

"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."

—Mister Rogers

*Inking the Truth*

## IN BRIEF

### West Asia war: PM chairs CCS meeting

**NEW DELHI:** A special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday reviewed the steps taken in view of the ongoing conflict in West Asia and assessed the availability of critical needs of the common man.

At the meeting, Modi called for all-out efforts to protect the citizens from the impact of the conflict, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said. The meeting was held to review measures taken by ministries and departments, and discuss further initiatives in the context of the West Asia conflict, it said. This was the second special CCS meeting on the issue. The prime minister took stock of fertilisers and steps being taken to ensure their availability in the Kharif and Rabi seasons. ▶ P11

### Terrorist killed in Ganderbal encounter

**SRINAGAR:** A local terrorist was killed in an overnight encounter in Ganderbal district, the Army said on Wednesday.

A cordon and search operation was launched by security forces on Tuesday night in Arahama area of Ganderbal following information about suspicious movement in the region.

"Based on specific intelligence input, joint search operation was launched by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in general area Arahama of Ganderbal, Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said in a post on X. "During the search, ▶ P11



### IAS Shreya takes over as Dir Information

**JAMMU:** Shreya Singhal, IAS on Wednesday assumed the charge of Director Information Jammu and Kashmir. After assuming office, the Director held an introductory meet with the senior officers and officials of the DIPR.

She emphasized the importance of ▶ P11

### Several oil tankers catch fire

**JAMMU:** Several oil tankers caught fire in Jammu city on Wednesday, prompting a quick response from the fire and emergency services department, which successfully prevented a major tragedy, officials said.

No casualties or injuries were reported in the incident, they said.

The fire broke out under mysterious circumstances in one tanker near the RTO office at Transport Nagar and rapidly spread to four or five other tankers. ▶ P11

## Border villages first line of defence; residents top priority for PM: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday described border villages as the nation's first line of defence, praising residents for their courage and sacrifice, and said they remain a top priority for Narendra Modi.

There must be no gap between what the government promises and what people actually receive, he said.

"Border villages are India's first line of defence, and the residents are the first face of India that any outsider sees. Border residents are not only first in courage, sacrifice, and patience but also stand first in the priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the residents of border villages are serving the nation every single day. "That service must not be honoured only in words, but reflected clearly in the quality of life of every family."

Sinha was speaking at a public event organised under the Vibrant



Villages Programme at the border village of Makwal in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to ensure that no family is left out and no genuine need goes unnoticed.

"While planning or executing any scheme, always remember that every family in Makwal and in our other border villages is not just living on the border, but standing guard for India," he said.

"To live here, to build a prosperous society here with complete ded-

ication to the service of nation-building and national security is an act of extraordinary courage. Every moment of residents of border villages is the most powerful symbol of patriotism," he said.

He said that more than a decade ago, border villages were routinely neglected, but that time is over.

"Under the leadership of the prime minister, whether it is Jammu and Kashmir or the border villages of the North-East, the distance from Delhi has shrunk in a real sense," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed that all government officials must remove obstacles and ensure that Makwal and all other border villages receive every required resource.

"Our effort will be to ensure that more resources reach Makwal and other border villages than even the cities of the UT. The number of villages formally notified as Vibrant Villages in Jammu district may be limited, but it is the clear effort of the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah that all 541 ▶ P11

## CM: Panel on Daily Wagers to submit report soon, assures implementation

Ensures review of Public Service Guarantee Act

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Reiterating his government's resolve to address the long-pending issue of regularisation of daily wagers, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the recommendations of a designated committee, which is expected soon, will be implemented.

He made the remarks while opposing a bill moved by CPI(M) legislator M Y Tarigami in the legislative Assembly.

The Bill seeks regularisation of services of casual and other workers working in various government departments for decades.

"The government's opposition is limited to the bill's introduction and not to the sentiment behind it. There is a broad consensus on the need to regularise the workers who have ▶ P11



### 'Govt's duty to protect assets, shrines of KPs'

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday asserted that it is the responsibility of the ▶ P11

## J-K records rainfall deficit in March

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir faced a rainfall deficit of 34 per cent in March despite several Western Disturbances in the month, officials said on Wednesday.

They said J-K received 100.7 mm of rainfall, below the normal of 152.9 mm, placing the month in the "deficient" category.

Srinagar recorded 88.5 mm rainfall against a normal of 115.0 mm, marking a 23 per cent deficit, while the winter capital Jammu witnessed a sharper shortfall of 43 per cent, receiving 52.4 mm against 92.3 mm, the officials said. They said ▶ P11

## 10 kg 'Charas' recovered; 4 inter-state smugglers held

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** In a significant breakthrough, the sleuths of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Jammu & Kashmir, Tuesday arrested four Inter-State Narco Smugglers and recovered 10 kilograms of Charas Recovered K valuing more than Rs 30 lakh from their possession on NHW44 near IIM Nagrota.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs, a cab was intercepted and subjected to thorough checking in accordance with established legal procedures.

