

The mind is everything. What you think you become
—Buddha

Vacations in schools from June 1

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced summer vacations for schools in the summer zone of Jammu division starting June 1, due to the prevailing heatwave conditions across the region.

Education minister Sakina Itoo announced this in a post on X.

"Considering the prevailing weather conditions, summer vacations for schools in the Summer Zone of Jammu Division shall commence from June 1, 2026, for primary classes and on June 8, 2026, for students in Classes 6th to 12th," the minister said.

As per the order issued by the Directorate of School Education Jammu, the schools would open on 22 July 2026.

Jammu region has been reeling under intense heatwave conditions over the past several days, with some districts recording exceptionally high temperatures.

Officials said temperatures reached around 45 degrees Celsius in Samba district and 43 degrees ▶ P11

Trump invite, West Asia crisis discussed in Rubio-Modi talks



NEW DELHI: India and the US will continue to work closely for the global good, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio briefed him on the West Asia crisis and discussed ways to bolster bilateral ties in crucial sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and energy security.

Rubio, who met Modi shortly after landing in New Delhi, invited the prime minister on behalf of President Donald Trump to visit the White House in the "near future", as the top American diplomat described India as the "cornerstone" of Washington's approach towards the Indo-Pacific.

The US Secretary of State's four-day trip to India -- aimed at holding wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and attending a Quad foreign ministers' conclave -- is largely ▶ P11

Major anti-encroachment drive clears 3 ha forest land in Jammu 76% encroachers not from Jammu district

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The major anti-encroachment drive was jointly carried out by a team of the Administration, Forest Department, Forest Protection Force, police personnel, and others, in the presence of First-Class Magistrates on 19 May 2026.

During the eviction drive, the joint teams managed to demolish nearly 32 illegally constructed concrete as well as kaccha structures and nearly three hectares of encroached forest land were reclaimed during the operation.

Worthwhile to mention that the High Court in its order dated 03.09.2020 in the PIL No. 25/2017 titled SAVE Vs State of J&K & Ors has categorically directed the Forest Department for the removal of the encroachments from forest lands in a time bound manner and even directed



Note: Eviction was carried in this patch of forests which was a clearly outside the boundary of Bandi Village in Yellow Line with Red GPS Boundary Pillars.



Note: Entire Forest KML file of Sidra Ragoora Forest with Bandi Chak in between (Red Dots).

for the constitution of high-level committees to achieve the desired objectives.

Pertinent to mention here that 76 percent encroachers do not belong to Jammu district.

The instant case involves the eviction of the majority of non-local encroachers from the forest land/area adjoining to the fence line of old Tawi Herbal Eco Park and near the Chak line boundary of the Bandi Chak. Therefore, a false notion which has been floated that only the local Gujjar Tribal families have been evicted has no grounds and it is also astonishing to note that majority of these self-claimed nomadic families are without livestock at present and no any Grazing Motto (F3) has been issued to them from Jammu Urban Forest Divisions. As such, it is clear cut case of grabbing the prime Forest Lands and then distributing it among their own people. Moreover, it is also a fact the left open portion of ▶ P11

Encounter breaks out in Rajouri

JAMMU: An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists on Saturday following a major cordon-and-search operation in Rajouri district after reports of suspected movement, officials said. According to preliminary reports, the movement of two to three terrorists was suspected in the area.

"Today at around 11.30 AM, contact was established with terrorists in the ▶ P11

India to become major arms exporter: Rajnath

SHIRDI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said no power can stop India, once considered an importer of weapons, from becoming the biggest exporter in 25-30 years.

After inaugurating an ammunition manufacturing unit in Shirdi, Singh said a nation that makes its weapons writes its own destiny.

He said the role of private players in defence manufacturing was negligible a few years back, which now stands at 25-30 per cent,

while the government aims to increase it further to 50 per cent.

"The private sector is not just a supplier of nuts and bolts in defence, but also a producer of state-of-the-art weapons systems," he added.

Singh said India was considered a weapons importer, but no power can now stop it from being the biggest exporter in 25-30 years.

He said when the government's vision and the private sector's ▶ P11

Centre notifies draft rules for VB-GRAMG

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday notified draft rules under the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAMG), laying down the institutional and administrative framework for roll-out of the new rural employment programme that will replace MGNREGA from July 1, while inviting public feedback before ▶ P11

LoP targets Omar over foreign visits

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Describing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as a "tourist-in-chief", Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Saturday said the CM's calendar is packed with foreign tours rather than the disposal of files to address issues faced by the common man.

Sharma said the Chief Minister is missing over the past 10 days and he is behaving more like a globetrotting traveler than the elected head of a sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir.

"Omar Abdullah seems to be under the delusion that he is a tourist 24x7 or running a travel blog, not a state. While



the Chief Minister is busy on foreign tours, the common man in Jammu & Kashmir is facing a plethora of problems ranging from the absence of electricity, water, and health facilities," he said.
He said the CM is behaving like a tourist even as he himself is minister ▶ P11

OMCs ensure continuous fuel supply in J&K

JAMMU: Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — IndianOil, BPCL and HPCL — record 30% growth in Petrol and 20% Diesel Sales for the period 01-21st May over last year in Jammu & Kashmir.

