

IN BRIEF

Iran names Khamenei's son to succeed him

DUBAI: Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of Iran's slain supreme leader, has been named as the Islamic Republic's next ruler, authorities announced on Monday, as Tehran widened its attacks across the Mideast to strike oil and water facilities crucial to its desert sheikdoms.

With Iran's theocracy under assault by the US and Israel for more than a week, the country's Assembly of Experts chose as the next supreme leader a secretive, 56-year-old cleric who maintains close ties to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The Guard has been firing missiles and drones at Israel and Gulf Arab states since the younger Khamenei's father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed on February 28 during the war's opening salvo. ▶ P11

Govt calls for talks to refurbish peace in West Asia: Jaishankar

'Iran sought docking for 3 ships; India approved'

NEW DELHI: India on Monday advocated de-escalation of tensions in West Asia and called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all underlying issues, as it put the safety of around one crore Indians in the region as its top priority, along with securing energy security and trade.

The US and Israel launched a major military attack on Iran on February 28, and killed its 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The war has so far killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, 397 in Lebanon and 11 in Israel, according to officials.

Making a suo-motu statement in Parliament, External



Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said New Delhi stood for maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region. He defended allowing the Iranian ship to dock at an Indian port as the right decision taken on humanitarian grounds.

brought back 67,000 stranded Indians from the conflict zone.

Jaishankar said the safety of Indian nationals and national interests, such as energy security and trade, remain the topmost priority for the government.

"India is in favour of peace and urges a return to dialogue and diplomacy. We advocate de-escalation, restraint, and ensuring the safety of civilians," he said in identical statements in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

"The well-being and security of the Indian community in the region is our priority. And our national interests, including energy ▶ P11

MLAs calls on CM, raises constituency issues Omar hosts dinner to honour J-K's Ranji Trophy Champions

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Several legislators on Monday called on Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed development works and public welfare in their respective constituencies, an official spokesman said.

The legislators who met Abdullah include BJP's Surjeet Singh Sathia (Samba), Daleep Singh Parihar (Bhaderwah), National Conference's Sajad Shaheen (Banihal), Arjun Singh Raju (Ramban), Khursheed Ahmed (Gulabgarh), and Abdul Majeed Bhat Laram (Anantnag West), the spokesman said.

He said they apprised the chief minister of various issues about their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a



patient hearing to the legislators and assured them that all genuine issues raised by them would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

The chief minister also reiterated that his government remains committed to resolving people's concerns and ensuring timely relief and development across all regions.

Meanwhile, CM also hosted a dinner in honour of the Jammu & Kashmir Ranji Trophy champion team, celebrating their remarkable achievement.

The team was warmly received by the Chief Minister in the presence of his Cabinet colleagues and senior officers. On the occasion, the players were also presented with an award money of ₹2 crore in recognition of their outstanding performance.

President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Mithun Manhas, ▶ P11

India world's second largest arms importer

NEW DELHI: India was the world's second largest importer of arms and military hardware from 2021 to 2025 and the largest chunk of the imports came from Russia, Swedish think tank SIPRI said in a new report on Monday.

Ukraine which received 9.7 per cent of all arms transfers in 2021-25 was the world's largest arms importer in that period, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said.

China dropped out of the top 10 arms importers for the first time since 1991-1995 due to expanded domestic production of its own designs, the think tank noted in its report, 'Trends in International Arms Transfers'. ▶ P11

Head Constable held for demanding bribe

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested a policeman for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a person in Reasi district, an official said. Head Constable Parvaiz Ahmad Bhati, a resident of Mandhar, was trapped following a complaint that he was demanding the illegal gratification to drop certain sections of law in a case registered against the complainant, a spokesperson of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said. He said the accused public servant, posted in police post Talwara, demanded the bribe from the complainant for manipulating the course of the investigation in the case. As the complainant did not wish to pay the bribe, he approached the ACB and accordingly, a discreet verification was conducted which corroborated the demand of bribe by the cop, the spokesperson said.

He further said a case under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act was registered, and a trap team was constituted.

The accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 5,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses, the spokesperson said.

He said the accused was arrested on the spot and later a search was also conducted in his residential quarter in the presence of a magistrate.

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Educational institutions reopen after seven days across Kashmir

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Educational institutions in Kashmir opened on Monday after remaining closed for a week due to protests over the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a US-Israel air strike.

"Schools and other higher educational institutions resume functioning today," said an official.

