

INBRIEF

J-K achieves
full literacy
status under
ULLAS scheme

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir has joined the league of fully literate states and union territories under the Centre's ULLAS scheme. Jammu and Kashmir is the largest population region to achieve this target, he said. "UT of Jammu Kashmir proudly joins the league of Fully Literate States/UTs under the ULLAS scheme of Government of India," Sinha said in a post on X. "With 99.09% success, it stands tall as the largest population region to achieve this milestone. Congratulations to our teachers, administrators and every stakeholder who made this possible. Let us always remember that education is the truest force of empowerment and our collective responsibility is to keep advancing this mission," he added. ► P11

Kejriwal's
march to
PM House
stopped

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police on Tuesday stopped AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders from marching towards the Prime Minister's residence with around 100 people to submit over 2.30 lakh petitions against E20 petrol, prompting them to stage a protest on Firoz Shah Road. Kejriwal, along with former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, AAP leader Jasmine Shah and other party leaders, sat on the road after being stopped by the police. ► P11

MHA posts 10
IAS Officers;
Yadav, Seerat
Baji to J&K

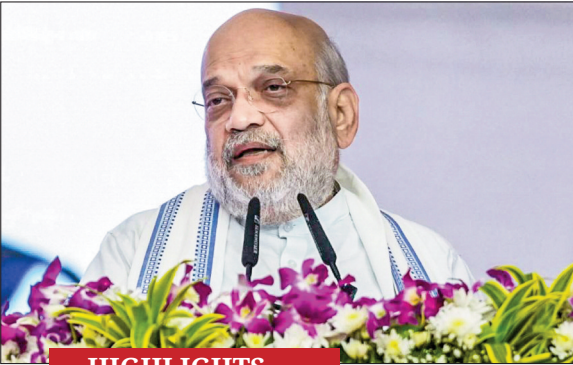
JAMMU: The Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered the postings of 10 IAS officers of the 2024 AGMUT cadre after completion of their Phase-II training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). Among them, the daughter of the soil and the former JKPSCTopper, Anmol Rathore, has been posted to Arunachal Pradesh, while Gaurav Yadav and Seerat Baji have been posted to Jammu and Kashmir. The other postings include Rupal ► P11

Overall CAT case disposal above
93%: Chairman briefs Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Justice Ranjit Vasantrao More, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and briefed him on the Tribunal's recent initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional reforms, wider outreach and technology-enabled service delivery. Justice More informed the Minister that since its inception the Tribunal has received more than 10 lakh cases for adjudication and

274 fugitives repatriated from 36 nations
in 7 years; Govt credits tech-driven action

Home Minister Amit Shah said, "The Modi govt has launched integrated, intelligence-led, and technology-driven operations, hounding fugitives in foreign lands."



- HIGHLIGHTS
- 17 terror, 42 organised crime fugitives repatriated
 - 401 fugitives targeted via Red Notices in 3 years
 - 62 wanted in murder, robbery, violent crimes
 - 53 wanted in sexual crimes repatriated
 - Rs 17,874 Cr in fugitive assets attached
 - Rs 18,762 Cr restitution made, Govt says
 - 182 Interpol Red Notices issued in 2026 so far
 - IB, CBI, R&AW, NIA, ED among agencies involved
 - BHARATPOL connects 1,400+ law-enforcement agencies
 - BNSS allows trial in absentia of fugitive accused
 - Operation Trishul used tech to trace fugitives abroad

NEW DELHI: As many as 274 fugitives have been repatriated from 36 countries in the last 7 years, an average of around 40 per year and a 10-fold jump from the 2004-13 period when around four fugitives were brought back every year, the government said on Tuesday. Assets worth Rs 17,874 crore belonging to fugitives have also been attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during the period, a government statement said. It claimed that previous

governments lacked the political will to bring back fugitives while the Modi government has made the extradition of fugitives a "national priority". Among the fugitives brought between 2019 and 2026 (till July), nine were wanted in financial crimes, 17 in terror cases, 42 in organised criminal activities, 62 in murder, robbery and violent crimes, 53 in sexual crimes and sexual crimes against children, 16 for drug peddling, 12 in smuggling, fake currency etc, 18 wanted in human trafficking and 45 for other offences, it said. In a message on 'X', Home Minister Amit Shah said, "The Modi govt has launched integrated, intelligence-led, and technology-driven operations, hounding fugitives in foreign lands." "The provision for trial in absentia under the three new laws has empowered the justice system to initiate proceedings against absconding criminals. Stringent ► P11

India rejects local
body polls in PoJK



NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday described the so-called local body elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) a "complete farce," asserting that such "hollow" exercises cannot hide the ground reality in the region. The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) strongly criticised Pakistan's crackdown on protesters in PoJK and said the international community should see through the "flimsy veneer" of Islamabad's "hypocritical lecturing" on human rights. The PoJK has been witnessing massive ► P11

SF's launch searches
along IB, in Poonch

JAMMU: Security forces on Tuesday launched a search operation after spotting a Pakistani drone hovering over forward villages along the International Border in Kathua district, officials said. Police, assisted by the Rashtriya Rifles, also carried out extensive searches across dozens of remote villages in Poonch district following inputs about the suspected movement of two groups of terrorists, the officials said. A Pakistani drone intruded into Indian territory and was seen hovering over the forward villages of

Shukhmal, Devindera and Tapan in the Bobiyan area of Kathua's Hiranagar sector around 2 pm, they said. Alert Border Security Force (BSF) personnel initiated countermeasures to bring down the drone, but the flying object, which was at a high altitude, managed to return across the border, the officials said. The BSF, along with the police, later conducted a thorough search of the area to ensure that the drone had not carried out any airdropping, they said, adding the operation was continuing when last reports were received. ► P11

Eye Opener for J&K Govt, Education Dept
Should Govt machinery promote a Pvt Coaching Company?

