

# Should introspect; BJP counters Abdullah's ‘poaching’ charge, questions his leadership

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI:** The BJP on Sunday lashed out at Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his accusation that it is trying to poach his National Conference party MLAs, saying that instead of making "speculative and baseless" claims, he should "introspect" on what kind of leaders he has in his party.

On Saturday, Abdullah accused the BJP of trying to bring down his government in Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) by engineering a split in the ruling National Conference, claiming that his party MLAs were offered Rs 20-30 crore to switch sides.

Addressing a packed workers' convention at the mausoleum of his grandparents at Hazratbal on the 26th death anniversary of his grandmother, Akbar Jehan, in Srinagar, Abdullah claimed the BJP was using money power to poach his MLAs.

When asked, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra categorically rejected Abdullah's charge as "speculative and without any basis", saying the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) does not believe in any action that deals a blow to democracy or runs counter to the democratic spirit.

"I find it astonishing when any leader speaks about his own party members in such a way, claiming that his people can be bought for sums like Rs 30 crore or Rs 12 crore," the BJP MP said. "It reminds me of the time when Sushma (Swaraj) asked in Parlia-

ment: Are your MPs up for sale? Are your MLAs up for sale?... Do you not even have enough faith in your own leaders to trust that they won't sell themselves?" Patra said, adding, "I feel that if this is the case, there ought to be some introspection as to what kind of people are in the party who can be bought."

On Saturday, BJP Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sudhansu Trivedi slammed Abdullah, describing his charge as "extremely irresponsible and baseless".

Trivedi also demanded that the J-K chief minister either provide "evidence" to substantiate his allegation or apologise. J-K BJP spokesperson and MLA R S Pathania said if Abdullah does not apologise, the BJP will "file a defamation case against him for making misleading and unsubstantiated allegations intended to create confusion among the people".

Trivedi further said claimed Abdullah made such a "baseless" allegation just to deflect public attention from his government's "incompetence, inaction and mis-governance" in J-K. Speaking in the same vein, Pathania said, "Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should disclose the names of the MLAs who were allegedly offered money, identify the BJP leaders involved, and reveal when and where the alleged offers were made. "If such a serious incident occurred, why was it not reported to the investigating agencies? An elected chief minister cannot make such allegations ► P11

## Omar announces protest for ‘Statehood’ on Jul 20

■ Defends invite to Mirwaiz



**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday asserted that the July 20 demonstration in Delhi will mark the beginning of a new phase in the party's campaign for statehood to the Union Territory.

Abdullah was addressing a well-attended public rally at Maharaja Hari Singh Park — his first major public meeting in Jammu city in many years. The rally assumed significance as it was held in the BJP ► P11

## CPI-Marxist to join NC’s protest at Jantar Mantar

**SRINAGAR:** The CPI (Marxist) on Sunday said it will join the National Conference's protest at Jantar Mantar for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The protest will be held on Monday, the opening day of the Monsoon session of the Parliament.

Welcoming the invitation from National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, CPI() state secretary Mohammad Abass Rather appealed to every political party, outfit, and general public, regardless of ideology or affiliation, to join hands for statehood.

Rather criticised the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories as a unilateral decision taken by the Centre.

"The decision was taken without any consultation with stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir, and remains an unprecedented assault on the rights of the people. It was not an attack on one party or one region alone, but ► P11



## 2 Kg ganja seized; smuggler arrested

**JAMMU:** In a significant operation against narcotics trafficking, Police Station Bahu Fort recovered around two kilograms of ganja from person namely Sikander Kumar Mandal S/o Singhasur Mandal, R/o Biharganj, Bihar, at present Gangyal, Jammu.

In this connection a FIR number 220/2026 under relevant sections stands registered at PS Bahu Fort and the investigation is underway.

This successful operation reflects the unwavering commitment of Jammu Police towards eradicating the menace of drugs from society and safeguarding the ► P11

## Access barred to Naqshband Sahib graveyard

**SRINAGAR:** All roads leading to Naqshband Sahib graveyard in the old city were barred for politicians on Sunday, a day before Martyrs' Day.

Locals observe July 13 to commemorate protestors who fell to the bullets of Maharaja Hari Singh's soldiers in 1931.

A siege of concertina wires, plastic barricades, GI sheets and poles was laid near Nowhatta to prevent the leaders' march to the graveyard tomorrow.

Sources in the ► P11

## Parl panel recommends suspension not removal of PM, CMs detained for 30-day on grim charges

**NEW DELHI:** Amid concerns raised by the opposition parties, a parliamentary panel has recommended that the prime minister, Union ministers and chief ministers be suspended and not permanently removed from their posts, if they are detained for 30 straight days on charges of serious offences.

It also proposed an automatic reversal clause if such persons are acquitted or the prosecution does not proceed within a specified period.

The joint committee of Parliament examining the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill made two specific and three general recommendations. Introduced last August, the Bill seeks ► P11

## India condemns attack over merchant vessel near Oman

**NEW DELHI:** India on Sunday condemned an attack on a Cyprus-flagged commercial vessel off the coast of Oman that left one of its 11 Indian crew members missing.

