

# SFs given free hand, wiping out terror from J&K top priority: LG

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**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said complete eradication of terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir is the top priority of his administration and asserted that he has given a free hand to the security forces to deal with terrorists and the terror eco-system in the Union Territory.

The Lt Governor attended the passing-out parade of the deputy superintendents of police (DySPs) probationers 17th batch and probationers sub-inspectors (PSIs) 26th batch at the Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy, Udhampur. He extended his felicitations to all the trainers and officials of the Police Academy and the family members of the passing out DySPs and PSIs.

He called for intelligence-driven anti-terror operations and intensified targeted strikes on the network of the



over-ground workers (OGWs), saying the elements providing logistical and financial support to the terrorists should be brought to justice.

Reviewing the passing-out parade of the 49 DySPs and 1,112 PSIs, he said police personnel must protect soci-

ety in every possible way to ensure peace, development and stability.

"Complete eradication of terrorism from the soil of Jammu Kashmir is our top priority. Our mighty warriors of J-K Police must adopt a multi-pronged approach and

harness the power of intelligence, community engagement, technology and inter-agency collaboration," he said, addressing the function.

Sinha said he is proud of the valiant personnel and officers of the J-K Police and paid tributes to the ► P11

## J&K regained its identity as Paradise post 2019: LG



**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir has regained its identity of 'Paradise' after 2019, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In the history of J&K, 5 August and 6 June will always be remembered. While abrogation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019 paved the way for J&K's complete integration, 6 June physically connected Kashmir to Kanyakumari and its citizens' aspirations with national mainstream," the LG said at the launch of 'Reimagining Jammu & Kashmir', a coffee table book by Photo-journalist Ashish Sharma, at New Delhi.

Sinha commended Sharma for factually presenting the continuous

changes taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and development in various sectors since abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"This coffee table book is an attempt to present before the nation the transformation that has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir in the last five years," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted the efforts made by the J&K Administration, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, to build a Jammu and Kashmir, which is free from all kinds of discrimination, fear and insecurity.

"My message from day one was very clear – we do not believe in buying peace but want to ► P11

## FATF condemns Pahalgam attack

**NEW DELHI:** Condemning the brutal Pahalgam terror attack in April, global watchdog FATF on Monday said it has enhanced its focus on the steps that the countries have taken to combat terror financing, and will soon release a report on terror financing cases, including state-sponsored terrorism.

The rare condemnation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) shows that the "international community has felt the severity of the attack", which killed 26 people in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22, and spotlights that such attacks will not go unpunished, sources said, adding the terror attack was done by Pakistan-trained terrorists.

"Terrorist attacks kill, maim and inspire fear around the world. The FATF notes with grave concern and condemns the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025. This, and other recent attacks, could not occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters," the FATF said in a statement.

Sources said FATF rarely issues condemnation of terrorist acts. It is only the third time in last decade that they have issued condemnation of a terrorist attack.

It had earlier issued condemnations once in 2015 and then in 2019 in severe cases of terrorist attacks.

The FATF statement comes in the backdrop of Indian authorities highlighting Pakistan's persistent support ► P11

# Not an era of war: PM; receives highest civilian honour of Cyprus

Gifts handmade Kashmiri silk carpet to Cyprus Prez

**NICOSIA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he and Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides "expressed concern" over the ongoing conflicts in West Asia and Europe, and they both agree that "this is not an era of war".

Modi made the remarks after wide-ranging talks with Christodoulides, covering the full range of bilateral relations. They talked about cooperation in areas like defence, security, trade, technology, healthcare, renewable energy and climate justice. They also



discussed regional and global issues, including the conflicts

in West Asia and Europe. Modi was also conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III of Cyprus, the country's highest civilian honour by Christodoulides, which he the Prime Minister dedicated to the 1.4 billion people of India, saying it was an award to the trusted India-Cyprus friendship.

Modi also gifted a handmade Kashmiri silk carpet to the Cyprus President, continuing his tradition to make it a point to present gifts showcasing India's rich and ► P11

## India-Pak border likely to shift 100-150 kms inside Pak: Indresh

**SHIMLA:** Underlining the simmering dissent among the people of regions like Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Sindh, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan, who seek independence and may want to merge with India, senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Indresh Kumar has suggested a potential shift in the India-Pakistan border by 100–150 kilometres inside Pakistani territory.

