

THOUGHT of the DAY

"Whenever you see a successful woman, look out for three men who are going out of their way to try to block her."

—Yulia Tymoshenko

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Inking the Truth

India seeks safe Hormuz path at UNSC

UNITED NATIONS: Amid the West Asia crisis, India has urged restoration of safe and unimpeded maritime passage through the Strait of Hormuz at the earliest while expressing concern about safety of its seafarers, stressing that any "purported closure" of vital waterways has direct consequences for the global economy.

Addressing the UN Security Council open debate on 'The Safety and Protection of Waterways in the Maritime Domain' on Monday, Chargé d'affaires at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel, stressed that India sees maritime security and the protection of waterways as essential to global security and economic prosperity.

"As a major trading nation, India strongly deplors the recent targeting of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and the endangerment of innocent civilian crew members. ▶ P11

Op Sindoor shows terror hubs no longer immune: DM at SCO meet



NEW DELHI: Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's firm resolve that "terror epicentres" are no longer immune to "justifiable punishment", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, in remarks widely seen as a warning to Pakistan over cross-border terrorism.

In an address at a conclave of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Singh also called on the influential grouping to

not lose sight of "state-sponsored" cross-border terrorism and that there should not be any place for any "double standards" in combating the menace.

Delving into ongoing conflicts and geopolitical upheavals, Singh said that the "real test of power" is not in using it against the poor and the weak, but to use it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves.

There is a need to focus on global consensus where "co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict", he said.

The defence minister emphasised that the SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who "abet, shelter and provide safe havens" to terrorists.

"We must not lose sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism which attacks the very sovereignty of a nation state. There is no place for any double standards and SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists," he said.

Singh strongly pitched for a unified front to tackle the "evils" of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

"By tackling terrorism, separatism, and extremism without exception, we (can) transform regional security from a challenge into a cornerstone for peace and prosperity," he said in ▶ P11



100-DAY NASHA Mukta 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.

HEROES OF THE DAY



Srinagar Police attached property worth Rs 1.5 Cr

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SRINAGAR: Continuing its intensified crackdown against drug trafficking under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Srinagar Police has attached immovable property worth approximately ₹1.5 crore belonging to a notorious drug peddler.

Police Station Rainawari, acting under the provisions of Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, attached a single-storey residential house along ▶ P11

Immovable assets of Rs 2.58 Cr attached

RAJOURI: In a significant crackdown against drug trafficking and its financial networks District Police Rajouri has attached immovable properties worth over Rs 2.58 crore belonging to two notorious drug peddlers under the stringent provisions of the NDPS Act.

Police Station Rajouri attached an immovable property belonging to Mushataf Manzoor S/o Manzoor Hussain R/o Dhandhar Tehsil & District Rajouri accused in FIR No. 31/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act.

The attached property comprises a triple-storeyed residential cum commercial building at Dhandhar, valued at approximately ₹1.58 crore. The accused is ▶ P11

LG: India's farm output hits best ever 357 MT in 2024-25

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: India is leading the fight against climate challenges, with the country's agriculture production touching 357 million tonnes in 2024-25, up 25 million tonnes from 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday.

Sinha inaugurated the national summit on 'Sustainable & Climate Resilient Agroecosystems: Innovations and Policy Framework' at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in Jammu, and urged scientists, innovators and other stakeholders to work on building climate resilience



and transform sustainable agro-ecosystems. "The scientists, innovators and other stakeholders should come together to build climate resilience and transform sustainable agro-ecosystems," he said.

Sinha said the time has come to move beyond minor adjustments and embrace bold, science-led, farmer-focused transformation.

"Policies must champion climate-resilient crops. We must close the divide between laboratory and farmland, and researchers should make the creation of climate-adapted varieties their highest priority," the lieutenant governor said. ▶ P11

AAP MLA walks out of Kathua jail

JAMMU: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Mehraj Malik was released from Kathua jail on Tuesday following the quashing of his detention under the Public Safety Act by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Malik said that now that he had been released, he would continue to raise and talk about the issues of the people.

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" ▶ P11

Poppy crop destroyed at multiple sites

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of Narcotic crops (Poppy) under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

During the drive, illegal poppy cultivation was destroyed at ▶ P11

Mahila Nigrani committees set in motion across district

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RAJOURI: On the directions of District Administration Rajouri, meetings of Mahila Nigrani Committees were organised in different panchayats of Sub Division Kotranka as part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan.

Across the district, 1,670 Mahila Samitis have been constituted, with training and activation sessions being organised at the sub-division level.

