

## CCS reviews West Asia crisis, focuses on safety of 9 million Indians abroad

### MHA alerts states to monitor pro-Iran clerics

**NEW DELHI:** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has reviewed the evolving situation in West Asia and expressed concern over the safety and security of the large Indian expatriate community in the region.

The CCS also directed all concerned departments to take necessary and feasible measures to assist Indian nationals affected by the developments.

The CCS, which met last evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also underscored the importance of an early cessation of hostilities and a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

Earlier, the Union Home Ministry has asked states to keep an eye on pro-Iran radical preachers giving inflammatory statements that may result in violence in the wake of the Israel-US attack on Iran,



### PM speaks to Netanyahu, Saudi Prince, Bahrain King

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to the King of Bahrain and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and condemned the recent attacks on the two countries in violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, asserting that India stands in solidarity with their people in this difficult hour. During his telephonic conversations with Bahrain King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa and the

officials said.

In a letter circulated to all states on February 28, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) also asked all states and UTs to keep vigil on social media activities of extremists and global terror group handles, they said.

Advising the states to ensure that no law-and-order issues arise, the ministry has asked the states to heighten vigilance, as global events might have a domestic ripple effect through rhetorical statements, they said.

The circular asked the states to increase security at consulates, embassies, and other diplomatic offices of the USA and Israel in their jurisdictions, and at other entities of the two countries to prevent any untoward incident and maintain peace and tranquility. Shia mourners took to the streets in various parts of India on Sunday to

## India, Canada seal USD 2.6 bn Uranium deal

**NEW DELHI:** India and Canada on Monday inked landmark pacts on supplies of Uranium and critical minerals and vowed to seal a comprehensive economic partnership agreement this year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney finalising an ambitious roadmap of cooperation to shore up ties including taking bilateral annual trade to over USD 50 billion by 2030.

In their wide-ranging talks, the two leaders also pledged to ramp up cooperation in defence, critical technologies, small and modular nuclear reactors, education, artificial intelligence and renewable energy, demonstrating that the relationship has moved beyond turbulence into a more stable and forward-looking phase.

The ties between the two countries hit rock bottom following then-PM Justin

## Iran conflict: 14 injured in Kashmir protests; several restrictions enforced

### Mobile internet speeds restricted

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**SRINAGAR:** At least 14 people, including six security personnel, were injured on the second day of protests that erupted in Jammu and Kashmir following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a joint US-Israeli attack, officials said.

Authorities have imposed restrictions to curb people's movement, shut down education institutes and throttled mobile internet speeds in the Union territory as precautionary measures.

Officials said that 75 rallies were held at various places in the Kashmir Valley, while a few demonstrations were held in the Jammu region as well. Security forces had to use mild force to disperse the protesters in some areas.

Protests broke out in Baramulla, Gund Hassibhat, Saidakadal, Nigeen, Fore-shore Road and Jehangir Chowk areas of Srinagar city, in the Pulwama town of south



Kashmir, and Budgam in central Kashmir -- all of which have a large Shia population, as agitators marched through the streets, raising anti-US and anti-Israel slogans.

While most of the protests were by and large peaceful, clashes erupted at a few places, forcing the security forces personnel to use mild force to disperse the protesters, the officials said.

They said 14 persons -- eight protesters and six security forces personnel -- were injured during these clashes in the Kashmir valley.

Severe restrictions had been placed on the movement of people in parts of Kashmir. The curbs were imposed against the backdrop of a call for a one-day strike given by Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

He had urged people to observe the strike "with unity, dignity, and in peace".

The authorities had sealed Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk with

## LG Sinha meets family of SSF jawan killed in road mishap

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the family of a Special Security Force (SSF) personnel who lost his life in a road accident in January, a Lok Bhavan spokesman said. Selection Grade Constable Sunny Salgotra, a resident of the Arnia area of Jammu, was part of the security entourage deployed for the protection of the lieutenant governor and died when his motorcycle was hit by a car near Rotary Chowk in the city on January 28. During his visit to the SSF jawan's house, LG Sinha paid homage to the departed soul, the spokesman



said. He said Sinha also expressed his sympathies to the bereaved family and assured all assistance and support from the government.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with family members and acknowledged the dedication and service rendered by Salgotra in the

## SEC to preside high-level meet on Panchayat rolls, ULBs delimitation today

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** The State Election Commissioner (SEC) likely to convene a high level meeting on Tuesday to discuss the revision of the Panchayat electoral roll and review the status of delimitation of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

As per the official notice, SEC Shatnamu, will chair the meeting tomorrow via videoconferencing at 2:30 PM to deliberate on the revision of the Panchayat Electoral Roll--2026 and assess the progress of delimitation of ULBs.

The meeting is expected to be attended in person by the Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; the Deputy Commissioner,

Jammu; the Director, Rural Development Department, Jammu; and the Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K.

All Deputy Commissioners of the other 19 districts, along with concerned officials, have been directed to participate through video link.

The meeting is being held at a time when all three tiers of Panchayati Raj institutions and ULBs in Jammu & Kashmir remain non-existent due to the inordinate delay in conducting elections.

While the chances of holding Panchayat polls in 2026 appear bleak, there is a possibility that Urban Local Body elections could take place this year.

During the ongoing budget session, the J&K Government

## Govt proposes J&K Houses in Mumbai, Amritsar, other cities

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has set in motion a major expansion drive with new J&K Houses proposed in several key cities including Mumbai, Amritsar and Chandigarh to enhance accommodation facilities for officials and residents, officials said.

