

"To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live."

—Dorothy West

Making the Truth

**Say No To Drugs
Yes To Life**

11:00 AM | 11th April, 2026
MA Stadium, Jammu

**PADYATRA
&
MEGA LAUNCH
100 Days Campaign**
on
NASHA MUKT JAMMU KASHMIR ABHIYAAN



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Reservation for women need of hour: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the proposed amendments to the Women Reservation Act are not just a legislative exercise but a reflection of the aspirations of crores of women across India and urged all MPs to come together to support this significant move.

In a signed article posted on his website narendramodi.in, the prime minister also said that the initiative is an affirmation of a principle that has long guided India's civilisational ethos that society progresses when women progress.

He said it is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly elections in the various states in the coming times are conducted with women's reservation in place.

The prime minister said the nation stands at the threshold of a historic occasion, and it is an opportunity to deepen the foundations of the country's democracy and to reaffirm the collective commitment to equality and inclusion. ► P11

Youth of J&K excelling across fields, shaping UT's future: VP



NEW DELHI: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday highlighted "significant progress" in women's development and empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir and said the leadership of women in education and sporting achievements by young cricketers together reflect the progressive direction in which the youth of the Union Territory are shaping the future.

He also noted Jammu and Kashmir cricket team winning the Ranji Trophy for

the first time.

Radhakrishnan was addressing a 250-member youth delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, participating in the 'Watan Ko Jano' programme organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs here.

The 'Watan Ko Jano' programme is an initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Jammu and Kashmir government, aimed at fostering national integration by providing the youth of the UT an opportunity to explore

different parts of India.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir as a land of extraordinary scenic beauty, and rich culture, he said Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to become a major global tourist destination.

Radhakrishnan said as opportunities expand in education, technology, tourism, and entrepreneurship, each young person has the potential to become a builder of a peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive future.

He urged them to believe

in their abilities, remain connected to their roots, and work collectively towards making Jammu and Kashmir a symbol of harmony, growth, and inspiration for the nation.

The vice president expressed happiness that students from Jammu and Kashmir are excelling in Civil Services, IIT, and IIM entrance examinations.

He also urged the students to stay away from drugs and encourage their peers to do the same, emphasising that a healthy youth is the foundation of a strong and progressive nation.

Conveying his best wishes, he called upon the young participants to stand tall, believe in themselves, and take pride in contributing towards building a Viksit and Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He said that a Viksit Bharat can be achieved only when every state becomes developed. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was ► P11

LG reviews preparedness for 100-day anti-drug campaign

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the upcoming 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, a Raj Bhawan spokesperson said.

The campaign, aimed at eradicating drug abuse from the Union Territory, will be marked by a series of high-impact awareness programs. The Lieutenant Governor will flag off a mega "Padyatra" from MA Stadium, Jammu, on April 11, 2026, followed by a similar large-scale launch in Srinagar during the first week of May.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized on mass public participation of students and youth, NCC, NSS, Scouts & Guides, volunteers, civil society organizations, political parties, public representatives and the general public to maximize outreach and awareness.

"The influx of drugs to the UT is part of a larger international conspiracy to jeopard-



ize the future of the youth of Jammu Kashmir. Every section of the society must join this fight against drug menace", the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for continuous and intensive drives to dismantle drug trafficking networks.

"Don't Touch the Innocent and Don't Spare the Culprit" is our policy. We must identify the real victims of drug abuse and make committed efforts for their rehabilitation," the

Lieutenant Governor said.

The meeting also discussed the series of activities planned and department-wise activity calendar prepared for the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan. UT and Divisional Level Committees have already been constituted for effective implementation of the IEC campaign and action plan.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed to make the campaign a Jan Andolan with active participation ► P11

Govt committed to offer affordable housing, decongest Srinagar: Omar
CM distributes 90 compassionate appointment orders

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday formally distributed appointment orders under SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) to 90 beneficiaries from across Kashmir division at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

The appointments, made on compassionate grounds, aim to provide much-needed employment support to families who have lost their primary earning members, reaffirming the government's commitment to stand firmly with such families in times of distress.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized that the government has made ► P11



'US must rein in Israel for ceasefire success'

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the US should exert some control over Israel to ensure the success of the ceasefire with Iran. He also said that Pakistan, who facilitated peace talks between the warring nations, has ► P11

SANJY 2026: Registration to commence from Apr 15

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The advance registration for the annual Amarnath Yatra will commence from April 15 across 554 designated bank branches in the country, with the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) issuing a detailed step-by-step procedure for pilgrims.

