

Inking the Truth

Peace is collective responsibility, says LG in high-level security review meet

Sinha calls for vigil against radicalisation, terror-free J-K



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha held a review meeting in Jammu on Sunday on the security situation across the UT of Jammu Kashmir. Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, DGP, Nalin Prabhat, other senior officials and all DCs and SSPs attended the meeting.

He also commended the unwavering, coordinated resolve of J&K Police, security forces and civil administration in safeguarding law and order. "I urge all communities to remain calm and united in this hour. I salute the unwavering, synchronized resolve of our Police, security forces and civil administration upholding law and order," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He stated that the government is closely tracking the West Asia situation, with senior UT officials coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs for safety and welfare of J&K residents and students. Meanwhile, Governor Manoj Sinha today urged every section of society to remain vigilant against elements trying to radicalise the youth and making efforts to sustain the terror ecosystem. He also spoke on meritocracy and called for collective action to achieve a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir. "The number of stake-

holders in peace has grown significantly over the last few years, with a vast majority of the population now prioritising stability and prosperity. "Today, J-K has emerged as a top performer in national integration programmes like Vande Mataram. Those dreaming of disrupting this progress must wake up to the new reality," Sinha said, addressing an 'Atma-Nirbhar Bharat' event organised by the Federation of Trade and Industry of India (FTII). LG Sinha felicitated the recipients of Vyapar Ratan Awards for their significant contribution. "Every section of society should remain vigilant against elements trying to radicalise the youth and making efforts to sustain the terror ecosystem," he said. Highlighting the efforts that have revolutionised work in villages and towns, instituting ease of living and ► P11

PM Modi presides CCS meet

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, the highest decision-making body on security and strategic matters of the country, in Delhi on Sunday night, government sources said. The meeting is understood to have been convened in the wake of the prevailing West Asia situation following the attack on Iran by the United States and Israel and the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The prime minister heads the CCS while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are its members. A few top officials are also usually invited to the CCS meeting. The meeting likely to discuss the safety of Indian nationals who live in West Asia and also ► P11

Iran's supreme leader Khamenei killed in precise Israeli operation

JERUSALEM: Iranian Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was targeted in a "precise, large-scale operation" and the elimination of the leader of "terror axis" has brought to an end a "decades-long chapter," the IDF said on Sunday. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) formally announced that it killed Khamenei in an airstrike in Tehran on Saturday and shared details of the attack. Israel and the US launched joint strikes on Iran early on Saturday including attacks on "dozens of military targets" carried out as part of a "wide, coordinated, and joint offensive" against the (Iranian) regime aimed at eliminating existential threats to the State of Israel over time. On Sunday, the Israeli army said in a statement: "Ali Khamenei was targeted in a precise, large-scale operation carried out by the Israeli Air Force, guided by accurate IDF intelligence, while he was in his central leadership compound in the heart of Tehran, where he was together with additional senior officials." Khamenei, who served as



the Supreme Leader of the Islamic republic since 1989, "was directly responsible for the violent repression of Iranian citizens for many years," it said. "Khamenei was the architect of the plan to destroy the State of Israel and was known as the 'head of the Iranian octopus,' extending its arms throughout the Middle East and to the borders of the State of Israel," the IDF stated. Foremost among them was the Lebanese Shi'ite Hezbollah terror organisation, it said. "The Supreme Leader of the Iranian regime was responsible for terrorist attacks against the State of Israel, and the blood of many civilians from around the world was on his hands," the IDF stressed. This has "brought to an end a decades-long chapter with the elimination of the leader of the Iranian terror axis," the Israeli army emphasised. "His elimination joins a series of eliminations of senior members of the terror axis carried out by the IDF during the war," the statement added. Israel has come under massive missile fire since US-Israel jointly started their operation against Iran on Saturday. Meanwhile, from Kashmir to Karnataka, Shia mourners took to the streets in various parts of India on Sunday to express outrage and grief over the ► P11

Drone intrusion along LoC; Army opened fire

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU: Army troops opened fire to bring down a Pakistani drone after it entered into the Indian side from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district early Sunday, officials said. However, the drone returned to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) after hovering briefly in Digwar area, the officials said. This was the second time in three days that troops opened fire after picking up drone movement from across the border. The officials said the troops manning a forward post noticed the enemy drone at around 6.10 am and fired over a dozen rounds to bring it down. However, the drone escaped the gunshots and immediately returned. A search operation was launched to ensure that there was no airdropping of weapons or narcotics by the drone, the officials said. On February 27, troops had also fired on a Pakistani drone in the same area.

US, Israel Attack Iran

CM Omar appeals for calm; police assess law and order

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday appealed for calm as police assessed overall law and order scenario amid widespread protests following the killing of Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Protests broke out in several parts of the Union Territory on Sunday against the killing of Khamenei in a US-Israel strike, officials said. Thousands of protesters took to streets at various places in areas with large Shia population in most parts of Kashmir and a few pockets in Jammu, including Bhatindi in the outskirts of the city and Chanderkote in Ramban district, they said.



