

"Don't settle for average. Bring your best to the moment. Then, whether it fails or succeeds, at least you know you gave all you had."  
—Angela Bassett

## Seven RS members quit AAP

**NEW DELHI:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) suffered a jolt on Friday as seven of its Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal and Sandeep Pathak, quit the party, with Chadha saying all of them had merged with the BJP, asserting that the Arvind Kejriwal-led party had strayed from its principles, values and core morals.

Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikram Sahni and Swati Maliwal were the other four parliamentarians in the group of seven. Their move came as a surprise to many, as the exits were disclosed at a hurriedly called press conference at Constitution Club in central Delhi, after which AAP chief Kejriwal alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had betrayed the people of Punjab while state Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann termed the seven MPs "gaddar" (traitors).

The BJP extended a warm welcome to the MPs as party president Nitin Nabin offered them ► P11

## LG launches 'Drug-Free J&K Campaign' in Reasi 48 drug peddlers face financial probe; properties razed: Sinha



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday launched 'Drug-Free J&K Campaign' in Reasi, urging communities, institutions, and individuals alike to unite in the fight against drug abuse, a crisis he warned is eroding the very foundations of society from within. The

Lieutenant Governor appealed for a broad-based people's movement while highlighting that for the past 12 days, a collective force has risen across the Union Territory against drugs and people are resolutely committed to the objective to make this land free from narcotics.

Highlighting the achievement of the cam-

paigned in the past 12 days, the Lieutenant Governor said that in Jammu division, between 11 April and 22 April, large number of cases were registered and several drug smugglers were arrested. He said narcotics valued at nearly Rs. 3 crore have been seized and about Rs. One crore worth of movable and immovable properties were

attached.

"Properties of drug smugglers have been demolished. 187 driving licenses and four vehicle registrations have also been cancelled. Financial investigations have been initiated against 48 drug peddlers. Drug and chemist shops have been inspected, and 15 drug-store licenses have been cancelled. Drug users have been referred to de-addiction and rehabilitation centres and Counselling has also been extended to drug users," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that 1,947 women committees have been established across districts in the Jammu division since the beginning of the campaign on 11th April and with the support of mothers and sisters, this ► P11

## CHINTAN SHIVIR

## Mandaviya: Youth key partners in Viksit Bharat, not just beneficiary

Inaugurates ESIC hospital, stresses workers' dignity

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The three-day Chintan Shivir of Ministers of Youth Affairs & Sports from States and Union Territories commenced on Friday at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar. The Shivir is being led by Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse.

The first day, themed "Samvaad Se Samadhaan", focused on strengthening youth engagement frameworks through MY Bharat, with emphasis on policy alignment, institutional convergence and outcome-oriented programme delivery.

In his keynote address, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted the importance of inclusive and participatory governance. He stated, "The vision of this Chintan Shivir is to ensure in-



dividual involvement by bringing every youth voice into the decision-making process."

Emphasising India's demographic strength, he noted, "India has the world's most powerful demographic dividend, and to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, it is essential that youth are actively involved in shaping policies that will ultimately benefit them."

He further underlined the need for collaborative nation-building, stating, "We must make youth equal partners in achieving the goals of 2047, not just beneficiaries of schemes."

Highlighting institutional mechanisms, he added, "Proper nurturing of youth can be achieved through District Youth Officers (DYO)s, who can effectively channelise ideas ► P11

## Nasha Mukt JK Abhiyaan Residences of 2 drug peddlers demolished

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The district administration on Friday demolished residential properties of two alleged drug peddlers in the outskirts of Jammu city as part of its crackdown on assets linked to persons involved in drug trafficking and trade, officials said.

Bulldozers -- accompanied by heavy police deployment -- rolled into Indra Nagar Colony of Miran Sahib and razed the houses of two drug peddlers in the area, they



said. The action against the duo -- booked under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

(NDPS) Act -- came under the 'Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan', officials said. Sub-Divisional ► P11

## Omar, Australian envoy discuss ties in agriculture, allied sectors Legislators, deputations call on CM

**NEW DELHI:** The Australian High Commissioner to India, Philip Green, on Friday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and discussed avenues for enhanced cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.

During the discussions, both the sides explored opportunities for collaboration in agriculture and allied areas, particularly horticulture and animal husbandry. Emphasis was laid on knowledge sharing, adoption of best practices, and capacity building to improve productivity and sustainability.

The interaction also touched upon prospects for



institutional linkages and technical cooperation to support ongoing developmental initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, within the broader framework of India-Aus-

tralia engagement. The engagement remained forward-looking, with a shared intent to deepen cooperation through appropriate channels. Orson Passi, ► P11

## Op Sarp Vinash hero Tahir Fazal dies at 62

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH:** A 62-year-old man was laid to rest at a village in the Poonch-Rajouri sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. But Tahir Fazal was no ordinary man.

Popularly known as 'Bahadur-e-Hill Kaka', he quit a lucrative job in Saudi Arabia to avenge his brother's killing. Over two decades ago, he mobilised his tribal community against Pakistan-trained militants to reclaim his native Hill Kaka, which had become a militants' stronghold in the aftermath of Kargil War.

