

I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions.
—Stephen Covey

Inking the Truth

US, Iran sign initial deal to end war; open Hormuz Strait

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump signed an agreement with Iran Wednesday that calls for Tehran to dilute its stockpile of highly enriched uranium and waives US-backed sanctions on the country, immediately allowing Iran to sell its oil freely in a major concession from Washington, according to details released by both countries.

The initial deal to end the war takes "immediate effect" after leaders from both countries signed it, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who helped mediate the agreement, said in a post on X.

The agreement calls for a permanent end to hostilities and starts a 60-day negotiating clock to reach a final deal on the future of Iran's nuclear programme, though Trump left the door open to resume attacks.

It appears to offer Iran several benefits up front while extracting little in return. ► P11

'India-France alliance vital for global progress' Democratising Tech key to progress; for India AI means 'All Inclusive': PM



PARIS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made a strong pitch for democratisation of technology, asserting that AI means "all inclusive" for India, days after the US imposed curbs on access to certain artificial intelligence models.

Addressing technology forum VivaTech 2026 in Paris, Modi highlighted India's technological prowess and said half of the global

digital transactions are happening in the country.

"When it comes to technology, along with innovation, what matters is access. Technology can lead to progress, only when it is democratised. India believes that in this era of disruption, technology must deliver for all," the Prime Minister said.

Citing the example of AI (artificial intelligence), Modi said it must improve lives,

widen access, drive growth and also "help us sustain a healthy planet".

"Our participation as the AI Country Partner at VivaTech 2026 reflects this very vision. For India, AI means 'All Inclusive'," he said.

Last week, Anthropic took its latest AI models -- Fable 5 and Mythos 5 -- offline to comply with a directive from the US administration to prevent their use by foreign nationals.

The unprecedented move has raised concerns about accessibility to AI solutions amid a fast-changing economic landscape where such solutions are being increasingly used across sectors.

In the last decade, India has been going through a rapid transformation powered by technology, Modi said.

"From creating the world's largest digital identity system, to the ► P11



100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN

DAY 69 The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

2 accused held in connection with NDPS cases

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA: In its sustained drive against drug trafficking, Samba Police has achieved another significant breakthrough by arresting two more accused persons during the course of backward and forward linkage investigations in two separate cases registered under NDPS Act.

The arrests were made in connection with FIR No. 315/2025 u/s 8/21/29 NDPS Act and FIR No. 129/2026 u/s 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act,

both registered at Police Station Samba.

A case FIR No. 315/2025 was initially registered during the month of December 2025 following the recovery of contraband substance from a drug peddler by a team of Police Post Rakh Amb Talli of PS Samba during Naka checking near Basantar Bridge. During sustained investigation, interrogation of the arrested accused and analysis of technical as well as human intelligence inputs led to the identification of the source of

supply involved in the narcotics network.

Acting on credible information and after developing the backward linkage of the case, a police team of Police Post Rakh Amb Talli conducted raid at Rakh Barotian and successfully apprehended the accused identified as Sujad S/o Shammam Din R/o Rakh Barotian tehsil Vijaypur district Samba. Further investigation is going on.

In another significant development, FIR No. 129/2026 was ► P11

Drive intensify, seizure made in Ashmuqam

ANANTNAG: Continuing its sustained efforts to curb drug trafficking and eradicate the menace of narcotics, Anantnag Police recovered a significant quantity of contraband from a residential house in the Ashmuqam area.

Police Station Ashmuqam received credible information indicating that a woman, ► P11

CM assess arrangements for upcoming annual Mela at Kheer Bhawani temple Omar inaugurates Lavender Festival at Nunar



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday visited the Kheer Bhawani temple in Ganderbal district to assess the arrangements for the up-

coming annual Mela at the shrine.

Hundreds of devotees, mostly Kashmiri Pandits, are expected to visit the temple of Ragnya Devi, popularly known as Mata Kheer Bhawani, at Tulmulla in the

central Kashmir district, to celebrate the annual Mela on Monday.

The chief minister inspected various facilities put in place for the devotees and reviewed the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Mela.

Abdullah also paid obeisance at the temple.

"It is a sacred day. People come here from various parts of the country and world to pay obeisance and get blessings of the mata. I have come here in the capacity of the chief minister of J-K, and more so as the MLA Ganderbal, to assess the arrangements and review the preparations, ► P11

3 women injured in bear attack

JAMMU: Three women sustained injuries after being attacked by bears in two villages of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

The attack took place in the Shamer and Gadar hamlets in the Mandi belt of the border district.

A medical officer at the Poonch district hospital said that two of the injured women were referred from Mandi for treatment, while the third victim remained at Mandi.

The doctor said one of the injured, Nazia Kausar, is in a serious condition with a severe eye injury and will be referred ► P11

Anti-drug awareness programme organised

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, Samba Police organised an anti-drug awareness programme at Police Station Purmandal. The event witnessed active participation from local residents.

Addressing the gathering, the SHO Police Station Purmandal along with other police officers reiterated the commitment of Samba Police to eradicate the drug

menace from the district through strict legal action against drug peddlers, smugglers and suppliers. They urged citizens to stay away from narcotic substances and contribute actively towards building a drug-free society.

