

THOUGHT of the DAY

"Your Monday morning thoughts set the tone for your whole week. See yourself getting stronger, and living a fulfilling, happier, and healthier life." right."

—Germany Kent

LG launches 100-day campaign for 'Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir'

Sinha leads Padyatra; calls for push to eradicate drug menace

“LG warns of asset seizure, Aadhaar cancellation, other lifetime penalties for drug smugglers in J&K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Spearheading a decisive battle against the drug menace, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday launched the historic mass movement for a “Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir” from MA Stadium in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor flagged-off Padyatra and joined the public representatives, senior officials and thousands of citizens in the walkathon from MA Stadium to Parade Ground, marking the beginning of 100-days intensive campaign under Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.



Addressing a massive gathering, the Lieutenant Governor gave a clarion call to make Jammu Kashmir free from the scourge of drugs.

“We have given voice to a resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in Union Territory, fulfilling the pledge of a drug-free region.

Next three months are pivotal, with campaign advancing in six clear phases- Awareness intensive drives, youth focused events, community engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilitation and evaluation. We will move forward with the whole of government approach to rid J&K of drug menace,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the eradication of drug addiction is a collective responsibility that rests upon us all.

“We pledge resolutely that the administration will not let any youth, family, or dream ▶ P11

BJP to implement UCC, won't let Bengalis' become minority: Modi

KATWA/JANGIPUR/KUSHMANDI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday gave the BJP's Bengal campaign a sharp ideological edge, weaving together citizenship, identity and infiltration as he promised to speed up citizenship under the CAA for refugee communities if voted to power, pledged to implement the Uniform Civil Code and warned infiltrators' to “pack their bags”.

Addressing rallies from the Matua belt of Katwa to Muslim-majority Jangipur and the tribal-dominated border area of Kushmandi, Modi sought to turn the 2026 assembly polls into a straight fight between what he called “TMC's fear and BJP's trust”, asking voters to give the BJP “five years” after 34 years of the Left and 15 years of the TMC.

Claiming that rapid demographic changes were taking place in several parts of the state, he alleged that the ruling party had abandoned its old slogan of “Maa-Mati-Manush (mother-land-people)” and now relies on appeasement, infiltrators and vote-bank politics to retain power, declaring that “the BJP would not allow Bengalis to become a minority in the state”.

The three rallies together offered a picture of the BJP's Bengal



strategy: stitch together citizenship for refugee communities, demographic anxieties, anti-infiltration rhetoric, welfare promises and anger against the TMC into a single political narrative of change.

The BJP's choice of venues reflected the social coalition it is trying to build weeks ahead of the polls -- Matuas and Namasudras in south Bengal, Hindu consolidation in Muslim-majority Murshidabad and

Rajbanshi, tribal and border voters in north Bengal.

“I have come to give a guarantee to the Matua, Namasudra and refugee families of Bengal. You are not here by the grace of any TMC leader. You are here under the protection of the Constitution,” the PM said at Katwa.

“Modi enacted the CAA law so that Matua, Namasudra and refugee families receive the ▶ P11

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

High stakes US-Iran peace negotiations begin in Pak

ISLAMABAD: The US and Iran began Pakistan-brokered peace talks on Saturday, the Iranian media said as the world awaits a breakthrough to end the West Asia conflict that has paralysed global energy markets and caused widespread economic disruptions.

Ahead of their high-stakes negotiations in Islamabad, the US delegation led by Vice President JD Vance and the Iranian team headed by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf held separate meetings with

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

There is no official word yet on the start of the direct Iran-US talks. Pakistani officials had indicated that the negotiations are slated to be held in the Serena Hotel, which has been placed under a heavy security lockdown.

Pakistan-mediated negotiations between Iran and the US commenced in Islamabad, the Iranian media reported without sharing any details.

While Vance is accompanied by Special Envoy Steve

Witkoff and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, the Ghalibaf-led Iranian delegation comprised Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Supreme National Defence Council Secretary Ali Akbar Ahmadian and Central Bank Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati.

The two sides travelled to Islamabad for the talks, four days after Iran and the US announced a two-week ceasefire. However, a massive wave of Israeli strikes on Lebanon, killing more than 300 people, has left the ▶ P11

Omar lauds SKUAST-K's Morel Mushroom breakthrough

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) for achieving a significant scientific breakthrough in the research and advancement of Morel (Guchhi) mushrooms.

The Chief Minister, who is also Pro-Chancellor of the university, ▶ P11

Tornado triggers panic; no damage

JAMMU: In an unprecedented weather occurrence, a tornado was reported in Jammu's Akhnora area on Saturday evening, leaving residents startled and anxious. Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the J-K ▶ P11

Wular Lake restoration retrieves 5 sq km; 1.31 lakh trees removed

JAMMU: Conservation efforts at north Kashmir's Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a crucial Ramsar site, have restored around five sq km of critically

silted area and involved the phased removal of 1.31 lakh willow trees as part of a scientific plan to revive the wetland's ecological balance, officials said.