Similarly, in Sub Division Kotranka, such sessions are being conducted to ensure effective functioning of the committees. The initiative aims to strengthen grassroots-level vigilance and community participation in curbing the menace of drug abuse. Women from various panchayats actively participated in the meetings and pledged to play a proactive role in identifying and reporting drug-related activities in their respective areas. Additional Deputy ▶ P11

Drug Control Deptt step up inspections

PULWAMA: Drug Control Department Pulwama intensified market inspections across the district as part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, aimed at curbing the misuse of drugs and ensuring strict compliance with ▶ P11

5 lakh families in J&K to get Pucca Houses after verification: Chouhan

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that all five lakh families in Jammu and Kashmir living in 'kuchha' houses, will be provided 'pucca' houses after physical verification.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given me the task of providing pucca houses to poor people under the PM Awas Yojna. A new survey in Jammu and Kashmir found that five lakh families lack permanent housing. After conducting physical verification, I assure you that no one will live in a kuchha house in Jammu and Kashmir," Chouhan said addressing a function here. ▶ P11



ducting physical verification, I assure you that no one will live in a kuchha house in Jammu and Kashmir," Chouhan said addressing a function here. ▶ P11

Not wrong in calling you "Mama": Omar

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday heaped praises on Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during the launch of new rural development projects at SKICC in Srinagar, calling him a "true friend and well-wisher" of the union territory.

Earlier, Chouhan launched 330 new ▶ P11



Awareness rally against drug abuse held

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: As part of the 100-day Nasha Mukta J-K Abhiyaan initiative launched under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Government Boys Pahari Hostel, Jammu organised a comprehensive awareness rally aimed at combating drug abuse and promoting a ▶ P11

Two drug peddlers nabbed with heroin

SAMBA: Intensifying its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers in the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, Samba Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Vijaypur & Ghagwal and recovered approximately 32.10 grams heroin-like substance (Chitta) alongwith cash from their possession.

A team of Police Station Vijaypur during routine patrolling duty near Shiv Nagar Road Vijaypur, intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration No. JK02AN-6230 which was coming from Rakh Barotian side and moving towards Vijaypur side. During checking, ▶ P11

No move to drop Urdu in revenue exam: Govt

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Tuesday dismissed claims regarding the removal of Urdu from syllabus of the Revenue Department examination, asserting that no such decision has been taken by the Omar Abdullah led Government in J&K.

Responding to the remarks by PDP leader Iltija Mufti during a press conference in Jammu, Wani told reporters that the concerned department had merely issued a notification inviting public objections on the subject, describing it as part of a democratic process to gather feedback before any final decision.

Wani, who was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, underlined the continued importance of Urdu in revenue administration.

Wani clarified that no notification has been issued to remove Urdu from the syllabus or recruitment process and challenged critics to produce any such document if it exists. "Such claims only create confusion among the public," he said.

He added that the government, still early in its tenure, requires time to ▶ P11

Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat train service to begin on Apr 30

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Taking tourism and seamless connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir to new heights, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway is set to launch the Vande Bharat Inaugural Special (Train No. 02601) on April 30, 2026 (Thursday).

This modern 20-coach Vande Bharat train will commence its maiden journey from Jammu Tawi (JAT), traversing the route up to Srinagar while connecting the challenging geographical terrains of the Valley. Prior to the commencement of this significant service, a trial run of the Vande Bharat—operating between Jammu and Srinagar—was conducted today, April 28, from Jammu to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra.

Regarding the schedule for the Vande Bharat train running during the inauguration, Train No. 02601—equipped with state-of-the-art amenities and comprising 20 coaches—will cover a total distance of 267 kilometers on ▶ P11



Kashmiri Pandits preserved culture despite genocide: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday launched the book 'The Waves of Resilience, Story of Radio Sharda' edited by Shri Ramesh Hangloo, the founder of Radio Sharda. The book is a collection of articles written by common listeners, litterateurs and renowned personalities from Kashmiri Pandit Community and highlights the impact of Radio Sharda on the socio-cultural activities of the community.

The Lieutenant Governor commended Ramesh Hangloo and his team for preserving rich culture and values.

"Kashmiri Pandit community endured genocide and was uprooted from their ancestral soil. They left behind all material possessions, carrying only light of culture, tradition, faith, education, and language. More than two decades later, in 2011, Ramesh Hangloo transformed it into a beacon of hope and unity through Radio Sharda, connecting Kashmiri Pandits across the world to their roots," the ▶ P11

