

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.”

—Henry David Thoreau

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India, Russia denounce Pahalgam terror attack

NEW DELHI: India and Russia have jointly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the Pahalgam attack and the terror incident near Red Fort in Delhi last year at a key meeting held here.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation on bilateral as well as multilateral platforms.

During the 14th meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism on Wednesday, the two sides also called for "concerted action against terrorists and terrorist groups, including those listed in the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee and their proxy groups and affiliates", the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Sibi George, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Dmitry P11

India, Australia seal nuclear energy, defence deals World witnessed India's defence capability during Op Sindoor: PM



MELBOURNE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the world witnessed the capability and credibility of India's defence platform during 'Operation Sindoor' when explosions were taking place at terrorists' hideouts across the border.

He made the remarks while speaking at an Indian diaspora event, 'Melbourne meets Modi', also attended

by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"The world is witnessing the capability and credibility of our defence sector. You must have seen the demonstration in Operation Sindoor," PM Modi said.

"The explosions were taking place at the terrorists' hideouts, and their echoes were reverberating across the world," he said.

"Did you feel P11

Modi to flag off Hydrogen Train on Jul 17

CHANDIGARH: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off India's first hydrogen-powered train from Jind railway station on July 17 and inaugurate several infrastructure projects across Haryana, state minister Krishan Kumar Bedi said on Thursday.

Bedi said the prime minister will also address a public rally and launch projects worth thousands of crores of rupees through virtual mode.

The projects include two Shri Ram Medical Colleges in Bhiwani and Namaul, the Kurukshetra elevated railway track, the Ambala-Kala Amb P11

LG visits Transit Camp, Yatri Niwas in Srinagar Surge in number of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims bodes well for J-K tourism: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha on Thursday said this year's Shri Amarnathji Yatra has witnessed a greater number of devotees so far compared to last year, claiming that the surge is a positive sign for tourism in the Union territory.

The LG also directed officials to take strict legal action against those found involved in fraudulent registration practices.

Sinha visited the Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk in Srinagar and reviewed the arrange-



ments made for the pilgrims in the ongoing annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

He interacted with officials and pilgrims, and inquired about the facilities. He directed officials to ensure that every devotee of Lord

Shiva receives round-the-clock care.

"The figures from the past week reveal that this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has witnessed a greater number of devotees compared to last year. This surge is not only a

bleeding for our spiritual heritage but also a positive sign for tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, giving fresh momentum to the local economy," the LG said.

Sinha said he wants the rich handicraft and handloom products of Jammu and Kashmir to travel across the country, to be found in every devotee's home.

"This will honour our artisans and also strengthen the spirit of 'One District One Product' campaign, weaving together faith, culture and prosperity," he said.

The LG took stock of the arrangements, including accommodation, P11

100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN

DAY 90

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

Properties worth above Rs 1 crore attached

SRINAGAR: In a major crackdown on the financial infrastructure of narcotics trafficking under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Srinagar Police have attached P11

Police destroy narcotics worth 2.33 Cr in Kathua

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday destroyed narcotics worth over Rs 2 crore seized in 43 NDPS cases in Kathua district, officials said.

The destroyed narcotics included 2.05 kg of heroin, 7.68 kg of ganja, 162.649 kg of poppy straw, 2.126 kg of

charas, 482 grams of opium, 1,036 capsules and 909 tablets, all worth around Rs 2.32 crore, they said.

The destruction was carried out through incineration at an authorised facility at Rara in Samba district by a police team led by Senior Superintendent of P11

Police detain drug peddler with heroin

SAMBA: Intensifying its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and recovered about seven P11

Fresh batch of 8,150 devotees leave for Shri Amarnath shrine SPO dismissed for dereliction of duty

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A fresh batch of 8,150 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the Shri Amarnathji cave shrine in Kashmir on Thursday, amid tight security, officials said.

With this, a total of 52,816 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for Kashmir since the yatra commenced on July 2, the officials said.

Thursday's batch comprised 6,095 men, 2,037 women, 15 children and three transgender persons.

The pilgrims left in two groups. While 3,445 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp



in 168 vehicles, 4,705 pilgrims proceeded towards the traditional Pahalgam route in 166 vehicles. They were escorted by personnel from Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force

and other security agencies, the officials said.

More than 1.45 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high shrine of Lord Shiva so far this year.

The 57-day P11

21 IAS, 40 IPS reshuffled; IAS Shahid Ch moved from J-K

NEW DELHI: In a major administrative reshuffle, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday transferred with immediate effect 21 IAS and 40 IPS officers of the AGMUT cadre across Union Territories and northeastern states.

Among the prominent changes, 2009-batch IAS officer Shahid Iqbal Choudhary has been transferred from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, while 2017-batch IPS officer Tanushree has been shifted from J&K to Delhi.