State Level Coordinator, Oil Industry, Himanshu Sharma informed that in recent days, OMCs have witnessed a significantly higher offtake of petroleum products in the J&K and Ladakh region, driven by seasonal agricultural activities and increased demand during the tourist season. Additional demand pressure has also emerged due to a visible shift of institutional and commercial ▶ P11

229 youths receive job letters at Rozgar Mela

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu division of Northern Railway organised a Rozgar Mela on Saturday, during which 229 selected candidates from Jammu and Kashmir received appointment letters for various government jobs.

The event was part of the Centre's mega employment drive aimed at inducting youth into government services through a transparent and merit-based recruitment process, officials said.

More than 5,100 candidates were selected across the country in the latest recruitment round, including 229 from Jammu and Kashmir, they said.
Divisional Railway Man-



100-DAY
NASHA MUKT
JK ABHIYAAN

STOP DRUGS

DAY 43

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.

LG Manoj Sinha joins 'Padyatra' in Shopian 894 drug peddlers jailed, 707 FIRs registered in 43 days crackdown

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday joined Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Padyatra in Shopian where citizens from all walks of life vowed that narco terrorists will be driven out from every corner of UT of Jammu Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said this collective resolve heralds the dawn of a new era.

"From every lane and by lane of UT, voices are rising in unison, demanding that not a single drug smuggler



be spared. What began 43 days ago in Jammu has now surged into a powerful grassroots movement, echoing across communities with unstoppable force," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that united by a single purpose and a common goal, millions across Jammu Kashmir are determined to eradicate narcotics terrorism from this land of paradise.

"It is now firmly etched in the minds of our people that this is not a distant issue but a challenge confronting us at our very doorstep, one we must face head ▶ P11

Over 16 lakh awareness events held across J&K Anti-drug drive gets widespread support

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The ongoing anti-drug campaign, 'Nasha Mukta JK Abhiyaan' has recorded remarkable achievements and impact across awareness generation, rehabilitation, law enforcement, treatment, surveillance and prevention initiatives, reflecting an unprecedented whole-of-government approach against the menace of substance

abuse in Jammu and Kashmir.

As on today, the campaign has mobilized lakhs of citizens, strengthened institutional response mechanisms, intensified anti-narcotics operations and expanded rehabilitation support systems throughout J&K.

Under the Drug free J&K - 100 days campaign, massive Public Outreach and Awareness Drives are

being held across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the extensive awareness and outreach campaign, authorities conducted an extraordinary 16,37,484 awareness events across Jammu & Kashmir, with a staggering public participation of over one crore people, indicating widespread community engagement and growing public support for the ▶ P11

Assets valued Rs 5 Cr attached across Valley

SRINAGAR: Multiple properties valued at around Rs 5 crore belonging to individuals allegedly involved in drug trafficking and related unlawful activities were attached across Srinagar and adjoining districts of Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

The action was part of the intensified crackdown against narcotics networks under the ongoing ▶ P11

3 properties worth Rs 4 Cr demolished in Miran Sahib

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a major crackdown on the drug menace, the Jammu Headquarters Zone Police, in a joint operation with the District Administration, today demolished three properties worth Rs 4 crore belonging to notorious drug dealer Navjot Singh @ Bablu resident of Indra Nagar in Miran Sahib.

Navjot Singh is a habitual offender with 15 FIRs registered against him under



various sections, including the NDPS Act. The properties, identified as proceeds of crime acquired through illegal drug trafficking, were razed to dismantle the economic backbone of drug syndicates in the region.

The high-level anti-drug operation was executed in the presence of SP Headquarters, SDPO RS Pura, SHO Miran Sahib, alongside SDM RS Pura and the local Tehsildar. The entire exercise was completed ▶ P11

Govt enforces spending curbs, restricts functions

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced a series of expenditure-control measures aimed at ensuring fiscal discipline, imposing restrictions on official functions, foreign travel, vehicle purchases, creation of new posts, and hiring of office spaces.

In an order issued by the Finance Department, all departments have been directed to implement the measures with immediate effect.

"Utmost economy shall be observed in organising conferences, seminars, workshops, training programmes, and similar events. Such activities shall be undertaken only where absolutely neces-

sary and after exploring virtual alternatives," the order said.

It said holding exhibitions, fairs, seminars, conferences, and workshops outside the Union Territory is strongly discouraged, while meetings and conferences in private hotels and commercial venues have been completely banned.

Government buildings, conference halls, and other available government infrastructure must invariably be used for such purposes, it added.

The government also strongly discouraged the purchase of new vehicles, stating that exceptional cases involving critical operational requirements may be considered only ▶ P11

Future wars to be multi-domain: CDS

SHIRDI: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Saturday said future wars will be multi-domain with land, sea, air, cyberspace, and cognitive warfare operating together.

Speaking at the inauguration of a defence manufacturing unit here in Ahilyanagar district, General Chauhan said modern warfare is not just based on manpower, conventional weapons or platform-centric operations.

AI, drones, robotics, cyber systems, autonomous platforms, space technologies, precision strike weapons, and information dominance are giving a decisive shape to future ▶ P11