

"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."
—Paulo Coelho

Inking the Truth

IN BRIEF

Misuse of GPF: LG suspends IPS officer

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday has suspended IPS officer Sanjeev Kumar Khajuria, pending an inquiry into alleged misappropriation of general provident fund (GPF) and income tax deductions of J&K police personnel.

According to an order issued on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha by Principal Secretary (Home) Chandraker Bharti informed that, Khajuria will remain attached to the police headquarters till completion of the inquiry.

"Pending inquiry in the matter of misappropriation of general provident fund and income tax deductions of police personnel of the JKAP-4 Security Battalion, Khajuria, the then-commandant of the battalion, and commandant, 1st Border Battalion, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect," the order issued on March 25 said. The order said a detailed departmental P11

Avalanche warning issued in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir union territory on Saturday issued a medium-danger avalanche warning for the next 24 hours in view of the massive snowfall and asked the people to remain highly vigilant, officials said.

The avalanche of medium intensity is likely to occur above 2,400 metres in the central Kashmir district, they said.

In view of the danger, the general public is advised to remain highly vigilant, they added. The district P11

CDS reviews Op preparedness along LoC Emphasises demand to deliberate roadmap for emerging challenges

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Saturday reviewed the security and operational preparedness along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir.

Gen Chauhan visited the strategically-important areas under the Army's Chinar Corps unit, a defence spokesperson said.

During the visit, the CDS reviewed the security landscape and operational posture along the LoC in north Kashmir and commended the formation's exemplary operational preparedness, doctrinal coherence and resolute professionalism, he added. The spokesperson said at Baramulla, the CDS was briefed on future force application and technology infusion.

In his address to the officers of the Chinar Corps, Gen. Chauhan highlighted that the character of warfare is undergoing profound transformation, necessitating a shift from a domain-centric ap-



proach to multi-domain operations (MDO), underpinned by a robust and integrated architecture.

The spokesperson said the CDS underscored the centrality of jointness, stressing that seamless integration across the land, air, maritime, cyber, space and cognitive domains is indispensable for achieving decisive outcomes.

He called for accelerated joint training for futuristic warfare, harmonisation of doctrines and development of interoperable command-and-control structures to enable synchronised effects

across all domains, the spokesperson said.

The CDS emphasised the need for a deliberate roadmap to counter emerging challenges -- one that fosters technological adaptation, cognitive resilience and collective preparedness through integrated efforts -- the spokesperson added.

He said the CDS reiterated that preparations for the threats envisaged must be anchored in foresight, innovation, a unified warfighting philosophy and whole-of-nation effort. Gen. Chauhan highlighted the P11

Speaker adjourns Assembly Sine Die; budget session lasted for 22 sittings

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Saturday adjourned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly sine die after a largely well-conducted budget session that lasted for 22 sittings spread across February, March and April.

The assembly session commenced on February 2 with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presenting the Budget on February 6, while the House passed grants for various departments after detailed discussions conducted in twin sittings each day till February 20. After a five-weeks recess, the budget session resumed on March 27.

The speaker said the assembly held a total of 22 sittings, marking a second-high tally among states, next only to Gujarat, which recorded 23 budget sittings.

The house functioned for a total of 6,636 minutes (110.6 hours) during this session, he said, adding a total of eight government bills were received, all of which were introduced and passed. Additionally, 25 papers were laid and one ordinance was pre-



Uproar in House over Ganderbal encounter

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed uproar on the final day of the Budget Session on Saturday, with members of the National Conference, the Congress and the PDP demanding a judicial probe into the recent Ganderbal encounter.

The army has claimed that the man killed in the encounter in Arhama forests on March 31 -- identified as Ganderbal resident Rashid Ahmad Mughal -- was a terrorist. However, his family alleged that he had no terror links and termed the encounter fake, while demanding the return of his body for proper burial.

As the House assembled, legislators from both treasury and opposition benches -- barring the BJP -- condemned the killing and demanded a statement from P11

sent, Rather informed the house. Regarding private members' business, the speaker said 36 bills were pending from the previous session, while 39 new bills were received during this session. Of these, 72 bills were listed, 24 were taken up and two were introduced.

