

Inking the Truth

IN BRIEF

ACB arrests policeman for graft

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested a policeman in Anantnag district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe, officials said on Sunday.

Special Police Official (SPO) Imtiaz Ahmad Bhat, posted at Larnoo police station, had allegedly sought Rs 18,000 to release documents of a transport vehicle.

According to an ACB spokesperson, the agency received a complaint from the owner of a load carrier alleging that Bhat was demanding money to return the vehicle's documents seized during a check on Friday.

"A trap was laid, and Bhat was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe. He was arrested on the spot and the bribe amount recovered from his possession," the spokesperson said.

On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted which confirmed the demand by the said Government employee and accordingly Case ► P11

Mann Ki Baat

PM lauds J-K team for winning Ranji Trophy West Asia war poses 'challenging' situation, says Modi; cautions against politicising crisis

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged all citizens to join hands to overcome the "challenging" situation emerging due to the ongoing "fierce war" in West Asia.

Addressing his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi also cautioned those politicising the present crisis and said there is no place for self-serving politics in the prevailing situation.

He said those who are spreading rumours are causing major harm to the country.

"Presently, a fierce war is going on in our neighbourhood for a month. These certainly are challenging times. Today, through 'Mann Ki Baat', I would once again urge all my countrymen that



we must unitedly overcome this challenge," the prime minister said.

Those who are politicising this issue should refrain from doing so as this is a matter concerning the interests of 140 crore citizens. There is no place for self-serving politics, he said.

He was confident that just as the people of the country have overcome past crises with their collective strength, this time too, "we will together emerge victorious from this difficult situation".

He said millions of Indian family members live in these Gulf countries and are working there.

"I am deeply grateful to the Gulf countries, which are providing all kinds of assistance to more than 1 crore such Indians living there," he said.

The PM said West Asia is a major centre of India's energy needs and on account of that, a crisis is emerging around the world regarding petrol and diesel.

"Our global relations, the support we receive ► P11

Jammu Marathon symbolizes J&K's post-2019 transformation: LG Sinha



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that the Jammu Marathon symbolizes the profound transformation Jammu Kashmir has embraced since 2019.

"Peace, prosperity and enabling conditions have made the UT a destination for world-class events. Its dream realised at last, as after seven decades, J&K claims its rightful place on the global stage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the felicitation ceremony of Jammu Marathon at MA Stadium, Jammu.

The first-ever International Half Marathon in Jammu, organized by J&K Tourism department, featuring 21 km, 10 km and 5 km race categories, witnessed the participation of more than 3000 runners from across the country and abroad.

Termining the Jammu Marathon as a historic milestone, the Lieutenant Governor said that the Jammu has firmly established itself on the global running map. He said the success of the mega event promises a surge in tourism to the enchanting city of Jammu, benefiting Trade and Businesses and heralding an era of comprehensive development.

"I see the marathon as the one event where runners don't worry about trophies, rankings, or medals. They just think about the next step. And that's the biggest lesson from a marathon. Jammu Kashmir itself embodies this principle. Since 2019, we have advanced one step at a time, crafting a new identity for this Union Territory. We have transformed ► P11

'Temples to Trails' marathon to spotlight J&K as fitness tourism hub: CM Abdullah

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said the Jammu marathon themed 'Temples to Trails' will position the winter capital as a vibrant destination for fitness tourism and cultural exploration.

An avid runner, Abdullah flagged off the Jammu Marathon at Maulana Azad Stadium here and went on to complete the 21 km run in two hours despite inclement weather.

At the finish line, participants jostled to click pictures with the chief minister, who was greeted with loud cheers after completing the race.



"The chief minister flagged off the Jammu Marathon today and also took part in the 21.1 km half-marathon. He encouraged people from all walks of life to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle, underscoring the importance of fitness and overall well-being ► P11

Distance must not hinder justice: CJ

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, on Sunday virtually inaugurated the newly constructed District Court Complex at Kargil from the Conference Hall of Hotel Grand Dragon, Leh, marking a significant milestone in the judicial infrastructure of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The proceedings commenced with the National Song and National Anthem, followed by the unveiling and formal reading of the commemorative plaque. A comprehensive 3D presentation showcased the architectural design and facilities of the complex, including courtrooms, administrative offices, and residential quarters.

The ceremony was attended by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena; Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Justice Sanjeev Kumar; Justice Sindhu Sharma; and Justice Shahzad Azeem, along with other Judges of the High Court who joined virtually. Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Administrative Judge for District Kargil, participated physically from Kargil. In his address, the Chief Justice of India ► P11

Provisions on for early ULB, Panchayat polls in J-K: Govt

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The State Election Commission is making necessary arrangements for holding panchayat and urban local bodies (ULB) elections at the earliest, the Jammu and Kashmir government has said.

The tenure of municipalities ended in October-November 2023, while panchayats and block development councils completed their five-year term on January 9, 2024. The term of district development councils also ended on February 24 this year, leaving all local bodies without elected representatives. According to officials, elections to local bodies could not be held on time due to multiple factors, including the delimitation exercise and the reservation of wards for Other Backward Classes.