Nearly 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt have been

redged to reclaim the lake area and enhance water-holding capacity. Protection bunds have been strengthened along about 15 km of vulnerable stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering, the ▶ P11

Govt hikes windfall tax on diesel, ATF

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday hiked export duty, or windfall tax, on diesel to Rs 55.5 per litre and on aviation fuel ATF to Rs 42 a litre.

The duty hikes would be applicable with immediate effect, the finance ministry said in a notification.

The government had, on March 26, imposed an export duty of Rs 21.50 a litre on diesel, and Rs 29.5 per litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The duties were levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel amid ▶ P11

Century-old school in Doda to get Rs 3.6 Cr heritage facelift

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH: One of the oldest educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, the Boys Higher Secondary School here has received a major boost, with the government deciding to redevelop the 106-year-old institution into a heritage school.

The foundation stone for the Rs 3.06 crore redevelopment of the 20th-century institution -- earlier known as Amar Singh High School -- was laid by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Sunil

Kumar Bhutyal, in the presence of the school's Principal and alumnus, Kailash Chander.

The school located in Bhaderwah town of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district. It was the first high school of the Chenab valley region, established in 1920 by the then Dogra Ruler Maharaj Pratap Singh.

Bhutyal said the Rs 3.06 crore redevelopment project, being undertaken under the 'Prema' Heritage School scheme, is envisioned to serve as a centre of inspiration for students through an immersive learning experi-

ence. The initiative is also expected to instil a sense of pride among the school's alumni, as the historic institution -- known for producing distinguished achievers over the decades -- enters a new era of preservation and renewal, he said.

“Aligned with the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this first-of-its-kind school redevelopment initiative, 'Prema', is being undertaken to inspire the youth of the region to emerge as catalysts of change,” the ADC said. Chander termed ▶ P11

Pakistan will disintegrate further: Yogi Adityanath

LAKHIMPUR KHERI (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday termed Pakistan as 'paapee' (sinner) and asserted that it will 'disintegrate' further.

While speaking at an event in Mianpur, Adityanath distributed land ownership rights certificates to Hindu families displaced from Bangladesh.

The chief minister said Mianpur will now be named Ravindra Nagar.

“The sinner Pakistan got India divided, and then Pakistan too got divided. It is going to disintegrate into more pieces. The Hindus, the Sikhs,



Buddhists, Jains, Persians ('Parsi') and Christians living there were punished because there is no place for any other

religion there. Today, I am proud of distributing land rights to over 1,000 families, who were displaced ▶ P11

Ladakh secures identity in Aadhaar records

LEH: Nearly seven years after being carved out as a separate Union territory from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, Ladakh has finally secured a distinct identity in Aadhaar records, with the 'Jammu and Kashmir' label now replaced with 'Ladakh'.

The development, addressing a long-pending public demand, was carried out following the intervention of newly-appointed Ladakh Lt Governor VK ▶ P11

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
LEADERSHIP, Personality Development & Motivational Programme
by Globally Renowned Spiritualist
Shri Swami Paul Ji

We Believe Every Child is 'Born to Succeed'

www.spsmartschools.com

SPH BRID
ADVANCED COMPETITIVE SCHOOLING

ONE STUDENT, ONE GOAL & ONE SCHOOLING PROGRAM

SP SMART COMPETITIVE SCHOOLING PROGRAM
Maximum Preparation with Minimum Fee and Scholarships

Live Campus classes

SP Smart Schooling System Marching With Evolving Technologies

Learning Concepts of Physics, Chemistry & Bio with practical

Preparing for Civil Services and Judiciary with Advanced foundation programs

Preparing for Business & Corporate Careers with Tech-Driven Market & Audit Labs

REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS PREPARATION FOR

NEET | JEE | CLAT | CUET | CA-CPT | NDA
FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL SERVICES & JUDICIARY

ADMISSIONS OPEN
SCIENCE | ARTS | COMMERCE
SESSION 2026-27

Visit www.spsmartschools.com for registration.

Board & Competitive Results 2024-25 Highlights:

- Highest Positions In Jammu & Kashmir UT
- Highest Distinctions in J&K
- 18 Selections in JEE Main & 2 Qualified for JEE Adv 2025
- 100+ Selections in NEET | 20+ Selections in CUET 2025

CLASS 12th RESULT Since the implementation of "SP SMART HYBRID SCHOOLING SYSTEM"

POSITIONS: 209 | 95% & ABV: 598 | 90% & ABV: 1327 | 75% & ABV: 3480

PREPARE FOR EVERY EXAM 'HAPPILY'
JMD
SP SMART SCHOOLING SYSTEM
Ed-Tech Products & Services Managed by: ESPA Learn Pvt Ltd.
EXCHANGE ROAD, JMU | NH SARORE | TAWI VIHAR SIDHRA | TALAB TILLO