During the programme, participants were encouraged to remain vigilant, spread awareness among family members and youth about the dangers of drug abuse and support police efforts in combating ► P11

DFCO conducts drive against illicit sale of addictive drugs

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Drugs & Food Control Organisation (DFCO), J&K, under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan, conducted special enforcement drives across the districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Udhampur.

The drives aimed to identify establishments operating in violation of legal and regulatory requirements and to prevent the unauthorised sale and misuse of psychotropic substances and prescription medicines.

Surprise inspections of pharmacies and drug sale

establishments were carried out by Drugs Control Officers, Munish Gupta at Doda and Imtiyaz Ahmed at Kishtwar, with support from respective district administrations, to ensure compliance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The operations of 14 retail drug sale establishments were disallowed on the spot under Section 22(d) of the Act, four in Kishtwar and ten in Doda, for violations including non-maintenance of mandatory sale records, impersonation and other regulatory irregularities. Stocks of habit-forming ► P11

Escape bid foiled, 2 accused in murder case nabbed again

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Two persons arrested from Jammu in connection with the killing of a pharmacy's cashier allegedly made an unsuccessful attempt to escape from police custody when they were brought here on transit remand on Thursday, police said.

The two accused -- Sunny Mehra (22) and Aryan Sharma (21) -- are residents of Jammu, Inspector General (IG) Pushpendra Kumar said at a press conference here.

After completing legal formalities in Jammu, from where the two accused were nabbed on Wednesday, the

police team was returning to Chandigarh when their vehicle met with a minor accident and both the accused tried to escape, the officer said.

"They snatched a weapon from police personnel and attacked the police team. Our team warned them, but they did not listen. In retaliation, we opened fire, in which both accused sustained bullet injuries in their leg and were hospitalised," he said.

According to sources, the driver of the vehicle carrying the accused was injured in the accident.

Kumar said the accused fired two rounds at the police team, which in turn ► P11

SANJY 2026: 45 mountain rescue teams deployed on twin tracks at 21 locations

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhakar on Thursday flagged off 45 mountain rescue teams for deployment along the twin routes for Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The 45 teams -- comprising Jammu and Kashmir Police, State and National Disaster Response Forces, Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastha Seema Bal and Border Security Force -- will be deployed at 21 locations along the two routes to the sacred Amarnath cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas.



"Like every year, our teams will be stationed there to assist pilgrims this year too. They will provide every kind of facility (to the devotees). And

God forbid, if any disaster occurs, they will actively respond to it and tackle it," SDRF Director Imtiyaz Hussain Mir told reporters here.

Mir said the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra is a very sacred pilgrimage in the country.

"The overall role of Jammu and Kashmir Police in this is very important, along with other security forces. These mountain rescue teams are specially trained. Most of them have been deployed before as well. They provide all kinds of assistance, especially in emergencies, to pilgrims who come here from every corner of the country," he added.

Mir said extra effort was put in and equipment augmented for this year's deployment. ► P11

Army Cdr reviews security preparedness

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Thursday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness along the southern route of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra in the Kashmir valley.

The annual pilgrimage begins on July 3. ► P11



Akshay Kumar pays obeisance at SMVD shrine

JAMMU: Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar on Thursday paid obeisance at the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in the Trikuta Hills of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. ► P11

Shahpur Kandi project viewed as game changer for border districts: MoS PMO

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that the Shahpur Kandi dam project was on the back burner for decades before the Narendra Modi government revived it and is now near completion.

The long-delayed project is a story of "perseverance and development", which is set to transform the bordering districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab through better irrigation and growth in agriculture, the minister said.

Highlighting the significance of the project, Singh said, "Following the Indus Valley Treaty of 1960, India's share comprised three rivers, namely Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, of which Ravi was the largest

river. "Somewhere in late 1970s, a national project was envisaged on Ravi river, so that the Indian share of the water could be used on the Indian side without allowing it to flow into Pakistan," Singh said on X.

He said the foundation stone for the Shahpur Kandi project was laid by then prime minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

"However, after her assassination later that year, the project was pushed to the back burner and remained neglected for decades due to the indifference of successive governments at the Centre and in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state," he said.

According to the minister,

the project received a fresh push after the BJP-led government assumed office at the Centre in 2014.

He said efforts were initiated to revive the project by involving the chief secretaries of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, preparing fresh documentation and resolving pending issues.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally announced the revival of the project during a public rally in Jammu in February 2019.

"The project is now almost complete and its completion marks the fulfilment of a decades-old aspiration of the people of the region," he said. The minister said that the Shahpur Kandi project will provide substantial ► P11

Chief Secy assesses circular economy framework for J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday reviewed the proposed Circular Economy framework for J&K put forth by the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), aimed at establishing a resource-efficient, low-waste and environmentally sustainable development model across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD was attended by Commissioner, JMC; CITaG Professionals and other concerned officers.

The proposed policy envisions transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a regenerative Himalayan economy where waste materials are going to be converted into productive resource flows safeguarding the region's ecological integrity, enhancing urban governance and generating sustainable livelihoods.

During the presentation, the Chief Secretary was informed that the policy has been conceived in response to emerging regulatory requirements under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, judicial directives concerning waste management and ► P11

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