

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

I attribute my
success to this: I
never gave or
took any excuse.
—Florence Nightingale

JAI MATA DI

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PM arrives in Kyrgyzstan to attend SCO summit

India, Uzbekistan upgrade strategic relations; USD 5 bn trade target set

■ Uzbekistan confers highest honour on Modi

TASHKENT: India and Uzbekistan on Sunday decided to elevate their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and set a target of USD 5 billion in annual trade by 2030, following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The two sides also agreed to establish a framework for long-term supply of Uranium from Uzbekistan to India in line with cooperation in the civil-nuclear energy sector.

The Modi-Mirziyoyev talks focused on expanding cooperation in areas of trade, investment, infrastructure, critical minerals, mining, defence and security, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, health, information technology, digital public infrastructure, including UPI, and education.

The two sides also set a target of USD 5 billion in annual bilateral trade by 2030, Modi said in his press statement.

The current volume of bilateral trade between the two nations is over USD 1 billion.

Both leaders announced the elevation of strategic ties to a Comprehensive “►P11



Make India drug-free: PM appeals to citizens

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to citizens to join hands to free India from the menace of drug abuse, and build a stronger future for the youth. In his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi noted that ►P11

Death toll mounts to 788 in Nepal flash floods

KATHMANDU: The death toll from flash floods in Nepal rose to 788 on Sunday, with more bodies being recovered, even as more than 2,500 people are still missing.

Bodies were recovered from eight affected districts as rescuers raced against time to search for those missing and rescue those stranded on the fifth day since the disaster.

An ice-rock avalanche following a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream, wiping out towns and villages, damaging crucial infrastructure and washing away hydropower stations through northern and central Nepal on August 26.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction ►P11

LG addresses Foundation Day celebration of SMVDSB Merge ancient knowledge with modern science to tackle ‘climate change’: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Sunday called for integrating India's ancient knowledge traditions with modern scientific understanding to address the growing challenges of climate change.

The country's ancient scriptures embody a deep respect for nature and offer valuable insights into environmental protection, Sinha said while addressing the foundation day celebrations of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and Annual Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul at Katra in Reasi district.

Appreciating the initiatives undertaken by the Shrine Board to enhance convenience, safety, and facilities for devotees, the LG said these achievements reflect



dedication, discipline, and the spirit of service, the intrinsic qualities of 'Sanatan' culture.

Addressing the students of the Gurukul, Sinha emphasised the importance of curiosity in learning.

"Curiosity is the first lamp of knowledge. In our tradition, asking questions

LG felicitates team for Shri Amarnath Ji Yata success

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha felicitated officers of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Civil Administration, Army, CAPFs, J&K Police, BRO, medical professionals, service providers, and other stakeholders for successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. He said pilgrimage is a celebration of the collective resolve that transformed hardships into duty, challenges into opportunities, and service into a form of ►P11

Mehbooba urges CM to repair road

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to enhance the road conditions leading to Drung, a tourist spot near Tangmarg in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, due to its significant tourism potential.

"Requesting CM @OmarAbdullah and the Commissioner Secretary @WorksDepartment to kindly intervene and ensure the road is repaired. Drung has all the potential to become a major tourist attraction and deserves its rightful place on JK's tourism map," Mehbooba said in a post on X.

The former chief minister shared that she recently visited the area with her ►P11

New terror tactics in J&K: Pornography apps, Tor net used for secret messaging

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: After exposing the misuse of online gaming platforms by terror groups, security agencies have uncovered a new operational tactic adopted by terrorists and their handlers who are now using pornography websites and niche encrypted applications to communicate secretly, officials said on Sunday.

The covert channels are being used by terror outfits and Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, to convey instructions to recruits in Jammu and Kashmir while evading surveillance on conventional social media platforms.

Officials said these pornography platforms feature real-time chat tools, operating under the guise of helping users find dates nearby, which handlers exploit to broadcast messages and coordinate activities.

- Handlers shift from gaming apps to porn sites, encrypted apps for messaging recruits in J-K
- Real-time chat tools concealed as dating features used to pass instructions undetected
- Apps like Coatex, Conion and SIM-free tools used to mask identities and communications
- Banned apps in India still accessed via VPNs, keeping the networks untraceable and secure
- Handlers move away from WhatsApp, Signal, repeat virtual-SIM tactics 1st uncovered in 2019

Security agencies have placed a wide array of specialised digital tools under scrutiny. Terror handlers are relying on Tor-based messaging applications like Coatex and Conion to route data through encrypted nodes and obscure user identities.

