



**The management and staff of The Earth News greet all patrons and readers on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi.**

*Inking the Truth*

## Sinha, Omar greet people on Baisakhi, Ambedkar Jayanti

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the joyous occasion of Baisakhi, I convey my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all."

This harvest festival stands as a solemn reminder of the extraordinary contributions of our farmers whose labor, sacrifice, and dedication sustain the very foundation of our nation.

Baisakhi also marks the historic foundation of the Khalsa Panth by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who empowered the people and the community. As we celebrate Baisakhi, let us recommit ourselves to Guru Gobind Singh Ji's eternal teachings of righteousness, unity, devotion and selfless service to humanity. May this festival bring prosperity and joy to all in the year ahead."

Additionally, LG Sinha also greeted the people on the eve of the birth anniversary of the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr B.R Ambedkar.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all. Babasaheb stands as a transformative architect of India's social and national ethos. A tireless advocate for the oppressed, he devoted his life to eradicate social and economic inequities. His enduring vision continues to illuminate paths of hope and inspiration.

On this day, let us pledge ► P11

## Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan LG directs police to list top peddlers, dismantle networks within 1 month

**“Let's build a J&K where our youth's energy illuminates the world, not destroys itself. Let us confront this challenge with unyielding resolve: Sinha**

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday directed the Jammu and Kashmir Police to prepare a list of top drug-peddlers under each station and take decisive action to dismantle drug networks within 30 days.

He asserted that the administration will take stringent action on drug traffickers and syndicates, including revocation of their passports, driving licences, Aadhaar cards and arms licences.



Sinha was speaking after launching a 100-day intensive anti-drug campaign -- Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan -- in Kathua district.

"A drug-free Jammu Kashmir will emerge not from one person, but from collective action. Society must realize that drugs don't just kill in-

dividuals—they erode entire villages', wards' and cities' honor and destiny.

Let's build a J&K where our youth's energy illuminates the world, not destroys itself. Let us confront this challenge with unyielding resolve," the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said on

Monday. The Lieutenant Governor was addressing a massive public rally at Sports Stadium Kathua, where he launched a people's movement against narcotics under the Drug Free Jammu Kashmir campaign.

The Lieutenant Governor led a Padyatra from the Sports Stadium to Government Degree College, Kathua, joined by thousands of citizens, public representatives, senior officials, civil society members, social activists, NGOs, women, students and various stakeholders, all united under a shared resolve to make Jammu Kashmir Nasha Mukt.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every citizen, every Kathua family, to rise and unite against drug abuse.

"Ignite a people's revolution to eradicate drugs from every panchayat, every alley, every family in Kathua district. This is no dream, it's my unbreakable pledge," the Lieutenant Governor ► P11

## Forces launch Search Op after suspected terrorist movement Rusted mortar shell recovered



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Security forces on Monday launched a search operation in several border areas of Rajbagh and Ramkote in Kathua district following information about suspicious movement of suspected terrorists, officials said.

The suspicious movement of two armed persons, also carrying heavy backpacks, was reported from Soffain village towards Ambanall forest side in Rajbagh area this morning, the officials said.

They said police assisted by Army and CRPF started a search and cordon operation immediately after getting the information, which was continuing when last

reports were received, but there was no trace of the suspected terrorists, the officials said.

In March last year, a gunfight in Soffain forest had left four policemen and two terrorists of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit dead. The area is being used by terrorists to move towards hinterland after sneaking from across the international border.

Special Operations Group of local police along with CRPF also launched a search operation at Panjtirthi, Bhini Nallah, Barota, Aglidhar and adjoining areas in Ramkote sector of Kathua around 12.15 pm, the officials said.

Similar search ► P11

## Shri Machail Mata Yatra to begin today; arrangements put in place

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Arrangements, including RFID cards, new bridges and uninterrupted power supply, have been finalised for the annual Machail Mata Yatra commencing on April 14 in Kishtwar, officials said on Monday.

Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Nareish Singh, reviewed arrangements during their two-day visit to Paddar, including a meeting at base camp at Gulabgarh and a public darbar at Machail, the officials said.

Last year, a devastating cloudburst struck Chisoti village -- the gateway to the Machail Mata shrine on August 14 -- leaving 63 people, mostly devotees, dead and leaving around 30 missing. ► P11



## Vaibhav Kohli appointed as Excise Comm

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** In a minor administrative reshuffle, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday appointed JKAS Vaibhav Kohli as the new Excise Commissioner and also shifted two officers to the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat.

M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), issued the order on the transfers and postings on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

According to the order, Vaibhav Kohli, ► P11

## Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy meets Omar in Gulmarg CM reaffirms push for power infra, fast-track reforms

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GULMARG:** A study group of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy today met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during its visit to the region.

During the interaction, the Committee apprised the Chief Minister of the objectives of their visit and deliberated on key issues pertaining to the power sector.

The Chief Minister underscored the Government's commitment to strengthening energy infrastructure, enhancing power reliability,



and expediting reforms to effectively meet the growing demand across Jammu & Kashmir.

The members high-

lighted key issues related to energy infrastructure, renewable energy potential, and the need for strengthening power supply ► P11

## Women's quota to realise future goals: PM Modi

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Parliament is close to creating "new history" when the Women's Reservation Act will be amended this week for its implementation in 2029.

