

"The greater the difficulty, the more the glory in surmounting it."

—Epicurus

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400 people killed in attack: Afghan Govt India 'unequivocally' condemns Pakistan's 'barbaric' airstrike on Kabul rehab centre

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday "unequivocally" condemned Pakistan's "barbaric" airstrike on a drug treatment centre in Kabul and described it as a "blatant assault" on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to regional peace and stability.

In a strong reaction to the last night's attack that reportedly killed over 400 people, New Delhi accused Pakistan of trying to "dress up a massacre as a military operation."

It said the strike reflects Islamabad's persistent pattern of "reckless behaviour" and its repeated attempts to "externalise internal failures."

Afghan media reported that over 400 people were killed and more than 250 others injured in the Pakistani airstrikes on the Omid Addiction Treatment hospital.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India "unequivocally condemns Pakistan's barbaric airstrike" on the hospital in Kabul.

"This is a cowardly and unconscionable act of violence that has claimed the lives of a large number of civilians in a facility which can by no means



be justified as a military target," it said.

The MEA said Pakistan is now trying to "dress up a massacre as a military operation."

"This heinous act of aggression by Pakistan is also a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional peace and stability," it said in a statement.

"It reflects Pakistan's persistent pattern of reckless behaviour and its repeated attempts to externalize internal failures through increasingly desperate acts of violence beyond its borders," it said.

New Delhi said the international community must hold the perpetrators of the criminal act accountable and ensure that Pakistan's "wanton targeting" of civilians in Afghanistan ceases without delay.

"That this attack was carried out during the holy month of Ramadan, a time of peace, reflection, and mercy among Muslim communities across the world, makes it all the more reprehensible," the MEA said. "There is no faith, no law, and no ► P11

Iran Conflict: Top US security official quits

WASHINGTON: The head of the National Counterterrorism Center resigned on Tuesday, becoming the first and most senior member of U.S. President Donald Trump's administration to resign over the war in Iran, saying Tehran posed no imminent threat to the United States.

"I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful lobby," Joseph Kent wrote in a letter to Trump posted on X.

Some experts have said an imminent threat would be required for the United States to launch a war under current law. The White House did not immediately respond ► P11

Sinha attends Passing Out Parade at STC Talwara LG cautions separatist elements over attempts to derail peace, devp in J-K



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday issued a stern warning to separatist elements, asserting that any attempt to divide people or obstruct development in the Union territory will be dealt with firmly.

Sinha said any individual or group seeking to threaten peace, law and order, or the safety of civilians in Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay a very heavy price.

"We must uproot separatist elements who are trying to divide people and derail development. Let this serve

as a stern warning for them," the L-G said while addressing the passing-out parade of constables at the Subsidiary Police Training Centre in Talwara.

He said any attempt to disrupt peace, undermine commercial activity, or incite violence shall be met with the full force of the law, and Jammu and Kashmir Police is unequivocal in its commitment to safeguard order and stability and will pursue all necessary measures against such acts without exception.

Congratulating the "bravehearts" of Jammu and Kashmir Police on completing the tough training, the L-G

called upon them to focus on protecting the Union territory. "Jammu and Kashmir Police has been instrumental in forging a terror-free, crime-free Union territory where no insecurity overshadows civilian lives. The force has played a pivotal role in achieving remarkable milestones in good governance, innovation, social unity, and building a just society."

The L-G observed that every person donning the Jammu and Kashmir Police uniform pledges to exceed public expectations with superior standards. "From today, public trust is your greatest asset -- earn it relentlessly

through integrity, impartiality, and empathy. Your role transcends enforcing law; embody its spirit and soul. I trust you will uphold every citizen's dignity."

He stated that Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to peace, security, and democratic values, ensuring every citizen scales new heights of progress.

"With all resources and resolve, Jammu and Kashmir Police pursues zero tolerance towards terrorism. We are working on a multi-pronged strategy with all stakeholder agencies, and soon the Union territory will be terror-free," he said.

A total of 430 trainee constables passed out after completing their basic training, and all were administered oath during the Tuesday ceremony.

On the occasion, the L-G awarded trophies to those who excelled during training: Johnny Victor (All-Round Best), Vishal Bharat (Second All-Round Best), Yogesh Sharma (Third All-Round Best), Pankaj Raina (Indoor Best), Touseef Ahmed Lone (Outdoor Best), Tahir Rashid Dar (Best ► P11

INBRIEF

Fire breaks out in hotel; man dies

SRINAGAR: A massive fire broke out in a hotel in Pahalgam in Anantnag district early Tuesday, official said.

Though no casualties were reported in the blaze, an employee of another nearby hotel was killed when he was allegedly hit by a fire tender that was reversing after the firefighting operation.

Officials said the fire engulfed three structures of the hotel Asal Resort and a vehicle.

Several fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames, they said.

