

SIA attaches property of LeT operative

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday attached a property of a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative in a narco-terror case in Kupwara district.

The SIA attached immovable property belonging to a Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)-based operative of the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT, who is involved in a major narco-terror case being investigated by the agency, a SIA spokesman said.

He said the action pertains to a case which was initially registered by the Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) and subsequently transferred to SIA Kashmir for specialised investigation in view of the larger terror financing and cross-border narco-terror ramifications emerging during investigation.

Investigations conducted by SIA Kashmir revealed that accused Zameer Ahmad Lone, a resident of Mandiyan Keran, Kupwara, ► P11

**India marks 1st anniversary of Op Sindoor
 Rajnath to lead national security review in Jaipur**



NEW DELHI: Operation Sindoor, launched weeks after the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack last year, marked a paradigm shift in India's national security calculus through the extensive use of drones, networking and the integration of artificial intelligence in target analysis and acquisition.

The operation, billed as the Indian military's most expansive multi-domain combat mission in half a century to punish Pakistan

for its relentless support to cross-border terrorism, redefined India's overarching security and strategic goals.

India's action was largely seen as a statement of its "political will" to inflict a blow to Pakistan for supporting terrorism, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail by Islamabad.

In the course of the last one year after the operation, India's three services have

drawn up extensive plans, strategy and policy initiatives to bolster their combat readiness by acquiring new platforms, missiles and a variety of long and short-range drones, and boosting the overall air defence apparatus.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, carrying out airstrikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir eliminating at least 100 terrorists.

The strikes at the terror camps included the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) headquarters at Bahawalpur, the Lashkar-e-Taiba's base at Muridke and terrorist infrastructure in Mehmoona Joya in Sialkot, Sawai Nala and Syed Na Bilal ► P11

**Sinha: Border villages are nation's backbone, shaped glorious history
 LG visits Vibrant Border Village 'Regal' in Samba**

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday termed country's border the "backbone of India" and said the hamlets there are the inheritors of a rich tradition of courage and resilience.

The lieutenant governor (LG) was addressing a public rally during his visit to the border village of Regal in the Samba district, where he inaugurated and laid founda-



tion stones for several development projects.

The projects include establishment of a digital li-

brary at the Government Primary School Regal, construction of a community hall-cum-recreation centre, development of Amrit Sarovar, along with drainage channel, installation of three open gyms and installation of solar street lights.

"Our border villages are the inheritors of a rich tradition of courage and resilience. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have shifted the narrative. ► P11

100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN
 DAY 26 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' houses, assets of peddlers demolished in Noorbagh, Yaripora

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: An "illegally constructed" house belonging to a drug peddler was demolished on Wednesday here in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, police said.

The demolition was made in the Palpora Noorbagh area as part of the police's Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, a police spokesperson said.

He said the accused, Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Zahidpora Hawal, at present, Pamposh Colony, Palpora Noorbagh, had encroached



upon the government land there.

Sheikh has been named in multiple NDPS cases and accused of erecting the razed structure with crime proceeds, the spokesperson said.

An investigation revealed that Sheikh's close associates and family members, too, were named in multiple drug-related cases across the valley, he said.

Meanwhile, in a continued crackdown against drug peddlers, a demolition drive was carried out today at Tantarpora, Yaripora in Kulgam district by joint teams of Revenue and Police. ► P11

Bootlegger held with illicit liquor

KATHUA: Continuing its efforts to discourage the trade and transportation of illicit liquor, District Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma arrested one bootlegger and recovered a huge cache (182 bottles of JK Excise Whisky including 31 bottles of JK special Whisky 375 ml each, 63 bottles of JK Special Whisky 250 ml each and 88 quarters of JK Special Whisky 180 ml each) from the possession of one person near Airwan Road area of PP Nagri (PS Kathua).

On 5 May 2026, a police team led by IC PP Nagri ► P11

Illegal opium crop destroyed; 1 held

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its sustained drive against drug menace under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Udhampur Police destroyed illegal opium poppy cultivation and arresting one accused in Panchari area.

Based on reliable information was received ► P11



Bengal's 1st BJP Govt to take oath on May 9

KOLKATA: The oath-taking ceremony of the first BJP government in West Bengal will be held at Brigade Parade Ground here on May 9, marking the saffron camp's arrival in power in a state after decades on the political fringes.

The ceremony, scheduled to begin at 10 am, is expected to witness the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin, several Union ministers and chief ministers of BJP- and NDA-ruled states, party sources said.