The enactment of the law will realise the visions of the past and fulfil the resolutions of the future, he said at the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sannam' here ahead of a three-day sitting of Parliament, where the amendments to the women's quota law ► P11

## WB will reply bombs with votes: Shah

**BIRBHUM:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the people of West Bengal will reply to bombs and bullets with votes, and pledged the BJP would "hang the syndicate and cut money promoters upside down to make them straight" once the voters "bid adieu to the TMC government".

Addressing back-to-back poll rallies in Mayureshwar and Khayrasole areas of ► P11

## Lt Gen Mishra evaluates LoC anti-infiltration grid

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** General Officer Commanding of Army's White Knight Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra on Monday visited Akhnoor sector near Jammu to assess the operational preparedness of the troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) with a key focus on counter-infiltration measures.

Lt Gen Mishra was accompanied by GoC Crossed Swords Division, also known as 10th Infantry division which is a vital formation responsible for securing the LoC



in the Akhnoor sector. "GoC White Knight Corps along with GoC Crossed Swords Division visited the

general area of Akhnoor to review the operational preparedness and prevailing security grid. The visit ► P11

## Man ferrying cattle goes missing; SIT set up, protesters block NH-44

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BANIHAL/JAMMU:** A special investigation team (SIT) has been set up to probe the disappearance of a man who was ferrying cattle and is believed to have fallen into a stream in J&K's Ramban district after being allegedly chased and assaulted by unidentified assailants, officials said on Monday.

Four suspects have also been arrested in connection with the case, even as hundreds of locals, including relatives of the missing persons, blocked the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near the scene of the incident at

Makarkoot. Numerous vehicles were seen stranded on both sides of the road.

The four arrested accused have been identified as Surjeet Singh, Sandeep Singh, Digvijay Singh and Keval Singh, Banihal Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Surinder Singh Biloaria said, adding a case has been registered.

Efforts were underway to pacify the protesters and unclog the blocked section of the highway. Authorities have also reduced mobile internet speeds in Banihal and Ramsoo as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, a team of

NDRF joined rescuers searching for the missing man in Nallah Bishlari for the second day, the officials said.

Locals said Tanveer Ahmad Chopan, of Mundkhal Pogat in Ukhral tehsil, was travelling from Jammu to his village, ferrying a milch cow and two calves in a pick-up truck, when he was allegedly chased and assaulted by unidentified cow vigilantes.

Chopan, while trying to save himself, jumped into the nearby Nallah Bishlari, according to eyewitness accounts.

Ramban Additional Superintendent of Police Mujeeb ur Rehman, ► P11

## J&K Govt promotes 24 Inspectors as DySPs

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Government, Home Department has on Monday ordered the promotion of 24 Inspectors of the General Cadre as Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs).

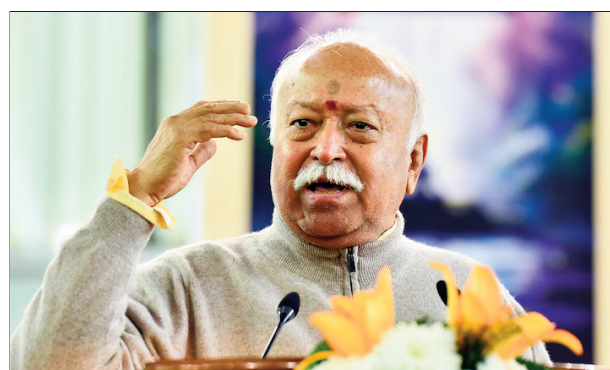
According to an official order which read, "Sanction is hereby accorded to the promotion of following Inspectors (General Cadre) as Deputy Superintendent of Police (General Cadre) -- Level 8 (47600-151100) in the Pay Matrix," the promotion will ► P11

## Spiritual wisdom helped India endure materialism: Bhagwat

**NAGPUR:** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday termed India "the soul of the world", asserting that the country's spiritual wisdom has helped it weather the storms of materialism and consumerism that have destroyed many societies.

Addressing a gathering of seers at the 'Panchkalyanak Pratishtha Gajrath Mahotsav' in Nagpur, Bhagwat emphasised the country's rich spiritual knowledge and the role of saints in spreading the same among people.

"As long as our country exists, the world will be fine because if the world is the body, then India is its soul,"



he said. Bhagwat said that while "storms of materialism and consumerism" have destroyed many societies around the world, India has endured these because of its

spiritual knowledge and wisdom, embodied by saints.

"While it is said that the ancient civilisations of Greece, Egypt, and Rome have vanished from the world, there is ► P11

## Will 'prosecute' buyers, sellers of Iranian oil: US

**WASHINGTON:** The US has threatened to "vigorously prosecute" anyone who buys or sells sanctioned Iranian oil, the top Justice Department official has said as President Donald Trump announced the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

The blockade, which was announced after the US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad failed to reach an agreement on Sunday to end the war that began on February 28.

"The Department of Justice will vigorously prosecute anyone who buys or sells sanctioned Iranian oil. The Department of Justice fully supports our Com-

mander in Chief @POTUS and our military," US Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a post on X.

On Sunday, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its forces will begin implementing a blockade of all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports on April 13 at 10 am ET, in accordance with the President's proclamation.

"The blockade will be enforced impartially against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas, including all Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. CENTCOM forces will not impede freedom of navigation ► P11

Jai Mata Di

Sarson ka saag

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