Abdullah said his government is in close coordination with the Union Ministry of External Affairs to ensure the safety and well-being of J-K residents, including students, currently in Iran.

"I'm deeply concerned about the unfolding developments in Iran, including the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader. I appeal to all communities to remain calm, uphold peace, and avoid any actions that could lead to tension or un-

rest. "We must also ensure that those who are mourning in Jammu and Kashmir are allowed to grieve peacefully. The police and administration should exercise utmost restraint and refrain from using force or restrictive measures," Abdullah said in a post on X. Khamenei was killed in an attack by Israel and the United States, Iranian state media confirmed early Sunday. A police official said senior police officers led by DGP Nalin Prabhat reviewed the security situation in the wake of spontaneous protests over the killing of Khamenei. The district police officers were directed to keep a close watch on the emerging ► P11

Educational institutes to remain closed for 2 days

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday announced a two-day closure of all schools, colleges and universities across the Kashmir Valley as a precautionary measure. Education Minister Sakina Itoo, said the decision was taken to ensure student safety amid protests in parts of the Valley. Minister Itoo said, we have decided to close all educational institutions, including Universities, colleges, Schools for two days. She said the situation is being closely monitored and a decision on reopening will be taken after reviewing the ground scenario. Officials said the order applies to both government and private institutions across all districts of the Kashmir Valley. University administrations have been asked to defer academic activities and ensure hostellers remain indoors. Security has been tightened in sensitive areas, with district administrations maintaining close coordination with police to prevent any untoward incident. Parents have been advised to follow official advisories and avoid circulating unverified information on social media.

18 killed in explosives factory blast

NAGPUR: At least 18 workers were charred to death, and 24 others were injured, most of them critically, in a powerful blast that tore through an explosives manufacturing factory in Maharashtra's Nagpur district on Sunday morning, police said. The explosion occurred at the detonator packing unit of SBL Energy Limited, a mining and industrial explosives manufacturer, at Raulgaon in Katol tehsil between 7 AM and 7:15 AM. With one more person succumbing to injuries during treatment later in ► P11

Maj Gen Dabas assumes command of Delta Force



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JAMMU: Major General Ajai Singh Dabas has assumed command of Counter Insurgency Force (Delta) in

Jammu and Kashmir, replacing Maj Gen A P S Bal, army said on Sunday. Delta Force was raised on September 5, 1994 and is headquartered in Batote area

of Ramban district. The force has been instrumental in eliminating terrorism to a large extent in the Chenab valley districts of Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda. After assuming charge as the General Officer Commanding of Delta, Maj Gen Dabas paid homage to the bravehearts by laying a wreath at the War Memorial and extended his best wishes to all ranks, Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X. Maj Gen Dabas exhorted all personnel to uphold the highest standards of operational excellence, maintain unwavering ► P11

2 districts declared Naxal-free

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Police on Sunday declared Bolangir and Bargarh districts as 'Naxal-free' after 15 Maoists operating in the two areas surrendered before security personnel in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, officials said. DDP YB Khurania said the force has achieved a significant milestone in its sustained anti-Naxal operations across the state. "Now, Bolangir and Bargarh districts are officially declared Naxal-free," Khurania said in a statement. ► P11

Amit Shah raises concern over religious conversions in Punjab

NAVI MUMBAI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said religious conversions are happening in Punjab and appealed to the Bhagwant Mann government and common people to stop this practice driven by "greed". Shah invoked the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur while addressing the 'Hind-Di-Chadar' commemoration event to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. "Today, it has been said here that religious conversion is taking place in Punjab. Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed himself to save others'



religions. They faced atrocities, but we today prefer to convert because of some greed, then we cannot be called followers of our great leaders. The Punjab government and Punjab society should stop religious conversions," Shah said. The Punjab government, society and people of all faiths must stop ► P11

Fake Indian currency case: NIA detains fugitive Nepali national

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency on Sunday arrested a Nepali citizen, absconding since 2014, in a fake Indian currency case involving a Dubai-based Pakistani national. Noor Mohammed of Nepal's Bara district, carrying a non-bailable warrant, was apprehended from the Shahpur Patori area in Bihar's Samastipur, officials said. The NIA had chargesheeted him before its special court at Patiala House Courts in New Delhi in the case in November 2017. The probe agency had

registered the case in June 2014 following the recovery of 4,988 high-quality fake Indian currency notes (FICN) of Rs 1,000 denomination, with a face value of Rs 49,88,000, in April 2014. The currency, seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, was brought into the country from Dubai on April 17 and 18, according to a statement issued by the NIA. The NIA investigation had revealed that the accused, Noor Mohammed, had entered into a criminal conspiracy with co-accused Ekramul Ansari and

others, including Pakistani national Syed Muhammad Shafi alias Shafi Chacha, for the procurement, transportation, supply and circulation of high-quality FICN in India. As part of the conspiracy aiming to impact the country's monetary stability, Noor Mohammed had facilitated meetings between the co-accused for the transportation and supply of FICN, the NIA said. NIA further found during the investigation that he had closely monitored the delivery of the seized consignment. The investigation is ongoing, the agency said.

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