

"The standard  
you walk past is  
the standard you  
accept."

—David Hurley

*Inking the Truth*

## Infiltration attempt foiled along LoC in Nowshera; terrorist killed

Drone activity triggers searches; mine blasts reported

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Army troops foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Tuesday, killing one terrorist during an encounter, officials said.

Acting on intelligence inputs, security forces detected the movement of two terrorists in the general area of Jhangar in Nowshera sector along the LoC at around 3 pm, the White Knight Corps said on X.

Alert troops responded with swift and calibrated action and engaged the infiltrators, successfully foiling the infiltration attempt, it said.

In the ensuing exchange of fire, one Pakistan-sponsored terrorist was eliminated, effectively prevent-



ing any breach of the LoC, it added. A search operation has been launched to trace the second terrorist, who is believed to be hiding in the area.

Security forces have strengthened their operational posture and heightened surveillance across the sector, with integrated ground and aerial monitoring to ► P11

## Time for UCC: SC on petition seeking striking down Shariat Law provisions

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that the time has come for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as it termed a plea seeking striking down of provisions of the Shariat law of 1937 for being discriminatory to Muslim women as a "very good case" which advisably only the legislature should look into.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and R Mahadevan said if the court struck down the Shariat inheritance law, it would create a legal vacuum, as there is no statutory law governing Muslim inheritance.

CJI Kant told advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioners, "In our over-anxiety for reforms, we may end up depriving them, and they might end up getting less than what they are already getting. If the Shariat Act of 1937 goes away, then what is the question? Will it not create an unnecessary void?"

Justice Bagchi said, "You have a very good case on discrimina-



tion, but would it not be appropriate for the court to defer it to the wisdom of the legislature, which has the mandate to enact a Uniform Civil Code as per the Directive Principles of State Policy."

CJI Kant said, "The answer is Uniform Civil Code."

Justice Bagchi pointed out that the rule of 'one wife for one man' is not being uniformly applied to all communities.

"But does that mean that the court can declare all bigamous marriages as unconstitutional? So, we have to defer to legislative power to bring the directive principles into effect," he said, adding that it is best to defer the issue to

the legislative wisdom.

Justice Bagchi further said, "This court has time and again recommended to the legislature to enact a Uniform Civil Code."

At the outset, Bhushan submitted that the court can make a declaration that Muslim women are entitled to equal inheritance rights as men, and the provisions of the Indian Succession Act will apply if the court strikes down the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act of 1937.

The bench wondered whether the court can at all adjudicate the constitutionality of a personal law practice and referred to the landmark Bombay High Court ► P11

## 3 JSD workers sacked for anti-national acts

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government has dismissed three workers of the Jal Shakti department over their alleged involvement in "anti-national and subversive activities", officials said on Tuesday.

Among the three workers, two hailed from Kishtwar district in Jammu, while one belonged to south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

They were identified as Liyaqat Ali Bhagwan, a resident of Bhagwan Mohalla Huller in Kishtwar; Kousar Hussain Bhagwan, son of Mohammad Akbar Bhagwan and a resident of Hunjala in Kishtwar, and Showkat Ahmad Zargar, a resident of Iqbal Mohalla Bijbehara in

Anantnag.

According to the dismissal order issued by Shaleen Kabra, the financial commissioner of Jal Shakti department, Liyaqat was working as a need-based casual labourer and was posted at Berwar in Kishtwar.

Kousar Hussain was also a need-based casual labourer posted at Huller under PHE Sub-Division in Kishtwar, while Showkat was a daily-rated wagar in Bijbehara, the order said.

According to the order, an FIR (No 230/2019) was registered against Liyaqat and Kousar Hussain under Sections 13, 18, 19, 38 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), pertaining to allegations of involvement in ► P11

## Rajnath unveils vision document to boost Indian military's capabilities

**NEW DELHI:** An ambitious vision document broadly outlining a series of strategic reforms, capability enhancements and organisational changes required to bolster the Indian military was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday.

The document, prepared by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), is a strategic blueprint to transform the Indian armed forces into a modern, multi-domain, and integrated force by the centenary of India's Independence.

The release of the 'Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military' came eight months after the military con-



flict between India and Pakistan. Following the May 7 to 10 conflict, all the three forces were asked to work on the lessons learnt from it.

The vision document envisages the transformation of

the military into an integrated, multi-domain and agile force capable of deterring adversaries and to effectively respond to any conflict.

A central pillar of the vision is the emphasis on joint-

ness and synergy among the services, promoting greater coordination in planning, operations and capability development, according to the defence ministry.

It said the blueprint has been articulated by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to transform the defence forces into a modern, integrated and technologically-advanced military capable of supporting India's aspiration to become 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.