"The new BJP government will take oath on May 9 at 10 am at Brigade Parade Ground," state BJP president

Samik Bhattacharya announced on Wednesday.

Even as the BJP leadership kept its cards close to the chest on the chief ministerial face, Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari has emerged as a frontrunner in internal discussions after cementing his position as the party's principal mass leader in Bengal politics.

Adhikari, once among Mamata Banerjee's closest lieutenants and a key architect of the TMC's rural expansion in districts such as Purba Medinipur, crossed over to the BJP ahead of the 2021 assembly elections and went on to defeat Banerjee in Nandigram in one of Bengal's fiercest political battles. ► P11

Omar questions 'punishment' for J&K people over statehood delay



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: It is deeply unfair to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the promise of statehood is not being kept, says Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while going

on to ask if they are being punished for not electing a BJP chief minister.

"If that is the case, the BJP should have stood up in Parliament or told the Supreme Court that till a BJP chief minister sits in Jammu and Kashmir, you ► P11

Twin blasts in Punjab; ISI linkages suspected

CHANDIGARH: Two back-to-back explosions near security establishments rocked Punjab on Tuesday night, triggering panic and a political blame game with police suspecting a plot by Pakistan's ISI to cause disruptions ahead of Operation Sindoor anniversary.

The first explosion went off around 8 pm in Jalandhar outside the headquarters of the Border Security Force's Punjab Frontier, while the second blast occurred around 11 pm near the army cantonment in Amritsar's Khasa. No injuries were reported, police said.

Last night, police had said a scooter parked near

the BSF Chowk in Jalandhar district caught fire causing panic in the area even though locals claimed they heard a blast-like sound from the vehicle.

DGP Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday said the Amritsar blast was a low-intensity explosion and no group has claimed responsibility for it. However, he suspected Pakistan's ISI to be behind the incident.

"We assume that, as today is the Operation Sindoor anniversary, this is part of Pakistan's ISI's designs to cause disruptions in Punjab. Punjab is fighting a proxy war on behalf of the nation against Pakistan," he said.

On the ► P11

MLA's kin booked on hospital closure

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police has registered a case against the wife and son of MLA Anantnag Peerzada Mohammad Syed for allegedly locking a government-run hospital, officials said on Wednesday.

An FIR was registered at Achabal police station, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, on Tuesday against Syed's wife and son after they allegedly locked a health facility in the Damhal Khosipora area of the district, the officials said.

The building housing the health facility ► P11

**Sinha inaugurates Sanskrit Gurukul at Ghagwal
 LG calls for 'fusion' of Vedic wisdom, modern education**



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated the

Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at the ancient Shri Narsingh Dev Temple in Ghagwal.

He also dedicated a

Nakshatra Park and Yoga Dhyana Kendra to the public and laid foundation stone for Shri Narsingh Dev Public Library and Open Air Amphitheatre.

Addressing a gathering of scholars, students and prominent citizens, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the establishment of Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul is a meaningful reconnection with India's civilizational roots.

"It is a significant step towards cultural renaissance and the strengthening of the ancient Indian ► P11

Trump's fresh 'threat' to Iran amid deal talks

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened Iran with more bombing if it doesn't reopen the Strait of Hormuz, amid a report that the warring sides were nearing an agreement to end the war.

US media outlet Axios reported, quoting US officials and two other sources, that the US and Iran were getting close to a one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war and set a framework for more detailed nuclear negotiations.

The US expects Iranian responses on several key points over the next 48 hours, Axios reported, adding that nothing has been agreed yet.

This was the closest the parties had been to an agreement since the war began.

"Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective Blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

"If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," Trump said.

According to Axios, the deal would involve Iran committing to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment, ► P11

**CM Abdullah chairs BoD of J&K Cable Car Corporation
 Omar hosts dinner for Finance panel**



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

GULMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hosted a dinner in honour of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance at Gulmarg.

The Committee headed by its chairperson, Member of Parliament, Bhartruhari Mahtab, is currently on a study visit to Srinagar and Gulmarg from May 4 to May 7 as part of its ongoing engagements to review and deliber-

ate on key financial and economic matters. The dinner provided an opportunity for informal interaction between the Chief Minister and members of the Committee in the serene surroundings of Gulmarg. The Chief Minister extended a warm welcome to the visiting members and expressed hope that their visit would offer valuable insights into the region's developmental landscape and tourism potential.

The visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance is part of its study programme ► P11