

West Asia crisis: India issues urgent advisory for citizens

NEW DELHI: As the West Asia crisis reaches a critical flashpoint following Washington's ultimatum to Tehran, India on Tuesday advised its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours.

In an urgent advisory, the Indian embassy in Iran urged Indians to remain indoors and strictly avoid military installations, power infrastructure and the upper floors of multi-story buildings.

US President Donald Trump warned that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 8 pm Eastern Time deadline (5:30 am Indian time, Wednesday) to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

"In continuation of previous advisories, Indian nationals who are still in Iran must stay where they are for the next 48 hours, avoiding all electric, military installations and upper... P11

NDA govt always prioritised women empowerment in every form: Modi



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that his government has always prioritised women's empowerment in every form, and said that with the Women's Reservation Act, India is moving towards greater women-led governance.

He was commenting on a newspaper article written by

criticised Nari Shakti in every form. Hence, with the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam laying the foundation, India is moving towards greater women-led governance. This is also a key pillar of Viksit Bharat!"

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, more popularly known as the Women's Reservation Act, was passed by Parliament in 2023. Under the law, 33 per cent reservation will be given to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

The law, brought by amending the Constitution, will come into effect after completion of the delimitation exercise.

The prime minister on Saturday announced an extension of the budget session of Parliament by three days — from April 16 to 18 — so that the Women's Reservation Act can be amended for its implementation from 2029.

Officials said that if the proposal to... P11

Modern courts key to justice delivery, says CM, reviews High Court projects



JAMMU: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said modern court infrastructure is key to ensuring efficient justice delivery and strengthening public trust in the legal system.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress of construction of High Court complexes in the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar, he reiterated his government's commitment to augmenting judicial

infrastructure and institutional capacity in both divisions.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and representatives of National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd (NBCC), among others, an official spokesperson said.

Emphasising time-bound completion and inter-departmental coordination, Abdullah called for early grant of administrative approval for

the Jammu wing at Raika.

"The modern court infrastructure is essential for efficient justice delivery and public trust in the legal system," the chief minister said and directed officials to ensure adherence to timelines, quality benchmarks and transparency in execution.

The project, being executed by NBCC, involves the relocation of the existing High Court from Janipur to a purpose-built campus at Raika in Jammu, envisioned as a modern... P11

Omar listens to MLAs' grievances

JAMMU: Several legislators, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and a Member of Parliament (Ladakh), on Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of constituency-specific issues and public grievances.

A delegation from Ladakh, led by Member of Parliament Haji Mohd Haneefa Jan, also met the Chief Minister and discussed common issues concerning J&K and Ladakh.

Among others, legislators Vijay Kumar (Hiranagar), Rameshwar Singh (Bani), Mushtaq Guroo (Channapora), Nazir Ahmed... P11

LG inaugurates J&K Bank's Regional Business Centre

Bank's business crosses Rs 2.90 lakh Cr, says MD



JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the Regional Business Centre of Jammu & Kashmir Bank at Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his felicitations to the entire team of J&K Bank on the occasion. Marking a significant milestone in the Bank's infrastructure and business expansion strategy, the newly established centre will serve as a vital operational and administrative hub. The facility is designed to further improve service delivery and... P11

NH 44 remains closed, 200 vehicles stranded

'Medium' avalanche warning issued

JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed for traffic on Tuesday due to multiple landslides in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, a few hours after its restoration.

Over 200 vehicles are stranded at different points on the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road in the region, officials said.

The highway was reopened for vehicular traffic early Tuesday morning after a day-long closure due to landslides on Monday.

"Traffic movement has been stopped in both directions — from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa — on the highway due to a heavy landslide between Digdol and Khooni Nallah. The road is completely blocked," a traffic police spokesperson said.

She said that people are advised not to travel on the highway until the road is fully restored. "Please don't pay heed to rumours and check the status of roads on the traffic police Twitter handle, Facebook page and traffic control units."

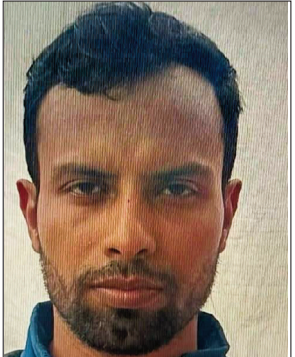
Officials said that work is on to reopen the highway but incessant... P11

LeT racket busted; 16-yr fugitive Pak terrorist among 5 arrested

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu and Kashmir has busted a "deep-rooted" interstate Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module and arrested five people, including a Pakistani terrorist who had been on the run for 16 years and successfully established bases outside the Union Territory, officials said on Tuesday.

Pakistani terrorist Abdullah, alias Abu Hureira, was captured on Monday along with another Pakistani national, Usman alias Khubaib, in a major operation that comes six months after the dismantling of a "white-collar" terror cell centred at



Faridabad's Al Falah University. The operation, which began on March 31 and was monitored by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat who camped in Srinagar, has unveiled the funding and fi-

nanial pattern of the LeT, officials said.

The terrorists used forged documents and identities to create a network not just in Jammu and Kashmir, but in several other states, they added.

