

Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless.

—Jamie Paolinetti

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Inking the Truth

India test-fires advanced Agni missile with multiple payloads

NEW DELHI: India has successfully test-fired an Advanced Agni missile with the strategic ability to deploy multiple payloads to separate targets simultaneously - a milestone that places the country among a select league of global powers.

The testing of the missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system was carried out from Odisha's APJ Abdul Kalam Island on Friday, according to the defence ministry.

The MIRV feature ensures that a single missile can deploy multiple war heads at different locations simultaneously.

While the ministry said the flight test of an advanced Agni missile with MIRV was carried out, authoritative sources said it was an Agni-5 missile and the trial was conducted to check the MIRV technology under 'Mission Divyastra'.

The maiden trial of the Agni-5 with MIRV was car-



ried out in March last year.

"India conducted the successful flight-trial of an advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on May 8," the defence min-

istry said.

"The missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads, targeted to different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region," it said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army, and the concerned industry partners on the successful flight-test of the missile.

This will add an incredible capability to the country's defence preparedness against the growing threat perceptions, he said.

The ministry said the telemetry and tracking was carried out by multiple ground and ship-based stations.

"These systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off till the impact of all payloads. Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were met" P11



Subramani appointed as next CDS

NEW DELHI: Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (ret'd) has been named India's next Chief of Defence Staff and his primary mandate will be to implement the ambitious military theatreisation plan and bolster tri-services synergy.

The government has also appointed Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.

While Lt Gen Subramani will replace incumbent Gen Anil Chauhan as the country's senior-most military commander, Vice Admiral Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi as the Navy Chief. P11

Govt's social security schemes show commitment to bring dignity: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government's social security schemes reflect its commitment to bring dignity, assurance and financial security into the lives of the people of India.

Modi said that on this day, 11 years ago, key social security and pension schemes were launched by the NDA government.

"They reflect our commitment to bring dignity, assurance and financial security into the lives of the people of India," he said in a post on X.

The prime minister said the PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana have had a posi-

tive impact at the grassroots.

Launched on May 9, 2015, by the prime minister, the Jansuraksha schemes-Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) were envisioned to extend affordable financial protection to all, particularly the underserved and vulnerable sections of society.

These flagship schemes aim to broaden the insurance and pension landscape by shielding citizens against life's uncertainties and fostering long-term financial resilience.

Meanwhile, PM Modi today paid rich tributes to No-

bel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary and said he made a mark as an exceptional philosopher, educationist, artist and a "timeless voice of India's civilisational soul".

Tagore's birth anniversary is celebrated on 'Pochishe Boishakh' or the 25th of the Bengali month of Boishakh, known as Rabindra Jayanti.

"Today, on the special occasion of Pochishe Boishakh, we pay our heartfelt tributes to Gurudev Tagore," PM Modi said in a post on X.

He said Gurudev Tagore was a writer, thinker and poet of extraordinary brilliance. "He made a P11

Indian sailor killed near Hormuz Strait

NEW DELHI: An Indian sailor was killed and several others injured after their wooden dhow caught fire near the Strait of Hormuz, government sources said on Saturday.

Seventeen other Indian crew members were rescued following the incident on Friday, they said, noting that the exact cause of the blaze is still being ascertained.

The crew members were rescued by a vessel that was passing by in the area, the sources said. The incident P11

TVK chief appointed as TN CM

CHENNAI: Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Saturday appointed TVK chief C Joseph Vijay as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the leader will take oath on Sunday, the Lok Bhavan said.

The swearing-in of the Vijay-led ministry will be held on Sunday at 10 am here at Nehru Stadium.

Vijay was appointed CM after he presented letters of support from the VCK and the IUML who have two MLAs each. The governor held talks for about an hour over the requisite support.

According to a Lok Bhavan press release, P11

Suvendu sworn in as Bengal's 1st BJP CM

KOLKATA: Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday took oath as West Bengal's first BJP chief minister, ushering in the state's maiden saffron party government since Independence and marking a tectonic political shift in a region long regarded as the party's toughest ideological frontier.

The swearing-in at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds -- once the citadel of the Left and later a theatre of TMC dominance-- symbolically sealed the BJP's stunning ascent in Bengal politics, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, chief ministers of NDA-ruled states and the party's top leadership sharing the stage before a sea of saffron flags and chants of P11



Team reviews relief ration distributions

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A Team of officers consisting of Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Jammu RK Shavan; Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K Dr Arvind Karwani and Additional Secretary Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Sudhir Bali, accompanied by other officers from the concerned departments on Saturday visited Mini Township Jagti to take on ground stock of the ration distribution in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants, notified by the J&K Government

vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05.03.2026.

The Scheme has become operational from all the designated ration depots in Jammu Province from April 18, 2026 and about 7000 migrant families have received free ration in terms of the Scheme so far.

