

*Inking the Truth*

## India unveils 'Prahaar' Nation's first-ever zero-tolerance Counter-Terrorism Policy

'Israel Group' of JeM neutralised after 18-month operation: Officials



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI/JAMMU:** The government on Monday unveiled the country's first counter-terrorism policy, "Prahaar", setting out a multi-layered strategy based on "zero tolerance", intelligence-led prevention and disruption of extremist violence that aims to deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, weapons and safe havens.

seven key pillars to counter the terror threats emanating from India or abroad -- prevention, responses, aggregating internal capacities, human rights and "Rule of Law"-based processes, attenuating the conditions enabling terrorism including radicalisation, aligning and shaping the international efforts to counter terrorism and recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

"There has been a history of sporadic instability in the immediate neighbourhood of



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India, which has often given rise to ungoverned spaces. Besides, a few countries in the region have sometimes used terrorism as an instrument of State policy," the document said, without naming Pakistan.

"Notwithstanding this, India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation. India has always denounced terrorism and its use by any actor for achieving any stated or unstated ends unambiguously and unequivocally," it added.

Stating that India has consistently stood by the victims of terrorism and has been steadfast in its belief that there can be no justification whatsoever for violence in the world, the document said it is this principled approach that informs New Delhi's policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

"India has since long been affected by sponsored terrorism from across the border, with Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations continuing to ► P11

## Snow, spirit, unity: LG Sinha kicks off 6th KIWG in spectacular Gulmarg style



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**GULMARG:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha officially inaugurated the 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games on Monday amid the stunning snowy slopes of Gulmarg. He extended a warm welcome and best wishes to all the participating athletes, team officials, and supporters gathered for this premier national winter sports showcase. ► P11

## Ashwani Kumar assumes charge as Addl CS PDD

**JAMMU:** Ashwani Kumar Monday assumed the charge as Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of Power Development Department at Civil Secretariat here.

The ACS held an introductory meeting with senior officers to review the functioning, ongoing projects and key issues of the department. Ashwani Kumar had detailed discussion with the Chief Engineers and senior functionaries, focusing on strengthening power infrastructure, improving transmission and distribution efficiency besides ensuring reliable and quality power supply to consumers across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Power sector has a critical role in driving economic growth and public welfare", asserted the ACS.

He underscored the need for enhanced coordination, timely execution of projects and adoption of modern technologies to improve the operational efficiency. He stressed on the importance of minimizing ► P11

## Omar bats for artificial snow to counter climate change, boost tourism

**GULMARG:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday advocated for the introduction of artificial snow at Gulmarg to bolster tourism and promote the destination as a winter sports hub.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of the sixth Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in north Kashmir's Baramulla, Abdullah said Gulmarg remains the pre-eminent venue for ► P11

## Massive blow to terror network: Army on elimination of 3 terrorists

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**JAMMU:** The Army on Monday termed the killing of three Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar a "massive blow to the terror network", and said it was the culmination of a relentless, high-altitude joint operation conducted over 326 days in extremely challenging terrain.

Three members of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit, including its self-styled commander, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kishtwar on Sunday.

They said army troops, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force tracked the terrorists in extremely hostile conditions.

"Troops of White Knight Corps, police and CRPF, based on a well-knit intelligence grid established by civil and military intelligence agencies, have finally eliminated all seven dreaded terrorists in Chatroo belt of Kishtwar (in several operations during last near one year)," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

It described the outcome as a "massive blow to ► P11

## CM Omar articulates vision to make Gulmarg Int'l Ski destination at KIWG



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**GULMARG:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday reaffirmed that it is not merely the government's intention but its consistent and sustained effort to develop Gulmarg into an international ski destination, emphasizing that this vision will create opportunities and benefit all sectors associated with sports and tourism in the ► P11

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## Over Rs 487 Cr utilised on flood mgmt post 2014 deluge in Kmr

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**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has expended over Rs 487 crore on a series of flood management initiatives under various phases of the flood management programme, in the aftermath of the catastrophic 2014 deluge that ravaged the valley.

The investment has been directed towards strengthening embankments, dredging rivers and nallahs, upgrading pumping stations, and reinforcing critical flood control infrastructure to enhance preparedness and mitigate the impact of future flooding events, officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Department said.

Following the devastating 2014 floods, the Union Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), RD&GR constituted a three-member core group on September 18, 2014 to prepare a roadmap for flood management in the valley.

The recommendations were categorised into immediate, short-term and long-term measures, the officials said.

While Phase-I of the Flood Management Programme, sanctioned at Rs 399.29 crore, has seen an expenditure of Rs 327.04 crore and is largely complete with improvements such as enhanced ► P11

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## India asks its nationals to leave Iran

**NEW DELHI:** India on Monday advised all its nationals residing in Iran to leave the country by all available means of transport, including commercial flights, in view of the evolving security situation.

The Indian embassy in Iran issued a fresh advisory to the Indian nationals amid fresh protests in Tehran and increasing fears of US military strikes on the Gulf nation. Students at several universities in Iran held anti-government demonstrations in a first such agitation since Tehran's brutal crackdown on the ► P11

## Grand Finale of 17th PRAKRITI International Documentary Film Festival inaugurated at JU

In digital age, every young mind is a classroom without walls: Prof Manhas

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**JAMMU:** Grand Finale of the 17th PRAKRITI: International Documentary Film Festival was inaugurated Monday at the University of Jammu in the august presence of Justice (Retd.) Tashi Rabstan, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The festival is being organised by the University of Jammu in collaboration with the Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi, an Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission.



