

"Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway."
—Earl Nightingale

Making the Truth

IN BRIEF

No goon will thrive: Adityanath

GORAKHPUR (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday asserted that no goon or mafia don will be allowed to thrive in the state and reiterated that the government stands as a guarantor of safety and security for every trader and every daughter of the state. Speaking at the bhoomipujan and foundation stone laying ceremony for a commercial complex at Pandeyhata here, Adityanath said, "When we succumb to narrow-mindedness and take self-destructive steps, we create an environment where the twin evils of the mafia and mosquitoes can thrive." "Like foxes, they remain constantly poised, waiting for the moment to strike and pounce upon their prey. We must not grant these foxes. Nor must we allow those who act as their henchmen, attempting to make victims of you all, to gain any ► P11

Modi makes 33% quota pitch to Bengal's women, says benefits from 2029 LS Polls

PM cites Malda gherao to brand TMC rule 'Maha Jungleraj'

COOCH BEHAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies would start benefiting them from the 2029 parliamentary polls, as he sought to weaken West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's strongest electoral constituency. Addressing his first rally in north Bengal after the poll schedule was announced, Modi turned the sprawling ground in Cooch Behar into a direct appeal to Bengal's women, invoking the state's tradition of "Shakti" worship, citing the Sandeshkhali outrage and projecting the BJP as the guarantor of "security, dignity and empowerment" for women. "It is important for the country that women have a greater role in decisions made for the country. Therefore, our government has enacted a law providing 33 per



cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies," Modi said. In what could have major political implications in a state where women constitute nearly half the electorate and have emerged as the backbone of the TMC's electoral dominance, the PM said the NDA government was now trying to ensure that the quota law passed in 2023 comes into force from the next Lok Sabha election. "The sisters of West Bengal and of the entire country should begin getting its benefit from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections itself. We are trying to ensure this. Therefore, the government has convened a

special session of Parliament this month," he said. "This right of mothers and sisters has been pending for 40 years. There should not be any further delay," he added, in remarks that appeared aimed as much at the opposition parties as at women voters across the country. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had indicated in Rajya Sabha on Thursday that Parliament would meet again soon to consider a key legislation. The Budget session of Parliament has been extended for three more days and will reconvene on April 16 after a brief recess, with the Centre planning to bring legislation to raise the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816. The proposed increase in seats is aimed at facilitating implementation of the women's reservation law enacted in 2023. ► P11

Search operation launched after suspicious movement in Samba

Resident spots 3 unidentified persons

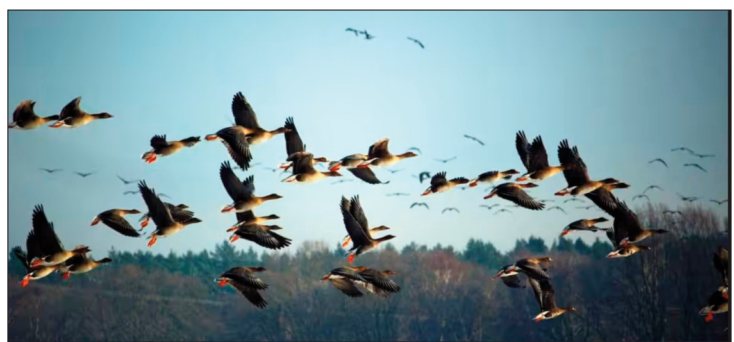
EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Security forces on Sunday launched a search operation at a village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir following reports of movement of three suspicious individuals, officials said. A resident of Bedh Khad in the Darui area reported spotting three unidentified persons with one carrying a heavy backpack, moving along a dried-up stream under the cover of darkness. Suspecting them to be terrorists, though no weapons were visible, the Special Operations Group of the local police, assisted by the Army and paramilitary forces, launched a search operation to trace the suspects. Officials said the search operation was ongoing in the village and adjoining areas, but there had been no contact with the suspected persons so far. This is the second consecutive search operation since March 10 in the district. The security forces on March 10



today launched a search operation after suspected Pakistani drone activity was reported along the International Border in Samba district. The movement of a suspected enemy drone was detected over the general area of Daboh late last night, prompting security forces to initiate countermeasures, including the deployment of more forces and a thorough search of the area to ensure that no weapons or narcotics were airdropped. A joint search operation by the Army, police and Border Security Force (BSF) was carried out in the area where reports of drone sightings were received. Police and BSF had also launched a search operation in Bhai Nallah, Lala Chack and Malani in the Rajpura area of the district, following information about suspicious movement. Pertinent to mention here that, the other day, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary had ► P11

