

What is happening, both good and bad in the world today, is the direct result of the kind of education we have been imparting to children.
-Bhikkhu Sanghasena

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Kejriwal gets relief in excise policy case

NEW DELHI: The CBI has failed to establish a prima-facie case of manipulation against former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, a court here said on Friday, while discharging the AAP leader in the excise policy matter.

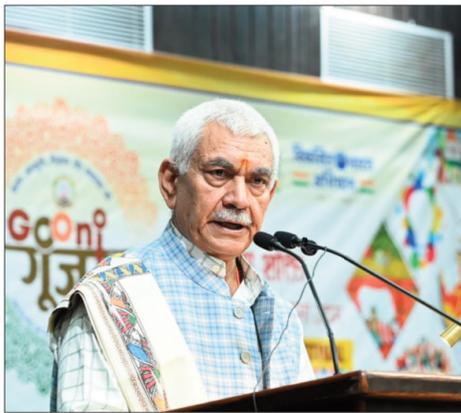
Special Judge Jitendra Singh took note of the allegation against Kejriwal that he was a "central figure" who manipulated the policy for the benefit of the so-called "South Group" as also for the purpose of "recouping the upfront money".

"The prosecution seeks to connect Accused 18 (Kejriwal) mainly based on one sentence in the statement of the witness, namely, prosecution witness 225 Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy: 'Thereafter, he told me that K Kavitha, daughter of K Chandrashekar Rao, the then chief minister of Telangana, would be contacting me in this regard,'" the judge said.

Taking note of the evidence before it, the court, however, said there was no relevant document, file noting, electronic communication, financial transaction or digital evidence to ► P11

Sinha inaugurates 'Goonj 2026' at Jammu University

Balanced minds, bold innovators to drive nation towards devp: LG



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Asserting that students must embrace innovation, research on fresh ideas, experiment and give impetus to nation-building, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the youth hold boundless power to steer society and the nation towards the future. He emphasised the need

for shaping balanced minds and bold innovators for sustainable development.

"Empowered youth engineer the future and I believe intellectual depth, creative strength and innovative youth leadership are essential for national advancement," the L-G said.

Sinha was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of 'Goonj 2026', a youth festival hosted

by the University of Jammu. The two-day event aims to offer a platform to youth from diverse disciplines to share ideas, educate the mind and ignite innovation.

The L-G said when young people kindle the flame of courage within themselves and step forward with unyielding belief, new avenues open up for society and the nation.

"Honour your traditions, respect your past and connect with your roots. This will deepen the profound sense of identity, confidence and self-awareness that no classroom can ever fully teach," he said.

Sinha noted that the purpose of education is not merely the acquisition of knowledge but the creation of enlightened citizens who are sensitive to their duties. "True education prepares youth to forge entirely new answers and solutions that the world has not yet imagined. Students enter campuses not merely for degrees, but to nurture culture, explore new ideas, ► P11

Prez flies sortie in LCH 'Prachand' near Indo-Pak border in Jaisalmer

Murmu became 1st president to fly attack helicopter

JAIPUR: Clad in an olive-green flying suit and helmet, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday took a 25-minute sortie as co-pilot in Light Combat Helicopter 'Prachand' near the India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer district.

According to the Indian Air Force (IAF), the helicopter took off from the Jaisalmer Air Force Station after the president was briefed by the captain. She waved from the cockpit before departure.

During the flight, Murmu -- the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces -- delivered a message to the nation from the cockpit.

"Prachand helicopter is a powerful symbol of self-reliance. At this moment, I am flying over the Jaisalmer district. I extend my heartfelt greetings and deepest gratitude to our brave soldiers. A warm salute to you, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat," she said.

The helicopter flew over the Pokharan firing range, where the IAF is scheduled to conduct its firepower



Vayu Shakti: IAF gives glimpse of Op Sindoor

JAISALMER: The Indian Air Force demonstrated its combat prowess and firepower capabilities, and presented glimpses of missions undertaken during Operation Sindoor through simulated strikes at the Pokharan Field Firing Range under Exercise 'Vayu Shakti' in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu on Friday. The day-dusk-night demonstration, held in the Thar desert of ► P11

demonstration, 'Vayu Shakti', on Friday evening. Murmu will witness the day-dusk-night demonstration.

Earlier, IAF Chief Air Marshal A P Singh welcomed the president at the IAF station.

With today's sortie, Murmu became the first Indian president to fly in an attack helicopter, adding another milestone to her engagements with ► P11

Textbook row: NCERT recall banned copies

NEW DELHI: The NCERT on Friday issued an advisory asking anyone with copies of the banned class 8 textbook that had a chapter on "judicial corruption" be returned to the council headquarters.

In a strongly worded advisory, the the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) also called for all social media posts that carry the chapter's content be deleted.

The Union Ministry of Education on Thursday wrote to the ministries of information and broadcasting, and electronics, asking them to stop the dissemination of a controversial NCERT ► P11

HM tightens noose on illegal migrants

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday directed intensified vigilance, coordinated inter-agency action and stricter financial scrutiny in India-Nepal border districts to stop infiltration and illegal migration.

At a high-level review meeting in Purnea, he said that following the completion of the SIR exercise, all reported death cases will be thoroughly verified through due process.

