

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.”
—Henry David Thoreau

Inking the Truth

Counting today in 5 states, UT

NEW DELHI: Counting of votes will be held on Monday in Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal after a riveting high-voltage contest with the outcome crucial for prominent ruling regional parties like the TMC and DMK as well as the BJP, Congress and the Left.

The exercise will begin at 8 am, starting with the postal ballots, at the counting centres, which will have a three-tier security system. In a first, the Election Commission has introduced a QR code-based Photo Identity Card system through ECINET to prevent unauthorised entry into counting centres.

Votes will be counted across 77 centres for 293 assembly seats in West Bengal, which has witnessed unprecedented security deployment this time and an acrimony-filled run-up to the result day, with both the ruling TMC and opposition BJP expressing apprehensions of vote manipulation. The two-phase polls in the state ▶ P11

World's first OptoSAR satellite launched; PM praises mission



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the launch of the world's first OptoSAR satellite Mission Drishti by GalaxEye, calling it a testament to the youth's passion for innovation and nation-building.

Bengaluru-based space start-up GalaxEye's Mission Drishti satellite was launched on Sunday aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from California.

"Mission Drishti by GalaxEye marks a major achievement in our space

journey. The successful launch of the world's first OptoSAR satellite and the largest privately-built satellite in India is a testament to our youth's passion for innovation and nation-building," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister also congratulated the founders and the entire GalaxEye team, extending his best wishes.

Mission Drishti is the world's first OptoSAR satellite, integrating electro-optical (EO) and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sen-

sors into a single operational platform, according to the company.

Meanwhile, PM Modi has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to a fire mishap in Delhi's Shahdara district.

The Prime Minister extended his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in this tragic mishap and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

PM Modi announced that an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each of those who lost their lives, and the injured would be given Rs. 50,000.

The Prime Minister posted on X:

"The loss of lives due to a fire mishap in Delhi's Shahdara district is extremely distressing. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy ▶ P11

NCB suspends 2 officials in 'custodial' death case

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: An investigation officer and an assistant director working under the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) have been suspended following the death of a BSF constable in custody on the night of March 19-20, sources said on Sunday. According to sources, the "unfortunate incident" involved BSF Constable Jaswinder Singh, who died of cardiac arrest after experiencing two cardiac episodes while receiving treatment at Pulse Hospital, where he was admitted.

Singh was arrested in Jammu by the NCB and was being transported to Amritsar, Punjab, in connection with an investigation linked to a case registered in Amritsar. A Special NDPS Judge in Jammu had remanded him to custody,

highlighting his connection to Punjab in the remand application.

The NCB's investigation indicated that Singh was allegedly in contact with two virtual numbers associated with operatives from Pakistan, sources said, adding that a relative of Singh, also a BSF constable, has been arrested in two NCB cases and four cases with the Punjab Police concerning narcotics.

While being transported from Jammu, Singh began to experience severe chest pain. After taking some water, his condition temporarily improved. The NCB team arrived in Amritsar on March 19 at around 9.30 pm. At approximately 9.45 pm, however, Singh again experienced chest pain and was admitted to Pulse Hospital at about 10 pm. Despite medical ▶ P11

Admin bans unauthorised assemblies for two months

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

DODA: The administration on Sunday imposed a ban on unauthorised assemblies and protests in parts of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda town for a period of two months under Section 163 of the BNSS, citing apprehensions of public disturbance and threat to peace.

The step has been taken in view of the expectations of large gatherings of people in public events of recently released AAP MLA Mehraj Malik in his native Doda district.

According to an order issued by District Magistrate Krishan Lal, the administration observed that some people were allegedly planning demonstrations and trying to mobilise gather-

ings, which could lead to untoward incidents and disturb public order.

"In exercise of powers vested in me I hereby order a complete ban over any unauthorised gathering of 5 or more than 5 persons and organising protests or Dharnas in the public places - Clock tower chowk, Dessa road upto Akramabad, sports stadium, within the radius of 100 meters from the sports stadium and from clock tower up to old Bus Stand except for the events for which the permission has been already granted," Lal said in the order.

The administration said such gatherings could cause obstruction and inconvenience to commuters, passengers and pedestrians, besides posing a ▶ P11

Srinagar gets makeover ahead of 'Darbar Move'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is getting a facelift ahead of the 'Darbar Move', a 150-year-old practice of bi-annual shifting of the administrative capital, with workers busy sprucing up roads and walkways.

Roads with potholes are being repaired and getting a fresh coat of paint ahead of the shifting of the Civil Secretariat and other government offices.

The Civil Secretariat, the seat of the Jammu and ▶ P11



AAP MLA targets CM for inaction

JAMMU: AAP MLA Mehraj Malik on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, questioning the Jammu and Kashmir government's authority and alleging failure to act during his arrest.

Malik was released from Kathua jail on Tuesday after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed his detention under the Public Safety Act. Malik said if the chief minister could not secure his release or ▶ P11



LG launches drive against drug abuse in Srinagar Narcotic-terror nexus a threat to country's internal security: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a veiled attack on Pakistan, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the "inimical neighbour" has targeted Jammu and Kashmir's youth by filling the union territory's streets with drugs, and asserted that the government and security forces will foil the designs of the "dangerous enemy".

