

**Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement.**  
—W. Clement Stone

Vol: 14 | Issue: 187  
Regd. No.: JK517/16-18 |  
RNI. No. JKENG/2013/53265

*Making the Truth*



## LG Sinha takes stock of arrangements at Nunwan base camp, Chandanwari

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU/SRINAGAR:** More than 24,000 pilgrims had Darshan of the naturally formed ice 'Shivling' at the Shri Amarnathji cave shrine on the third day of the 57-day annual pilgrimage on Sunday, taking the total number of pilgrims to over 56,000 so far, officials said.

As many as 24,600 pilgrims, including 18,700 men and 5,000 women, paid obeisance at the 3,800-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

They said the total number of pilgrims who had Darshan of the icelingham so far has reached 56,900.

The Shri Amarnathji Yatra began on July 3, simultaneously via the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal

### Over 56,000 pilgrims perform Darshan at holy cave in 3 days



district.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of over 6,700 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here early Sunday for the Shri Amarnath shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas under tight security, officials said.

The batch including 1,310 women and 22 children, left the Jammu base camp in two separate convoys at 3 am and 3.40 am, the officials said.

This was the fourth batch of pilgrims leaving Jammu for Kashmir since July 2, ► P11

### ITBP DG reviews security on tracks

**SRINAGAR:** Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatruijeet Kapur trekked 16 km on foot to review security arrangements along the twin Shri Amarnathji Yatra routes in Jammu and Kashmir, the force said on Saturday.

'DG ITBP Shatruijeet Kapur trekked 16 km on foot to review security arrangements along Shri Amarnath Yatra 2026 routes, both Baltal and Pahalgam axis,' the ITBP said in a post on X.

It said Kapur interacted with troops and commended their professionalism in ► P11



## Assets worth Rs 29 lakhs attached under NDPS Act

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BARAMULLA:** Continuing its sustained campaign against narcotics and drug trafficking, Baramulla Police today attached immovable properties belonging to a notorious drug peddler, Mushtaq Ahmed Dar S/o Mohd. Yousuf Dar R/o Yadipora, Palhallan, Pattan, under the provisions of Section 68-F(1) of the NDPS Act.

The attached properties

comprise a single-storey residential house at Yadipora, Palhallan and four shops in a double-storey commercial building at Hyderbeigh, Pattan, with a combined assessed value of over Rs 29 lakh.

The accused is involved in multiple cases under the NDPS Act and has also been detained under the PIT NDPS Act.

The attachment followed a detailed enquiry conducted under ► P11

## 'Bhang' destruction crusade intensified

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BARAMULLA:** Continuing its sustained campaign against the menace of narcotics under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan, J&K Police conducted a comprehensive wild cannabis (Bhang) destruction drive at multiple locations across the district Baramulla.

The drive was carried out at Koker Mohalla, Goshbugh up to the roadside near Goshbugh Petrol Pump, in

coordination with the local residents of Goshbugh, reflecting strong community participation in the fight against drug abuse. Simultaneously, another destruction drive was conducted at Jahama and Singhpora falling under the jurisdiction of Police Post Delina. During the operation, police teams identified and destroyed a substantial quantity of naturally grown wild cannabis plants. The exercise was ► P11

## Army conduct mock drill amid heightened vigil

**POONCH:** Amid intensified security vigil in the border areas, Army troops on Sunday conducted a mock drill in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district to enhance operational preparedness and familiarise civilians with safety procedures during contingencies, officials said.

The exercise simulated a terrorist attack and tested evacuation procedures, safety protocols, and coordination among security agencies, the civil administration, and local residents to ensure a swift, coordinated ► P11

## J-K BJP gears up for president Nitin Nabin's 'maiden' UT visit

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin, who will be on his two-day maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir on July 6 and 7, will be holding threadbare discussions on the prevailing political situation in Jammu and Kashmir with the party leaders, MLAs and other functionaries.

Party sources said that the national president Nitin Nabin will arrive here on July 6 and will address a massive



Sammelan at Majestic Grand, Mishriwala, besides interacting with senior leaders, elected representatives and youth activists at the Conven-

tion Centre and the party headquarters during his 2-day visit to Jammu. He will also pay floral tributes to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee at Mishriwala on July 6 and Pt. Prem Nath Dogra at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Chowk on July 7.

This was shared by J&K BJP President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma, while he chaired a series of organizational meetings at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, convention centre, and Majestic Grand, to review ► P11

## 'Pakistan will never recover from shock of Operation Sindoor'

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Governor RN Ravi on Sunday said Pakistan will never recover from the impact of Operation Sindoor, and claimed that India was more secure today than at any time since Independence.