JAMMU: In an interesting development that raises serious questions over the use of government authority, the J&K School Education Department has directed its administrative machinery across Jammu Division to disseminate and facilitate a scholarship examination being conducted by a private coaching company. Pertinent to mention here that a circular was issued by the Joint Director, School Education (Jammu), on July 24, 2026, which directed the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of Jammu

Division to ensure that information about the Physics Wallah National Scholarship Test (PWNSAT-2026) reaches Government, private and Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) schools. The Heads of Institutions have further been asked to extend "necessary support and cooperation" for the scholarship test. The circular was subsequently forwarded by the CEO Udhampur, on August 4, 2026, to the education field machinery, including Principals, Zonal Education Officers and Headmasters. The documents raised a basic but important ques-

tion—Why is the government education machinery being used to promote a private coaching company's examination? This is not simply a case of a private organisation informing students about a scholarship opportunity. The departmental circular carries an official direction to the education hierarchy and asks institutions to co-operate with the conduct and dissemination of the examination. In effect, a government administrative network is being used to take the message of a private coaching company directly to students and

schools. Additionally, the sequence of documents makes the matter particularly noteworthy. "Physics Wallah Ltd, through a letter signed by its Jammu Business Head, approached the Joint Director seeking "kind permission" to conduct PWNSAT across Government, private and KV schools in Jammu province", the letter reads. Moreover, in its communication, the company highlighted its own scholarship and prize claims, including Rs 250 crore in scholarships, Rs 2.5 crore in cash prizes, free ► P11

Batch of 964
pilgrims leaves
for pilgrimage

JAMMU: A batch of 964 devotees left the base camp here on Tuesday for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra in Kashmir, the smallest batch of pilgrims so far. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was shut for several hours due to slippery road conditions and debris clearance operation, was reopened for traffic facilitating passage of the yatra. The fresh batch of pilgrims left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for Baltal in 39 vehicles around 3 am, ► P11

CM reviews Budget execution, stresses
for timely delivery, tangible outcomes



SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat to assess the progress on the implementation of key Budget Announcements for 2026–27 across several major depart-

ments. Emphasising timely execution and effective delivery, he directed departments to expedite implementation, strengthen coordination and ensure that Budget commitments translate into tangible benefits for the people. The meeting was at-

tended by Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakina Itoo; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief ► P11

**No religion permits
killing of innocents**
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday termed the killing of two migrant labourers in Kulgam district as "very unfortunate" and said no religion permits the shedding of the blood of innocent people. He also expressed hope that the security grid will ensure such incidents do not ► P11

SMVD "Fake Silver" row:
CJM seeks inquiry report

JAMMU: A court here has sought a detailed inquiry report into the alleged Rs 500 crore 'fake silver' matter linked to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, while directing authorities to act on an application seeking preservation of evidence. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, Munish Kumar Manhas passed the directions on July 29 while hearing an application filed by advocate Deepak Sharma seeking immediate preservation of the physical, documentary and electronic evi-

dence connected with the case. Sharma had earlier submitted a complaint to the Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch, Jammu, and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, Economic Offences Wing, Jammu, on May 9, alleging adulteration, substitution, pilferage and possible misappropriation of approximately 20 tonnes of silver offerings made by devotees at the shrine. He had valued the offering at around Rs 550 crore. Taking the application on record, the CJM directed the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mata Vaisho Devi Bhawan, to take ► P11

SgCT sacked
for indulging
in smuggling

JAMMU: A policeman was dismissed from service for his alleged involvement in narcotic smuggling in Kathua, police said on Tuesday. In a strict action reinforcing its zero-tolerance policy against drugs, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kathua Mohita Sharma dismissed Selection Grade constable Aftab Ahmed, a resident of Reasi district from service for his involvement in the narcotics case, a police spokesperson said. He said the dismissal follows a departmental enquiry linked to an ► P11

India to hit \$5-trillion
economy in FY29: FM

NEW DELHI: Indian economy is set to cross USD 5-trillion mark in FY29 as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the government has adopted a broad-based growth strategy to achieve the milestone, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. As per the World Economic Outlook database (April 2026) published by the IMF, India's GDP at current prices is projected to be around USD 5.1 trillion by 2028-29, she said in a written reply. "The government has adopted a broad-based growth strategy focusing on

enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting manufacturing, supporting MSMEs, expanding infrastructure, improving logistics and ease of doing business, creating an efficient and streamlined tax system through income tax and GST reforms, fostering innovation and digitalisation, strengthening human capital, and ensuring energy security," she said. The strategy is complemented by sustained emphasis on public capital expenditure, liberalising the FDI regime, boosting exports, and strengthening macroeconomic fundamentals through prudent fiscal ► P11