

Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears.

—Les Brown

Daily

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*Inking the Truth*

## SANJY: HM to review security on June 8

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting in the national capital on 8 June 2026 to assess preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting is likely to be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhakar, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, intelligence agencies, the Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and key officers of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

According to sources, the Home Minister will evaluate the readiness of security and civil departments involved in the annual pilgrimage and review measures aimed at ensuring the smooth, secure, and successful conduct of the Yatra.

Discussions are likely to focus on deployment of security personnel along ► P11

## NC MLAs to protest in Delhi for J-K statehood Party holds off site meet amid claims Govt won't last full term



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Upping the ante, the ruling National Conference (NC) on Wednesday announced that its legislature party will launch a protest in New Delhi on the first day of the forthcoming Monsoon session of Parliament to press for the immediate restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees for Jammu and Kashmir.

The announcement was

made by the party's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq following a marathon meeting of NC lawmakers and allies, including CPI (M) and independent legislators, presided by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"The National Conference has decided that on the first day of the Monsoon session, our Legislative Party, including MPs, MLAs, and allies, will go to Delhi to protest. Our primary demand will be the return of

our statehood and constitutional guarantees," Sadiq told reporters.

"It is time for our leadership to go to Delhi, talk to the people there, and take back what has been taken away from us."

The announcement comes amid pressure on the NC over the issue of restoration of statehood and special status, after the Centre's offer to agitating groups in Ladakh, who are also seeking statehood for the Union Territory, for safeguarding the region's special identity and constitutional rights.

Sadiq described the atmosphere of the meeting as highly positive, stating that the chief minister patiently heard threadbare discussions on critical issues facing the region, including development, drug abuse, alcohol ban and the local economy.

"There was a review of the progress made by this government. But, the most important thing was ► P11

## Hotel fire claims 21 lives; foreigners among victims LG Sinha, CM Omar express grief

**NEW DELHI:** A massive fire broke out in a hotel in a congested bylane in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, including foreigners whose ailing relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby.

The blaze at the Flourish Stay B&B in Hauz Rani in Malviya Nagar started around 8.30 am and quickly spread, catching everybody unawares. Rescue workers, including many locals, rushed to the spot to pull out those trapped inside the five-floor narrow building.



About 40 people were rescued and rushed to hospital where 21 were declared brought dead, officials said. The death toll could rise with several of the injured in a critical condition.

The hotel had permission for only six rooms, granted under the Delhi government's bed and breakfast policy, but was operating 25, police officials said. Rooms had also come up in the basement.

In a tragedy that was perhaps waiting to happen, they said the hotel had only one entry-exit. The fire NOC is under the scanner. ► P11

## CM Omar flags off Cyclothon to mark "World Bicycle Day"



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off a Cyclothon at the

Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) here to mark World Bicycle Day, reaffirming the government's commitment to promoting fitness, healthy

lifestyles and sports culture among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council under its flagship initiative "My Youth My Pride", witnessed enthusiastic participation from cyclists, youth, students and sports enthusiasts from different parts of the Valley.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the mascot, jersey and publicity campaign for the forthcoming Jammu Cyclothon and announced the dates for the event. He also announced the conduct of the ► P11

## Raids carried out in terror related case

**SRINAGAR:** Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) unit of police on Wednesday carried out raids in several districts of the valley in a case related to terror activities, officials said.

The officials said based on recent intelligence inputs, technical analysis and sustained investigation, they had identified eight locations in six districts where searches were conducted in the early hours of Wednesday.

The searches were conducted at two places each in Srinagar and Bandipora districts; and one ► P11

## Khan Sir's coaching institute vandalised

**PATNA:** A coaching institute of educator Faisal Khan, popularly known as 'Khan Sir', was allegedly vandalised and pelted with stones in Patna, officials said on Wednesday.