Addressing the media in Shimla after a four-day visit to Kinnaur, Lahaul, and Spiti, Kumar said regions like Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Sindh, Balochistan, Pakhtunistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan could rise against



Islamabad for independence or merge with India.

"It is possible that the India-Pakistan border may shift inward, from Rann of Kutch to Ladakh. These regions want independence or integration with India. PoK seeks merger, Balochistan

demands complete freedom, while Sindh weighs both options," he said on Sunday.

"There might be Pakistan on one side and PoK, including Sindh, Balochistan, Pakhtunistan and Gilgit-Baltistan, on the other side. They will all fight against Pakistan for independence and a merger with India..."

"If tomorrow Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Gilgit, Balochistan, Sindh and others rise against Islamabad, the borders will shift. The war will not remain on the current border; it will move inside Pakistan," he said.

Kumar claimed this vision aligns with the sentiments of the Indian ► P11

## Census 2027 notification out; J&K, Ladakh in 2026

**NEW DELHI:** Sixteen years after the last census in 2011, the government on Monday issued a notification for conducting India's 16th census which will include caste enumeration in 2027.

The census will be carried out with a reference date of October 1, 2026 in the snow-bound areas like Ladakh and March 1, 2027 in the rest of the country, the notification said.

"The reference date for the said census shall be 00.00 hours of the 1st day of March, 2027, except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union

territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand," it said.

In respect of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir and the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours of the first day of October, 2026, it said.

The massive exercise, which is expected to cost the government over Rs 13,000 crore to give population-related data from across the country, will be conducted by about 34 lakh ► P11

## Jawan's body found hanging at BB camp

3 injured in mosque explosion

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The body of a jawan was found hanging from the ceiling of his unit at the Badami Bagh camp of the Army here on Monday, officials said.

They said the body of Naik P Kumar was discovered by his colleagues. According to preliminary investigation, the jawan committed suicide, the officials said.

The body was taken to the Police Control Room here for medico-legal formalities, in-

cluding post-mortem, they said. Meanwhile, three persons, including a 10-year-old boy, were injured on Monday in an explosion in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here.

The explosion took place during demolition of an old mosque at Kachri in Langate area of the district, they said.

The mosque management committee was demolishing the old mosque to make a new one.

The reason behind the explosion was not ► P11

## SANJY: Security at lodgement centres, transit camp reviewed

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**JAMMU/SRINAGAR:** The security arrangements at three main lodgement centres in Jammu as well as Shadipora transit camp in North Kashmir where thousands of pilgrims stay were reviewed as the authorities stepped up their efforts to ensure a peaceful Amarnath pilgrimage starting next month.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel also conducted a sanitisation operation around Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in the city

during the day, the officials said.

The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in the summer capital Jammu serves as the main base camp for the pilgrims coming from across the country before leaving for the Kashmir valley to pay their obeisance at the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath.

The 38-day-long Yatra is scheduled to start on July 3 from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in

Ganderbal district. The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from Bhagwati Nagar a day before the start of the Yatra.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, conducted a security review of key lodgement centres including Saraswati Dham, Vaishnavi Dham and Kalika Dham Railway Station here, a police spokesman said.

During the review, he said the DIG inspected the guards deployed in and around the three ► P11

## ‘Committed to foster scientific curiosity, tourism in Ladakh’ FM lays foundation stone for ‘Astro Globe’, ‘Mini Planetarium’ at Hanle

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** In a major step towards promoting science education and astro-tourism in the Union Territory of Ladakh, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday laid the foundation stone for a ‘Mini Planetarium’ and an ‘Astro Globe’ at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, located in the picturesque Changthang region.

On the third day of her visit to Ladakh, she also visited the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory and the 2-metre Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in



Hanle. Sitharaman kickstarted the work for Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve, which has been

sanctioned under the Special Development Package (SDP). To be built at an estimated cost of Rs 2.76 crore, the initiative

aims to promote scientific education, astro-tourism, stargazing, night sky programs, and generate ► P11

### Interacts with nomadic tribals at Rongdo Valley

**LEH:** Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman today undertook an outreach initiative by visiting the remote and picturesque Rongdo Valley. The visit was marked by a heartfelt interaction with members of the local nomadic tribal community, reflecting the government's continued focus on inclusive development and tribal welfare in the frontier regions. ► P11

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