It was also noted that about 19500 migrant ration cards have been punched into the NFSA database and another 8000 applications are in process.

Relief Ration Card holders, irrespective of categorization, whether PHH, NPHH, or Special Category, are being provided 11 kg of P11

JPDCCL team inspects power infrastructure

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Managing Director Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCCL), G. P. Singh accompanied by MLA Randhir Singh, visited various areas of Kalakote-Sunderbani Constituency to assess the power infrastructure and address the grievances of the public.

The delegation started the visit from village Langer where the locals projected their demands, seeking replacement of old and damaged electric poles. The Managing Director assured the locals that their genuine issues would be resolved on

priority and directed the concerned Executive Engineer to look into the matter immediately.

The delegation also visited several other areas including Hatkah, Devak, Khabbar and Marcholla where the residents raised the issue of poor voltage in the area, seeking improvement and strengthening of the 11 KV network.

The locals further highlighted the issue of tree branches touching power lines, resulting in frequent faults and disruptions. The Managing Director directed the concerned Executive Engineer to take up the matter with the Forest P11



Sinha leads anti-drug 'Padyatra' in Anantnag LG urges people for united voice about dangers of drug addiction

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday joined Padyatra at Anantnag as part of "Drug-Free J&K Campaign". Addressing a public gathering, the Lieutenant Governor appealed to the people to break the silence to win this war against drugs and all sections of society must speak in one voice about the dangers of drug addiction.

"The challenge of drug addiction can be eradicated only through a Whole of Society Approach. From now on, every corner of Union Terri-



tory, whether schools, colleges, families, sports grounds, wards, villages, or theater stages, should give a voice to the cause with firm resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that in this war against drugs, administration and society must understand the link between drugs and terrorism and everyone should join hands to defeat it.

Assets in Chandigarh attached in drug case

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police has attached a property worth nearly Rs 93 lakh in Chandigarh during an investigation into a narcotics trafficking case that initially began with the recovery of a small quantity of heroin, officials said.

The case originated on January 14 this year when a police team of Bagh-e-Bahu apprehended Arun Singh, a resident of Rajeev Nagar, Narwal in Jammu, and allegedly recovered heroin from his possession, they

said. Following the recovery, a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered at the Bagh-e-Bahu police station, they said.

During sustained investigation, the police uncovered substantial financial transactions and money trails allegedly linked to narcotics trafficking activities, officials said.

The probe subsequently led investigators to Chandigarh, where co-accused Rishi Singh, Arun's P11

Curbs intensified on cultivation of poppy



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Under the leadership of Excise Commissioner Vaibhav Kohli, and the oversight of Deputy Excise Commissioner (Ex-

ecutive) Kashmir, Tabasum Shafat Kamili, the Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of Narcotic crops (Poppy) under the Nasha P11

Major impact across J&K

614 FIRs, 646 arrests; 3.8 kg heroin, 222.31 kg ganja seized in crackdown

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Administration has achieved significant progress under the ongoing 100 Days "Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan", reflecting a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to combat drug abuse, strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms and intensifying enforcement against narcotics networks across Jammu and Kashmir.

The campaign has also witnessed unprecedented

success from the start till today, with significant public participation and institutional coordination involving departments of Health, Social Welfare, Information, Police, Education, and other allied agencies.

Under the campaign, Massive Public Outreach and Awareness programmes are being organised with a total of 2,16,123 awareness events conducted across Jammu and Kashmir, involving more than one crore participants. The extensive

awareness drive included series of mega Padyatras, school and college programmes, village-level campaigns, youth engagement activities, seminars, rallies, sports and cultural events, community interactions aimed at sensitizing the public regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The Counselling and Mental Health Support has also been strengthened with Tele-MANAS counselling initiative receiving 2,786 calls, indicating growing public

trust in institutional mental health and addiction support systems.

Under the campaign, the Treatment and Rehabilitation Facilities have also been enhanced with the Health Department's Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) treating 44,602 patients during the campaign period, including 44,263 OPD patients and 339 IPD admissions. 148 patients have been successfully cured and released after treatment. Simultaneously, P11

Pamphlet distribution drive conducted

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its intensified campaign against drug abuse under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Udhampur Police launched a district-wide anti-drug awareness drive on Saturday by distributing specially designed awareness pamphlets across all Police Stations and Police Posts.

The pamphlets were extensively circulated among shopkeepers, transporters, students, youth and mem-



bers of the general public within respective jurisdictions to educate people about the devastating im-

impact of drugs on individuals, families and society.

The awareness pamphlets prominently P11

Rs 3.50 Cr properties attached

SRINAGAR: As part of the crackdown on drug trafficking under the ongoing 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan', police here on Saturday attached immovable assets worth over Rs 3.50 crore belonging to three persons involved in multiple Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases, a spokesman said. In the first P11