

“And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.”

—Anais Nin

*Inking the Truth*

## Railway Minister flags off 1st direct Vande Bharat between Capital cities

Poonch-Rajouri rail connectivity in focus: Vaishnav

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav on Thursday said the government will focus on connecting Poonch-Rajouri with the rail network of the country besides working on a rail link to Uri border town in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vaishnav, who flagged off the first direct Vande Bharat Express between Srinagar and Jammu here, said detailed project reports for these railway links have already been made.

“We will now focus on connecting Poonch and Rajouri with rail connectivity. We will also take up project to connect Uri with train,” the minister said after the flag-off ceremony.

“The DPRs for these projects have been made and we will try to get work ▶ P11



### ‘RPF commandos to guard trains in J&K’

JAMMU: Apart from the multi-layered security setup along the 327-kilometre Jammu-Katra-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line, 21 security personnel, including RPF commandos, will guard the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express service launched by Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav on Thursday, an official said. Vaishnav on Thursday ▶ P11

### Omar seeks Dry Port to boost trade

JAMMU: Thanking Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and the Centre for extending Vande Bharat train services between Jammu and Srinagar, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday demanded a dry (inland) ▶ P11

## CM chairs cabinet meet ahead of ‘Darbar Move’



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a cabinet meeting to review key development initiatives and discuss governance priorities in the Union territory.

This was the last cabinet meeting chaired by Abdullah in Jammu before moving offices to the summer capital, Srinagar.

“Chief Minister chaired a cabinet meeting this morning in Jammu to consider key development initiatives and dis-

cuss governance priorities for the coming period”, office of CM said on X.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and ministers, including Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar, and Satish Sharma, officials said.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo was also present, they said.

Officials said the cabinet reviewed progress on infrastructure projects, public service delivery and welfare schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Discussions were also held on preparations for the annual Darbar Move and ensuring smooth functioning ▶ P11

### 2 dead in juice factory explosion

SRINAGAR: A juice factory steamer exploded mid-repair, killing two persons and injuring one in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

The blast took place at Aglar on Wednesday night, injuring three persons, Saurabh Singh, Shiv Kumar, and Raj Kumar, who were repairing the steamer, they said.

The three were rushed to a hospital where Saurabh succumbed to his injuries late on Wednesday night while Shiv Kumar died this morning. Raj Kumar is undergoing treatment, officials said. All three workers are ▶ P11



**100-DAY  
NASHA MUKT  
JK ABHIYAAN**

**DAY 20** 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.

■ Sinha joins campaign in Doda

## Narcotics smuggling no less than terrorism: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday ignited the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir Campaign in Doda, rallying citizens against narcotics.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the people’s movement against drug abuse reflects their determination and unity, and this menace can be eliminated when communities rise together and speak with one voice.

The Lieutenant Governor said that narcotics smuggling is no less than terrorism and those involved



will be given stringent punishment. “I firmly believe that

drug abuse is a form of silent terrorism, not merely a matter of law and order. The

smuggling of narcotics represents terrorism in disguise. It is a hidden ▶ P11

## 400 litres lahan destroyed during crackdown in Arnia

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against illegal liquor and related activities, a team from Police Station Arnia conducted a surprise raid at Village Chak Tara, Salehar, falling under its jurisdiction.

During the operation, one lady identified as Baby W/o Latu R/o Chak Tara was apprehended. The ▶ P11



### Police attach asset under NDPS Act

KUPWARA: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking and the proceeds generated through narcotics trade, J&K Police has attached a residential property belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the NDPS Act in Kupwara. The accused, Abdul Majeed ▶ P11

### LG, CM greet people on Buddha Purnima

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, which is being observed tomorrow.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: “On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all. The timeless wisdom of Lord Buddha, rooted in compassion, non-violence and equality, ▶ P11

## Govt transfers over 170 JKAS officers in massive shake-up

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a sweeping administrative overhaul, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday ordered the transfer and posting of more than 170 JKAS officers across various departments, with immediate effect. The reshuffle, issued through Government Order No. 855-JK(GAD) of 2026 dated April 30, is aimed at strengthening governance and ensuring administrative efficiency across sectors.

The order begins with

senior-level postings, where Dr. Asif Hamid Khan has been transferred and posted as Secretary in the Jal Shakti Department, while Smita Sethi has been appointed as Managing Director of the J&K Housing Board. Manzoor Ahmad Qadri has been posted as Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, and Mohammad Rafi as Director General, J&K IMPARD. Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza has been shifted as Member, J&K Special Tribunal, and Rubina Kousar has been appointed Mission Director, ICPS/Vatsalya.

Among other key changes, Mushtaq Ahmad has been posted as Director, Estates, while Mukhtar Ahmed Chowdhary has been transferred and will await further orders in the General Administration Department. Nawab Din has been posted as Special Secretary in the ARI and Trainings Department, and Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar has been appointed Managing Director, SIDCO, with additional charge of SICOP. Mufti-M-Farid-ud-Din has been posted as Director, SKICC, ▶ P11

### Nepal Airlines apologises over J&K map row

KATHMANDU: Nepal Airlines on Thursday apologised for what it described as cartographic inaccuracies in the wake of a furore showing Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan in a “network map”.

The airlines had deleted the social media post on Wednesday following the backlash.

“We sincerely apologise for error in the network map recently shared on our social media channels. The map contained significant ▶ P11

## DGP Prabhat reviews training in ‘Jungle Warfare’ for DySPs

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday reviewed jungle warfare training at the Commando Training Centre (CTC) in Sunjwan here, officials said.

The centre is imparting specialised training aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of police personnel through rigorous modules in jungle warfare, guerrilla operations and advanced commando tactics. Prabhat made a day-long visit to the CTC to as-



sess the training being imparted to 45 deputy superintendents of police, an officer

said. During the visit, the DGP encouraged the trainees to make full use of the ▶ P11

## Farooq tells Pak to end cycle of violence in J&K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Asserting that “enough is enough”, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah says Pakistan should “call it a day” and end the cycle of violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

While terrorism has largely subsided, Pakistan’s refusal to accept Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India continues to fuel violence in the region, the three-time Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

“My humble advice to both these nations, my own nation and Pakistan, is that the time has come. Let us



leave the path of violence and start finding ways of peace so that we can live with honour and dignity,” the 88-year-old told PTI in an interview.

Discussing the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed, he said ▶ P11

### FIR filed after Geelani’s video appears online

SRINAGAR: The cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday registered an FIR against unidentified persons for posting a video of late separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani on social media, alleging that it glorifies separatist content, officials said.

The move comes a day after Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti posted a video of the late hardline separatist leader on X.

“May not concur with Geelani Sahab’s ideology, but this old video of him stressing the importance of ▶ P11

## Centre approves Rs 243 Cr for PM SHRI Schools in J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Project Approval Board of the PM SHRI – Schools for Rising India scheme has approved a total outlay of Rs 243 crore for Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2026–27.

The PAB meeting, chaired by Union Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Sanjay Kumar, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education, Ram Nivas Sharma, along with the Project Director and other senior officials of Samagra

Shiksha, J&K.

During the meeting, the Board reviewed the financial and physical progress made under the scheme in the previous year. Out of Rs 200.11 crore available for 2025–26, Rs 194.53 crore was utilized and released to executing agencies, including PWD (R&B), mainly for civil works and allied activities.

The Board appreciated the significant academic improvement in the UT, especially the 10 percent increase in Board Examination results at the secondary and higher ▶ P11

Jai Mata Di

Sarson ka saag

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