



Teach thy tongue to say, "I do not know," and thou shalt progress.
—Maimonides

Inking the Truth

Hold Pak accountable for 'PoJK' abuses: India to Int'l community

JAAC calls march to Muzaffarabad amid crackdown

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday described the ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as a "direct consequence" of Islamabad's decades-long "systemic exploitation and administrative oppression" in areas under its "forcible" occupation.

PoJK has been witnessing massive protests since last month over inflated living costs, alleged administrative apathy and political discrimination and atrocities against minorities. There are reports of severe police brutality in which several protestors have been killed and many injured.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a media briefing that New Delhi expects the international community to hold Pakistan "fully accountable" for the "egregious



MEA lodged protest over strike on ships

NEW DELHI: An Indian national was killed and 10 others were injured in Iranian attacks on two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, prompting New Delhi to ► P11

'India supports UN membership for Palestine'

NEW DELHI: India has backed Palestine's bid for United Nations membership and reaffirmed its support for a two-► P11

abuses and misdeeds" in PoJK.

"The ongoing protests in PoJK are a direct consequence of Pakistan's decades-long systemic exploitation, denial of fundamental rights, and administrative oppression in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation," he said.

"Rather than addressing the legitimate grievances of the local populace, the Pakistani state has responded with extreme police brutality, including against helpless women and children, blocking essential supplies, including food and medicine, enforcing internet blackouts, and deploying lethal force against unarmed civilians that has resulted in tragic fatalities," Jaiswal said.

"We expect the international community ► P11



Police attach house under anti-narcotics clampdown

SHOPIAN: As part of its continued crackdown on narcotics-related activities, J&K Police in Shopian have attached a residential house valued at ► P11

Anti-drug abuse rally carried out

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Students and government employees on Tuesday carried out an anti-drug abuse rally here as part of the 100-day 'Nasha Mukh J-K Abhiyaan'.

The rally was organised by the All Sikh Minority Employees Association Jammu and Kashmir.



100-DAY
NASHA MUKH
JK ABHIYAAN

DAY 95 The EARTH NEWS joins the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

Participants carried placards reading "Say no to drugs, say yes to dreams" and "No drugs", and raised slogans including "Say no to drugs, say yes to life".

Speaking to reporters, association chairperson, Jagmeet Kaur Bali, said the rally was taken out under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's 100-day 'Nasha

Mukh J-K Abhiyaan'.

"We want to send a strong message that we have to make our society drug-free. We have held this campaign in all districts of the valley, and now after Srinagar, we will move to Jammu and hold such rallies in every district there," Bali said.

She claimed there has been a considerable ► P11

Shri Amarnathji Yatra crosses 3-lakh mark in record 12 days

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a record, the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra crossed the three-lakh mark on Tuesday, the 12th day of the pilgrimage this year, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said.

Sinha commended all the officials, service providers and volunteers, saying their dedication and hard work have made the holy pilgrimage smooth and memorable for every devotee of Baba Barfani.

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has set a historic new record, crossing the 3 lakh mark in just 12 days," Sinha said in a post on his personal handle on X.

The yatra, which began on July 3, had crossed the two-lakh mark on July 10.



It will culminate on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Last year, a total of 4.10 lakh pilgrims performed the yatra and had a glimpse of the naturally formed ice lingam in the south Kashmir Himalayas. Meanwhile, a fresh batch

of 5,335 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base-camp here early Tuesday for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra in south Kashmir.

More than 2.77 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine till now. ► P11

LG reviews rehab, reintegration schemes for drug abuse victims

Need humane framework to rehabilitate addicts: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the proposed Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026. The Scheme is aimed at establishing a comprehensive, convergence-based framework for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of individuals recovering from substance use disorders across the



- 3-year model to focus on treatment, jobs and social reintegration
- Digital Monitoring Portal to track recovery, ensure implementation
- Project to begin in 2 worst-affected districts before UT-wide rollout
- LG calls for community participation, and technology-led monitoring

Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary,

Home Department; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary,

Social Welfare Department and other senior officers.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez ► P11

Drone recovered; search for terrorists launched in Rajouri

JAMMU: A drone was recovered from an open field in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

The drone was found lying in an agricultural field near Devak by a resident of Chak Salaria, who spotted it while out on a morning run at 5:50 am, the officials said.

They said the individual immediately informed the nearby army unit and subsequently the drone was seized.

The drone has been sent for forensic examination to determine its origin, technical specifications, and whether it was used for any cross-border activity, the officials said.

Earlier, Army troops deployed in the adjoining Nandpur village detected an unidentified flying object, suspected to be a drone, as it approached from the Arnia side at around 9 pm on Monday. The Army immediately activated its anti-drone protocol and ► P11

SMVD Offerings Row: Court asks Crime Branch for record

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A Jammu court has directed the Crime Branch of police to produce the complete record relating to a complaint alleging large-scale irregularities in the handling of silver offerings at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine after a petitioner challenged the agency's action taken report and pressed for registration of an FIR for a thorough investigation.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Jammu, asked the inquiry officer to appear with the entire record on July 29 and explain the action taken on the complaint, which alleges misappropriation and adulteration of silver offerings worth over

Rs 500 crore.

