

"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable."  
—John Wooden

*Inking the Truth*

## India can play greater role in West Asia: Iran

NEW DELHI: India can play a "greater role" in bringing peace to West Asia because of its friendly ties with almost all countries in the region, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday, amid mounting global concern over the economic fallout of the US-Israel war on Iran.

His remarks at a press conference in New Delhi came shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Abu Dhabi that India is ready to extend all possible support to bring peace in the region.

Araghchi was in the national capital on a three-day visit to attend a conclave of the BRICS foreign ministers hosted by India.

"I think India, with its good reputation, (India) can play a greater role in this region to help (bring) peace; to promote peace and security," he said answering a question.

"We will appreciate any positive (and) constructive role played by India in ► P11

## India, UAE sign key pacts; UAE pledges USD 5 bn India backs peace, stability efforts in West Asia: Modi



**ABU DHABI:** India is ready to extend all possible support for the earliest restoration of peace and stability in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, as he con-

demned the attacks on the UAE while praising the Gulf country's leadership for its handling of the situation with restraint.

During his meeting with UAE President ► P11

### F-16s escort PM's plane in UAE airspace

**ABU DHABI:** In a special gesture, a formation of F-16 fighter aircraft from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) escorted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plane when it entered the Gulf country's airspace on Friday.

"The way your air force escorted me today is an honour for the people of India. For quite some time, we had been speaking over the phone, but I was eager to meet you personally. I am very happy to meet you today," Modi told UAE President ► P11

## NEET-UG re-exam on June 21; CBT next yr

NEW DELHI: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday announced that the NEET-UG re-examination will be held on June 21, and said the medical entrance exam will be computer-based test from next year onwards as part of reforms in view of allegations of irregularities linked to it.

Addressing a press conference, Pradhan said students' future remains the government's topmost priority, adding that there will be "zero tolerance" for any irregularities found in the conduct of the NEET-UG. Strict action is being taken, he said.

National Eligibility cum

Entrance Test (Undergraduate) held on May 3 was cancelled following allegations of irregularities in the examination process.

Informing that the duration of the re-test has been extended by 15 minutes, Pradhan said the candidates will also get to choose their preferred test cities again and that they will get their admit cards by June 14, he said.

The central government will also coordinate transport arrangements for the students with the state governments, he said.

"Our topmost priority is the future of the students. I want to appeal to ► P11

## Petrol, Diesel prices hiked by Rs 3, CNG up by Rs 2/kg

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by Rs 3 per litre each on Friday, marking the first increase in more than four years, as state-run fuel retailers passed on part of the hit from surging global crude prices triggered by the Iran war.

Alongside, CNG prices in cities like Delhi and Mumbai were raised by Rs 2 per kg.

Petrol price in the national capital has been increased to Rs 97.77 per litre from Rs 94.77 while diesel now costs Rs 90.67 as against Rs 87.67 per litre previously, industry sources said. Rates vary across states due to differences in

value-added tax.

CNG in Delhi now costs Rs 79.09 per kg and in Mumbai it costs Rs 84. However, prices of both natural gas piped into household kitchens for cooking, called piped natural gas, as well as domestic cooking gas LPG remained unchanged.

Global crude oil prices have surged more than 50 per cent since US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 and Tehran's subsequent retaliation disrupted energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a key artery for global oil shipments.

Despite the surge in crude prices, retail fuel rates were kept frozen as part of what the government ► P11

## CM Abdullah agrees Rs 93 Cr power infrastructure projects

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir cabinet headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved Rs 93 crore power infrastructure projects for the summer capital here, a spokesperson said on Friday.

The projects aim to enhance transmission capacity and reduce power interruptions in the city.

The chief minister-headed Council of Ministers approved the augmentation of the Grid Sub Station at Zainakote from 450 MVA to 780 MVA at a cost of Rs 67.66 crore, the spokesperson said.

He said the cabinet also approved the upgradation of



the 132 KV Pampore-Rawalpora and Rawalpora-Bemina transmission lines of Rs 25.47 crore.

The approval was accorded during the sixth meeting of the Council of Ministers, he said.

The projects aim to significantly strengthen the power infrastructure in Srinagar and adjoining areas by enhancing transmission capacity, reducing power interruptions and ensuring a more reliable and efficient electricity ► P11

## Govt approves overhaul of Jal Shakti engg cadre

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday has approved a major cadre review and restructuring of the J&K Engineering (Gazetted) Service in the Jal Shakti Department aimed at strengthening the water supply and hydraulic infrastructure across the Union Territory.

As per the Government order, sanction has been accorded for creation of the post of Secretary Technical in the department, establishment of a separate DIQC, and creation of offices of Superintending Engineer for Hydraulic Circle Jammu-II and Hydraulic Circle Bandipora. The order also approved creation of 6 new

divisions including Hydraulic Divisions at Gandoh, Gurez and Tangdar, besides a PHE Division at Mendhar and 2 Water Quality and Monitoring Divisions for Jammu and Kashmir provinces. The Government has also sanctioned restructuring of Mechanical Sub-Divisions, creation of 43 posts through reduction of 62 existing posts, encadrement of 10 posts and reassignment of 137 posts within the cadre. Besides, changes have been made in deputation and leave reserve posts of various engineering categories including Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers to streamline the functioning of the department.

## Drones, UAS no longer just eyes but 'claws in the sky': IAF Chief

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI:** IAF Chief Air Marshal A P Singh on Friday said drones and other unmanned aerial systems are no more just eyes in the sky, rather they are now akin to "claws in the sky", being an extension of air power.