The Indian Army paid a solemn tribute to Fazal, who died on Thursday after a brief

illness. They remembered him as a "valiant son of the soil" who stood shoulder to shoulder with troops during Operation Sarp Vinash, which successfully dismantled militants' operational hub in Hill Kaka.

A native of the remote Madda-Hill Kaka area, Fazal had returned from Saudi Arabia after his brother was killed by militants, vowing to fight them.

"He, along with two other brothers, was in Saudi Arabia at that time. When he received the news that his brother had been killed. They vowed to avenge the killing of his brother and returned home here. They took an oath that as long ► P11

## GCW Nawa Kadal imposes curbs on mobile phone use

■ ARSHID ALI

**SRINAGAR:** The Government College for Women (GCW), Nawa Kadal, has issued a strict advisory restricting the use of mobile phones and related activities within the college premises in an effort to maintain discipline and ensure a focused academic environment.

According to an official notice issued by the college administration, students have been directed not to use mobile phones on campus. The advisory also strictly prohibits recording reels, capturing videos, or creating any form of digital content within the college premises.

The administration further warned students against uploading any material on social media from

inside the campus, stating that any violation of the directive may lead to immediate suspension without prior notice.

In addition, the college has barred students from placing or receiving online orders, including food deliveries and parcels, within the campus premises. Students have also been instructed to keep their mobile phones on silent mode and inside their bags during class hours.

A senior official from the college administration said the decision was taken after observing increasing misuse of mobile phones on campus.

"The step has been taken purely in the interest of maintaining discipline and ensuring that students remain focused on their ► P11

## Girdawar, forest guard suspended

**JAMMU:** A revenue official and a forest guard have been suspended in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Doda districts respectively for alleged dereliction of duty, officials said.

In Samba district, Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Soodan ordered the suspension of a 'girdawar' Pankaj Singh Jamwal for failure to complete the digitisation of revenue records within the stipulated timeframe despite repeated directions, an official order said.

The tehsildar, Bari Brahmana had reported that no 'jamabandis' (official record of rights for land) were digitised in Patwar Halqua Smailpur between April 8 and April 15.

"The conduct of the official reflects gross negligence and dereliction of ► P11

## Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat to start on Apr 30



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** In a major boost to rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, a specially designed Vande Bharat Express will operate between the twin capital

cities of Jammu and Srinagar from April 30, officials said on Friday.

The premium train service, which has been running between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar for over nine months, ► P11

## ACB cracks major land scam; 24 cases lodged

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has unearthed major land-related irregularities here, registering 24 FIRs against revenue officials, land grabbers, conduits and beneficiaries involved in alleged fraudulent usurpation of prime custodian land parcels, officials said on Friday.

According to the ACB, thousands of kanals of custodian land in areas including Asarwan, Mishriwala, Bhalwal and R S Pura were illegally grabbed by land mafia in connivance with attorney holders and officials of the custodian and revenue departments.

The irregularities came to light after inputs were received

that large tracts of land had been fraudulently grabbed through tampering of revenue records, before being sold to unsuspecting buyers, officials said.

Accordingly, 24 FIRs have been registered by the ACB and a thorough investigation has been launched, they said.

A verification conducted by the ACB revealed that over 1,000 kanals of custodian land were shown allotted to displaced persons of PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) on the basis of fake or forged orders, even though many beneficiaries were not entitled to such allotments, the ACB said.

Officials said several displaced persons from PoK territories had already been allotted land, but their relatives, ineligible for additional allotments, managed to secure ► P11

## Census 2027: RGI launches helpline 1855

**NEW DELHI:** The Registrar General of India (RGI) has launched a national toll-free helpline, 1855, for Census 2027 to address queries or guidance related to the First Phase of the country's headcount: Housing Listing and Housing Enumeration (HLO).

The Census Commissioner also launched a WhatsApp chatbot for the public.

The helpline's multi-lingual facility will cater to the needs and queries of enumerators, supervisors, and ► P11

## LG Sinha chairs J&K Higher Education Council meeting



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday chaired a high-level meeting of Jammu Kashmir Higher Education Council, at Lok Bhavan.

The Council, under the

leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, deliberated on comprehensive strategies aimed at driving the holistic transformation of the education sector across the Union Territory.

The key agendas included implementation of

the 'Design Your Degree' (DYD) program and the adoption of its official manual across universities, integration of IT and Artificial Intelligence into the curriculum, strategies to promote entrepreneurship, knowledge-based skills ► P11

## India becoming "Vishwaguru" is certain: RSS

**NAGPUR:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said India will certainly become a 'Vishwaguru' and nobody should harbour any doubts about the country's future.

Earlier, people doubted if Ram Temple will ever be built, but it came into being. Similarly, India becoming a 'Vishwaguru' (teacher to the world) is certain to happen, he said.

Bhagwat was speaking after laying the foundation stone of Bharat Durga Mandir here.

The vision of India becoming a Vishwaguru would be realised through consistent efforts and collective discipline, he said, expressing confidence that such a transformation could be witnessed in the present generation. Doubts about ► P11

Jai Mata Di

*Sarson ka saag*

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