Police said three people, including the director of a rival coaching centre, have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Khan initially claimed that firing took place at the institution, but police could not confirm it. However, he later said that an investigation would find out what exactly happened.

The incident took place at Khan Global Coaching Institute in Kadamkuan police station area on Tuesday night, police officials said.

"We received information around 10.10 pm on Tuesday

about stone-pelting and damage to property at Khan Global Coaching Institute under the jurisdiction of Kadamkuan police station. A police team was immediately sent to the spot and an investigation was launched," a statement issued by the City SP office said.

Preliminary investigation and examination of CCTV footage indicated that around 15 to 20 people associated with another coaching institute in Patna were allegedly involved in the stone-pelting and vandalism act, it added.

Khan, addressing reporters after the incident, said, "Some anti-social elements from a nearby coaching centre created widespread damage, beat our guard badly and even fired gunshots. Their primary angst is how can someone ► P11

## Finacle Awards 2026: J&K Bank bags gold in AI-Driven Analytics

'Recognition marks big milestone in bank's digital transformation'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank has won Gold at the Finacle Innovation Awards 2026 in the category "Modern Technologies-led Innovation - Data Insights & Analytics Platform," underscoring its emergence as a technology-driven financial institution and marking another significant milestone in its digital transformation journey.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee received the award along with General Manager (Strategy & IT/CIO) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani at the gala event organised by Infosys Finacle in



Mumbai under the theme "Recomposing Banking - A Playbook for the Next Phase of Banking Transformation." The significance of the recognition is further amplified by

the fact that the awards attracted nearly 500 nominations from financial institutions across the ecosystem, making the achievement highly competitive this year.

The Finacle Innovation Awards honour banks that are redefining banking through innovation and technology-led transformation.

Commenting on the achievement, Managing Director & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "At J&K Bank, our innovation journey has been defined by transforming data into decisions. We have built a robust Data Insights and Analytics Platform that delivers real-time intelligence across operations. The platform has enabled us to serve our customers with greater precision, speed, and personalization - driving measurable ► P11

## First IFFJK to be held in J&K from Sept 7-11

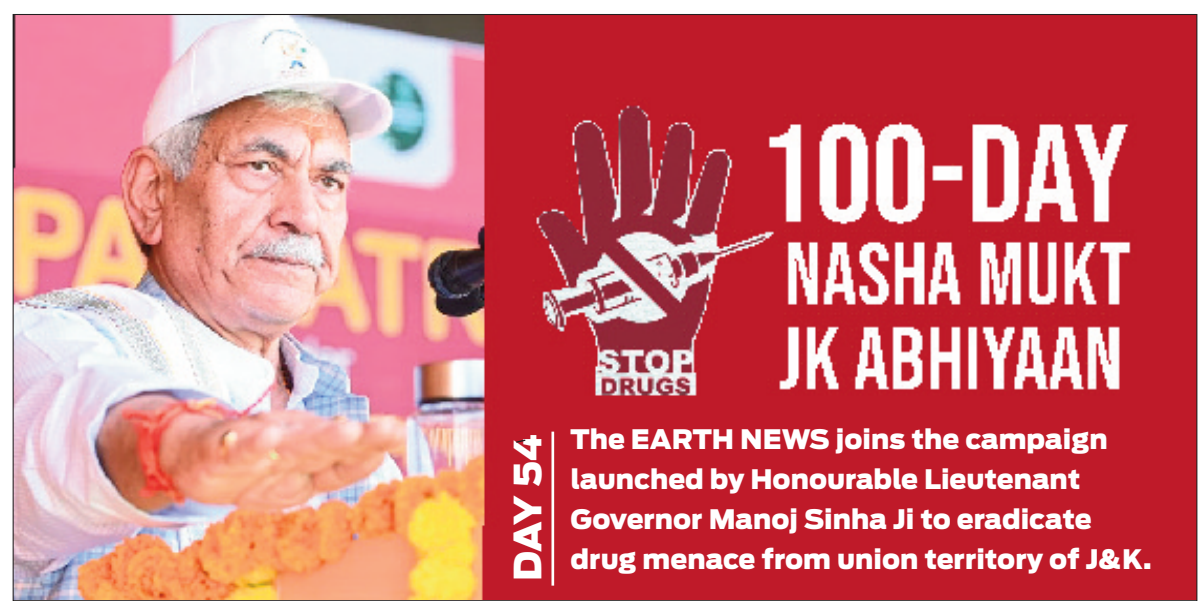
■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a landmark initiative aimed at positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a vibrant destination for cinema, culture and creative industries, the Government has accorded sanction for the organisation of the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to be held at SKICC Srinagar and other prominent destinations from September 7 to 11, 2026.

