

■ Lt Guv attends Quaternary Summit Advanced ‘healthcare access’ must become a right, not privilege: Sinha



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday addressed the Quaternary Healthcare & Research Summit in Srinagar. He emphasized that the summit marks a turning point in Jammu Kashmir and India’s healthcare journey, where the

with doctors who discussed diagnosis for rare diseases and need for modern equipment. He said this moment revealed the greatest distance confronting us in the UT is the gap between healthcare available in small district hospitals and the healthcare actually required. The Lieutenant Governor stressed that bridging this gap is a national priority. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted India’s remarkable progress under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He said free treatment for more than 56 crore citizens surpassed the combined population of the US, France, Italy, and the UK. He said annual vaccination campaigns in the country covering 7 crore children, equal to the population of the UK. He said even e-Sanjeevani telemedicine providing care to 37 crore people ►P11

Union Territory and the nation must move beyond tertiary care and embrace quaternary-level treatment and research to ensure equal access for all citizens. Recalling his visit to Akhnor during the “Back to Village” programme in 2020, the Lieutenant Governor shared a poignant interaction

Six dead, 3 injured as vehicle falls into ditch LG, CM express grief

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: Six people including two women were killed and three others injured when a vehicle veered off the road and fell into a ditch in Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed their anguish over the tragic accident and directed the district administration to provide immediate assistance to those affected. The accident took place at Seri Chouhana village in Sheldhar area of Surankote and condition of one of the injured, a child, was stated to be critical, the officials said. “An unfortunate accident occurred this evening, resulting in on-the-spot death of six persons and in-

juries to three others,” Poonch Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma said. He said a rescue operation was launched immediately and the injured were rushed to hospital. The officials said the vehicle, a Maruti Eeco, was heading for Seri Chouhana village when its driver lost control and the vehicle fell into a roadside ditch around 5.30 pm, resulting in the death of the six persons. The deceased were identified as Mohd Shafiq (32), Nazakat Hussain (34), Sheraz Ahmed (30), Mohd Fareed (21), Musarat Naz (19) and Zulfat Bi (25). Five-year-old Irshan Ahmed along with Mohd Amin (30) and Tahir Ahmed (25) were injured in the accident and were rushed to district hospital Poonch, the officials ►P11



100 people killed, over 750 missing in Nepal flash flood Modi speaks to Nepalese counterpart

KATHMANDU: Nearly 100 people were killed and over 750, including 133 Indian nationals, remain missing after a massive flash flood originating in Tibet swept through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating several towns and villages, washing away critical bridges, and crippling a dozen hydropower projects. Nepal Foreign Minister

Shisir Khanal told the parliament that an earthquake hit the Tibet region at 8:37 am (local time) and the flash floods were reported three minutes later, suggesting the tremors may have caused a glacial outburst which triggered the floods. The flood surged through the Bhote Koshi River affecting Rasuwa and Dhading districts ►P11

India sends
1st batch of
relief goods

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday night sent the first tranche of relief supplies in a military transport aircraft ►P11

NCB seizes cross-border heroin cartel; 3 arrested with over 5.16 kg seizure

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In an intelligence-led operation, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu on Wednesday said a major cross-border heroin trafficking cartel was busted, resulting in the seizure of 5.16 kg of drugs and the arrest of three persons, including the suspected mastermind. Acting on specific intelligence on Saturday, a vehicle was intercepted at Panjtirthi in the heart of Jammu and heroin worth crores of rupees was recovered from two of its occupants, both residents of north Kashmir’s Baramulla district, a spokesperson of the NCB said. An immediate follow-up action was launched based on crucial leads regarding another resident of Baramulla, who is the suspected mastermind and supplier of the drug trafficking network. The NCB team traced him to Leh district of Ladakh where he was arrested on Monday, within two days of the seizure. Prima facie investigation indicates that the seized heroin forms part of an organised cross-border supply chain, with the contraband suspected to have ►P11

2 escaped undertrials nabbed in Rajasthan

SRINAGAR: Two POCSO undertrials who allegedly escaped from Central Jail Srinagar earlier this week have been arrested in Rajasthan, officials said on Wednesday. Farman Khan, a resident of Rajasthan, and Mukhtar Ahmad Gujjar, a resident of Anantnag district, were arrested from Khan’s native town of Sadanpora in Rajasthan, they said. The duo, who were arrested in separate POCSO cases, allegedly escaped from the Central ►P11

Need to create culture of Philanthropy for research & innovation: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Capacity building of the mind, alongside skills, is equally essential for India to remain globally relevant, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday. Capacity building must evolve from an individual, skill-based approach into a collective and whole-of-society effort to respond effectively to the rapidly changing technological and global environment, added the Minister. Addressing a roundtable on capacity building, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the pace of technological and societal evolution has



increased tremendously, making continuous learning indispensable. He said that what one learns today may already become outdated by tomorrow, and therefore individuals and institutions must develop the capacity to remain learners and continuously adapt. The Minister emphasised that collective capacity building is increasingly important to meet emerging challenges. He said that in-

stitutions must learn to work in an integrated manner and coordinate across organisational boundaries to respond rapidly to new challenges and translate policies into effective implementation. He stressed that India must move towards an approach that combines institutional coordination with a whole-of-society perspective. Dr. Jitendra Singh said capacity building ►P11