Officials said that the registration and issuance of yatra permits will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to a fixed daily quota for each route at every designated branch.

As per the guidelines, only pilgrims aged between 13 and 70 years will be eligible for registration, while women with more than six weeks of pregnancy will not be permitted

to undertake the pilgrimage, even if they possess the mandatory health certificate.

For the 2026 yatra, registration will be carried out in real time through Aadhaar-based biometric eKYC authentication, and permits will be generated online through the official portal of the Shrine Board, guidelines said.

"In case of technical issues in biometric authentication, a provision for manual data entry with webcam-based photo capture has been kept as a fallback option," the guidelines read.

Pilgrims will be required to submit a valid Compulsory Health Certificate (CHC), issued on or after April 8, 2026, by an authorised doctor or medical institution, ► P11

Op Sindoor showed India's shift to domain jointness: Army Chief



BENGALURU: Army Chief General Uday Shankar on Thursday said that the Operation Sindoor demonstrated country's progression towards "domain jointness" and called

the military offensive carried out inside Pakistani territory a "defining case study" of operational significance of integration.

In May last year, India had launched a military response targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 Indian tourists.

"Operation Sindoor was India's most powerful tool of progression towards domain jointness. But we need to achieve domain integration and fusion," General Dwivedi said.

He was addressing the "Ran Samvad" forum on "Land Forces visualisation of Multi Domain Operation (MDO)," here.

The army chief also highlighted the creation of an information warfare organisation and a psychological defence division following Operation Sindoor. ► P11

5 J&K residents killed, 1 hurt in Kuwait accident

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Five Jammu and Kashmir residents hailing from the twin border districts Poonch and Rajouri were killed and one another was injured after two vehicles reportedly collided and caught fire in Kuwait on Wednesday.

Talking to the media, the family members of the victims said that the accident occurred when the vehicles crashed and caught fire, with flames trapped the passengers.

Four of the deceased were identified to be the residents of the Surankote area in Poonch district, while one hailed from Thannamandi sub district of Rajouri district.

They have been identified as Fareed Ahmed, Sarfaraz Ahmad, Mohammad Khalid and Mukhtar Ahmad, all from Poonch, and another individual from Rajouri, officials said.

As per the reports, the injured passenger was shifted to a nearby hospital and is undergoing treatment till the reports last came in.

The reports further suggested that all the victims were working in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended over their native areas as soon as the news spread there. The incident has triggered grief and sent the entire area into mourning with neighbours and nearby offered ► P11

315 lakes extinct, 203 shrunk; CAG alerts for action

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged alarming degradation of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir, revealing that 518 out of 697 natural lakes -- over 74 per cent -- in the Union territory have either disappeared or decreased in size since 1967, leading to significant ecological imbalance and loss of biodiversity.

As per the CAG report on the conservation of lakes in Union territory for the year ended March 31, 2024, out of the total 697 lakes with a total area of 28,990 hectares, as many as 315 lakes covering 1,537.07 hectares have disappeared, while the area of 203 lakes shrank by 1,314.19 hectares. "There was total decrease and disappearance of area of 2,851.26 hectares in ► P11

Mata Sukrala's grace inspires nation-building efforts: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday attended a musical opera 'Mata Sukrala Ki Kahani' depicting the revered legend of Mata Sukrala Devi at Abhinav Theatre in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the cultural heritage is a powerful societal resource that shapes our thinking, actions, values, beliefs and acts as a backbone for society.

"Nation-building is rooted in our shared mindset. A strong nation stands on citizens' integrity, common values, and trust among people, not just buildings. My message to the youth is that true nationhood sparks alive when self-interest gives way to community good,"



the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said.

He called upon the youth to reconnect deeply with their cultural roots. "Humanity cut off from cul-

tural roots loses its power. J&K's youth, anchored in heritage, will prove unstoppable in nation-building," he said. The Lieutenant Governor was attending a ► P11

Traffic restored on NH-44

JAMMU: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was restored on Thursday after clearance of landslides that had left roads blocked in Ramban district for the past two days.

The strategic 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by multiple landslides early Monday.

Though the highway was briefly reopened for a few hours on Tuesday morning, two major landslides forced a fresh closure, officials said. ► P11