

THOUGHT of the DAY

"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him."

—David Brinkley

Making the Truth

8th Pay Panel to tour J&K from June 1

JAMMU: The 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) is scheduled to visit Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir, from June 1 to June 4, 2026 (Monday to Thursday).

A notice issued by Director 8th CPC in this regard reads, "Concerned stakeholders including Organizations/Institutions of Central Government as well as Jammu & Kashmir (UT) and Unions/Associations desirous of interacting with the Commission at Srinagar may kindly submit memorandum at Commission's website (<https://8cpc.gov.in>) and thereafter, submit their request seeking an appointment vide <https://nicforms.nic.in/en-RhYmxINjlmMzRlYyY1MjkyNTIwMjYwNDMwODE=>, on or before 16th May, 2026, along with 'unique memo Id' generated after submitting memorandum".

The Notice adds that details regarding the venue and meeting schedule will be communicated to the applicants at a later stage. ▶ P11

Bridge collapse kills 2 at Bantalab; operation on to save trapped person



JAMMU: A portion of a small bridge was collapsed in the Bantalab area on the outskirts of Jammu city on Friday, which killed two labourers while one another was rescued under the debris, official sources said. Meanwhile, one person was trapped and the rescue operation was underway to save him when the reports last came late in the evening.

Authorities have closed the road link following the collapse of the portion of

be spared at any cost.

According to the sources, a section of the bridge suddenly gave way, burying workers engaged at the site under the rubble.

Police, Army and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams launched rescue operations to extricate those buried under the debris. They pulled out one injured labourer and shifted him to a hospital, the sources said.

Family members of the labourers present at the site said around six workers engaged at the time of the incident came under the debris when the structure collapsed. The family members said while two of the labourers managed to escape, four got trapped.

The sources said those trapped included the husband of a woman labourer, a mason, an unmarried labourer and a relative of the contractor.

The rescue operation was underway to trace out the trapped person till the filing of the story.

Lok Bhavan celebrates Gujarat, Maharashtra's Foundation Day

Both states lead growth; preserve rich legacy: LG

JAMMU: The Foundation Day of Gujarat and Maharashtra was celebrated with great enthusiasm at J&K Lok Bhavan, Jammu, in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

Addressing a gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that Gujarat and Maharashtra are growth engines of the nation and besides massive contribution to country's GDP and exports, their social, cultural, and spiritual legacies stand unparalleled.

"Gujarat's soil is renowned for nurturing en-



trepreneurial spirit, zeal, simplicity, and innate warmth, while Maharashtra commands global respect for its enterprise, valor, and spiritual genius. I view both states as engines propelling India's development trajectory forward," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Gujarat's history brims with countless sons of Bharat Mata, who elevated the nation's honor. Revered Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi transformed India's destiny through unyielding resolve, selfless dedication, and profound self-belief. He said Mahatma Gandhi gifted the nation the philosophy of truth, non-violence, selfless service, sacrifice, love, and tolerance, turning the freedom struggle into a mass movement. Lieutenant Governor also observed that Gandhiji's life inspires us to stand firm by our principles amid any adversity.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that India's pride as the world's largest democracy is deeply ▶ P11

Commercial LPG cylinder price raised up by Rs 993

NEW DELHI: Aviation fuel prices for domestic airlines were left unchanged on Friday, providing stability for local carriers and sparing flyers any immediate cost increase, while commercial LPG and 5-kg cylinders recorded their steepest-ever rate hike, in line with a surge in international energy costs.

A month after jet fuel prices for them were more than doubled, state-owned oil firms hiked aviation turbine fuel (ATF) rates for international airlines by USD 76.55 per kilolitre, or 5.33 per cent, to USD 1,511.86 per kl.

Alongside, prices of commercial LPG - the one used in hotels and restaurants - were hiked by Rs 993 to a record high of Rs 3,071.50 per 19-kg cylinder. The rates for 5-kg FTL or market-priced LPG cylinders were hiked from Rs 549 to Rs 810.50 per bottle.

The 5-kg FTL cylinder now costs just a shade lower than the Rs 913 rate for a 14.2-kg cylinder used in household kitchens (called domestic LPG).

Also, prices of bulk diesel, used by industrial users like telecom signal towers, were increased from about ▶ P11

CM inaugurates 368 residential units for employees at Sempora, Pampore 'Govt to focus on employee welfare, infra upgradation'

PAMPORE: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday inaugurated 368 newly constructed residential quarters for government employees at Sempora in Pampore, developed across 23 blocks at an estimated cost of ₹90.65 crore.

Constructed by the Estates Department, the project marks the completion of a major residential infrastructure initiative aimed at strengthening ▶ P11



WB Polls: Omar raises concern on SIR impact

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday warned of a "dangerous trend" in the electoral process, saying that if the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls affects the outcome of the West Bengal assembly ▶ P11

J&K ACB traps Cop taking Rs 15K bribe

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said that a head constable has been arrested after he was caught red-handed accepting a Rs 15,000 bribe in Srinagar.