Donned in school uniforms, students of varying age groups made their way to their institutes on Monday morning.

Schools, colleges and universities were closed for a week from last Monday after protests erupted across the Valley following Khamenei's



due to the protests.

Earlier on February-16, Colleges in Valley resumed activities following a 52 days of winter vacations.

The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department on 23 ▶ P11

Enforcement drive nets 445 violations, 60 vehicles seized

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Authorities have issued 445 traffic violation notices for breaches of the Motor Vehicles Act and seized 60 vehicles for serious offences during a special enforcement drive aimed at strengthening road safety across Jammu division, an official said on Monday.

He said 64 driving licences and 20 registration certificates have been recommended for suspension for grave violations that adversely affect road safety. The total penalty amount realised during the drive was Rs 18.18 lakh. The official said the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) conducted the special drive on the di-

rections of Transport Commissioner, J-K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan in the districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda on Sunday. A total of 24 check points were established at strategic locations where 2,494 vehicles were checked, the official said, adding a total of 445 challans were issued for the violation of the Motor Vehicles Act and 60 vehicles were seized for serious offences. The district-wise enforcement revealed significant violations, including overloading, driving without valid documents, permit violations, over-speeding, dangerous driving, the official said.

Registrar General, Census Comm reviews prep for Census 2027 30K enumerators, supervisors to cover 6,462 villages, 78 towns in two-phases

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan today reviewed preparations for the upcoming Census 2027 during his exclusive visit to the Directorate of Census Operations Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The visit was focused on preparation and readiness of the Directorate of Census for conducting the processes and training workshops in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for smooth conduct of the



Census of India 2027. Director Census Operations, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, apprised the Registrar General and Commissioner Census, India of the working and functioning of the office.

Mritunjay Kumar Narayan interacted with the

senior officials and staff of the Directorate office and enquired about their roles and functions. He emphasized the significance of conducting the process of Census with utmost focus, vigilance and diligence with meticulous planning and robust mechanisms in place. He also highlighted the importance of training of field officials who will visit each district during the Census 2027.

Discussion was held on the workshops for awareness and publicity of Census for connecting the general masses with the national exercise that becomes the basis of several development and social plan-

ning at the National level.

Earlier, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner inaugurated Census e-library, medical room and canteen facility for the welfare of Census employees.

Several officers and officials of the Directorate of Census Operations Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, staff were present during the visit.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, in presence of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, on Monday chaired a high-level sensitisation session to review and ▶ P11

Court directs for proper numbering of case files

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has issued directions to registry officials to ensure proper numbering of main case files, interlocutory applications (IAs), caveats and other related documents on judicial files to avoid inconvenience during court proceedings.

According to a circular issued by the Registrar General M.K. Sharma, it has been observed that in several cases listed before the court, the Main Case Numbers, IA Numbers and Caveat Numbers were not being filled in designated

spaces on the files after registration, leading to difficulties during hearings.

The circular directs registry officials of both wings of the High Court to ensure that immediately after registration of matters, all relevant particulars including case numbers, IA numbers, caveat numbers and the corresponding year are clearly entered in the designated columns wherever found blank.

The order states that the step has been taken to streamline court proceedings and prevent any inconvenience to the Hon'ble Courts while dealing with cases.

Jawan goes missing from training

JAMMU: An army soldier went missing during a river crossing exercise in Sunderbani sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, prompting the launch of a joint rescue operation to trace him, officials said.

They said the incident occurred in Manawar river in Khour area and a team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) joined Army and police in the operation to trace him.

"During a river crossing training exercise conducted in general area of Sunderbani, Sepoy Akshit Sharma was reported missing at around 12 pm today (Monday). Extensive search ▶ P11

J&K Bank celebrates Int'l Women's Day Bank committed to women's financial independence: MD & CEO Chatterjee

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: On the home front, women have always been leaders, but it took men of this world many generations to extend similar opportunities to them in the professional domain - a shift that happened only a few generations ago; and the results are there for everyone to see.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee stated this at the Bank's Jammu Divisional Office while chairing a special function organized on the eve of International Women's Day to celebrate women's contributions in shaping the world we



live in.

The event marked the special presence of women officers of the Bank, including DGMs Aneeta Nehru, Virender Kaur and Hafeeza Rahim, along with AGMs and Senior Managers, who joined the function from the Bank's Corporate Headquarters ▶ P11

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