with his brother Muzzafar Rather (absconding), as well as Maulvi Irfan, Qari Aamir, and Tufail Gazi met at Eidgah in downtown Srinagar in April 2022.

During the meeting, they decided to form a terror organisation "Ansar Interim," with Adeel named as the 'Ameer' (chief) of the group, Maulvi Irfan as 'Deputy Ameer,' and Gannie as treas-

urer, officials said, adding that among militant groups, "Ansar" is commonly associated with the globally banned terror outfit Al-Qaeda.

The arrested doctors and preachers told the interrogators that the need to form a new group emerged because all their contacts with active terrorists had been severed, officials said. Roles and operational codes were assigned to the members during the meeting.

Umer assumed the role of coordinator and, along with Gannie, handled finances and procurement.

It was in 2023 that the group decided to acquire fertiliser from the Sohna and Nuh areas of Haryana. ► **P11**

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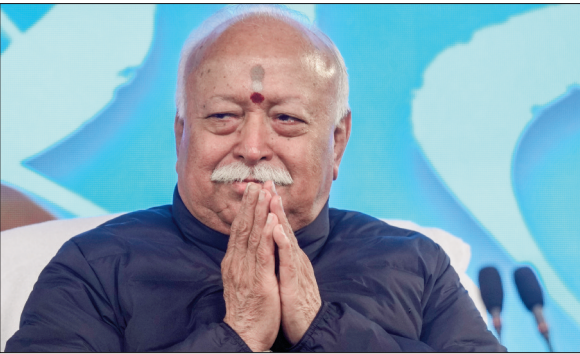
It was in 2023 that the group decided to acquire fertiliser from the Sohna and Nuh areas of Haryana. ► **P11**

Bhagwat: India a global hub of goodwill, social harmony

GORAKHPUR (UP): RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Sunday that India stands as a global centre of goodwill and social harmony, asserting that the country's civilisational ethos is rooted in a sense of oneness and mutual belonging rather than transactional relationships.

Addressing a 'Samajik Sadbhav' (social harmony) meeting organised by the RSS Goraksh province at Baba Gambhirnath Auditorium in Taramandal here to mark the organisation's centenary year, Bhagwat said society is defined by interconnectedness and not by self-interest.

"In many countries, relationships are seen as transactions. In our country, human



relationships are based on a sense of belonging," he said.

"India stands as a global centre of goodwill and social harmony. The country's civilisational ethos is rooted in a sense of oneness and mutual belonging rather than transactional relationships," he said.

Highlighting India's diversity, Bhagwat said differences in customs, attire and traditions do not create divisions because of the underlying cultural unity.

"We consider Bharat as our mother. The same ► **P11**

6 ERSS vehicles inducted

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir police on Sunday dedicated six emergency response support system (ERSS) Dial-112 vehicles in hilly Doda district to enhance public safety and strengthening emergency response mechanisms.

Doda Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Mehta flagged off the vehicles from district police lines and urged citizens to make responsible use of the Dial 112 emergency service strictly for genuine emergencies.

Under this initiative, each police station in the district has been provided with a dedicated emergency ► **P11**

Strategic Bhaderwah-Bani-Basohli NH reopened after fresh snowfall

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a swift and co-ordinated operation amid extreme weather conditions, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Sunday reopened the strategic Bhaderwah-Bani-Basohli national highway, restoring connectivity between Doda and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said.

The recent spell of intense snowfall at Chattergala Pass had disrupted vehicular movement along the 65-kilometre stretch, temporarily snapping the crucial link between the mountainous regions, the spokesman added.

Demonstrating operational readiness and commitment to maintaining all-weather connectivity, he said



that the 69 and 118 Road Construction Company (RCC) of the 35 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) under Project Sampark of the BRO launched an intensive snow clearance drive in challenging terrain near the Ashapati glacier and the foothills of Mount Kailash. Despite deep snow

accumulation, sub-zero temperatures and difficult working conditions, the teams deployed men and machinery round-the-clock to restore traffic well ahead of the usual seasonal schedule, the spokesman mentioned.

He emphasised that the timely reopening has ► **P11**

T20 WORLD CUP

India thrash Pakistan by 61 runs to qualify for Super 8s

COLOMBO: Ishan Kishan merged power with finesse for a fifty before Jasprit Bumrah destroyed Pakistan top-order with his malevolently talented right-arm, powering India to a T20 World Cup Super Eight berth clinching one-sided 61-run win here on Sunday.

Kishan's supersonic 77 (40b) on a tacky Premadasa pitch was worth its weight in gold, carrying India to a competitive 175 for seven after they were asked to bat first. It was easily one of the most entertaining T20I knocks by an Indian batter if one factors in degree of difficulty.

Pakistan needed a strong Power Play segment to chase 176 on this surface. But Bumrah (2/17) and Hardik Pandya (2/16) jettisoned big-hitting

Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub and Salman Ali Agha to bowl out them for 114, reducing the much-anticipated match into a no-contest. India now lead 8-1 in all T20 World Cup encounters.

Pandya started the bedlam in the first over of Pakistan's chase, as his snorter got big on Farhan and he could only sky it to Rinku Singh.

Entered the irrepressible Bumrah. The premier pacer unleashed himself on Pakistan batters in his first over itself.

Ayub could not handle a devilish inswinging yorker to get caught in front of the wicket.

Agha was as clueless as an exchange student in a foreign country against Bumrah's back of ► **P11**