

It's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.
—Abraham Lincoln

Modi holds talks with Kristersson

GOTHENBURG (SWEDEN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with his Swedish counterpart Ulf Kristersson on Sunday, focusing on trade, technology, defence, and other key sectors.

Modi, who arrived earlier today for a two-day visit, was also awarded the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross' in recognition of his exceptional contribution to India-Sweden relationship and his visionary leadership.

During the delegation-level talks, the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and explored new avenues of cooperation to enhance bilateral trade, which reached USD 7.75 billion in 2025.

In their talks, the two sides focused on boosting bilateral ties in areas of green transition, artificial intelligence (AI), emerging technologies, startups, resilient supply chains, defence, space, climate action and people-to-people. ▶ P11

CENSUS 2027 Citizens should fulfil civic duty through self-enumeration: LG



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha completed his self-enumeration today, marking the beginning of the House listing and Housing Census (HLO) operations in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Lieutenant Governor said that Census 2027 assumes historic significance as it is India's first fully digi-

tal and paperless Census integrating advanced digital technologies, mobile-based data collection systems and self-enumeration mechanisms.

He said the exercise is aimed at ensuring greater efficiency, transparency, accuracy and real-time monitoring of operations.

Lieutenant Governor further observed that Census 2027 carries special sig-

nificance for the UT in view of urban expansion, migration trends, expansion of municipal jurisdictions and evolving developmental priorities. The Census will generate reliable and granular datasets essential for evidence-based governance, targeted welfare delivery and long-term planning.

Self-Enumeration period from 17 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 will collect information regarding several key aspects of the housing and conditions of buildings. Questions in this phase will cover aspects such as Housing conditions, Household assets, Amenities and facilities, Access to sanitation and drinking water, Type of construction, Communication and transport facilities, Availability of electricity and internet.

The second phase which is the Population Enumeration will be conducted in February 2027 in normal areas while in ▶ P11

Lashkar terrorist goes for hair transplant after intruding India

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Infiltrating Jammu and Kashmir to execute terror attacks for the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistani terrorist paused his operations to fulfil a personal dream — getting a hair transplant.

Mohammed Usman Jatt, alias 'Chinese', told interrogators that he found life in Kashmir completely different from what he had been tutored in terrorist training camps and went for hairline restoration in Srinagar after learning about it from a shop owner, officials said here on Sunday.

The case is being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). During interrogation, Jatt spoke about his entry into Jammu and Kashmir through the northern part of the valley as well as the places where he had

spent time, the officials said.

A resident of Lahore and a trained operative of the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jatt said he had crossed the border with instructions to execute a series of attacks.

He was involved in terror activities in north and central Kashmir, the officials said.

However, he claimed during interrogation that his objectives shifted entirely after he witnessed the reality of daily life in Kashmir which was completely contrary to what they had been told during Lashkar training across the border.

Jatt, known within terror circles by his alias "Chinese", was arrested early last month by the Srinagar Police alongside Abdullah, alias Abu Hureira, the longest-surviving Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist. ▶ P11

India, Netherlands lift bonds; ink 17 accords

THE HAGUE: Driven by shifting global geopolitics, India and the Netherlands elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and inked 17 agreements to boost cooperation in defence, critical minerals and other key sectors during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Dutch counterpart Rob Jetten.

In their meeting on Saturday evening, the two prime ministers expressed deep concern over the situation in West Asia, especially its serious implications for the region and beyond in view of disruptions caused to the global energy supplies and trade networks.

Modi and Jetten also called for freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, while opposing any "restrictive" measures, and reaffirmed their support for ongoing initiatives in this regard, according to ▶ P11

Ordinance elevates SC judges' strength to 38

NEW DELHI: The government has promulgated an ordinance to increase the strength of the Supreme Court from the present 34 judges to 38, including the Chief Justice of India.

The law ministry notified the ordinance on Saturday, which amended the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, to increase the sanctioned strength of the top court.

So far, the sanctioned strength of the top court was 34, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Now, the number of judges has been increased by four, taking the sanctioned strength to 38.

The top court will now have 37 judges, other than the CJI.

With the apex court having two vacancies at present, and the ordinance coming into force immediately, the Supreme Court Collegium will now have to recommend six names for appointment as judges in the top court.

A bill will be brought in the Monsoon Session of Parliament to convert the ▶ P11

Govt withholds salaries of 4 ACDs for poor performance

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday withheld the salaries of four Additional District Programme Coordinators (ADPCs)/Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) over poor performance in implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act during the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27.

According to the order issued by the Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, a review of district-wise performance under MGNREGA revealed "extremely poor and negligible achievement" in generating person-days against the approved labour budget targets in certain districts. The order stated that despite

repeated directions and monitoring by the department for timely execution of works, demand registration and enhancement of employment generation under MGNREGA, some districts failed to show satisfactory progress, indicating a lack of effective supervision, monitoring and field-level implementation.

The officials whose salaries have been withheld included Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh of Shopiana, Abdul Rashid Ganaie of Kupwara, Manoj Kumar of Kishtwar and Rafiq Ahmad of Samba.

The government said the salaries of the concerned officers would remain withheld with immediate effect till further orders and subject to improvement in performance under the scheme.

The Secretary said the department is committed towards ▶ P11

LG Sinha attends 9th Maati Samman Samaroh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha the other day attended 9th Maati Samman Samaroh, a Purvanchal festival of art, culture, food and tourism. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated distinguished personalities from Purvanchal.

