

Rajnath raises fiscal powers of field commanders

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday approved an over two-fold increase in financial powers for field commanders to strengthen operational efficiency and ensure faster conclusion of contracts as well as execution of projects.

Special financial powers delegated to the commanders of Indian Army, Air Force and Indian Navy have been enhanced significantly along with a 100 per cent increase in the total ceiling provided to meet urgent operational requirements, the defence ministry said.

It is learnt that the financial powers of the field commanders have been enhanced to Rs 100 crore per project from Rs 40 crore. The existing ceiling of Rs 75 crore per project for service chiefs has been enhanced to around 150 crore.

In addition to the enhancement in financial powers, new provisions have been included to ► P11

India committed to unity in diversity, affirms Sinha at interfaith conference

LG attends Rang-e-Kashmir cultural festival



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SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said India has consistently emphasised unity in diversity and shown respect to every faith that emerged thousands of years after Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing the 'Rishiwar Inter-Faith Conference 2026' here, Sinha said the idea of respecting all faiths has been woven into the fabric of India's philosophy for millennia.

"While many nations today struggle with the challenge of coexistence, diversity has been our natural rhythm of life. While many societies have devised measures to safeguard unity, India embraced the ethos and value of coexistence and practised seamlessly for thousands of years," he said.

Sinha also said that Rigveda teaches that hearts and minds should be aligned, "our aim should be

the same, our feelings in harmony, and our thoughts united."

"Scholars and researchers worldwide agree that the spirit of equal regard for all religions finds its philosophical roots in the ancient traditions of our great country. When I reflect on the ideals and philosophies India has gifted humanity, it becomes evident that through both thought and deed, our Vedas, Upanishads, saints and seers have illuminated a path toward lasting world peace," he added.

The lieutenant governor said that every thread of society must be woven together, advancing with a shared commitment to the welfare of humanity.

"That is precisely what humanity needs most today. The ethos of equal respect for all religions is India's most precious gift to the world. We must continuously nurture it so we can move ► P11



100-DAY NASHA MUKHT JK ABHIYAAN

STOP DRUGS

DAY 55

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

3-storey residential building valued Rs 2 crores demolished in Rainawari

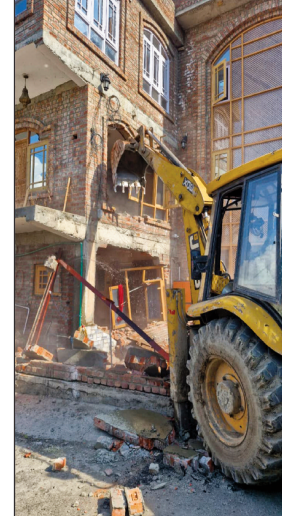
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SRINAGAR: An illegally constructed three-storey residential structure belonging to a drug peddler was on Thursday demolished here, police said.

Srinagar Police, in coordination with the Revenue Department, demolished the structure belonging to drug peddler Sheikh Tasaduq, at Mumkhan Mohalla in Rainawari, a police spokesman said.

The residential structure was valued at Rs two crore, the spokesman said.

He said the action is part of the police's sustained



crackdown against drug trafficking and narcotics-related crimes under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan.

The accused is involved in multiple NDPS cases registered at Awantipora and Budgam, the spokesman said.

He said Tasaduq's spouse, Sheikh Maroofa, is also involved in an NDPS case registered at Pulwama.

During a comprehensive inquiry and verification of the assets owned and possessed by the accused, it was established that the three-storey concrete structure had been raised over ► P11

SDM leads joint drug campaign

SHOPIAN: As part of the 100 Day Campaign under Nasha Mukht J-K Abhiyaan being spearheaded in the district by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta a joint drug enforcement team led by Sub Divisional Magistrate Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, conducted a surprise inspection of healthcare establishments in Zainapora on Thursday.

The team comprised the Drug Control Inspector and other officials from concerned departments.

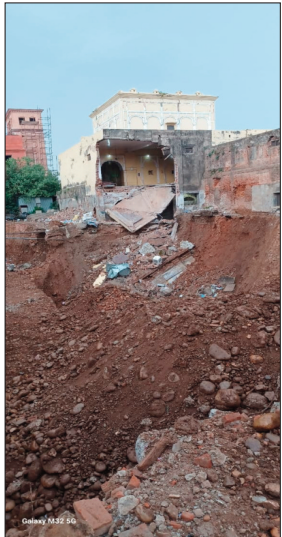
During the ► P11

District Admin in 'deep slumber' 100-year old Gadadhar Temple in Mubarak Mandi complex damaged

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JAMMU: The 100 years old Gadadhar Temple in Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex was damaged on Thursday when the construction and excavation activities are allegedly being undertaken by the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society in the guise of "repair and renovation" works.

Serious concern has been raised by heritage conservationists and local residents regarding the alleged unauthorised construction activities being carried out within the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, particularly in the vicinity of the ancient



Gadadhar Temple, an important architectural and cultural heritage structure forming part of the historic complex.

The activists also alleged that the District Administration is in deep slumber as many unauthorised activities are being facilitated under its noose in the name of Jammu Smart City.

They further have alleged that heavy machinery is being deployed for the proposed construction of a multi-storeyed parking facility within the protected heritage precincts, thereby posing a serious threat to the structural integrity and heritage character of the ancient complex.

