

**If you're offered a seat on a rocket ship, don't ask what seat! Just get on.**

Sheryl Sandberg

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*Inking the Truth*

## Chisoti to get real-time weather monitoring

**JAMMU:** Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday announced the establishment of an automatic weather station in the cloudburst-affected Chisoti area of Kishtwar district, a major step to strengthen weather forecasting and disaster preparedness in the region.

Jammu and Kashmir's Chisoti village, the gateway to the revered Machail Mata temple in Kishtwar district, was devastated by a cloudburst on August 14, 2025, in which 65 people, mostly pilgrims, lost their lives.

More than 30 people are still reported missing. "Following last year's disaster in Chisoti, which continues to be discussed frequently, an automatic weather station and a seismology centre will be established at the site," Singh told reporters here.

The Union minister said the project would be implemented shortly because the district administration has already approved the land required to set up the ► P11

## 'Smart Borders' soon, new security grid to feature advance tech: Shah



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**AGARTALA:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the government's "smart border" project is in the final stage, and the new security grid will feature cutting-edge technology and local administration, besides the border sentinels.

Shah, addressing BSF personnel at Lankamura Border Outpost in Tripura, said wherever troops of the force are deployed, "we will build smart borders there".

"Smart borders will be introduced soon with a new

security grid to include cutting-edge tech, local administration and border sentinels," the home minister said.

"The concept of smart border will be implemented in seven to eight places in the country as a pilot project. I request the Union home secretary and the director general of the BSF to visit border areas and hold talks," Shah said.

Every border has its own challenges, from human trafficking and arms smuggling to drug supply, but the BSF jawans do their best to face

these challenges, he said.

Shah stated that district magistrates, superintendents of police, 'village patwaris' (accountants), and sarpanches (village heads) will also play an important role in this framework.

He emphasised that until local administration in border areas is integrated into this concept, borders cannot be made truly impregnable and imagining border security in isolation will never be successful.

"To make India a 'viksit' (developed) nation by 2047, we have to stop the entry of fake notes, human trafficking and drug smuggling from across the borders," the senior BJP leader said.

Shah said, "For the modernisation of border fencing, we have also approved the installation of 119 kilometres of new fencing to replace a portion of the approximately 650 kilometres of fencing that is over 15 years old."

The Union home minister further said that several projects aimed at improving facilities for ► P11

## LG opens Yatri Bhawan at Kheer Bhawani; can host 900 devotees

Control room for Shri Amarnathji Yatra inaugurated

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated Yatri Bhawan at the Kheer Bhawani temple in Ganderbal and said it would enhance the capacity of the shrine to host pilgrims visiting from across the country and abroad.

The temple at Tulmulla is one of the most revered shrines in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dedicating the new facilities to the public, the LG said the new Yatri Bhawan will substantially improve the pilgrimage experience by pro-



viding safe, hygienic and comfortable accommodation facilities.

Located approximately 25 kilometres from Srinagar,

the shrine attracts a large number of devotees throughout the year, particularly during the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani and Jyeshtha Ash-

tami, when thousands of pilgrims, including members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, visit the temple.

In 2023, several delegations met Sinha -- to cater to the visiting devotees.

Subsequently, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, through the Rural Engineering Wing (REW), designed the plan and the lieutenant governor laid the foundation stone for the facility in 2024, an official spokesperson said.

"With Mata Kheer Bhawani's blessing, I had laid the foundation stone on Jyeshtha Ashtami ► P11

## India lodges protest over Pak's Gilgit-Baltistan polls

**NEW DELHI:** India on Friday said it lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over Islamabad's plans to hold general elections to the so-called Gilgit-Baltistan assembly, maintaining that the region is Indian territory that has been "illegally and forcibly" occupied.

New Delhi asserted that such endeavours by Pakistan cannot "mask" the underlying issues of "grave" human rights violations, political repression, economic exploitation and denial of freedom in the territories illegally occupied by Pakistan. "The government of

India lodged a strong protest with Pakistan regarding the latter's plans to hold 'general Elections' to the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly', in the Indian territories illegally and forcibly occupied by Pakistan, scheduled for June 7," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It said India reiterated its well-known position that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' are integral and inalienable parts of India as a result of "complete, legal and irrevocable ► P11

## LG, CM stress need to guard environment

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for collective efforts to protect the environment, saying it is vital for a healthier planet for future generations.

