

**THOUGHT**  
of the  
**DAY**

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.

-Buddha

# The Earth News

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Making the Truth

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## Landmark success in Zojila Tunnel; blast breakthrough last 2.5 metres

Golden day in India's infrastructure history: Gadkari

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**MINIMARG (LADAKH):** The Zojila tunnel connecting the Kashmir Valley to Ladakh took a crucial step towards completion on Tuesday with a blast breaking through the last 2.5 metres of the high-altitude infrastructure project that cuts through the Himalayas.

With this, the two ends of the world's longest single-tube bi-directional bypass, which will cut travel time from 1.5 hours to 15 minutes, have now been connected, officials said.

"Breakthrough in the 2.5 metre distance in the tunnel has been successfully achieved," an official said.

The breakthrough has brought the decades-old dream of all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh closer to reality.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari pressed the remote button, blasting the



**LG expresses Gratitude to PM, Gadkari**

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday joined the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at the breakthrough ceremony of the historic Zojila Tunnel. The

**Omar pushes for direct air link to Kargil**

**MINIMARG:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to Union minister Nitin Gadkari to use his influence to launch direct air connectivity to Kargil. Speaking at the break

**NH-44 to get new two-tube tunnel project**

**JAMMU:** Union minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday announced that a proposal to construct a new two-lane tube tunnel parallel to the existing Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee tunnel on the Chenani-Nashri stretch,

## India urges world to hold Pak accountable for PoJK violence

'Massacre can't be passed off as Military Op'

**NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS:** India on Tuesday came down hard on Islamabad for its "brutality" against people in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu-Kashmir (PoJK) and called on the international community to hold that country accountable for its "abuses".

India's reaction came as over 20 people were reportedly killed in police action on protesters in several

parts of PoJK. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, slamming Pakistan, said there have been "desperate" attempts by Islamabad to cover up its "failings" and deflect attention away from its alleged human rights abuses.

"We continue to see in this context, a pattern of fake news and videos emanating from Pakistan. It is a desperate attempt by

**Kashmiris protest at Bradford**

**LONDON:** Kashmiri protesters on Tuesday staged a demonstration in front of the Pakistani Consulate in Bradford, the UK, over the firing

**Army fires at Pak drone along LoC**

**JAMMU:** Army troops opened fire at a Pakistani drone after it intruded into Indian territory in Poonch district, but it returned to Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) after briefly hovering over some forward Indian posts, officials said on Tuesday.

The drone was spotted over some forward Indian posts in the Balakote area of the Mendhar sector late Monday night, the officials said. They said Indian Army troops fired around

**NIA raids in terror-gangster nexus probes**

**NEW DELHI:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday searched multiple locations in Punjab and Haryana in connection with three terror-gangster network cases related to Pakistan-based terrorist Shahzad Bhatti.

NIA teams conducted coordinated searches at multiple premises at 18 locations in nine districts of the two states and examined several persons to gather relevant information.

They also seized several digital devices and documents, along with information linked with various communication networks, financial transactions and

## FROM MEMORIES: Glimpse to Kashmir's 'darkest days' through R P Singh's vision

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Senior BJP leader and party national spokesperson R.P. Singh has recalled a 1992 episode from his days with The Indian Express, describing how terrorists had allegedly banned the newspaper's edition in the Kashmir Valley during the height of the insurgency and how the restriction was later lifted after his intervention.

According to a video shared by Singh on social media, he was associated with The Indian Express at the time and was sent to Kashmir by the newspaper management to look into the matter. The episode relates to March 1992, when terrorist groups reportedly



prohibited circulation of the Delhi edition in the Valley and ordered the newspaper's Srinagar-based correspondent to leave Kashmir, alleging "biased and distorted reporting."

Singh said he stayed at Hotel Ahdoo's near Dal Lake during his visit and

spent 21 days working to resolve the issue. He claimed that the ban was eventually withdrawn and the newspaper's correspondent resumed work in Srinagar.

The incident occurred during one of the most violent phases of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, when journalists and media organisations were operating under severe pressure. Historical accounts from that period record numerous instances of threats, intimidation, restrictions on newspaper distribution, kidnappings and attacks targeting journalists and editors.

In his recollection, Singh argued that the ban on The Indian Express

## Govt ropes in J&K Bank to provide Rs 5L accident cover, benefits to Daily Wagers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of Jammu & Kashmir as per its commitment to inclusive financial empowerment today entered into a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with J&K Bank to extend a host of banking, insurance and credit-related benefits to daily-rated workers, contractual employees, and other casual workers engaged by the Government.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and was held in



the presence of Financial Commissioner (Additional CS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar, J&K Bank MD &

CEO, Amitava Chatterjee, CGM, Ashutosh Sareen and other senior officials of the Government and the Bank.

General Manager (RAM/GSS/DLM) Rakesh Magotra signed the agreement

**100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN**

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

## Drug peddler's house valued Rs 1.10 Cr attached in Kathua

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The District Police on Tuesday attached a property worth over Rs 1.10 crore belonging to an alleged drug peddler in Kathua district, officials said.

The attached property was a double-storey house in Ramkot in Billawar and belonged to Mohd Arif, a local, they said.

Officials said the property was attached under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act after it was identified as having been allegedly acquired through proceeds from drug sale.



The action was carried out under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kathua Mohita Sharma. According to police, the

property was estimated to have a market value of around Rs 1.10 crore. They said Mohd Arif has been involved in

**Police, Team NMBA intensify anti-drug drive**

**GANDOH:** Gandoh Police, in collaboration with Team Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), intensified its anti-drug awareness campaign through a series of awareness and counselling sessions for students in the Gandoh area of district Doda on Tuesday.

As part of the initiative, an awareness programme was organised at Police Station Gandoh, where DySP Bhalesa Lov Karan, NMBA Brand Ambassador Vinay Thakur and SI Kalasha Devi interacted with students and

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