

**"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."**  
—Herman Melville

*Making the Truth*

## 7 AAP MPs merged with BJP

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan on Monday officially accepted the merger of seven Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs with the BJP, reducing the strength of Arvind Kejriwal's party in the Upper House to three.

After this transition, the BJP's strength in the Upper House has increased to 113. Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Sandeep Pathak, Vikramjit Sahney, Swati Maliwal, and Rajinder Gupta are the seven MPs who have merged. The Rajya Sabha website now shows that the seven MPs are part of the BJP list of members. The seven MPs had on Friday petitioned the Rajya Sabha Chairman to be treated as BJP MPs after the merger and the same has been accepted, sources said. The AAP had on Sunday moved a petition before the RS Chairman seeking the termination of the membership of the seven MPs. **▶ P11**

## Sinha joins 'Padyatra' in Udhampur Unity is our shield, determination our weapon: LG's call to fight drug menace



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Urging a united front against drug abuse, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for collective resolve to safeguard youth and build a future where families stay strong and aspirations flourish across Jammu and Kashmir. Joining thousands of res-

idents in a padyatra under the ongoing 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' in Udhampur, Sinha urged citizens to treat it as a "shared war against narcotics", asserting that "together, we must win this battle". In the war against drugs, unity will be our shield, resolve our weapon. Let us commit to shaping **▶ P11**

## LG Sinha meets injured persons

**UDHAMPUR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited Government Medical College, (GMC) Udhampur to inquire about the health and well-being of those who sustained injuries during the unfortunate road accident in Ramnagar, Udhampur on April 20.

The Lieutenant Governor was briefed by a team of senior doctors on the health condition of the injured undergoing treatment at the hospital. He directed the Hospital Administration to ensure the best possible medical care for their early recovery.



**100-DAY  
NASHA MUKT  
JK ABHIYAAN**

The EARTH NEWS joins with the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

## 60 organisations in Jammu pledge full support to Nasha Mukta J-K Abhiyaan Rajesh Gupta unanimously appointed as campaign coordinator

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** To extend widespread public support to the 100-day "Nasha Mukta Jammu-Kashmir Abhiyan" launched by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Jammu Kashmir Sant Samaj Nyas organised an important meeting of religious, business, and social organizations at Aggarwal Sabha, Vivekanand Chowk, Jammu. Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Organizational General Secretary, successfully coordinated the event. Nearly 60 prominent representatives from Jammu participated.



The meeting began with Mahant Rajesh Bittu's welcome address. He stated, "Drug addiction is not merely a personal weakness

but a pandemic eroding society's foundations. Sant Samaj Nyas is committed to connecting every section of society to this campaign."

Rajesh Gupta, President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (J&K-Ladakh), delivered the keynote address. He said the battle against drugs is not just administrative but a social, cultural, and moral war. Emphasizing formation of citizen groups, vigilance committees, and local coordination bodies, he stated, "The government is making efforts; now society must organize awareness drives, support victims, and assist administration in identifying drug peddlers." Rajesh Gupta was unanimously appointed campaign coordinator. Representatives **▶ P11**

## Institute linked to banned outfit declared 'unlawful'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** An institute allegedly run by individuals affiliated with a banned organisation in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir has been declared an "unlawful entity" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg issued a two-page order based on a dossier presented by Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, pointing towards the alleged illegal activities at Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom at Imam Sahib in Shopian. According to the order issued by Garg on April 24, there were "credible inputs

and evidence on record, to indicate sustained and covert linkages of the institution with Jamaat-e-Islami, which the Centre had banned in 2019.

The order said there was a de facto control of the institution by individuals affiliated with the banned outfit, including their placement in key administrative and academic positions.

It said the institution, over a period of time, has fostered an environment conducive to radicalisation with a number of pass outs from the institution found involved in militant activities and acts prejudicial to national security.

The dossier also raised the issues of financial opacity, suspicious handling of institutional funds and **▶ P11**

## NIA probes inter-state LeT module, gets 5 on remand

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The National Investigation Agency has taken over the case related to the recent unearthing of an inter-state Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module and secured custody of five arrested terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals, for questioning on Monday, officials said.

On April 7, Jammu and Kashmir police achieved a major success in its counter-terror campaign by arresting five LeT operatives, including Abdullah, alias Abu Hureira, who has been on the run for 16 years and was able

to set up bases outside the union territory.

Besides Abdullah, another Pakistani terrorist, Usman alias Khubaib and three Srinagar residents - - Mohammad Naqeeb Bhat, Adil Rashid and Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama -- were also arrested in the major operation that involved police in Jammu and Kashmir as well as central agencies.

The probe unearthed a deep-rooted LeT network involved in providing logistics and financial support to terrorists.

After taking over the case for further **▶ P11**

## CM bats for lasting peace in West Asia Omar inaugurates Rs 19.71 Cr School of Architecture building

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday condemned the shooting incident at a venue in Washington where the US President Donald Trump was present, saying violence has no place in politics and expressing relief that he survived.

Abdullah batted strongly for facilitating lasting peace in West Asia and said that dialogue must continue, even if through alternative means.

"Thank God he survived, and I did not want anything to happen to him," Abdullah said while responding to a query on the sidelines of a function here.

Trump, First Lady Mela-



nia Trump, Vice President. JD Vance and other top officials were evacuated unharmed from the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association at the Washington Hilton hotel after a man

armed with multiple weapons fired shots outside the hotel ballroom on Sunday.