"On World Environment Day, let's rededicate ourselves to the conservation of Mother Earth and preservation of nature's delicate balance. Our collective efforts towards environmental protection are vital for the well-being of humanity and a healthier planet for future ► P11

## Timely rains, positive weather trigger bumper Lavender crop

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Favourable weather conditions and timely rainfall have raised hopes of a bumper lavender harvest in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhaderwah valley, providing a major boost to the region's growing "Purple Revolution" under the union government's Aroma Mission.

Farmers in the hilly Raie hamlet of Shiva Panchayat, many of whom have shifted from traditional maize cultivation to lavender farming in recent years, have begun



harvesting the aromatic crop and are expecting higher yields this season.

Around 20 farming families in the valley are opti-

mistic about higher returns, as the lavender fields have experienced healthy flowering and vibrant blooms, enhancing both the quality and market value of the crop. "Most farmers are very happy because their hard work has paid off. It seems to be giving them big dividends as favourable weather coupled with timely rainfall has not only resulted in bumper crop of Lavender but also the purple flowers are blooming in best colour adding to the value of exotic aromatic crop", Touqeer Bagban, a farmer said.

Touqeer, popularly known as the "Lavender man of India", for promoting lavender cultivation in the region, said the ► P11

## NC to join INDIA Bloc meeting

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday said his party will attend the meeting of the INDIA bloc in Delhi on June 8.

"The meeting is going to take place. Omar (Abdullah) or I, one of us will go. Obviously, we are part of that. We will be there," Dr Farooq Abdullah told reporters in Hazratbal here.

To a question on LoP Sunil Sharma's remark about Article 370 having been "buried", he said the party will keep the issue of the ► P11

## Omar meets Karnataka's CM, wishes him on assuming office

**BENGALURU/NEW DELHI:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday met Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on the sidelines of an event in Bengaluru and congratulated him on assuming office as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The two leaders met during The Hindu Huddle, where Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also participated in a discussion session.

Congratulating Chief Minister Shivakumar on his elevation, Omar Abdullah wished him a successful and impactful tenure in service of the people of Karnataka. He expressed confidence that



Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka would continue to strengthen cooperation and exchange best practices in governance, public welfare

and inclusive development. "It was a pleasure to meet and be able to congratulate my friend D.K. Shivakumar in person on the sidelines ► P11

## CS reviews provisions for NEET-UG re-exam

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize fool-proof arrangements for the smooth, secure and transparent conduct of the NEET (UG) re-examination scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026, across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director General, National Testing Agency (NTA); Principal Secretary, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, besides other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the examination is conducted in a fair, transparent and secure manner. He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive checklist of all arrangements and activities required for the successful conduct of the examination.

Emphasising accountability at the district level, Dulloo instructed the Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise the preparations in their respective districts in close coordination with the Police Department and the ► P11



100-DAY  
NASHA MUKT  
JK ABHIYAAN

STOP  
DRUGS

DAY 56

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

## Sinha joins Padyatra in Ganderbal Narco-terrorists based abroad, in J-K will be hunted down; brought to 'justice': LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said narco-terrorists -- those sitting in neighbouring countries or operating inside the Union territory -- will have to pay a "heavy price", asserting that their days are numbered.

LG joined 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Campaign' in Ganderbal. He also joined people from all walks of life in Padyatra and addressed a



powerful crowd. "Having now visited every district in Kashmir Valley & stood with each march, I can say that a historic movement against narco-terrorism has risen," the Lieutenant Governor said in his address to the people on the occasion.

He said in the past 55 days, 1,036 FIRs have been registered, 1,128 drug smugglers have been arrested, more than 100 properties of smugglers have ► P11

## Rs 4 Cr assets attached during anti-drug drive

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar Police have attached movable and immovable properties worth more than Rs 4 crore belonging to alleged drug traffickers in separate actions under the NDPS Act, officials said on Friday.

The action, carried out by police stations in Lal Bazar and Khanayar, is part of the ongoing anti-narcotics campaign under the 'Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir' ► P11

## Shrine Board aligns with LG's anti-drug vision



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KATRA:** Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) in alignment

with the vision of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor and Chairman, SMVDSB on Friday marked the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu Kash-

mir Abhiyaan and commemorated World Environment Day through a series of awareness, wellness and community ► P11

Jai Mata Di

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