

Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.

—Joshua J. Marine

Making the Truth

Petrol, diesel prices hiked by Rs 2.61-2.71

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices were raised by Rs 2.61-2.71 per litre on Monday, marking the fourth increase in less than two weeks as state-owned fuel retailers continued to pass on rising international oil prices to consumers.

With the latest revision, cumulative increases in petrol and diesel prices have nearly touched Rs 7.5 per litre since fuel price revisions resumed on May 15 after a prolonged freeze, stoking concerns over inflationary pressures and higher transportation costs across the economy.

The latest revision pushed petrol prices higher by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71, according to industry sources.

Petrol prices were raised to Rs 102.12 a litre in Delhi from Rs 99.51 previously, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 95.20 per litre from Rs 92.49.

The back-to-back increases follow a prolonged freeze in retail fuel prices and come amid elevated

Gulmarg Gondola malfunction: Over 300 tourists rescued in 7-hr Operation

CM orders probe; assures action if lapses found

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Over 300 tourists were left stranded mid-air for hours inside 65 cabins of the famous Gulmarg Gondola cable car after a major technical snag halted Asia's highest ropeway, causing panic among the holiday-makers before they were rescued.

A massive, multi-agency rescue operation that lasted seven hours ensured the safe evacuation of all passengers, some of whom were trapped in cabins dangling nearly 500 ft above the ground, officials said.

Operations for both phases of the cable car service were immediately suspended following the glitch, which occurred around noon.

The rescue operation was hampered by heavy rain in the area, they said.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Jammu and Kashmir Police



and the Indian Army's Chinara Corps worked jointly for hours to complete the safe evacuation of all people, the officials said.

The trained teams used ropes and ladders to bring the tourists down safely.

"The rescue operation has concluded, and all the stranded persons have been evacuated safely," an official said this evening.

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said his government was "closely

HM lauds response forces

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday lauded the role of disaster response forces in saving over 300 tourists stranded in mid-air for hours due to a gondola malfunction in Gulmarg.

"Applause to India's disaster response forces for safely rescuing 300 tourists stranded mid-air in cable cars in Gulmarg, Kashmir," he said in a post on X.

Shah said the disaster response teams comprising the SDRF, NDRF, Army personnel, local police, and the administration swung into action and rescued all the passengers

Ganga Dasher celebrated with religious gaiety

Guru Gang Devji's contribution in disseminating wisdom is immense: Swami Vishwatamanand Ji

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: Ganga Dasher was celebrated with full enthusiasm and religious fervour on Monday at SVS Gyan Ganga ashram in which thousands of devotees from across the country participated in the religious ceremony under the supervision of His Holiness Atal Pethadeshwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj.

During this religious event, "Shri Anand Ramayan Tatva Gyan Yagya" (Ramayan Katha) was kept in the Ashram, which was started on 16th of May with Kalash Yatra and concluded on 24th of May, in which various incidents and aspects of Shri Ram were depicted by various characters and detailed description was given by Shri Swamiji.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Swamiji Maharaj said that the contributions of Shri Guru Gang Devji Maharaj in spreading knowledge by giving education to everyone across every nook and corner of the country cannot be compared and we are following their path. Gurujis always believed that, "Ignorance can be killed only by Knowledge" and the establishment of various educational institutions by Shri Swami Ji Maharaj is one such step to carry forward their (Gurujis) mission



by giving education to everyone. During the Nine days long function, Swamiji, the main orator of the Katha, explained each and every aspect of the life history of Lord Rama with the help of various characters who played different roles like Rama, Lakshman, Sita, Hanuman, Bali, Sugreev, Shabri, Ravana accordingly. "Anand Ramayana provides that light which enables Jeeva (human being) to experience the wonderful freedom of liberation", added Swamiji

The concluding function started with "Sant Sammelan" and "Shradangli" today in which saints and Mahamandleshwar of different Akharas, came from various parts of the country, participated and gave their valuable thoughts on different religious beliefs. Swami Adityanand Ji from Mahanirvani Akhara, Swami Gyananand Giri Ji from Nasik, Swami Kishoranand Ji from Haridwar, Baba Rajguru from Haridwar, Brahmachari Swami Bhumnikaten from Haridwar, Anandnand Giri Ji from Haridwar were some of them. A heartfelt tribute was given by saints present during the programme and gave religious sermon and also threw light on the life of Guru Gang Devji Maharaj on the occasion of their "41st Nirvana Divas". Later on, "Chapan Bhog" was served

LG Sinha visits Hazratbal shrine; reviews Eid-ul-Adha measures

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited the sacred Hazratbal Shrine to review the preparations for the upcoming auspicious festival of Eid-ul-Adha.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the water supply, sanitation, electricity and other facilities being put in place for smooth conduct of the festival. He instructed the senior officers to ensure that every arrangement is carried out with diligence.

"The festival reminds us of the virtues of humility and charity, inspiring us to dedicate ourselves to the greater



good of humanity. We will ensure that the celebration is not only well-organized but also truly grand, marked by devotion and festive fervor," the Lieutenant Governor said. He was accompanied by Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi,

Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Mufti Reyaz ul Haq, Chief Imam Hazratbal Shrine; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Omprakash, DIG CKR; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarty,

Govt grants special casual leave on Eid

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday sanctioned a special one-day casual leave for employees of the Union Territory on May 29, marking the third day of Eid-ul-Azha.