"Upon confirmation, necessary deletions and updates shall be carried out in relevant official records, including UID databases, driving licences, PAN records, and other applicable government documents to ensure accuracy and pre-

vent misuse," the home minister told officers.

He underscored the need for strengthening border management, enhancing vigilance against illegal activities, and coordinating inter-agency action to address concerns such as illegal constructions near border areas, illegal migration, fake currency notes, encroachments, and unauthorised financial flows.

The meeting decided to undertake a door-to-door survey to verify individuals reported as migrated but absent during verification, while ensuring that no genuine voter is erroneously deleted.

Shah directed a zero-tolerance policy against illegal constructions, particularly ► P11

CM visits SATTE 2026 at Dwarka J-K set to shine as 365-day global tourism hub: Omar



NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today asserted that Jammu & Kashmir is poised to emerge as a year-round global tourism destination, backed by re-

newed confidence, expanded infrastructure and diversified tourism offerings.

He was addressing a grand promotional event held in New Delhi on Thursday

evening, which was graced by the Union Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, along with diplomats, travel trade representatives and key stakeholders from the hospitality sector.

Highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's spiritual richness, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant cultural heritage, the Chief Minister said J&K embraces visitors from across India and around the world. He emphasized that the government is actively working to broaden the tourism canvas beyond traditional destinations. CM Omar Abdullah announced the ► P11

Warrants out against Hizb chief, 3 terrorists

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A sessions court here has issued non-bailable warrants against four terrorist commanders including the self-styled chief of the banned terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, Mohammad Yousuf Shah alias Syed Salahuddin, in a 30 years old case, officials said on Friday.

"In a significant step towards dismantling terror networks and reinforcing rule of law, Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) has secured non-bailable warrants against four operatives of proscribed terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen," CIK officials said. They said the war-

rants were issued by the court of additional sessions judge, Srinagar -- special judge designated under the NIA Act -- after hearing the prosecution and the investigating officer and examining the case record.

Officials said Mohammad Yousuf Shah aka Syed Salahuddin, who is currently based across the Line of Control, was among the accused against whom the warrants were issued.

"The absconding accused is the chief of the so-called United Jihad Council (UJC) and the proscribed terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen. He is a known terrorist operator and instigator. The absconder is ► P11

CJ: Forensic Science is 'Suraksha Kavach'

GANDHINAGAR: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday said forensic science is a shield safeguarding the integrity of justice against both technical deception and informational distortions.

He was speaking at the 4th Convocation of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) here.

"Forensic science becomes more than a technical discipline. It becomes a raksha or suraksha kavach, protective shield safeguarding the integrity of justice against both technical deception and informational distortions," said the CJ.

The digital age has transformed not only how crimes are committed but also how truth must be discovered. Cyber-intrusions, digital fraud,



identity manipulations and transnational data crimes challenge traditional investigative models and demand a new level of analytical sophistication, he said.

The expertise of forensic science professionals serves as a stabilizing force, ensuring

that technological advancement strengthens rather than undermines the rule of law, CJ Surya Kant said.

Citizens may not fully understand the technological processes behind forensic analysis, but they trust that those processes ► P11

MLAs Nomination case: HC fixes Mar 27 for next hearing

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The final hearing in the much publicised Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging provisions of nominations of five MLAs by the Lt Governor of J&K, started on Friday.

Senior Advocate of Supreme Court P C Sen representing the petitioner Ravinder Kumar Sharma, Chief Spokesperson JKPC started the argument before the special Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri. He advanced argu-

ments against the Constitutional validity of the provisions of section 15, 15-A and 15-B of J&K Reorganisation Act authorizing Lt Governor to nominate five MLAs to the J&K Legislative Assembly.

The arguments couldn't be concluded today and matter was listed next on March 27th for further hearing. Advocate DK Khajuria along with Ayush Pangotra assisted the Senior counsel while DySG Vishal Sharma represented the respondents, Adv SS Ahmed, Mandip represented the intervenors.

Drone activity leads to search Op near LoC

JAMMU: Security forces launched a search operation after a suspected drone movement was detected along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Friday, sources said.

The search was carried out in the forward areas of the Gulpur belt. Troops fired several rounds as part of security measures during the suspected aerial movement, officials said, adding that the object later moved back from the LoC.

Meanwhile, two CRPF jawans allegedly died by suicide, shooting themselves with their service rifles, in ► P11

Islamabad says it's in Open War with Kabul

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said it was in an "open war" with Afghanistan after its forces killed more than 270 Taliban fighters and injured over 400 others in airstrikes in response to what Islamabad described as the cross-border attack by the Afghan Taliban.

Afghanistan's Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Afghan forces killed 55 Pakistani soldiers and targeted what he described as "important military objectives" inside Pakistan.

The Afghan Taliban attacked several check posts along the border late Thursday, apparently to avenge the air strikes carried out by

Pakistan in Afghanistan's border areas on Sunday. Pakistan responded by hitting targets in Kabul, Kandahar and Paktia under 'Operation Ghazab lil Haq' early Friday.

The 2,611-km-long border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is known as the Durand Line, which Kabul has not formally recognised.

"Our patience has run out. Now there is an open war between us... Now it will be 'Dama Dam Mast Qalandar'. Pakistan's army did not come from across the seas. We know your ins and outs," Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in a post on X. 'Dama Dam Mast Qalandar' refers to a ► P11