Describing politics as "a very dirty thing," he said that differences should be expressed verbally and **▶ P11**

## HC quashes Malik's PSA detention

**JAMMU:** The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday quashed the preventive detention of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), holding that the order was legally unsustainable and based on "non-application of mind".

Setting aside the detention order issued by the Doda district magistrate against Malik on September 8 last year, Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani directed authorities to "release the petitioner/detenu forthwith from his preventive detention".

Reacting to the verdict, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami **▶ P11**

## Six held with drugs, assets worth Rs 73 lakh attached

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Six persons were taken into custody during an intensified anti-narcotics crackdown, with police recovering contraband substances and over Rs 23 lakh in Doda and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Monday.

In a parallel action, properties worth over Rs 73 lakh linked to drug peddlers were also attached in Udhampur district under relevant legal provisions, the police said.

Besides Zareena, officials said her daughter and son-in-law were also picked up by police during **▶ P11**

Additional Superintendent of Police, Doda, Mohd Aslam said three persons, including a woman, were detained during a raid on a house at Dak Mohalla in the main town following recovery of 85 grams of suspected brown sugar and over Rs 23 lakh on Sunday evening.

He identified the woman as Zareena Begum, stating that she had been under police surveillance following inputs indicating her involvement in drug peddling.

Besides Zareena, officials said her daughter and son-in-law were also picked up by police during **▶ P11**

## Over 166 Kg charas, cash recovered; four detained

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**ANANTNAG:** Acting on specific inputs and during routine operations, Anantnag Police achieved significant success in its ongoing drive against drug trafficking, recovering large quantities of contraband and arresting multiple accused persons.

Police Station Srigufwara, during patrolling at Shalgam Crossing, intercepted an Alto vehicle (JK01W-7328). Upon search, approximately 110 kilograms of Ganja was recovered. One person Nazir Ahmad Khatana S/o Faqeer Khatana R/o Gujar Basti

Shalgam, was arrested on the spot. Accordingly, FIR No. 39/2026 under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered and investigation is in progress.

In another operation, a police party from Police Post Dialgam, acting on credible information, conducted a search at the residence of Mohd Rafiq Itoo R/o Watrigam Dialgam after obtaining a search warrant from the competent court. During the search, approximately 51 kilograms of charas-like substance was recovered from the said house. In this regard, FIR No. 119/2026 u/s 8/20 NDPS Act has been **▶ P11**

## SP Headquarters conducts awareness campaign against drug abuse at Arnia

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** In a continued effort to combat the menace of drug abuse and to strengthen community participation, a PCPG cum awareness campaign was organized by SP Headquarters at Arnia today.

The programme witnessed active participation from young aspirants, and members of Border Villages who were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug addiction and its long-term



consequences on health, career, and society.

During the interaction, the youth were strongly motivated to say a firm "No to Drugs" and encouraged to channel their energy to-

wards constructive pursuits such as sports, education, and skill development. They were urged to emerge as responsible citizens and strong pillars of support for their families and society **▶ P11**

## 3 peddlers apprehended with charas

**HANDWARA:** Reinforcing its unwavering commitment to a drug-free society, Handwara Police achieved yet another breakthrough under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan by apprehending a drug peddler during routine patrolling.

A vigilant police team from PP Chogul, falling under the jurisdiction **▶ P11**

## Shabir Shah's remand extended

**JAMMU:** A special NIA court on Monday extended the remand of separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah by 10 more days in connection with a three-decade-old terror case, officials said.

Shah was produced before the court on the expiry of his previous 10-day remand. He has moved a bail application which is likely to be taken up on the next date of hearing, they said.

During the proceedings, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) sought **▶ P11**

## Farmers interests', country paramount in FTAs: Union Minister Chouhan to launch 330 new road projects costing Rs 3,550 Cr in J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said the interests of the farmers and the country have been kept paramount in all the free trade agreements (FTAs) between India and other nations.

He was reacting to the allegations of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "sold" India's agriculture to the US.

"They (Congress) did not do anything ever. They destroyed farmers and our farms.



"Now if we are working, he has to make accusations here or there. I can say this firmly that all the FTAs that have taken place have been done while keeping the interests of the people of India

above all," Chouhan told reporters here.

The Union minister said the FTAs have been done keeping the interests of the farmers paramount.

"There have been **▶ P11**

## Crackdown widens with multiple raids

**AWANTIPORA:** Continuing its efforts under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, Police District Awantipora has intensified its drive against drug abuse and illicit narcotics trade.

In this regard, multiple raids are being conducted at various locations across the Police District, with special focus on identified narco hotspot areas **▶ P11**

## Illegal poppy cultivation destroyed; 3 cases filed



Acting on specific information received through the Beat In-charge, police teams from Police Station Shopian accompanied by an Executive Magistrate, conducted raids in the areas of Zawoora, Gugloora Pinjoora and Mirpora Pinjoora.

During the operation at Zawoora, illegal poppy cultivation was detected on land belonging to Abdul Gaffar Mir son of Abdul Ahad Mir. The illicit crop was promptly destroyed on the spot. In this connection, Case FIR No. 65/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police **▶ P11**

## Mega pony rally held at Sonamarg

**GANDERBAL:** In a vibrant display of community resolve against substance abuse, the District Administration Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), today organized a massive Pony Rally under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan (NMBA@100).

The event, saw a spirited procession of local pony wallas, other unions and youth **▶ P11**