In a written reply to a starred question by BJP MLA Baldev Raj Sharma in the legislative assembly, minister in charge of elections, Javed Ahmad Dar, said the commission is making necessary arrangements for holding panchayat and ULB elections at the earliest. "The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and for the conduct of all elections under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989, Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act-2000 and the ► P11

CDF funds non-lapsable; savings top Rs 25 Cr: CM

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Addressing the concerns of legislators, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that funds earmarked under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) are non-lapsable, with savings exceeding Rs 25 crore recorded under the scheme.

In a written reply to a starred question tabled by National Conference MLA Tanvir Sadiq on Saturday, Abdullah, who holds the finance portfolio, said the CDF scheme has been reintroduced during 2024-25 in pursuance of the decision of the Council of Ministers on March 3, last year.

Accordingly, during the current financial year 2025-26, an amount of Rs 427.50 crore has been earmarked under the CDF Scheme at the rate of Rs 4.75 crore per MLA (comprising Rs 75.00 lakh as due share of the year 2024-25 and Rs 4 crore for the year 2025-26), the chief minister said.

He noted that an amount of over Rs 25.43 crore has been reported as tender savings on account of completion of 3684 under the Constituency ► P11

DCO Amit rolls out Census 2027 campaign in Jammu, highlights digital enumeration

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Amit Sharma, Director MHA, Government of India for Census Operations & Citizen Registration in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, kick-started Census 2027 campaign, in an event organised by Career Abacus Group, wherein he was invited as the chief guest to distribute awards, medals and certificates amongst the young students, who were present in large numbers here along with other stakeholders and parent community.

The Programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional



lamp by chief guest Amit Sharma along with dignitaries including Vikramjeet Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce and Prassana Ramaswamy G, Secretary Tribal

Affairs amongst others. Amit Sharma, IAS, Director, Census Operations/Director Citizen Registration (DCO/DCR), Jammu & Kashmir, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, was welcomed in the event wherein his multifaceted contributions especially in e-Governance domain, Mining and transport domains across various geographical belts of Bharat including Mizoram, Ladakh and J&K in the recent past were highlighted which were acknowledged and applauded by the audience.

After this, Amit along with other dignitaries including Commandant CRPF and Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, distributed trophies, gold medals and certificates amongst the champions amongst the ► P11

2 more Indian tankers crossed Hormuz Strait

NEW DELHI: Two more Indian-flagged LPG tankers, carrying roughly a day's supply of the country's cooking gas, have safely navigated through the war-hit Strait of Hormuz and are expected to reach Indian shores in the next couple of days.

"Two LPG carriers, BW TYR and BW ELM, carrying a combined LPG cargo of about 94,000 tonnes, have safely transited the region and are moving towards Indian shores," an official statement said.

While BW TYR is proceeding towards Mumbai with an expected arrival on

March 31, BW ELM is en route to New Mangalore with an estimated arrival date of April 1.

The US and Israel attacks on Iran and Tehran's sweeping retaliation have all but halted shipping through the strait - the narrow shipping lane that is a conduit for oil and gas exports from Gulf countries to the world. Iran, however, last week said "non-hostile vessels" may transit the waterway after coordinating with Iranian authorities.

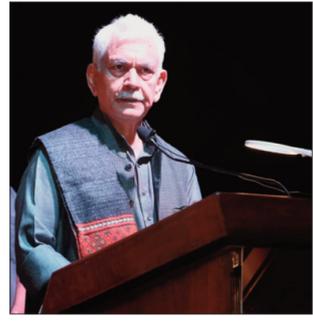
Previously, four Indian-flagged LPG tankers had safely sailed ► P11

'Big Impact Awards J&K 2026' True entrepreneurship rests in converting crises into gains: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha the other day called upon entrepreneurs to channel their resolve to elevate various sectors in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that "true entrepreneurship lies in converting crises into opportunities".

"In realising the Make in India vision, our entrepreneurs are carving distinct identities through originality. Despite raw material hurdles, they have expanded production capacities and diversified markets," Sinha said, speaking at the 'Big Impact Awards 2026' for J&K,



organised by a radio network here. The Lt Governor felicitated the distinguished awardees and urged them to lead with a purpose as they contribute to forging a stronger, more prosperous India.

"Through sweeping reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fostered an ecosystem where India evolves from consumer to creator. India stands as an innovation superpower, ranking among the world's most dynamic forces in moulding tomorrow's global economy," he said.

The LG said revolutionary change in industrial and business ► P11

Over 18K candidates appeared in Nursing Council's examination

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Nursing Council, in collaboration with the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Paramedical Council, successfully conducted diploma examinations for over 18,000 students across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh today.

The exams were held at 31 centres across the Union Territory, with 17 centres in Kashmir Division (covering 10 districts and Ladakh) and 14 in Jammu Division. A special exam centre was set up at Central Jail Srinagar for a single candidate, following a request from Jail authorities. 8,720 candidates appeared in Kashmir Division while 9,277 candidates appeared in Jammu ► P11

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