Addressing a gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that historical, cultural and spiritual bonds between Purvanchal and Maharashtra run very deep. A glimpse of it seen in Lord Ram's Vanvas, when he visited Panchvati and worship at Kashi Vishwanath and Trimbakeshwar has strengthened spiritual traditions of both the regions.



The Lieutenant Governor said that Purvanchal is not just a region on the map but Purvanchal is a consciousness.

"It is a living energy that has offered humanity a fresh perspective. Purvanchal is an idea. To me Purvanchal is

both a celebration of spirituality and an expression of devotion. Purvanchal brings the fragrance of art and the exuberance of culture. It is the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Sarasvati, and the restraint of ascetic, selfless sages," the Lieutenant Gover-

nor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that in modern times, the contributions of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar, Raghunath Rao and Malhar Rao Holkar were extraordinary. He said when Purvanchal was wounded by invaders and it was struggling to reclaim its spiritual and cultural radiance, Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar took up the mantle. Lieutenant Governor said that from Kashi Vishwanath Temple to Manikarnika, Dashashwamedh and Ahilyabai ghats, many temples and ghats came into being because of Lokmata Ahilyabai's patronage.

The Lieutenant Governor said that saints from ▶ P11



100-DAY NASHA Mukta JK ABHIYAAN

STOP DRUGS

DAY 37

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.

Illegal structures over drug spots at Balole Khad demolished; 50 Kanals worth Rs 60 Cr retrieved

SAMBA: The demolition drive at identified drugs hotspot at Balole Khad in Bari Brahmana on Sunday was a part of the focused anti-narcotics enforcement action being conducted jointly by District Police Samba and the Civil Administration against illegal structures which had become a safe haven for drug peddlers and habitual offenders involved in heroin trafficking.

The drive was led by SSP Samba Anuj Kumar, IPS along with Civil Administration in which nearly 50



Kanals of land valuing Rs 60 crores encroached by the drug peddlers has been retrieved. The land retrieved during the drive belongs to Industrial area SIDCO Bari Bari Brahmana and accord-

ingly handed over to it. Boundary fencing of the retrieved land has been completed and the flood lights have also been installed.

The illegally raised structures were being mis-

used for storage, concealment and supply of narcotic substances, particularly heroin, thereby destroying the lives of youth and adversely affecting public order and safety. ▶ P11

Police launch large-scale Narco CASOs at 20 spots

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Intensifying its all-out offensive against drug trafficking and the narcotics ecosystem, police in Anantnag Police conducted a large-scale, simultaneous Narco Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) at 20 identified locations across the district.

The coordinated operations were carried out by

specially constituted police teams under the close supervision of senior officers, based on specific leads developed during investigation of NDPS cases and other actionable intelligence regarding drug peddlers, kingpins, and their associates.

To enhance the effectiveness of the searches, K9 squads were also deployed during the operations. The searches primarily ▶ P11

Massive Bhang eradication drives conducted at Kreeri

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: In continuation of the sustained campaign against drug abuse and illegal narcotic cultivation under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, police in Baramulla carried out an extensive wild bhang destruction drives in the areas of Souchipora and Astaan Mohalla Kreeri.

During the operation, police teams destroyed large patches of wild bhang

cultivated over open areas and nearby land pockets. The drive was conducted with active support and co-operation from local residents and members of civil society, reflecting the growing public participation in the fight against drug menace.

The operation forms part of the continuous efforts of Police to dismantle every possible source contributing to narcotics and substance abuse, especially among youth. ▶ P11

Police hold candlelight march at Keller



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN: Continuing its dedicated efforts against drug abuse under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, police in Shopian organised a Candlelight March in the Keller area of the district in collaboration with Lambardars and respectable citizens from the locality.

The march witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the community, youth and local elders, who joined hands with the police to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug addiction and the need for collective action to eradicate the menace from society. Candles were lit as a symbol of hope, unity and commitment towards building a

Village-level PCPG meets at Budgam

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: Continuing its sustained efforts under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan, Police in Budgam conducted a series of anti-drug awareness programmes, community outreach activities, and village-level Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meetings across the district to spread awareness against the menace of drug abuse.

As part of the campaign, Budgam Police organised a Parents Awareness Workshop at ▶ P11

drug-free society.

Police reiterated its commitment to continue organizing awareness programmes and community outreach activities aimed at promoting a healthier and drug-free society.

Meanwhile, police in Shopian have attached a residential house constructed on land of six marlas valued at Rs 3,97,638 belonging to Sartaj Ahmad Mouchi, son of Mohd Maqbool Mouchi, resident of Shirmal Zainapora. The property was identified as having been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal trade of drugs and narcotics. Accordingly, the said property has been attached in ▶ P11

Search begins after failed infiltration bid

JAMMU: Security forces have launched a multi-area search operation to track down suspected terrorists operating in Poonch district the other day, officials said.

The operation was launched in various parts of Poonch after an infiltration bid was foiled in the Mankote area of Mendhar tehsil on May 12, killing one intruder.

Security personnel, including Army and police teams, launched a large-scale combing operation, covering more than five areas in the district to trace suspected militants believed to be operating in the region, they said.

Following the killing of the infiltrator in the Krishna Ghati sector along the Line of Control (LoC), security arrangements across the district have been strengthened, with additional ▶ P11

Jai Mata Di

Sarson ka saag

MAKKI KI ROTI

Now Available at all Outlets
Exchange Road | Channi Himmat |
Dhammi Nagrota | Kartholi Bari Brahmana