Bird poaching: Wildlife Deptt intensifies vigil



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Every winter, migratory birds arrive in Kashmir in tens of thousands to escape the freezing temperatures in Siberia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and make wetlands in the valley their temporary home. And, with the onset of rainy

weather in Kashmir (from late March to May), they start their breeding season in wetlands, such as Hokersar, Dal Lake and Narkara, before returning to their native places. However, the poaching of the birds disturbs this period. The department officials said the poachers use small boats and country-made guns to poach ► P11

Junior Engineer arrested for taking Rs 75,000 graft

JAMMU: A junior engineer in Power Development Department was arrested by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Gandhi Nagar area here on Sunday for taking bribe of Rs 75,000, officials said. Anirudh Sharma, posted as JE in Sub-Division Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (PDD) Katra was booked under relevant sections of Prevention of Corruption Act following his arrest, an ACB spokesperson said. He said a search was also conducted in the accused's house in Jammu's Janipur in presence of a magistrate.

A complaint was received at ACB against the accused public servant, claiming that he is demanding bribe for replacement of electric meter and reducing the monthly electric bill, the spokesperson said. On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, ► P11

256 illegal occupants identified along Tawi river, 328 kanals of land encroached: Govt

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government said that 256 illegal occupants have been identified along the flood plains of the Tawi River

in the Nikki Tawi area of Jammu district, with encroachments spread over 328 kanals and 15 marlas of prime land. Often described as the "oxygen chamber" of Jammu

for its lush green cover, Nikki Tawi, nestled between two channels of the Tawi River and spread across more than 5,000 kanals of prime land, is increasingly coming under pressure from illegal con-

structions triggered by large-scale encroachments. Replying to a question raised by BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa in the Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that the ► P11

Judicial infrastructure not optional but essential: CJI



HYDERABAD: State governments across the political spectrum recognise that strengthening judicial infrastructure is not optional but

essential, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Sunday. Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation

stone for Telangana High Court Zone II—which includes residential buildings for judges and the Chief Justice—Justice Kant said that when the judiciary and the executive align in purpose, the Constitution truly comes alive. "The momentum across the country gives me great confidence. In the past few months alone, I have had the privilege of laying foundation stones for judicial court complexes in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and now Telangana," he said. "State governments across ► P11

Govt steps up LPG supply, urges calm

NEW DELHI: Sale of small 5-kg LPG cylinders - available across-the-counter at LPG distributorships on showing valid ID proofs - has been stepped up, with about 6.6 lakh bottles sold since March 23 as the government ramps up supplies to meet demand. Unlike the subsidised domestic 14.2-kg cylinders, the 5 kg bottles, called FTL cylinders, are priced at market rates and do not require any address proof for procurement from a nearby LPG ► P11

64 posts created for B&J Hospital Srinagar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a significant step aimed at strengthening specialised healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today announced that the Government has sanctioned creation of 64 additional posts for the Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital, Srinagar, enabling the newly constructed additional block of the hospital to become fully operational. The Minister stated that the decision has been taken

in continuation of the Government's sustained efforts to augment healthcare infrastructure and ensure delivery of quality medical services to the people. She highlighted that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the construction works of the 120-bedded additional block at Bone & Joint (B&J) Hospital were expedited on priority and subsequently dedicated to public service. She informed that medical services in the additional block were initially managed through internal arrangements and rational deployment of ► P11

Chandigarh BJP office attack had ISI backing: Punjab DGP

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Police has arrested two alleged perpetrators of a recent blast outside the BJP headquarters in Chandigarh, taking the total number of arrests in the case to seven, a senior police officer said on Sunday. The accused were allegedly part of a module backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and were taking directions from their handlers in Germany and Portugal, police said. The latest arrests were made in Haryana's Rewari on Saturday night in a joint op-

eration with Haryana Police's Special Task Force (STF), Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said. "The duo has been identified as Gurtej Singh and Amanpreet Singh, both residents of Ratangarh village in Punjab's Rupnagar district. They were working as bike operators for ride-hailing service provider Rapido," the police chief said at a press conference. ISI-backed handlers, Baljot Singh alias Jot in Portugal and Harjeet Singh Laadi in Germany, motivated the accused to carry out the attack in exchange for ► P11

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