In his address at a defence seminar themed on unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and counter-UAS, he asserted that in any modern aerial threat, complete domain awareness is the key, and there should be "total co-ordination" among the three services which will be operating in the same air space.

"We have seen what happens... if you don't have domain awareness, you don't



know where your people are and where others are. We've seen what happened to F-15s in Kuwait. The fratricide part. So we cannot afford to have things like that," the IAF chief said, referring to the incident

on March 1 in which three US F-15E Strike Eagles went down over Kuwait due to an apparent friendly fire, according to the US CENTCOM. The seminar is being co-hosted by think-► P11

## JDA removes encroachments in 3 localities

**JAMMU:** Under the supervision of Vice Chairman JDA, Rupesh Kumar, the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) carried out a targeted anti-encroachment drive today at multiple locations in Sidhra, Majeen and Paloura.

Sidhra and Majeen: Several plinths and temporary structures on JDA land were identified and removed at a nascent stage to prevent the construction of larger, permanent structures. Early demolition prevented the escalation of encroachment and safeguarded the integrity of the Authority's ► P11

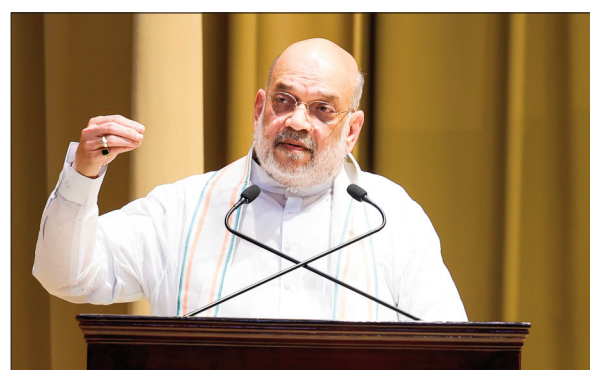
## Uniform laws, procedures vital across globe in fight against drugs: Amit Shah

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday called for uniform laws and processes across the globe for drug trafficking, extradition of drug kingpins, and sharing of intelligence.

Addressing the R N Kao Memorial Lecture-2026 organised by the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has set a goal to achieve a Drug-Free India by 2047.

The lecture is held in the memory of R&AW founder Rameshwar Nath Kao.

In his address on 'Narcotics: A Borderless Threat,



A Collective Responsibility', Shah said Indian security agencies had prepared a roadmap to eradicate drug syndicates.

At the event held in the

agency's headquarters, attended by ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats from more than 40 countries, Shah said there was still time for all respon-

sible nations to work together to defeat the threat of drugs.

If joint efforts were not initiated now, after ten years, the world would realise that it was too late to reverse the harm it had caused, he cautioned.

"The world must simultaneously fight both narco networks and narco-terror states. In this fight, the world will have to adopt uniform laws for a common definition of prohibited substances, standardised punishments for drug trafficking, extradition of drug kingpins, and intelligence sharing," he said. The home ► P11



**100-DAY  
NASHA MUKT  
JK ABHIYAAN**

**DAY 35** 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.

## Assets valued Rs 80 lakhs attached under NDPS Act

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BUDGAM:** Continuing its intensified crackdown against narcotics trafficking under the ongoing Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Budgam Police on Friday attached properties worth around ₹80 lakhs belonging to two alleged drug peddlers in Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

According to police officials, a one-storey residential house valued at nearly ₹30 lakhs belonging to Ghulam Nabi Wani, son



of Ghulam Mohammad Wani, a resident of Chitroo Dangarpore Chadoora, was attached in connection with FIR No. 181/2025 registered under Sections 8/20/29 of the NDPS Act at

Police Station Chadoora.

Police said that during investigation of the case last year, more than 300 kilograms of Poppy Husk/Fukki was recovered from the premises. Investigations further revealed that the property had allegedly been acquired through proceeds generated from narcotics trafficking and was being used for storage, processing and distribution of contraband substances.

In another action, Budgam Police attached a two-storeyed residential house worth ► P11

## Padyatras, drives continue in Pulwama

**PULWAMA:** As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness, outreach and sports activities were conducted today across District Pulwama to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy and a drug-free society.

Awareness programmes were organised at Jawahirpora Tral, Wuyan Payeen Pampore and Chatrapora Pulwama, ► P11

## Illicit poppy crop destroyed, 4 peddlers held; contraband substances recovered

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KULGAM** Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse under the ongoing Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, J&K Police in Kulgam achieved a significant success by apprehending four drug peddlers and destroying illicit poppy cultivation in multiple Narco operations launched across

district.

During special Naka checking at Naibasti Qaimoh, a police party of police station Qaimoh apprehended one person namely Zahid Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Bhat resident of Guftal Qaimoh was apprehended and five grams of heroin like contraband was recovered from his possession. Moreover, police party of police station DH

Pora during Naka checking at Waripora, DH Pora intercepted one vehicle bearing registration no JK18B-8772 driven by Arshid Ahmad Lone son of Wali Mohd Lone resident of Waripora. After thorough search 02 grams of Heroin like contraband was recovered from the possession of said driver.

He was arrested and vehicle used in commission of crime was seized. Further-

more, police party of police post Mirbazar apprehended one person namely Mohd Sadam son of Sulaiman resident of Bhawana Delhi and Charas power like contraband weighing 132.7 grams were recovered from his possession during naka checking at Amanpora.

Similarly, police party of police station Kulgam apprehended one person namely Adil Nisar son of ► P11

Jai Mata Di

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