The transfer order, issued with the approval of the competent authority, also posted IAS officer Saugat Biswas (2006 batch) P11

Scrutiny of books ordered to isolate objectionable content

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Authorities have ordered a comprehensive screening of all books available (recently acquired or older publications) in their respective jurisdictions, including offices, classrooms, staffrooms and school library, a DSEK circular said.

It said the screening was to ensure that no book contains inappropriate or objectionable content.

"This includes material that may violate religious sentiments of any section, inappropriate content for students, and content against prevailing laws with the potential to harm national interest and affect P11

Education, Kashmir (DSEK), are hereby directed to conduct a comprehensive screening of all books available (recently acquired or older publications) in their respective jurisdictions, including offices, classrooms, staffrooms and school library, a DSEK circular said.

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Army Chief tours Poonch forward areas, Corps HQ



JAMMU: Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth on Thursday visited forward areas in Jammu and Kash-

mir's Poonch district and reviewed the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and combat readiness of troops in the region. The visit, his first to the P11

CM thrusts for focus on value, not volume-based J-K Tourism

Need to develop UT as sustainable destination: Omar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called for a paradigm shift in Jammu and Kashmir's tourism strategy, urging policymakers, industry stakeholders and local communities to move beyond volume-driven tourism towards a value-based and sustainable tourism model that safeguards the region's fragile ecology while ensuring long-term economic prosperity.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Conclave on Sustainable Tourism Planning—Designing Tourism for Tomorrow, organised by the Department of Tourism at



SKICC, the Chief Minister said sustainable tourism is no longer a choice but an imperative for preserving Jammu and Kashmir's envi-

ronment and securing the future of one of its most vital economic sectors. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA P11

ACB registers case against then Tehsildar

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a case against the then Tehsildar Bijbehara Ghulam Rasool Bhat, the then Naib Tehsildar Bijbehara Fayaz Ahmad Wani, the concerned Patwari Ghulam Nabi Banday and others for their alleged involvement in the fraudulent attestation of 162 land mutations in Tehsil Bijbehara during the year 2022-2024 for land measuring 1050 Kanals.

As per reports, the case originated from a source-based complaint alleging that the accused officials, in connivance with others, illegally attested mutations involving about 1,050 kanals of P11

Census 2027 J&K Bank inks maiden strategic partnership with Directorate of Census Operations JKL

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its commitment to nation-building and public service, J&K Bank on Thursday signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), first-of-its-kind in the nation, with the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to collaborate on media, publicity and public awareness activities for the upcoming Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027 in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

This historic MoU was inked by Chief General Manager Ashutosh Sareen on behalf of J&K Bank, while Chief



Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO) Amit Sharma (IAS) put in his signatures on behalf of the Directorate of Census Operations J&K and Ladakh in the

presence of Joint Chief Principal Census Officer Arun Kumar, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer Manmeet Singh Loomba, General Manager (CC&M) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani, DGM Syed

Aadil Bashir and other senior officers from both organizations.

The landmark partnership will leverage the Bank's extensive branch network, digital signages and trusted customer outreach channels to disseminate official Census-related information and create widespread public awareness about the country's first Census through digital means. The collaboration will involve widespread media, publicity and awareness initiatives.

Speaking on the collaboration, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations Amit Sharma said, "J&K Bank is P11

NLU demand disrupt DyCM's public event

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A group of youths demanding the establishment of a National Law University (NLU) in Jammu on Thursday allegedly tried to disrupt a public function addressed by Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary in Kathua district, prompting police to evict the protesters from the venue.

The incident took place at Hiranagar at the function organised in connection with the demand for restoration of statehood.

Deputy Chief Minister Choudhary blamed the police for the security breach and sought action against the officers concerned.

The protest was led by

advocate Ketan Kumar, who raised slogans and waved pamphlets demanding that the government fulfil its promise of setting up an NLU in Jammu, similar to the one announced for Kashmir.

Questioning the government over the delay, Kumar asked why the promise to establish an NLU in Jammu had not been implemented. Kumar allegedly entered the hall at the event venue and held protests.

Police personnel quickly intervened and removed the protesters from the hall as well as from the venue. The protesters later staged a demonstration outside the venue, raised slogans against the deputy chief minister and reiterated that P11

UAPA Case: Raids carried out at various places in B'la

SRINAGAR: Police carried out raids at multiple locations in Baramulla district on Thursday in connection with a case registered under the UAPA.

The raids were carried out as part of the ongoing investigation in a case registered under Section 13 (unlawful activities) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Section 35(3) (aggravated threats) of the BNS at Baramulla police station, a police spokesman said.

He said the searches were carried out at the residences of Faraz Ashraf Gojri, a resident of Iqbal Colony, P11