The prestigious international event will be organised by the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The

festival is envisioned as a major platform to showcase cinematic excellence, promote cultural exchange and highlight Jammu and Kashmir's immense potential as a preferred destination for film production and tourism.

The International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir will bring together filmmakers, producers, directors, actors, industry experts, critics and cinema enthusiasts from across India and abroad. The event is expected to feature screenings of acclaimed national and international films, panel discussions, master classes, interactive sessions, cultural programmes and networking opportunities for stakeholders from the film ► P11



DAY 54

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

## DM cracks down on scheduled drug misuse; enforces SO-91 compliance



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** District Magistrate Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas on Wednesday

chaired the District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting to review the implementation of anti-drug initiatives in the district.

The meeting reviewed the impact of the rigorous 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan. The DM appreciated inter-departmental ef-

forts and discussed course corrections for the rest of the programme.

He reviewed "Drug Free Panchayat" declarations and scrutinised administrative and police actions in identified drug hotspots. Emphasising awareness, the DM discussed strategies to engage school children. He stressed amplifying information dissemination to reach every individual. He also directed regular, rigorous inspections of psychiatric institutions and de-addiction facilities.

The meeting was attended by ADCs ► P11

## Police attached Rs 60-lakh house of drug peddler under NDPS Act

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**ANANTNAG:** Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking and the illegal narcotics network, Police in Anantnag attached a two-storey residential house belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the NDPS Act.

The attached property comprises a two-storey concrete residential house constructed over 6 marlas of land, having an estimated market value of approximately Rs 60 lakhs.

The property belongs to notorious drug peddler Aasif



Hussain Khan alias Soab Don, son of Abdul Gani Khan resident of Anchidora, Anantnag.

The attachment has been carried out under Sec-

tion 68F of the NDPS Act after following due legal procedure. The property has been identified as having been acquired through proceeds generated ► P11

## JU conducts debate over drug abuse

**JAMMU:** The Law School, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Community Service and Social Justice Club, organised a panel discussion-cum-interactive session under the aegis of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming its commitment to creating awareness among youth about the legal, social and enforcement dimensions of the drug menace.

The panel featured distinguished resource persons from premier ► P11

## Police holds awareness prog at Parade, Purani Mandi

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** As part of its sustained efforts to eradicate the menace of drug abuse and promote a healthy, responsible, and drug-free society, District Police Jammu Wednesday organised a Drug Awareness Programme in the Purani Mandi and Parade areas of Old City Jammu.

The programme was conducted under the ongoing anti-drug campaign of Jammu Police and witnessed the participation of senior police officers, stu-



dents, teachers, community leaders, and members of the general public. Among others, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, SP City North, SDPO City North, and other offi-

cers of District Police Jammu were present on the occasion.

The primary objective of the programme was to educate the public, particularly

the youth, about the harmful effects of drug addiction and to encourage collective action against the growing threat of substance abuse. During the awareness session, resource persons and police officers highlighted the severe physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences of drug abuse. Participants were sensitized about the importance of making informed life choices, resisting peer pressure, and seeking timely assistance in cases of addiction. Addressing the gathering and ► P11