As West Asia witnessed fresh hostilities between Iran and the US, India reiterated its call for immediate de-escalation of tension and said the targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end.

The US Central Command said the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) "blatantly attacked" container ship GFS Galaxy when it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

"A civilian crew member is missing and the vessel is unable to continue the journey due to an on-board fire and significant engine room damage," it said.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said GFS Galaxy was targeted early on Sunday, which triggered a fire on board the vessel.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said 10 Indian crew members of the vessel have been rescued.

"We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel GFS Galaxy off the coast of Oman, earlier today. Of the 11 ► P11



**DAY 93** The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

## One held for illegal sale of Desi Liquor

**RAJOURI:** In continuation of its drive against illegal trade of liquor Police Station Nowshera conducted checking in its jurisdiction. During the course of checking one person was found indulging in the illegal sale of desi liquor in violation of the Excise Act.

The accused has been identified as Kamaljeet Singh S/o Hukam Singh R/O Lower Nonial Nowshera

In this regard a Case FIR number 137/2026 under Section 48(f) of the Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Nowshera. Further investigation of the case is underway. District Police Rajouri reiterates that strict legal ► P11



itual values, emphasising that progress requires both the scientist and the spiritualist. "India's greatest strength

is its rich spiritual, scientific and cultural identity, passed down through centuries like a torch. I appealed ► P11

## Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra to commence on Aug 16 Maintaining sanctity of pilgrimage is paramount: Swami Vishwatmanandji

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH:** A high-level meeting was held on Sunday to review preparations for the smooth, safe, and peaceful conduct of the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, which is scheduled to commence on 16 August 2026.

The meeting was presided over by the revered His Holiness Atal Pethadeshwar Rajguru Acharya Mahamanadaleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj,



Peethadhishwar of Atal Akhada and Rajguru. During the meeting, Swami Vishwat-

manandji emphasized the importance of maintaining the sanctity of the pilgrimage

while ensuring that devotees are provided with a secure, comfortable, and ► P11

### 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar'

## Dr Jitendra Singh announces coastal cleanliness campaign from 10-19 Sep



**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Sunday chaired a high-level review meeting of Secretaries and senior officials of the Science Ministries and Departments in Govt of India and called

for seamless coordination among scientific institutions to accelerate delivery of national priorities.

With preparations underway for the forthcoming 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' nationwide coastal cleanliness campaign from 10 to 19 September 2026, the Minister ► P11

## Over 9,100 pilgrims leave for Shri Amarnath shrine

### CISF DG reviews security

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** A fresh batch of 9,153 pilgrims, including 2,345 women, departed from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp in Jammu early Sunday to join the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The pilgrims, travelling in 359 vehicles, left for the twin base camps of Baltal in Ganderbal district and Nunwan (Pahalgam) in Anantnag district under multi-tier security arrangements, the officials

said. They said the 11th batch of pilgrims included 18 children. The vehicles rolled out from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in two separate convoys between 2.40 am and 3.35 am.

The first convoy, carrying 3,429 pilgrims, left for the Baltal base camp at 2.44 am. The second convoy, comprising 5,724 pilgrims departed for the Nunwan (Pahalgam) base camp at 3.35 am, they said.

According to officials, more than 2.30 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the naturally formed ice lingam inside the shrine since ► P11

## RSS expresses concern over Ram Temple donation theft

**BELAGAVI (KARNATAKA):** The RSS on Sunday expressed "grief" over the alleged irregularities in the counting of donation box offerings at the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya and voiced confidence that the ongoing SIT probe and police action would reach a "decisive turn".

The issue figured during the concluding day of the RSS' annual Akhil Bharatiya Prant Pracharak Baithak held in Belagavi, where the organisation also reviewed its training activities, centenary year programmes and discussed issues ranging from population imbalance to drug abuse.

"In the meeting, everyone expressed grief over the

incident of irregularities in the counting of the donation box offerings at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir, and expressed confidence that the ongoing SIT and police action, initiated at the request of the Teerth Kshetra Nyas, will reach a decisive turn," the RSS said in a release.

The Sangh said it also expected the Teerth Kshetra Nyas "to ensure that no such incident occurs in the future which could hurt the reverence and deep faith of all Ram Bhakts toward the Ram Mandir."

The alleged embezzlement of Ram temple donations came to light on June 7. An FIR was registered on June 25 following a ► P11

## 3 publishers held over books with 'inappropriate content'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The counter intelligence unit in Jammu has arrested three publishers in connection with the ongoing investigation into a controversy surrounding certain books in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

This decision follows co-ordinated operations in both Jammu and Delhi.

The arrests are part of a broader investigation into the publication and distribution of books deemed to contain "highly inappropriate content." Investigators are scrutinising the publishers' roles in printing and distributing this material, officials stated. On July 4, the counter

intelligence unit registered an FIR under Sections 49 (abetment), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 152 (endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India), 196 (promoting enmity, disharmony) and 353 (publishing, or circulating false statements, rumours, or reports) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), besides Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. This action was taken after two books found in government libraries were reported to glorify separatist leaders.

The books in question are titled 'Personalities and Legends of J-K', authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena, and ► P11