On the questions, he said a total of 1,528 questions -- 802 starred and 726 unstarred -- were received. After personally scrutinising the questions, a total of 1,379 were listed, 144 disallowed, two withdrawn by members and three questions were not listed.

The speaker said 151 starred questions were taken up in the house along with 331 supplementaries.

Similarly, 110 calling attention notices were received, of which 63 were disallowed and 47 admitted. A total of 26 notices were listed and all 26 were taken up for discussion, he said.

Regarding resolutions, a total of 128 were received, 101 admitted, 27 disallowed 14 listed and four taken up but none was adopted, Rather said. He also referred to 20 notices taken up for P11

LA consents Private Universities Bill; 'milestone moment', says CM Omar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Saturday passed the Private Universities Bill that deals with the establishment and incorporation of private institutions in the Union Territory. The bill moved by Education Minister Sakeena Itoo reads, "A Bill to provide for the establishment and incorporation of private universities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and to regulate their functioning, management, and academic standards for ensuring quality education and protecting the interests of students."

Congratulating Itoo and all the stakeholders, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the passage of the bill as a "milestone moment" for

the youngsters of the Union Territory. Speaking in the House, Itoo said the government has taken into consideration all the issues and concerns regarding the higher-education sector before formulating the bill.

"This bill will pave the way for establishing private universities and boost the higher-education sector in Jammu and Kashmir. Numerous students of Jammu and Kashmir will be benefitted by this as they used to go outside the Union Territory for higher education earlier," the minister said. MLAs Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq had moved amendments on the bill but later, withdrawn their amendments following assurances from the P11

Western Disturbance sweeps North India: snowfall in hills, rain in plains

NEW DELHI: The higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh on Saturday witnessed fresh snowfall as a spell of wet weather gripped north India, bringing rainfall to parts of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Rains and hailstorms have continued to lash the northern states intermittently this week, with wheat growers in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan staring at major losses due to crop damage.

The national capital, meanwhile, witnessed rain during the night between Friday and Saturday in isolated areas. However, the maximum temperature in the city dropped due to persistent cloudy conditions throughout the day.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the snowfall also led to the closure of many important inter-district



roads, officials said.

The Met Office warned of brief but intense heavy showers in isolated parts, which may lead to flash floods and landslides at a few vulnerable places and waterlogging in a few low-lying areas.

Sadhna Top and other higher reaches in Kupwara, Mughal Road in Shopian, Margan Top connecting Anantnag with Kishtwar, and Razdan Top, Gurez, and Tulail in Bandipora district, received fresh overnight snowfall.

The Affarwat mountain in Gulmarg tourist resort, the Sonamarg-Zojila axis, and some other hilly areas of the valley also received snowfall.

The plains of the valley, including the summer capital Srinagar, received rains, they added.

The wet weather brought down the day temperature across the valley as people had to layer up to battle the fresh cold.

Similarly, both maximum and minimum temperatures decreased in Himachal Pradesh, with light to moderate rain and P11

LG greets people on Easter

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Easter, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "On the auspicious occasion of Easter, I extend my hearty greetings and best wishes to all. May the Easter Sunday usher in peace, prosperity, and happiness in everyone's life."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ embodies the spirit of hope and the triumph of light over P11

J&K ACB arrests Cop for demanding bribe

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a formal case against Mohd Alyas, posted in Police Station Thanamandi Rajouri vide FIR number 05/2026 at P/S ACB Rajouri u/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) on 04.04.2026 on the basis of a complaint alleging therein that on 13.03.2026 complainant along with his family was travelling to Shahdara Sharief Thanamandi in his vehicle (ECHO) and met with an accident near Thanamandi. Due to which, his family members got injured and his vehicle was also damaged.

Consequently, a FIR number 26/2026 was registered in Police Station Thanamandi. During investigation of the case vehicle of the complainant was seized by the IO namely Mohd Alyas of PS Thanamandi and when complainant met with the IO of the case Mohd Alyas for release of his vehicle he demanded Rs. 20,000 as bribe for release of vehicle and pressurized him to give Rs. 20000 otherwise he would not release his vehicle. Due to pressure and fear, complainant gave Rs. 5000 to the said IO. But again IO Mohd Alyas was harassing and threatening complainant to give Rs. 15000 for release of his vehicle P11

Rs 34K Cr funds not surrendered, CAG pulls up budgetary violations

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged financial management violations in Jammu and Kashmir, revealing that savings amounting to over Rs 34,000 crore were not surrendered by various departments during 2023-24, in violation of prescribed budgetary norms.