An order to this effect was issued by the General Administration Department.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of one-day special casual leave on 29th May 2026 (Friday), in favour of the employees of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir who wish

100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN

STOP DRUGS

DAY 45

The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

LG leads massive Padyatra in Bandipora

Decade-old drug cartels being wiped out: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a major push against the narco-terror, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha rallied with a massive crowd in Bandipora today, leading a Padyatra to galvanize support for the cause.

"45 days ago, I pledged not only to dismantle smugglers and narco-terrorists' ecosystem, but also to spark a movement that uplifts youth and restores dignity to families scarred by addiction," the Lieutenant Governor



said. The Lieutenant Governor said that Jammu Kash-

mir is united, strong in resolve and clear in purpose and fully committed to free-

ing our society from drugs once and for all.

"The action against narco-terrorists and drug smugglers will continue. It will not stop until every drug smuggler is eliminated from the sacred soil of Jammu Kashmir. Our agencies have launched an unprecedented drive to dismantle narco-terrorists and their hidden network. No drug smuggler, drug peddler, or anyone seeking to poison our society is beyond reach. The entire narco-terror ecosystem is being pursued,"

Police continue crackdown on drug trafficking; 2 held

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Continuing its sustained campaign against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Anantnag Police achieved another significant success by arresting two drug peddlers in separate operations and recovering contraband substances from their

possession on Monday.

In the first operation, a police party from Police Station Srigufwara apprehended Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, resident of Trail, at Sakhras Crossing Chowk while he was proceeding from Trail. During the search of a bag in his possession, 6,566

Anti-Poppy Drive in Saidapora Bala

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN: In a major crackdown on illegal crop cultivation, a multi-departmental team carried out a comprehensive destruction drive against illicit poppy cultivation in Saidapora Bala village of Shopian on Monday.

The high-impact operation was executed through a well-coordinated collaboration between the Excise Team Shopian, Shopian Police, Revenue Department,

Agriculture Department and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Department.

Following the successful destruction of the illegal crops on-site, a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against the accused under the relevant sections of the law. A rigorous legal investigation has been officially initiated.

The district administration and law enforcement agencies have reiterated that similar drives will continue with full force across

NIA conducts raids across Kashmir

'Red Fort blast accused visited Lucknow in Aug'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency on Monday conducted searches in the Kashmir Valley as part of its probe into a terror-funding case linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami.

The searches, conducted at three locations in Srinagar and Shopian districts of Kashmir, led to the recovery of several incriminating financial documents and electronic gadgets suspected to be related to the activities of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and its various trusts/associations in J&K. Officers of the National

Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out searches at the Darul Uloom Sirajul Uloom, a school in the Imam Sahib area of Shopian, which was declared an "illegal entity" last month, official sources said.

Searches were also conducted at the residence of the former JeI chief, Shahzada Aurangzeb, at Molu Chitragam in the district, and at the Jamiat ul Banaat, a religious school for girls in Srinagar's Lal Bazar area.

The federal anti-terror agency has been probing the separatist and secessionist activities of JeI, declared an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities

'Op Sheruwali' enters day 3; hideout busted

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: Security forces busted a terrorist hideout after a brief firing as the search operation to track down suspected militants believed to be hiding in the dense woods of Rajouri district entered the third consecutive day on Monday, officials said.

An encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla belt on Saturday following the launch of 'Operation 'Sheruwali' by a joint team of the Army, police and paramilitary forces.

"The operation to track down suspected terrorists is going on amid a strong cor-

don. Surveillance has also been put in place," they said.

Armed with drones and sniffer dogs, joint teams have expanded the searches to adjoining areas, intensifying operations and strengthening the cordon with the induction of additional troops to track down the suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the area, officials said.

There was brief firing in the area before a hideout was busted, they said. According to reports, there was speculative firing towards the hideout.

The hideout contained eatables, cold drinks, water bottles, pickles, clothes, bags and polythene

CM hands over regularisation orders, appointment letters

Work with sincerity: Omar to employees

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday handed over regularisation orders to Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the School Education Department (SED) at Civil Secretariat function here.

Minister for School Education Sakina Itoo was present on the occasion.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Special Secretary School Education Ghulam Rasool Mir, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmed Wani and other senior officers of the



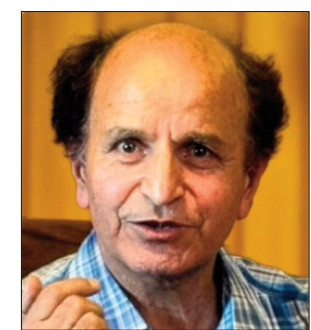
concerned department were also present during the programme.

The Chief Minister individually handed over the regularisation orders to the CPWs from Ganderbal and

Bandipora districts and extended his best wishes to them for their future service. He expressed hope that the employees would continue to work with sincerity, commitment and dedication towards strengthening the School Education Department and improving public service delivery.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the government for addressing their long-pending issue and providing them regularisation orders.

Meanwhile, CM Omar Abdullah today handed over appointment orders to beneficiaries under



Prof Shauq receives Padma Shri

NEW DELHI: President of India Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred Padma Awards on 66 distinguished personalities during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards, among the country's highest civilian