SC seeks Centre's reply over OCI holder’s plea to visit J-K

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Centre on a plea by US-based octogenarian Khalid Jahangir Qazi, an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holder, seeking permission to visit Jammu and Kashmir to attend a wedding in his sister’s family. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, on Tuesday, took note of the submissions of senior advocate Parag Tripathi, appearing for Qazi, that he simply wanted to visit the Union territory to attend the wedding. Qazi, 82, faces allegations of being engaged in “pro-Pakistan propaganda” and being sympathetic to Kashmiri separatists. His OCI card was

cancelled by the government in May 2023 on grounds that his activities were “inimical to the sovereignty and security of India” and he was also blacklisted under the Foreigners Act. When Tripathi sought an urgent adjudication on grounds that the delay could lead to his missing the wedding, the bench said it had to hear the other side and, moreover, another function could be held by the family to celebrate his arrival. The senior advocate said that Qazi, a medical practitioner, had visited India in the past and, considering his age as well as that of his relatives, the proposed visit could be his last opportunity to meet family members in Kashmir. “He is ready to ►P11

India reject's UN body's criticism of rights violations against Rohingyas

WORLDWIDE
UNITY VITAL
TO SECURE SEA
LANES: INDIA
TELLS UNSC

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday trashed a report by a UN body that alleged discrimination against various ethnic and religious groups in the country. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) flagged concerns over human rights violations against people belonging to scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and Rohingya refugees. It also called for action against those involved in “hate crime” in India. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India rejects “any politically motivated highly malicious references in the report with all the contempt that it deserves”. He said India’s commitment to combating racial discrimination “remains unwavering”.

“During the review, we highlighted India’s constitutional safeguards, robust legal framework, pluralism and sustained efforts to protect disadvantaged communities,” he said. “While we will respond to the committee’s observations through the established procedure, the inter-ministerial delegation, which was led by the Solicitor General of India, Tushar Mehta, had already rejected the sweeping generalisations, unsubstantiated allegations, or tendency to exceed the Convention’s mandate

during the review meeting,” he said. Jaiswal was responding to a question on the report. Meanwhile, India has called on the international community to work collectively to safeguard critical sea lanes, emphasising that secure and predictable maritime trade routes are indispensable for uninterrupted movement of food, fertilisers and fuel. “Food insecurity remains one of the gravest humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. Today’s conflicts increasingly generate ripple effects far beyond the ►P11

Five OGWs detained during CASO in Bugam

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday arrested five overground workers of terrorists during an anti-terrorist operation in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Security forces carried out a cordon-and-search operation in the Bugam area of Kulgam district based on specific intelligence input, they said. Five suspects were apprehended ►P11

Diwan Mandir auditorium to be modernised at Rs 2.62 Cr

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu’s historic Diwan Mandir auditorium is set for a Rs 2.62 crore makeover that will equip the longstanding community space with modern amenities while retaining its cultural and heritage character, officials said on Wednesday. The project will transform the existing facility at Kacchi Chhawani in the heart of the city into a modern, fully equipped community space with upgraded amenities, while retaining its historical and

cultural character, an official spokesman said. The foundation stone for the renovation of the existing auditorium hall was laid by BJP MLA Yudhvair Sethi in the presence of JMC Commissioner Devansh Yadav. Diwan Mandir holds immense historical, cultural and religious significance for the people of Jammu. Ramlila has been performed at the temple for nearly 150 years, making it an important part of the city’s cultural heritage. Residents of the Old City have deep ►P11

VB-G RAM G: Centre directs States, UTs to merge works

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked states and Union territories to integrate drinking water source sustainability, greywater management and sanitation works with the VB-G RAM G rural employment guarantee scheme. The directive was issued earlier this month through a joint letter by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Rural Development, which asked states and UTs to ensure convergence of resources for water security and sanitation and ►P11

Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrated across J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad, was celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as thousands of devotees thronged various mosques and shrines in large number with religious fervour. The main centre of attraction remained the famous and historic Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, officials said. Devotees offered prayers at the historic shrine, which houses relics believed to be of the Prophet, as part of the celebrations, the officials said. They said the holy relic of Prophet Mohammad was displayed by its custodian after the prayers. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference president Farooq Ab-



dullah offered afternoon prayers at the shrine, the party said. It said the duo prayed for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board which manages the affairs of the shrine had made elaborate arrange-

ments for the devotees. The Hazratbal shrine and several other mosques were decorated and illuminated to mark the occasion. Celebrations were also held in other parts of the Kashmir Valley as preachers delivered sermons highlighting the life of the Prophet Mohammad, they added. In Jammu, devotees gathered at major mosques and religious places to offer special prayers and listen to sermons marking the occasion. Religious leaders and scholars highlighted the Prophet’s teachings on peace, compassion, brotherhood and service to humanity. Security and traffic arrangements were strengthened at prominent congregation points to facilitate the movement of devotees. Special prayers were also offered for peace, harmony and prosperity in the region.

Jai Mata Di

JAMMU KA ASLI
DESI GHEE KA
KHAANA

ESPATO SPECIAL

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CHANNA

Whole Wheat - Atta Pori • Cooked in Cow Desi Ghee

PURE VEGETARIAN