Addressing the Devrishi Narad Jayanti and Narad Samman 2026 programme at Sisir Mancha here, Ravi also said the state had witnessed a "new dawn" after remaining in darkness for a long period and asserted that the state's progress would be crucial to India's overall advancement.

On national security, Ravi

contrasted what he described as India's earlier defensive posture with a more assertive response to security challenges in recent years.

"After Pulwama, there was Balakot (air strikes). After terrorist attacks, there were surgical strikes. Following the Pahalgam attack, there was Operation Sindoor. I don't think Pakistan will ever come out of the shock. They now know there is a cost and the cost will be high," the former deputy National Security Advisor said.

"Never after Independence, Bharat was more ► P11

## Centre focused on employee welfare, administrative Efficiency: Dr Jitendra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** A 19-member delegation representing Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) and affiliated employees' organisations from across the country called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Sunday to discuss a range of issues relating to Government employees, pensioners and administrative reforms. The delegation appreci-



ated the Minister for facilitating the Government's employee-centric initiatives, particularly the decision to redeploy nearly 65,000 erstwhile Ordnance Factory employees into regular Government service, describing it as a

landmark measure that has secured the future of thousands of employees following the restructuring of the Ordnance Factory Board.

The delegation comprised representatives of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh

(BMS), Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh (BPMS), Government Employees National Confederation (GENC), Public Sector Employees National Confederation, SHAR Employees Trade Union and Space Employees Association, representing employees from defence establishments, public sector organisations, scientific institutions and other Central Government services across the country.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the constructive role played by employee organisations in bringing service-related issues before the Government through ► P11

## Screens, family disconnect affecting children: Bhagwat

**NAGPUR:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday emphasised the urgent need to build mental resilience in youngsters, cautioning that children are becoming increasingly fragile due to a lack of traditional family guidance and excessive screen time.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the 'Sanmarg' Mind Wellness Centre in Nagpur, Bhagwat said the new generation needs conversation, and we must prevent the loneliness that sets in, stressing that society must prioritise the mental well-being of the youth.

He noted that mythological tales — such as the struggles and challenges faced by



the Pandavas — once provided strength to young minds, but the situation today was dire.

"Failed in the 12th standard, so they commit suicide. Scolded at home, they run away or do something drastic. How did the mind reach this state?" Bhagwat asked, lamenting that children today are often left in front ► P11

## J&K Bank appoints GM Magotra as Chief Compliance Officer for 3 yrs

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank has appointed General Manager Rakesh Magotra as its Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) and Group Compliance Officer (GCO) for a period of three years. The appointment was approved by the Bank's Board of Directors and informed to the stock exchanges through a regulatory filing on Saturday.

A seasoned banking professional with over decades of experience, Rakesh Magotra succeeds Peer Masood Ahmad as the Bank's Chief Compliance Officer. His appointment underscores the Bank's continued commitment to further strengthening its compliance framework, governance standards and regulatory over-



sight.

Prior to assuming the new role, Rakesh Magotra served as General Manager & Head of the Retail Banking Division, where he led the Bank's Retail Assets, Agriculture, MSME, Government Sponsored Schemes and Liability Management portfolios. Since join-

ing the Bank as a Probationary Officer in 1996, he has held several key leadership assignments including Zonal Head, Advisor to the Chairman, Head of Financial Inclusion and Head of Supervision & Control.

An alumnus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jaipur and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Amritsar, where he was awarded the Director's Medal, Rakesh Magotra is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at IIM Jammu.

Having been proactive in several transformative initiatives across retail banking, financial inclusion, MSME financing, Start Up finance and institutional partnerships, he brings a unique ► P11

## Pak likely to host next 'US-Iran' talks: Report

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan capital Islamabad is emerging as the leading venue for the next round of technical negotiations between the US and Iran, a media report said Sunday.

The US and Iran signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on June 18, aimed at restoring peace in West Asia. It was followed by technical-level talks in Switzerland on June 21, with Pakistan and Qatar as mediators.

The resumption of the talks is part of ongoing efforts to keep the diplomatic process on track and resolve long standing disputes between Washington and Tehran, Dawn reported quoting diplomatic sources.

"There are two possible venues for the technical talks — Islamabad and the Burgenstock resort in

Switzerland," one diplomatic source said. "Islamabad, however, is the more likely option."

The technical talks are expected to take place on July 11, although a final decision on the venue has yet to be announced.

The talks were temporarily delayed because of the multi-day state funeral ceremonies for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iranian officials have indicated that the composition of Tehran's delegation will be announced after the funeral ceremonies conclude.

Khamenei, who ruled Iran for the last three decades, was killed on February 28, the first day of the massive US and Israeli joint air strikes on Tehran.

Starting Sunday, the burial ceremonies are slated to be ► P11

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