Advocate Deepak Sharma, the complainant in the case, has challenged the Crime Branch's action-taken report, contending that it fails to disclose if an FIR was registered or any detailed meaningful investigation was carried out into allegations involving nearly 20 tonnes of silver offerings by the devotees at the shrine.

"It was recently claimed that silver worth around Rs 550 crore had been received as offerings and that only Rs 20-30 crore worth was genuine, while the rest was fake or adulterated. For an ordinary person, that is extremely difficult to believe.

"Lakhs of devotees from across the country offer silver at ► P11

Village mourns soldier martyred in Nagaland

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: Havildar Mohd Iqbal, who was posted in Nagaland, had promised to return home for the grass-cutting season in September to the border hamlet of Kallar in Poonch district. His death in a terrorist attack has shattered the promise, with those awaiting his homecoming now preparing for his final journey.

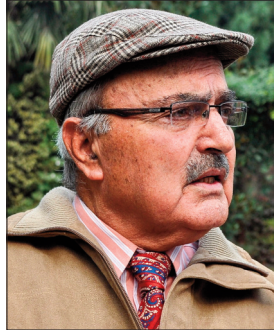
Iqbal died in a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Nagaland's Chumoukedima district on Monday. Five others -- four security personnel and a civilian -- were injured in the explosion, which occurred near Shokhuvi area at around 2

pm and reportedly targeted an Assam Rifles vehicle during an operational movement.

"Iqbal, who was an Army driver, had rejoined duty a little over a month ago after spending time with the family on leave. He had promised to come home again in next couple of months to help us during the annual grass-cutting season," recalled his elderly father, Choudhary Kalu, his voice breaking as he mourned the loss of his son.

Instead of welcoming him home, the family is now preparing to receive his mortal remains. His body is expected to reach his native village on Thursday, when he will be accorded a final ► P11

Mustafa Kamal dies at 83; Sinha, others express grief



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Veteran National Conference (NC) leader Mustafa Kamal, brother of three-time Jammu and Kashmir chief minister

Farooq Abdullah, died on Tuesday after a prolonged illness, a party leader said. He was 83.

Kamal, a former J&K minister and uncle of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, breathed his last at a private hospital here around 5 pm, the party leader said.

Kamal, the younger brother of senior Abdullah, was not married. He was the NC's additional general secretary.

"My father's younger brother Dr Mustafa Kamal passed away earlier this evening at Paras hospital in Srinagar. Uncle Mustafa had been unwell for some ► P11

Sessions Court stays 'order' on filing case against SSP Srinagar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar sessions court on Tuesday stayed a lower court's order directing the registration of a criminal case against Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, GV Sundep Chakravarty, saying the revision raised "arguable questions warranting consideration."

The magistrate's court had initiated a suo motu (on its own motion) case against the IPS officer on July 6, accusing Chakravarty of repeatedly defying court orders and failing to execute arrest warrants in Baramulla's Bandipore district.

Bandipore does not fall within the jurisdiction of SSP Srinagar.

Admitting a criminal revision petition filed by the SSP, the Second Additional District and Sessions Judge,

Srinagar, ordered an immediate stay on the order.

"I have heard the counsel for the revisionist at length and have carefully gone through the revision petition, the impugned order, and documents annexed therewith," the sessions judge noted in a two-page order.

"At this interlocutory stage, and without expressing my opinion on the controversy, this court is satisfied that the revision raises arguable questions warranting consideration," the court said and scheduled the next hearing for July 27.

The order was challenged on various grounds and the additional sessions judge called for the records of the case.

Earlier, a local court here has registered a case against a ► P11

Omar assures examination of public, industry-related issues



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several public delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and gave a patient hearing to their issues and demands, assuring

them that all genuine concerns would be examined for appropriate action.

A delegation led by President Bat Manufacturers Association Kashmir, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, called on the Chief Minister and sought

government support for the cricket bat manufacturing industry in Kashmir.

The delegation highlighted various issues concerning the sector and requested measures for its promotion and sustained growth.

Another delegation headed by President Srinagar International Airport Taxi Stand Drivers Union, Riyaz Thakur, apprised the Chief Minister of the concerns of taxi operators at Srinagar International Airport.

Later, a delegation led by Hot Mix Plant Owners Association, Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad Khan, met the Chief Minister and discussed the challenges being faced by the association.

Another delegation ► P11

Condolence Message

Sh. Shivang Satya Gupta, Editor-in-Chief of The Earth News, along with the staff members, expressed profound grief over the demise of veteran National Conference (NC) leader and Additional General Secretary Mustafa Kamal, brother of three-time Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and uncle of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who passed away on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. Sh. Shivang Satya Gupta prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, wishing them strength to bear this irreparable loss.