He also noted that the nexus between narcotic dealers and terrorists had become a challenge for the country's internal security.

"In the war against drug abuse and narco-terrorism, every step matters. Every effort counts. Every contribu-



tion brings victory closer. Together, let us envision a Jammu Kashmir where no child is lost to drugs, no family is broken by addiction, no community suffers under

traffickers, and every citizen thrives in health and strength," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Sunday in Srinagar.

"This is the vision we

pursue, the dream we must fulfil, and the legacy we owe future generations. It is about Jammu Kashmir's destiny, the society we aspire to build, the values we uphold, and the lives we safeguard. Today, let us pledge that we will not rest until Jammu Kashmir is completely drug-free," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He was addressing the launch of a major campaign against drug abuse and narco-terrorism at TRC Football Ground in Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor also led a two-kilometre Padyatra, urging people from all walks of life to commit themselves wholeheartedly to the fight ▶ P11

2 drug peddlers held with heroin

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA/SAMBA: Continuing its efforts against drug menace, District Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma IPS recovered 35.04 grams of heroin (Chitta) like narcotics, cash Rs. 75940, 35 mobiles phones, laptop, electronic weighing machine and a person got arrested in this regard on Sunday.

Brief facts of the case are that on 2 May 2026 an information has been received through reliable sources at Police Station Kathua that one person namely Amandeep Singh S/o Baldev Singh R/o Ward no. 08 Kathua, Tehsil and District ▶ P11

IEC material displayed at public, tourist spots

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN: In a sustained effort to strengthen the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, has intensified awareness activities across the district to spread the message against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.



As part of the campaign, a series of informative IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials including posters highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and ▶ P11

LG chairs high-level review meet; assesses district-wise action plans

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting at Lok Bhavan to review the progress of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan and assessed the district-wise action plans aimed at eliminating drug-abuse and narco-terrorism.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dullo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; S.J.M.Gillani, Spl DG Coordination PHQ;



Nitish Kumar, ADGP, CID; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sujit Kumar, IGP Security; Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner/Sec-

retary, Social Welfare Department; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner/Secretary School Education Department; Anshul Garg, Divi-

sional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; senior officials of civil and police administration, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from Kashmir Division.

Reviewing the progress, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the need for a focused, time-bound and result-oriented strategy by all district administrations in the next 78-days. He directed the Officers to ensure effective implementation of the action at all levels with measurable outcomes in curbing drug abuse and dismantling ▶ P11

Iran sends new proposal to revive peace dialogue

LAHORE: Iran has conveyed a "multi-layered proposal" to Washington in an attempt to break the deadlock over peace talks, a senior official familiar with the development said on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump says he is still not satisfied with Iran's new offer to end the West Asia conflict. He has also indicated that Washington is unlikely to accept any framework that does not include firm guarantees preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

The Iran war - triggered by joint strikes by the US and Israel on February 28 - has

been on hold since April 8, with one round of peace talks having taken place in Islamabad since then.

Pakistan is mediating the peace talks between the US and Iran.

The Pakistani official told PTI that the fresh Iran proposal is a phased de-escalation framework, seeking to separate immediate conflict management from the more complex and long-standing dispute over Tehran's nuclear programme.

There are three broad components of it.

"The first component of the plan focuses on ▶ P11

NEET-UG held across 551 cities in India, 14 abroad

NEW DELHI: The NEET-UG 2026 examination was conducted on Sunday across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited the National Testing Agency (NTA) headquarters to assess on-ground readiness for the examination, officials said.

During the visit, the minister oversaw key operational aspects, including examination logistics, coordination with centres, and monitoring systems put in place to conduct the test seamlessly, they said.

Officials briefed him

on measures taken to handle the large number of candidates and maintain discipline at examination venues.

The NEET-UG 2026 examination was conducted by the NTA for nearly 23 lakh registered candidates at centres across the country under strict protocols, officials said.

NEET-UG continues to be one of the largest undergraduate entrance examinations in India and serves as the gateway for admission to MBBS, BDS and other allied medical programmes across institutions in the country.

Rs 40 lakh worth asset attached

JAMMU: Udhampur Police has attached an immovable property worth Rs 40 lakh belonging to an alleged drug peddler here, officials said on Sunday.

The property belongs to Rafiq Ahmed, son of Abdul Karim, a resident of Haji Basti in the Sainik Colony area of Jammu district.

The action was taken in connection with a case registered at Rehambal police station in Udhampur under various sections of the ▶ P11

Police strengthen public connect in remote areas

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: Dr. Ajay Sharma, JKPS, Additional Superintendent of Police, Poonch, accompanied by SHO Mandi Inspector N.K. Thakur, IC Police Post Sawjian PSI Azhar, visited the remote areas of Sabjian, Gagrian and Gali Maidan today. During the visit, a public meeting was held with the local residents, who extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed officer and appreciated outreach efforts of Poonch police.

Addressing the gather-



ing, Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukta J-K Abhiyan launched by the Lieutenant Governor's administration.

He highlighted that drug abuse poses a serious threat to society, especially to the youth, and called upon the public to actively participate in this campaign ▶ P11