Upon search, a large consignment of contraband

high-grade Charas, was recovered from their possession. The accused persons were immediately taken into custody.

The arrested individuals have been identified as—Amar Chand S/O Jabba Ram R/O Jati Gali PO Kalla District Ramban; Sachin Verma S/O Girish Kumar Verma R/O Balram Pur, District Gonda, UP; Vijay Verma S/O Ishwardeen R/O Malari, District Gonda, UP; and Aakash Ramsuhel Verma S/O Ramsuhel Verma R/O Plot No 368, Jagdamba Nagar, CR Patil Road, Dindoli, Surat City, Gujarat. A case under FIR ▶ P11

## 'JK Govt's attempt to enforce 'Art 370' Land Framework' MLA Pathania lampoons Omar Sarkar over introduction of Land Grants Amendment Bill

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Launching a forceful and meticulously argued intervention in the Assembly, senior BJP leader and MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania on Wednesday mounted a direct constitutional challenge to the proposed J&K Land Grants (Restoration and Protection) Bill, 2025, warning that the legislation strikes at the very core of the post-reorganisation legal order in the Union Territory.

Speaking during discussions on Private Members' Bills, Pathania questioned



both the legal foundation and legislative competence behind the proposed measure, describing it as an attempt to reopen a framework that had been conclusively settled by Parliament through the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

In a speech marked by sharp phrasing and sustained emphasis, he argued that the Union Territory's legislative architecture now flows directly from the Constitution of India, leaving little room for any reversal of post-2019 statutory arrangements through what he termed "indirect legislative manoeuvres."

Pathania underscored that parliamentary supremacy cannot be diluted by a Private Member's Bill seeking to unsettle an existing statutory regime. He took particular exception to provisions in the Bill that ▶ P11

## SEC reviews revision of panchayat electoral rolls

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission (SEC) headed by State Election Commissioner, Shantmanu, on Wednesday convened a meeting with the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Panchayat Block Electoral Officers (PBEOs) to review the ongoing revision of the Panchayat Electoral Rolls, 2026.

The revision process was initiated on 27 March 2026 with the release of the draft electoral roll, inviting claims and objections for new enrol-

ments, deletions or transfers of voters across the Union Territory.

The Election Commissioner emphasised house-to-house outreach by the field staff to ensure all eligible voters who turn 18 years by the cut-off date of 1 April 2026 are enrolled in the Panchayat Electoral Roll.

The last date for filing claims and objections has been set as 29 April 2026.

Shantmanu instructed the officials to strictly adhere to the timeline for disposing of claims and objections and submit daily progress reports to the Commission. He asked the Block Development Officers to launch ▶ P11

## LG points for zero tolerance policy against drug menace



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called for adopting a zero tolerance policy against the drug menace

in the Union Territory.

He was chairing a high-level meeting with deputy commissioners, senior superintendents of police and senior officials of the civil and police administration at Lok

Bhavan here, an official spokesman said.

The LG emphasized on a multi-pronged strategy including strengthening law enforcement to dismantle trafficking networks, intensive

mass awareness campaigns to deter potential users, enhancing treatment and counselling, and rehabilitation to make J&K drug-free.

"Action against drug abuse must be our top priority. We need a collective mechanism to safeguard our youth and ensure a healthy future for J&K," he said.

Sinha also directed for strengthening grassroots intelligence and coordinated and stringent action against drug smugglers.

The meeting discussed a series of activities planned for a dedicated three-month campaign under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, the spokesman said. ▶ P11

## MLAs unite over officers' absence; Speaker flags matter to CM Omar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Wednesday witnessed rare unanimity as members across parties frowned upon the absence of senior officers from the gallery, prompting Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to flag the issue to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The issue was raised by National Conference legislator Nazir Ahmad Gurezi towards the end of the Question Hour, drawing support from members across both treasury and opposition benches, who rose from their seats in

protest. The speaker assured the protesting members that the House has taken note of their concerns, stressing that it is

imperative for the officers concerned to be present whenever questions related to their departments are taken up. ▶ P11

## 2 Bills rejected in J-K Assembly

**JAMMU:** Several Members today withdrew their bills after assurances from the Government.

Member, Ajaz Ahmad Jan moved a bill which reads "a bill to amend the public men and public servants declaration of assets and other provisions act, 1983 (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 30 of 2025)". Member, Ranbir Singh Pathania also withdrew the bill which read, "a bill further to ▶ P11