

# The Earth News

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Nowshera; A piece of Paradise



## PUBLIC MATTERS

- Terrorism and security Concerns
- Daily Wagers' Regularisation
- Drugs, Substance Abuse on Rise
- Rising Criminal Activities
- Unemployment Crisis for youth
- Recruitment Exam Scandals
- Delayed Public Service Delivery

## IN SHORT

### NIA files charges against 3

**JAMMU:** The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against three accused, including a Pakistani handler, in a terror conspiracy case involving seizure of arms and ammunition in the Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The chargesheet filed before a special NIA court in Jammu has named Abdul Aziz, Munawar Hussain and Nazir Hussain alias Nazir Ahmed alias Shaheen as accused in the case.

Nazir Hussain, currently active in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), is an operative of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) terrorist organisation. **P11**

### Search Op in Poonch

**JAMMU:** A brief exchange of fire took place between terrorists and security forces in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Tuesday.

The gunfire rattled the Lasana village of Surankote Monday night when security forces launched a search operation following information about the presence of terrorists, the officials said.

"Contact was established with terrorists during a joint operation with Police at Lasana, Surankote last night. Additional troops have been inducted, and search operations are ongoing to prevent the terrorists from escaping," Army's Jammu-based **P11**

## PM's April 19 visit to J&K postponed

■ Earth News Service

**JAMMU:** The much-awaited visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu and Kashmir on April 19, has been postponed, with sources attributing non-conducive weather conditions on the said day, as the reason.

A fresh date for Modi's visit during which he was to flag off the inaugural train to Kashmir will be announced in the next couple of days, officials informed, even as there is no let down in the preparation for the crucial visit.

"The proposed visit of the Prime Minister to Jammu & Kashmir stands POSTPONED," a short communique from Dipak Manwal, Additional In-



spector General, Special Protection Group to J&K Chief Secretary and Director General of Police among other officials, said.

On April 19, the Prime Minister was scheduled to land at Chenab rail bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and inaugurate the same. From there, he was to travel in train up to Katra, inaugurating Anji

Khad bridge on the way, before reaching the holy town.

At Katra, Modi was scheduled to flag off Vande Bharat train from Katra to Baramulla, before addressing a rally there, before flying back to Udhampur airport on way back to New Delhi.

"The PM's visit to inaugurate the **P11**

## 'Appropriate time has come', CM sees Statehood restoration 'soon'

Recalls 'good meeting' with HM, assures jobs only for locals

■ Earth News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Claiming that downgrading Jammu and Kashmir from a State to a Union Territory has significantly hit the administrative accountability and efficiency, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed hope that region's statehood would soon be restored.

Speaking of his "good" meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier this month, Omar asserted that the "appropriate time" had come.

He also slammed his critics, saying that Statehood was not his government's final goal, but a 'way to achieve what our goals are'.

The erstwhile state was



reorganised into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"We think the appropriate time has come ... Six months have passed since the assembly elections. (Union Home Minister Amit) Shah came here, I had a separate meeting

with him, a good one ... I am still hopeful that Jammu and Kashmir will soon get its statehood back," Abdullah told reporters after inaugurating a bridge in Pulwama district.

The Chief Minister recalled his tenure as the Chief Minister of the erstwhile State, and highlighted the stark contrast be-

tween functioning as the Chief Minister of a Union Territory.

"Back then, if I directed officials to execute a task, they would come up with ten different ways to get it done. But now, under the Union Territory setup, the same officials find ten different excuses to avoid doing that very task," Omar said.

Earlier, addressing a public gathering, the chief minister said statehood was not the destination but the starting point for reclaiming what the people of Jammu and Kashmir lost in 2019.

"Some people are unhappy and are saying that statehood is not our goal. When have we claimed that statehood is **P11**

## '26/11' turning point in India, Pak ties: EAM

MEA rejects Pak's comments on Waqf

■ Earth News Service

**ANAND:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said the 2008 Mumbai terror attack marked a turning point in relations with Pakistan when Indians collectively felt that such behaviour from a neighbouring country could no longer be tolerated.

Speaking at Charotar University of Science and Technology during an interactive session, Jaishankar acknowledged India's transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the last decade.

In contrast, Pakistan has remained unchanged, continuing with what he termed as its "bad habits."

When asked why the Indian government rarely discusses Pakistan publicly **P11**



## ED chargesheets Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in National Herald case



**NEW DELHI:** The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and others before a special court here in the National Herald case accusing

them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore.

The prosecution complaint filed on April 9 under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) named **P11**



## Sinha for increasing cultural exchanges bwn States & UTs

■ Earth News Service

**JAMMU:** Asserting that the cross-cultural engagement programmes can strengthen India by fostering mutual understanding, breaking down barriers, and building social cohesion, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday stressed on the need to increase the Cultural exchanges between the States and Union Territories.

When culture, traditions, food and art is shared between people

from different parts of the country, the division is reduced and the gaps are bridges, the LG said, at the celebration of 'Himachal Divas', hosted by Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan at Jammu.

Security personnel, students and the people of Himachal Pradesh living in J&K UT were the special invitees for the evening.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to the people of Himachal Pradesh on the occasion. "This **P11**

## Devotees queue up as Registrations for Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025 begin

■ Earth News Service

**JAMMU:** The offline registration for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra began with enthusiastic pilgrims making a beeline outside the designated bank branches here on Tuesday, hoping to get an opportunity to be part of the first batch to visit the revered shrine.

The 38-day pilgrimage is scheduled to begin on July 3 from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Gan-



derbal district.

The yatra will culminate on August 9, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan festival.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine

Board (SASB), which manages the annual pilgrimage, has designated a total of 540 bank branches across the country for advance registration of **P11**

## Jawan dead on train, lawyer shoots himself

**JAMMU:** A 24-year-old soldier was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live wire after climbing on top of a passenger train in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Tuesday.

Ramchandra Choudhary, a native of Rajasthan's Jodhpur, met with the accident near Bari Brahmana station late Monday night, the officials said.

They said the soldier was posted in **P11**

## HANDWARA AFTERMATH

## Govt bans picnics by UT schools, colleges on weekends & holidays

■ Earth News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Three days after two students died and 21 were injured as their college bus turned turtle in Handwara of Kupwara district, the Jammu and Kashmir government has enforced a ban on picnics by schools and colleges on weekends and Holidays.

The ill-fated college bus in Kupwara accident was headed to a picnic, before the driver lost control and



two precious lives were lost.

On Tuesday, Educa-

tion Minister Sakeena Itoo chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to **P11**

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