Access to the APK for Conion reportedly faces restrictions

within India. An APK file (Android Package Kit) is the file format used by the Android operating system to distribute and install mobile apps.

Additionally, they are using privacy-focused platforms such as a France-based app that allows end-to-end encrypted messaging without requiring a ►P11

Statehood will return, ‘Art 370’ will not: BJP Party hails CB probe into rape-death case

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Sunday hit out at Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq for urging political parties to unite for the restoration of Article 370, claiming that such statements are attempts to provoke the public and disrupt the peaceful atmosphere that has emerged in the valley after years of violence.

BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur said Parliament took a "historic" constitutional decision on August 5, 2019, and the Supreme Court subsequently upheld the abrogation of Article 370.

"Mirwaiz Umar Farooq should understand that Article 370 is not coming back. Parliament has buried Article 370 forever, and no political party, leader or pressure group can reverse that constitutional reality,"

Thakur said.

He said such calls risked dragging Kashmir back into the politics of the past.

"Statements of this nature are meant to provoke people and vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the Valley once again. This will never be allowed. The nation has paid a very heavy price for the return of peace to Kashmir. The sacrifices of our brave security forces and civilians, including political workers who laid down their lives for peace and democracy, cannot be allowed to be undermined or challenged through politically motivated statements," Thakur said.

He noted that Kashmir has experienced enough bloodshed, shutdowns, stone-pelting, and disruption, and that the people should not be pushed into another cycle of instability.

"Those who attempt to revive old fault lines must ►P11

7-yr's jail for man in ISIS terror linked case

BENGALURU: An NIA court sentenced a man to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for his involvement in an ISIS-linked terror conspiracy aimed at carrying out targeted killings to provoke communal riots, an official statement issued on Sunday said.

According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) investigation, the conspiracy was masterminded by Mehaboob Pasha, the prime accused in the case, who conducted several meetings at his residence in Gurappanapalya, Bengaluru.

In these meetings, the accused planned targeted killings to incite ►P11

Armed Forces HQ Assn takes up service matters with Dr Jitendra



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Sunday held an interaction with a delegation of the Armed Forces HQ Association, during which various demands and service-related

phere.

Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the delegation for coming forward to discuss the concerns of employees in a structured manner. He said that continuous and constructive dialogue with employee representatives is important for addressing genuine service-related concerns and for ensuring greater administrative efficiency.

The Minister assured the delegation that the demands and representations submitted by them would be thoroughly examined in consultation with the relevant stakeholder departments. He further assured that he would make his best efforts in the interest of employees, while ensuring that the concerns raised are considered through the appropriate administrative process. ►P11

'Unity in Diversity' is in Bharat's DNA: Bhagwat



NEW YORK: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said that unity in diversity is in Bharat's DNA, underscoring that it has to be "celebrated, respected and accepted."

Addressing over 6,000 members of the Indian-American community and interfaith leaders at a mega rally at Infosys Theatre in the iconic city Madison Square

Garden on Saturday, Bhagwat gave a clarion call to embrace diversity and support communities.

"When we say America, United States of America, one word is often discussed frequently, that is pluralism. And when we say Bharat, another phrase is discussed: unity in diversity," he said, drawing applause from the attendees at the ►P11

J&K Bank extends benefits to 887 employees; signs three CSP MoUs

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening relationships with prominent educational and business institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank has signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) under its Corporate Salary Package (CSP) with Delhi Public School (DPS) Budgam, HK Automobiles Pvt. Ltd. (HK Hyundai) and Himalayan Motors.

The agreements will collectively extend customised banking benefits and enhanced service features to 887 employees of the three institutions.

The MoU with DPS Budgam, covering 341 employees of the school, was signed by Zonal Head



(Budgam) Layek Ahmad Jan on behalf of the Bank and Mrs Soz on behalf of the institution. Cluster Head (Budgam) Wasim Ahmad Qadri, Branch Head (Humhama) Sheikh Nazima Asad and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

The Bank also formalised

its CSP arrangement with HK Automobiles Pvt. Ltd., extending its benefits to 141 employees of the group. Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar and Director HK Automobiles Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din signed the agreement on behalf of the respective organisations in the ►P11