"The vision document outlines the strategic reforms, capability enhancements and organisational changes required within the defence forces to effectively address the evolving ► P11

## Tulip Garden set to open on March 16

**SRINAGAR:** Asia's largest tulip garden here on the banks of Dal Lake will be open to the public from March 16, almost 10 days ahead of schedule, as the valley experienced warmer days leading to early blooming of the flowers.

Director of Floriculture Mathura Masoom said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will open the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden for visitors.

"The Tulip garden will be thrown open for the public from March 16 (Monday)," he said.

The garden, which was added to the tourist ► P11

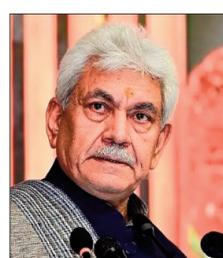
## LG lauds bravery of CISF personnel on Raising Day

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday greeted personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force on its raising day and said that the nation is proud of their service and sacrifices.

In an X post, Sinha saluted the bravery and dedication of CISF personnel, acknowledging their role in safeguarding the country's critical infrastructure.

"Greetings to all CISF personnel and their families on CISF Raising Day. CISF's unwavering commitment to securing our nation's critical infrastructure is truly commendable," the Lieutenant



Governor wrote.

"The nation is proud of your service and sacrifices. I salute your bravery and steadfast dedication to duty," he added.

The CISF was formed under an Act of Parliament in 1968 and has evolved into a multi-faceted Central Armed

Police Force ever since.

From a modest beginning with just 3,129 personnel, it has grown into a formidable force with over 2.20 lakh personnel deployed across the country.

Meanwhile, Amit Shah today greeted Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel on its raising day.

In a post on X, Shah said, "Greetings to the CISF personnel on Raising Day. Whether safeguarding the nation's vital installations or shielding nation during crises, their dedication reflects true spirit of patriotism and professionalism. Tributes to martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the country." ► P11

## Body of missing Jawan retrieved

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The body of a soldier who had gone missing during a river-crossing exercise in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir a day earlier was recovered on Tuesday, officials said.

The body of Sepoy Akshit Sharma was recovered from the Manawar Tawi stream by a joint search party of the Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local rescuers in the Khoura area this morning, officials said.

According to the Army, the soldier was reported missing on Monday noon during a river-crossing training exercise in the general area of Sundar-

bani, leading to extensive search operations with all available resources of the Army and civil agencies.

The Army's White Knight Corps paid rich tributes to the soldier for the supreme sacrifice and said it stands in solidarity with his family.

"GOC (General Officer Commanding) White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn homage to Sepoy Akshit Sharma of 9 Punjab who made the Supreme Sacrifice on Mar 10 during a training exercise.

"In this hour of profound grief, the White Knight Corps stands in solidarity with the ► P11

## Cabinet extends JJM till Dec 2028

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission up to December 2028 with an enhanced outlay of Rs 8.7 lakh crore, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The project was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 to provide safe and adequate drinking water through tap connections to all households in rural India. "The Cabinet approved the Ministry of Jal Shakti's proposal to restructure and reorient the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from infrastructure creation to service delivery, supported by drinking water governance

and institutional ecosystem for sustainable rural piped potable water supply," the minister said at a press conference. For restructuring JJM, focusing on structural reforms, the Cabinet has approved an enhancement of the total outlay to Rs. 8.69 lakh crore, with a total central assistance of Rs. 3.59 lakh crore as against from Rs. 2.08 lakh crore approved in 2019-20. A uniform national digital framework called "Sujalam Bharat" shall be instituted, under which every village shall be assigned a unique Sujal Gaon or Service Area ID, digitally mapping the complete drinking water supply system from source to tap.

## New scrutiny portal for building plans launched

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday amended the unified building by-laws and launched a portal for processing building permission to promote ease of doing business, and digitise urban governance.

The amendments were notified under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 and the J&K Municipal Act, 2000, an official spokesman said.

The government also introduced a portal for auto-scrutiny-based building permission and change in land use (CLU), using an auto-

mated development control regulations technology.

The portal will enable a fully digital and rule-based system for processing building permissions across the Union Territory, he said.

It integrates CLU with building permissions and is expected to reduce processing time from the earlier 60-90 days to around 30 days, the spokesman said.

Under the system, building plans submitted online are automatically scrutinised against provisions of the unified building by-laws, master plans, zonal plans and other development controls.

"The software generates instant compliance ► P11

## 40K posts lying vacant in Deptts

**JAMMU:** A total of 40,661 posts are currently vacant in government departments across Jammu and Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M Raju said on Tuesday.

The vacancies include 3,808 gazetted posts, 24,507 non-gazetted posts, and 12,351 multi-tasking staff (MTS) posts.

Raju shared the information at a meeting convened by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo here to review the status of vacancies and the progress of recruitments being undertaken through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPC) ► P11

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