The inaugural session was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai. Prof. Parikshit Singh Manhas, Director, CEC; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research

Studies and Sunil Mehru, Joint Director, CEC were present on the dais.

In his address, Justice (Retd.) Tashi Rabstan described the 17th Prakriti International Documentary Film Festival as a significant platform that goes beyond cinema and serves as a forum for awareness and social reflection.

He appreciated the University of Jammu and the Consortium for Educational Communication for sustaining an initiative that brings filmmakers, academicians, students, and civil society together to engage with pressing contemporary issues.

He observed that documentary films have the power to present ground realities with honesty, raise difficult questions, and encourage meaningful dialogue. ► P11

## World applauds India's AI power: PM Modi praises young tech stars

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the entire world wholeheartedly praised India's potential at the just-concluded AI Impact Summit, demonstrating that the mindset of India's young talents in technology will be of great benefit to humanity.

The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi last week, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI).

"The entire world wholeheartedly praised India's potential at the historic AI Summit held in Delhi. This demonstrates that the mind-



set of our young talents in technology is going to be of great benefit to all of humanity," Modi wrote on X in Hindi.

The New Delhi Declaration has been endorsed by 89 countries and international

organisations, reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social good.

Global leaders, including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, ► P11

## Panchayati Raj: DDCs' term expires today

**SRINAGAR:** Curtains will fall on the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday, with its last surviving tier—the District Development Councils—completing their term. The District Development Councils will complete their five-year tenure on February 24, 2026, marking the end of the third tier of the Panchayati Raj system in J&K.

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, said there is no need to assign functions of DDCs to officers, as no such provision exists in law. "There is no need to appoint administrators for DDCs," he said. The term of the first two tiers of the ► P11

## Schools reopen after winter break in Valley

**SRINAGAR:** Schools across Kashmir reopened on Monday for students of Classes 9 to 12 after over two months of winter vacations, officials said.

The resumption of classes from pre-primary to 8 will take place on March 2, they said.

The government had in November announced winter vacations schedule for both government and private schools in Kashmir.

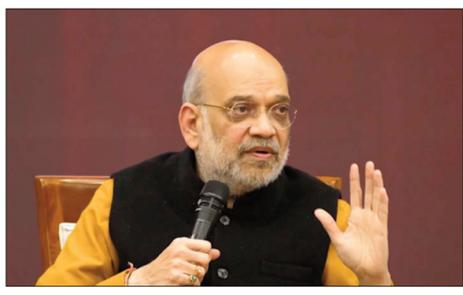
The winter vacation for primary classes was scheduled from November 26 last year to February 28 this year.

The winter ► P11

## 'Bharat taxi guarantees minimum pay, 80 pc profits back to drivers'

**NEW DELHI:** Union Cooperation Amit Shah on Monday said the newly launched cooperative cab service Bharat Taxi will guarantee a minimum base rate per kilometre for all drivers on its platform, asserting that existing ride-hailing aggregators had deliberately avoided setting such a floor to maximise corporate profits at the expense of workers.

Addressing a town hall interaction with cab and auto drivers from Delhi-NCR and Gujarat, Shah said the cooperative ride-hailing platform would return 80 per cent of profits to drivers based on kilometres driven, with the remaining 20 per cent retained as cooperative capital.



"I asked all three companies whether they had set a minimum base rate for their drivers. They said no," Shah told the gathering during the 40-minute interaction.

"We will not do this. Whatever business you do,

your minimum should be fixed. And that value is more than that has to come back to you."

AMUL MODEL: Shah drew repeated parallels between Bharat Taxi and the Amul Dairy ► P11

## Pak balloons with foreign currency notes recovered

**JAMMU:** Two balloons with a Pakistani Rs 5,000 currency note and a US dollar attached to them were recovered from a forward village in the Akhnoor sector near Jammu on Monday, officials said.

The aeroplane-shaped white and red balloons were found stuck on a tree at Gunara village in the Khour border belt, they said.

The balloons, also carrying a Pakistani mobile number and a QR code, appeared to have drifted to this side of the International Border from ► P11

## 'RSS builds strong individuals, strong society, strong Nation'

**DEHRADUN:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said that the Sangh does not practice Hindutva politics, rather it believes in building a strong society and nation through individual development.

"The Sangh's objective is individual development because only strong individuals can build a strong society and nation," Bhagwat said at a programme to mark the Sangh's 100 years on Sunday, emphasising that the reality of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) cannot be understood from the outside.

Some people mistake the Sangh for a paramilitary organisation, others for a service sector body, but the RSS is a social force working beyond these boundaries, he said,



speaking on the theme 'Sangh Yatra - New Horizons, New Dimensions'.

"The world now hopes to see India in a leadership role once again," Bhagwat said, as he called upon the gathering

to empower society and the nation by joining the Sangh's activities.

Stating that only those who work to unite are Hindus, he said, "Devotion to the motherland is ► P11