The creation of additional accommodation is expected to be completed in phases, subject to statutory clearances, finalisation of Detailed Project Reports and approval of executing agencies, the officials of Housing and Protocol department said.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of erstwhile state of J&K into two Union Territories, assets were divided between J&K and Ladakh under the Reorganisation Act, 2019. Major allocations include

the division of corporations, staff, and properties in Delhi, Chandigarh, and other locations.

The officials said the government intends to augment accommodation infrastructure on its land assets belong to the UT of J&K at various locations including New Delhi, Mumbai, Amritsar and Chandigarh.

An amount of Rs 36.61 crore (revised estimates) have been allocated for FY 2025-26 for seven projects in Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai and Amritsar in Punjab, the officials said, adding major allocations include Rs 20.90 crore for Dwarka, Rs 6.40 crore for Chandigarh, Rs 2.50 crore for Amritsar and Rs 1.25 crore for Mumbai, they said.

In Mumbai, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of J&K Bhawan at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, is under

## Over 12,500 court cases pending against Deptts

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** More than 12,500 legal cases involving government departments in Jammu and Kashmir are pending across various courts in the Union Territory, according to official data.

The data also showed that government counsels secured verdicts in over 3,700 departmental cases during the last two years.

As many as 12,529 departmental cases -- 4,101 in Jammu region and 8,428 in Kashmir Valley -- are pending, while a total of 3,737 such cases, including 2,806 in Kashmir and 931 in Jammu region, were decided during

2024 and 2025, the data said.

The district-wise details showed that in the Jammu Division, a total of 4,101 cases are pending. During the period under review, government counsels filed 1,185 objections and replies, while 931 cases were decided in favour of the UT, it said.

In the Jammu Division, Jammu district recorded the highest pendency with 1,507 cases, followed by Doda (480 cases) and Ramban (422 cases). Rajouri and Poonch registered a high success rate, with 149 and 98 cases, respectively, decided in favour of the UT, the data showed.

The Kashmir Division accounts for a higher

## Kishtwar Op: Lt Gen Mishra directs troops to stay alert

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** Days after security forces eliminated three Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit in an encounter in Kishtwar district, a senior army officer on Monday directed all ranks to remain alert, proactive and mission-focused.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's White Knight Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra passed the directions while reviewing the security situation and ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the hilly district, the army said.



He was accompanied by General Officer Commanding of Counter-Insurgency Force (Delta) Maj Gen Ajai Singh Dabas who recently took over the command from Maj Gen A P S Bal.

"...the GOC lauded Delta Force for their unwavering dedication, sharp operational focus and steadfast commitment to duty."

## Ring Roads: 1,700 Cr land compensation disbursed

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has disbursed Rs 1,695 crore in compensation for land acquired for the Ring Road projects in the twin capital cities, while nearly 1,400 cases are still pending owing to litigation or other issues, officials said.

The work on the two projects -- 58.25-km Jammu Ring Road connecting Raya Morh in Samba district to Jagti near Nagrota in Jammu and 60.84-km Srinagar Ring Road covering six districts

of Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, Srinagar, Baramulla and Bandipora -- started in 2018.

The projects are in the final phases of completion, the officials said.

They said a compensation amounting to Rs 2,106.70 crore has been awarded for land acquired for the Ring Road projects. Of this, Rs 1,784.45 crore has been released, while Rs 1,695.37 crore has been disbursed so far.

An amount of Rs 89.08 crore is yet to be disbursed, and Rs 322.25 crore remains pending to be received, the officials

## Govt to import 4 elite breeds

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government is set to import Romanov and Finn sheep breeds, and Boer and Swiss Alpine goat breeds from Russia, Finland, South Africa, and Switzerland to boost local wool and mutton production in Jammu and Kashmir, where 1,400 other foreign breeds have already been procured.

The import of Boer Goat and Swiss Alpine Goat is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed during the current year, officials said. Romanov and Finn sheep breeds and Boer and Swiss Alpine goat

## Partners with ALIMCO to support over 2800 beneficiaries

### Empowering every step: J&K Bank launches Project Samarth for persons with disabilities

**■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**SRINAGAR:** Reinforcing its commitment to inclusive development, J&K Bank has launched 'Project Samarth' -- a CSR initiative for the welfare and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

For implementation of the project, the Bank on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO).

Notably, ALIMCO is a Schedule 'C', Mini-Ratna Category II Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Empowerment of



PwDs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (GoI). ALIMCO has over five decades of experience and expertise in manufacturing and distributing scientifically designed assistive devices.

General Manager (CSR) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani presided over the brief signing ceremony at the Bank's corporate headquarters, wherein by DGM (CSR) Hafeeza Rahim signed the MoU on behalf of the Bank and Incharge Mohali Centre Ishvinder Singh put in his signatures representing ALIMCO.

## PV Sindhu set to miss C'ships

**BIRMINGHAM:** Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu is set to miss the All England Championships starting here on Tuesday after being stranded in Dubai amid the US bombing of Iran and the resultant air space closure in the Gulf region.

Travel disruptions have marred the build-up to the Super 1000 event, with Sindhu stuck in Dubai since Saturday after flights were suspended following the US and Israeli strikes on Iran and the subsequent retaliation by Tehran.

Sindhu and her team, including Indonesian coach Irwansyah

Jai Mata Di

Sarson ka saag

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