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) received a written complaint from a complainant, alleging therein that demand of bribe of ₹15,000/- by one public servant namely HC Parvaiz Ahmad Rother EXK- No.992204 posted at District Srinagar, for removing the name of complainant from the list of accused in case FIR No. 09/2026 of P/S Soura Srinagar etc.

Consequent upon the information and in order to verify the allegations levelled against the said public servant, the matter was discreetly verified through a designated officer of ACB Srinagar. The said accused demanded Rs, 50,000/- which was settled at Rs, 15,000/- as bribe from complainant for removing the name of complainant from the list of accused in case FIR No. 09/2026 being ▶ P11

LoP Sunil slams Govt over transport fare hike, betrayal of poll promises

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, launched a scathing attack on the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government over the steep increase in transport fares across multiple categories, terming the decision as "anti-poor, anti-middle class, and a complete betrayal of the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir before elections."

Sharma said that the fare hike has once again exposed the true face of the National Conference government, which came to power by making tall promises of relief, em-



ployment, economic stability, and people-friendly governance, but has instead unleashed a series of decisions that are crushing the common people under financial pressure. Sharma said that public

transport is not a luxury but the backbone of daily life for lakhs of people across Jammu and Kashmir. Students travelling to schools and colleges, daily wage labourers, small traders, private employees, farmers, shopkeepers, and lower-income families depend on affordable transport for survival. At a time when inflation is already breaking the backs of common citizens, the NC government has chosen to make life even more miserable for the people, he said.

Sunil Sharma stated that the Omar Abdullah government has completely failed to honour its poll promises and has proven to be utterly disconnected from ▶ P11

Shah: Ladakh upheld Dharma for centuries

LEH: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday described the return of sacred relics of Lord Buddha to Ladakh after 75 years as a "historic reunion" and said that the Union Territory has remained a "living land of dharma" that preserved and nurtured Buddhist knowledge for centuries.

Stressing the relevance of Buddha's teachings in modern times, Shah said the message of peace, compassion and the middle path was even more important today than it was 2,500 years ago.

Speaking after inaugurating the exposition ▶ P11

Prez Murmu asks ARTRAC to enhance preparedness

SHIMLA: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday exhorted the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) to continue to work with fervour to enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Army.

President Murmu visited the ARTRAC headquarters here before winding up her five-day visit to Himachal Pradesh.

The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, who was briefed about the evolution of ARTRAC by Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma, GOC-in-C, ARTRAC, complimented all ranks of ARTRAC and de-



fence civilians for the stellar work being done, and urged them to continue working with enhanced zeal and fervour, the defence ministry said.

Murmu was received at ARTRAC headquarters by

Above normal heatwave days in May: IMD

NEW DELHI: Above-normal heatwave days are likely in some parts of the foothills of the Himalayas, east coast states, Gujarat and Maharashtra in May, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast on Friday.

The department also highlighted that the rainfall averaged over the country as a whole during May is most likely to be above normal, with the onset of the southwest monsoon over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands expected around May 14-16.

Director General of Meteorology, IMD, ▶ P11

100-DAY NASHA Mukti JK ABHIYAAN

DAY 21

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.

IRP 16th Battalion organises Anti-Drug Rally



RAMBAN: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, a rally under the theme "Nasha Mukti Ab-

Anti-poppy operation continues

SHOPIAN: Sustaining its intensified drive against the drug menace, Shopian Police continued its crackdown on illegal narcotics cultivation by acting on specific information regarding poppy cultivation in the Sindoo Shirmal area of the district.

Acting promptly on the information, a police team from Police Post Keegam reached the spot and detected illegal poppy cultivation on land belonging to Khazir Mohd Bhat son-in-law of Mohd Subhan RATHER resident of ▶ P11

Peddler held with heroin

RAJOURI: In continuation of its sustained drive against drug trafficking, Rajouri Police has achieved success during routine patrolling in the Salani area of the Rajouri city on Friday. A police party of Police Station Rajouri intercepted one individual who identified himself as Tanzil-ul-Rehman S/o Qazi Saif-ul-Rehman R/o ▶ P11

Anti-drug prog 'SAMVAD' held at UIET Kathua

KATHUA: Kathua Campus (JU), University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), organised a Police Awareness Programme titled "SAMVAD: Interactive Dialogue on Substance Abuse Prevention", under the 100-day intensive Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan (Drug-Free India Campaign). The programme aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promoting a drug-free soci-



ety. In his message, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu, highlighted the importance of such initiatives in the present context, where substance abuse has emerged as a serious social concern, particularly among the youth.

Dr. Rocky Gupta, I/C Principal, UIET, ▶ P11