The CAG has recommended a series of corrective measures to improve financial management in J&K, stressing the need for realistic budgeting and stronger expenditure controls.

As per the Jammu and

Kashmir Budget Manual, departments are required to surrender anticipated savings to the Finance Department.

"It was noticed that savings exceeding Rs 1 crore in each case under 36 Grants and two Appropriations amounting to Rs 34,917.96 crore (32.99 per cent) were not surrendered at all," the CAG report on finances for the year ended March 31, 2024, said.

The audit further noted that against a total grant appropriation of Rs 1,04,178.32 crore, the actual expenditure stood at Rs 69,260.36 crore across 36

grants, resulting in substantial savings of Rs 34,917.96 crore.

The CAG said that similarly, a total provision for expenditure during 2023-24 was Rs 1,57,212.90 crore.

"The actual gross expenditure during the year was Rs 1,26,054.97 crore (80.18 per cent). This resulted in savings of Rs 31,157.93 crore during 2023-24 which were not surrendered," the report said. The CAG flagged the issue, noting that overall expenditure remained about 20 per cent lower than the total Grants and Appropriations. The report further highlighted that in 45 P11

SPO disengaged from services for aiding smugglers

JAMMU: Authorities on Friday disengaged a special police officer (SPO) for alleged serious misconduct for aiding a bovine smuggling accused person in Udhampur district, officials said.

Udhampur senior superintendent of police (SSP) ordered the immediate disengagement of SPO Shabir Khan after an enquiry found him sharing sensitive information with an accused in a bovine smuggling case, they said.

According to officials, the enquiry revealed that the SPO was passing P11

NC Minister blames PDP for abrogation of Art 370

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: J&K Legislative Assembly on Saturday witnessed a heated argument between minister Sakeena Itoo and PDP MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para, with the former using the "milk and toffee" remark to counter the opposition leader while responding to a question over the upgrading of schools.

Itoo also held the People's Democratic Party (PDP) responsible for the region's downgrade to a Union territory and the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

In 2016, Mehbooba, as then CM of the erstwhile J&K, had commented at a press conference that those

hit by bullets or pellets in the violent protests triggered by the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani had not gone to fetch "milk or toffees" from the Army camp. The comment was seen as justification for the deaths that happened in the unrest. Itoo, while responding to a question by PDP leader Rafiq Ahmad Naik regarding upgrading of schools, invoked the remark about a dozen times.

She also questioned Para about the cold stores and said, "We know who is pulling your strings and where you are getting your syllabus." Amid noisy scenes in the House, Para launched a counterattack on P11

J&K Bank commissions ATM at Khawas Block in Rajouri

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Continuing its mission to enhance ease of banking through digital channels, J&K Bank has commissioned a new ATM at Aspirational Block Khawas in Rajouri. The ATM was inaugurated by Deputy Advisor, NITI Aayog, Dr Muniraju in the presence of Additional DDC (Rajouri), Malikzada Sheraz, Lead District Manager, Rajouri Ravinder Singh Nagra, Bank officials, public representatives and valued customers. MLA Budhal, Javed Iqbal and DDC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma joined the event through vir-



tual mode. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the Bank's efforts in expanding digital banking infrastructure in remote areas saying that such initiatives play

a vital role in improving financial inclusion and ensuring that people in aspirational blocks have access to modern banking facilities at their doorstep. They also P11

ISRO launches mission to test astronauts' strengths

NEW DELHI: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the launch of a mission in Ladakh to examine the physiological, psychological and operational dynamics of "gaganyatris (astronauts)" and ground teams functioning in a high-altitude environment.

The scientific data generated on crew performance and human factors will contribute directly to the Gaganyaan programme and future long-duration missions.

Known as the Mission

MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment), the study will be conducted until April 9 at an altitude of approximately 3,500 metres in Leh, simulating the environmental conditions of hypoxia, low temperature and isolation as a natural analog for spaceflight operations.

"This study is targeted to generate vital understanding on the team interoperability between crew (gaganyatris) and ground control teams and effectiveness of decision making under environmental P11

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