Over the last few days, Srinagar police along with police forces of other states and central agencies carried out searches at 19 locations across Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Haryana. The raids led to the recovery of a large cache of weapons, including four AK assault rifles, pistols, hand grenades, and electronic gadgets.

According to officials, three Srinagar... P11

Bhagwat pitches Ram Temple-like awareness to curb cow slaughter

MATHURA: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said that public awareness may help in ending cow slaughtering in India, and wished for a Ram Temple-style fervour for the purpose.

"Make society devoted to cows, and cow slaughter will stop immediately. We have to make the public aware; the rest will follow," Bhagwat said.

He acknowledged the constraints of keeping cows in cities, and suggested people support 'gaushalas' (cow shelters) instead.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief was speaking on the 452nd birth anniversary of Malok Das ji Maharaj at Malook Peeth in Vrindavan.

"If public sentiment (jan bhavna) exists, the system has to accept it," he said. Bhagwat referred to the landmark Supreme Court judgment that



paved the way for the construction of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.

"The Ram temple did not come up between 2014 and 2019. It came after 2019. Why? The Supreme Court, which used to say that it had other very important matters, gave a... P11

CAG flags staff shortage, irregularities in appointments in Jammu University

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged serious lapses in human resource management at the University of Jammu, highlighting irregular appointments, staff shortages and lack of transparent recruitment policies.

It strongly recommended a well-defined and fair recruitment policy, and the formulation of comprehensive recruitment rules.

The CAG said the university's human resource management was inefficient, marked by irregular appointments, premature and undue promotions, and deviations from prescribed norms.

"Against a sanctioned strength

of 387 teachers, only 240 regular teachers (62 per cent) were available as of March 2022," said the CAG report on Union Territory Finances for the year ended March 31, 2024.

The audit report flagged the irregular release of advance increments to 26 assistant professors who acquired PhD degrees between December 2016 and February 2022.

This was done despite the Ministry of Human Resources Development withdrawing such incentives in November 2017 after the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission, it said.

The Financial Advisor Universities had also disallowed such increments in May 2018. The irregular decision resulted in an additional finan-

ACB nabs 2 PWD Officials for taking Rs 13,000 bribe

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday said they have caught two officials of the PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla, red-handed while accepting a Rs 13,000 bribe allegedly demanded to release a pending payment.

In a statement, a spokesperson said an information was received telephonically at Anti-Corruption Bureau, J&K on 06.04.2026 through ACB Helpline No. 9419678060 from a complainant, who disclosed that he is working as Manager for a private firm duly registered on the GeM Portal.

He said, it was further stated that the said firm had participated in a tender floated by PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla for supply of a customised vehicle for live fish transportation,

wherein the firm was declared L1 and the vehicle was subsequently delivered to the Department of Fisheries, Bandipora.

"It was further revealed that the firm had raised the bill on the GeM Portal and also submitted hard copies before the concerned department, whereupon the bill was processed and forwarded to the Accounts Section for release of payment. However, despite completion of all formalities, the payment was deliberately withheld for several days for want of bribe," said the spokesperson.

He said, the complainant approached ACB and requested legal action against Mushtaq Ahmad (Sr. Assistant) and Farooq Ahmad (Jr. Assistant) of PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla for demanding bribe of ₹13,000/- from him for release of payment.

"Upon receipt of the... P11

India Skills Competition 2025-26 J-K proves its metal, secures gold in Fashion Technology

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has made a remarkable mark at the National level India Skills Competition 2025-26, securing a gold medal and Medallion of Excellence and making the Union Territory proud.

In a standout achievement, Diksha, a student of National Institute of Fashion Technology Srinagar, clinched the gold medal in Fashion Technology, earning the prestigious opportunity to represent India at the upcoming World Skills Competition scheduled to be held in Shanghai, China. The



Medallion of Excellence further highlights the competitive edge, discipline and dedication of the participants from the region.

Mission Director Jammu and Kashmir Skill... P11

Pak issues 2800 visas to pilgrims from India

LAHORE: Pakistan has issued at least 2,800 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to visit the country for Baisakhi festival scheduled to be held in Punjab province between April 10 and 14, an official said on Tuesday.

"On the occasion of Baisakhi and the 327th Khalsa Janam Din celebrations, Pakistan has issued more than 2,800 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India," Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) spokesperson Ghulam Mohyuddin said.

He said the Sikh pilgrims from India are scheduled to arrive via the Wagah border on April 10 with the main ceremony being held on April 14 at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal, some 400 kms from Lahore.

Besides participating in the annual Baisakhi Mela in Pakistan, the Sikhs from India will also visit Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib... P11

Omar reminds Pak of Op Sindoor, asks it to focus on improving ties

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Reminding Pakistan of Operation Sindoor, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that it would be in Islamabad's interest to focus on improving relations with India rather than engaging in rhetoric and escalating tensions.

He also welcomed the busting of a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module by Srinagar Police, but stressed the need to strengthen surveillance and plug any remaining loopholes in the security framework.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, the chief minister cautioned against provocative



rhetoric from across the border and said such statements ignore ground realities and serve no constructive purpose.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had on Saturday warned that his country would respond with a strike on Kolkata to any "future misadventures" by India.

"If India tries to stage any false flag operation this time, then God-willingly... P11