The Gadadhar Temple, considered as one of the historically significant temples within the Mubarak Mandi complex, represents an important symbol of the architectural and cultural legacy of Jammu. Heritage experts have expressed apprehension that indiscriminate construction activities and excavation using heavy machinery may cause irreversible damage to the heritage structures and surrounding archaeological landscape.

Conservationists are also concerned that the activities are being carried out in violation of heritage conservation norms, environmental safeguards, and ► P11

Anantnag Police crackdown on drug mafia; 4 held, Charas seized, poppy crops destroyed

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking and narcotics-related activities, police in Anantnag achieved a major success by registering six NDPS cases in a single day, leading to the arrest of four accused persons, contraband recovery and illegal cultivated poppy destroyed.

During routine Naka checking at Sarnal Bala near High Ground Crossing, a police party from PP Shairbagh recovered 1.134 kilograms of charas powder from the possession of Mohsin Irshad Want son of Irshad Ahmad Want resident of Al-Farooq Colony, Anchidora. In another significant action, a police party from Police Station Bijbehara apprehended a drug peddler, Junaid Ahmad Khan son of Bashir Ahmad Khan resident of Urahall, during Naka checking at Puzalpora and recovered 88 grams of charas sticks from his possession.

Similarly, a police party from Police Station Mattan established a naka on the Pando-Lad Wantrag Road. During checking, one person attempted to flee on noticing the police party but was apprehended on the spot. Upon search, 205 grams of charas powder-like substance was recovered from his possession. The accused was identified as Shakeel Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Nabi Khan resident of Kehribal

CM hands over disbursal letters worth Rs 1.12 Cr Entrepreneurship key to Mission YUVA: CM

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday handed over disbursal letters to 6 beneficiaries worth Rs 1.12 crore under Mission YUVA here at the Civil Secretariat.

Under Mission YUVA, Rs 209 crore has been disbursed in 3,367 cases during April and May, reaffirming Government's focus on youth entrepreneurship and employment generation.



During the event, it was informed that out of a total of 5,016 sanctioned cases amounting to Rs 269 crore, Rs 209 crore covering 3,367 cases have been disbursed ► P11

World lacks 'solution' for growth in multiple dimensions: Bhagwat

MUMBAI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said the world does not possess a guiding principle that can ensure progress across multiple dimensions of human life simultaneously, and global systems remain confused over balancing individual welfare, societal interests and environmental protection.

Addressing the concluding event of a volunteer training camp of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in Nagpur, Bhagwat said the world understands the development of the human body, mind and intellect separately, but has failed to evolve a framework that advances all three together.

"The world knows hu-



man body's development, as well as mind and intelligence. But the world does not know how to achieve progress on all the three fronts," he said.

Referring to contemporary global conflicts, Bhagwat said their effects are felt even by countries not directly involved. "War is (going on) between Iran and the US, but oil prices are increasing here in India," he said, adding that while people often focus on challenges and uncertainties, they should also recognise the opportunities available in such difficult ► P11

Police impose route ceilings in Gulmarg

SRINAGAR: Police in Baramulla district on Thursday issued an advisory asking tourists not to venture into spots not designated for tourism activities in the Tangmarg-Gulmarg area.

An official said police would regulate and prohibit tourist movement towards Mulbangil-Batoo route via the Hajibal-Babreshi axis with immediate effect and until further notice.

He said police has observed a recent increase in movement of tourists towards interior areas of Mulbangil and Batoo ► P11

Authorities seals illegal arms outlet

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Acting swiftly on a credible tip received by the district administration, a surprise inspection team led by Tehsildar Bahu, Raju Sambyal and Tehsildar HQ, Mona Chalotra, on Thursday raided the premises of Aman Arms Company at Railhead Shopping Complex and unearthed a series of serious violations flagged as of immediate concern to public safety and firearms regulation.

The inspection revealed that the establishment had been operating entirely without a valid arms dealership licence. The dealership licence application of Aman Shop had been rejected in the year 2024, rendering all commercial activity conducted by the



shop in the capacity of an arms dealer not only unauthorised, but a direct violation of the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016.

More alarmingly, the inspection team recovered multiple Gun Licences from the

premises which were last renewed from other districts including Poonch, Kishtwar, Ganderbal, Pulwama. A number of personal documents belong to license holders were also retrieved. Complaints had also been received by the district administration that the establishment was refusing to return firearms licences to their rightful holders; a practice strongly suggestive of exploitation of licence holders under the pretext of offering renewal or allied facilitation services through unauthorised, illegal means.

The District Magistrate, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, while taking serious cognisance of the violations, has directed that appropriate legal action be initiated against ► P11

Many houses damaged in cloudburst

REASI: Several houses were damaged after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in the hilly Bathoi area of Reasi district on Thursday evening, officials said.

No casualty was reported in the incident, they said.

This is fifth cloudburst in Jammu region in past three days. Four cloudbursts were reported in three districts -- Doda, Kishtwar and Poonch -- in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, triggering flash floods and road blockades in several areas, though no loss of life or property was reported, officials said.

The cloudburst struck the Bathoi area in Mahore subdivision, sending a sudden surge of water and ► P11



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