However, multiple ► P11

SC grants bail to Shabir Shah citing delay in trial

NEW DELHI: Underlining that if the trial was unlikely to conclude within a reasonable time, continued detention could result in curtailment of personal liberty, the Supreme Court has granted bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in jail in a terror funding case.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which observed that there were bleak chances of the trial's early disposal and the 74-year-old had been in custody for a prolonged period, however, imposed stringent bail conditions on Shah, including not commenting to the media about the case, according to a detailed order of the March 12

verdict. Noting that Shah, who the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested on June 4, 2019, had been incarcerated for over eight years, the bench said, "Prolonged incarceration of an accused, particularly in circumstances where the trial has made little or no substantial progress, is a relevant factor in adjudicating the matter of bail."

It highlighted that if the trial was not likely to conclude within a reasonable time, continued detention could result in the curtailment of personal liberty guaranteed under the Constitution.

"Without making any observations on the ► P11

Illegal Mining 446 FIRs lodged; 13,692 vehicles seized in 2 yrs

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Under a sustained crackdown on illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir, more than 13,600 vehicles have been seized and 446 FIRs registered over the past two years, official data showed.

According to official figures, a total of 6,219 vehicles were seized in 2024-25, while the number was 7,473 in 2025-26 (up to December 2025), taking the combined total to 13,692 vehicles.

In terms of legal action, 212 FIRs were registered in 2024-25, whereas 234 were

lodged in 2025-26 till December, indicating a slight increase in enforcement activity, a statement said.

The data shows a noticeable rise in seizures in the last financial year, with 2025-26 already surpassing the previous year's figures by over 1,200 vehicles despite covering only nine months.

"FIR registrations have also increased marginally, reflecting intensified monitoring and enforcement," officials said.

Among districts, Kupwara recorded the highest number of vehicle seizures in 2025-26, with 859 vehicles,

followed by Kathua (796) and Baramulla (701), they said.

In 2024-25, Jammu district topped the list with 880 vehicles seized, while Samba (527) and Budgam (475) were among the other districts with high seizure numbers, the statement added.

Budgam, meanwhile, reported the highest number of FIRs in 2025-26 with 51 cases, followed by Kupwara (46) and Baramulla (32), it added.

In 2024-25, Budgam also led with 48 FIRs, while Ganderbal (44) and Bandipora (30) recorded significant number of cases. ► P11

Country at decisive stage in green transition: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said India stands at a decisive stage in the global transition towards a green future and is well placed to play a leading role in shaping it.

Speaking at the 10th Sustainable Business Futures Summit 2026, the minister said with a significant share of the world's population, India's progress would play a key role in determining the success of the global green transition.

"This presents both a responsibility and an opportunity for India to emerge as a major global driver of sustainable development powered by green technologies and clean energy systems," Singh said.

The minister highlighted that India was steadily expanding its clean energy ecosystem to support emerging sectors such as data centres and artificial intelligence, which require a reliable, round-the-clock energy supply.

In this context, he referred to the SHANTI (Sustainable Harnessing and Accelerating Nuclear Transformation of India) Act, describing it as a landmark reform that opens the nuclear energy sector for wider participation, including private players, and enables new avenues for clean and dependable energy generation.

"India's approach to green transition is based on an integrated ► P11

Omar hosts Iftaar in Srinagar, emphasizes unity, compassion



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday hosted Iftaar at Sher-e-Kashmir Interna-

tional Convention Center here, bringing together people from different walks of life in the spirit of harmony and togetherness during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Iftaar was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, legislators, senior civil and police officers, religious scholars, representatives of civil society and members of the media. The gathering reflected the inclusive ethos and communal harmony that Jammu and Kashmir has long been known for.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister extended his warm greetings to the people and said that the holy month of Ramadan symbolizes compassion, patience and generosity. ► P11

GOC reviews operational preparedness along LoC

JAMMU: A senior army officer on Tuesday reviewed operational preparedness along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu's Akhnoor sector, officials said.

The operational preparedness was reviewed by General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra, who along with GOC Crossed Swords Division, visited forward areas of Akhnoor sector, army said.

"He (Lt Gen Mishra) interacted with troops deployed on the LoC and was briefed on measures undertaken to strengthen Defences and enhance Operational effectiveness," Army's White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

It said the GOC commended all ranks for their high morale, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to duty.

The Army said that the LoC is a place where technology, tactics, and tenacity ► P11

RESSUMMIT 2026 IAS Amit bats for Census-led climate resilience strategies

NEW DELHI: Amit Sharma, IAS, Director Census Operations (DCO) & Director Citizen Registration (DCR), Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, mentioned Census 2027 as the basis of Climate Resilience strategies in the Valedictory Session of three-day Resilience & Sustainability Summit - Vision 2047 organised at IIT Roorkee, Greater Noida Campus, NCR New Delhi, which is an event of national importance and seeing the presence of



galaxy of select personalities from amongst the Policy Makers, Vice Chancellors of various Universities, Researchers, Government Min-

istries and Departments like NDMA, DST and even global experts.

DCO/DCR Government of India, MHA for ► P11