

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

Life is not measured
by the number of
breaths we take, but
by the moments that
take our breath away.
—Maya Angelou

INBRIEF

HM Shah calls for drug-free India by 2029



NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the government will undertake a decisive battle towards a complete victory by 2029 against narcotics, which have become the most serious threat to the country, by fixing "target, timeline and accountability".

Inaugurating the third national conference of chiefs of anti-narcotics task force (ANTF) here, he said until all departments of

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Pak must act against 'terror' for world to trust its claims: MEA

NEW DELHI: Pakistan must take "credible action" against cross-border terrorism before the world believes Islamabad would do what it says, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

During his bi-weekly briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked how New Delhi viewed the comments by Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, who on Tuesday said the armed forces were determined to defeat terrorism amid the rising threat of militancy in the country.

"Pakistan needs to demonstrate action and firm commitment. And it must take credible action against cross-border terrorism before the world believes it would do what it says," he said. Earlier, Asim Munir today said that the armed

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Woman's last rites performed at home; 3 held in death case

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Amid allegations of foul play, the last rites of a 40-year-old woman, who was found hanging at her residence in RS Pura sector, were performed on the lawn of her home by agitated people instead of at the cremation ground, officials said on Tuesday.

Sushma Devi, a resident of Sai Sardari village of Arnia and mother of two minor children, was found hanging in her room on Monday, leading to protests by her parents and villagers who alleged that she was murdered by her husband and in-laws.

Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Anna Sinha said three people have been

arrested in connection with the suspicious death of Devi. Police, however, have yet to identify the arrested accused.

A six-member medical board has conducted the post-mortem, and the exact cause of death will be established after the report, the officer said at a press conference.

The agitated people tried to ransack the house on Monday, but the heavy police deployment maintained order and foiled their attempt.

However, the body of the woman was brought to her home after postmortem and cremated on the lawn of her house as part of the villagers' protest.

SP Headquarters said the police acted swiftly in the case and arrested

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Article 370 consigned to history: LG

Sardar Patel's wisdom integrated 562 princely states into united India: Sinha

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"Lt Guv describes abrogation of Articles 370 & 35A as fulfilment of Patel's unfinished dream

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched the book "Sardar Patel and Kashmir: The Untold History". He paid homage to the foresight and nation-building genius of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and expressed gratitude to Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan Ji. The Lieutenant Governor commended the Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan for its unparalleled contributions to spiritual upliftment, education, and humanitarian service. He also congratulated Dr. Rizwan Kadri for editing and publishing this important work.



In his speech, the Lieutenant Governor described Sardar Patel as the "architect of modern India," whose indomitable will and practical wisdom ensured the integration of 562 princely states into a united country. He emphasized that Sardar Patel's vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" continues to define the essence of India's democracy and unity in diversity. The Lieutenant Governor recalled Sardar Patel's firm stance on Jammu Kashmir, noting his declaration that "we will not give even an inch of Jammu Kashmir's territory to anyone."

He reflected on Sardar Patel's deep understanding of the nation's pulse and his ability to connect with the common people, workers and communities across India.

"Through his indomitable willpower, clear vision, selfless diligence, and skilful organisational strength, he ensured that the dream of an undivided India became a reality. I also

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Yash Paul Bourney sworn in as High Court Judge

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Senior Judicial Officer, Yash Paul Bourney was sworn in as the Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at a solemn ceremony held in the Chief Justice's Court at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court on Tuesday.

Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, administered the oath of office to Justice Yash Paul Bourney.

The Warrant of Appointment was read out by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who also conducted the proceedings of the ceremony.

The ceremony was graced by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani and Justice Sanjay Parihar. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Rahul Bharti, Jus-



tice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Shahzad Azeem joined the ceremony through virtual mode from Jammu wing of the High Court.

The family members, close relatives and friends of Justice Yash Paul Bourney were also present on the occasion, lending special significance to the ceremony.

Among other dignitaries present were Mir Syed Latif, Judicial Member (HOD) of the Central Ad-

ministrative Tribunal, Srinagar Bench, Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, M.K. Sinha, ADGP CID, Achal Sethi, Commissioner Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, IGP Kashmir, IGP Security, Senior Advocates; Executive Members of the Kashmir Advocates' Association and the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Law Officers; Judicial Officers;

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India-EU ties open new avenues in AI, quantum, semiconductors: Dr Jitendra



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: European Parliament Committee delegation on Industry, Research & Energy (ITRE), led by Angelika Winzig and Austria, Raffaele Stancanelli, on Tues-

day called on Union Minister for State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh and held a wide range discussion, with focus on effective implementation of the India-EU

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and deeper cooperation with the European Union in science, technology, research and, critical and emerging technologies.

The Minister said the India-EU strategic partnership offers significant opportunities for closer collaboration in areas of mutual priority, with science and research forming an integral part of the partnership.

The European Parliament delegation comprised Member, ITRE; Angelika Winzig, MEP, Austria, Raffaele Stancanelli, MEP, and Full Member, ITRE; Mohammed Chahim, MEP, Netherlands, S&D Vice-President and Full Member, ITRE; Raúl de la Hoz Quintano, MEP, Spain and Full Member, ITRE; Nicolás González Casares, MEP, Spain and Full Member, ITRE; Morten

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NC, BJP clash over 'holiday' on birthdays of Maharaja Hari Singh, Sheikh Abdullah

▶▶ BJP legislators stage walkout

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed noisy scenes after an NC MLA demanded that either the holiday on the birth anniversary of party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah be restored or the holiday on the anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh be cancelled.

As soon as the proceedings began, ruling National Conference (NC) MLA Abdul Majeed Larmi made the demand.

However, the BJP MLAs opposed it, creating a ruckus in the House.

BJP MLA Devayani Rana said the holiday on the anniversary of the Maharaja will not be cancelled.

Supporting the demand for holiday on former chief minister Abdullah's anniversary, NC MLA Nazir Gurezi said the NC founder was the peoples' leader.

As the BJP members raised slogans against the government, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather asked them that if Larmi has put his view in the House,

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Power tariff hike to add Rs 250 Cr to exchequer

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The recent power tariff hike is expected to add over Rs 250 crore to the public exchequer, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was informed on Tuesday. Responding to a question

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Can't replicate Gulmarg model everywhere: CM

Govt may extend power amnesty scheme



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the government cannot replicate the Gulmarg model of tourism infrastructure at every destination

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Govt moves resolution seeking TET exemption

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Minister for School Education, Sakeena Itoo, today moved a Resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly seeking amendments to the Right to Education Act to exempt teachers appointed before October 31, 2019, from appearing in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

"This House unanimously urges the Union Government to make necessary statutory amendment to Section 23 of the Right

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'Fake silver' row: Court grants more time to complete probe

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A local court has granted more time to complete a probe into the alleged 'fake silver' offering row linked to the Vaishno Devi shrine, after the inquiry officer sought additional time citing the need to examine substantial documentary and CCTV material.

The chief judicial magistrate of Jammu passed the order on September 19 while hearing the case arising from advocate Deepak Sharma's complaint, which sought the registration of an FIR and a fair, comprehensive and scientific investigation into the alleged adulteration, substitution, pilferage and possible misappropriation of around 20 tonnes of silver offerings made by devotees at the shrine, reportedly valued at Rs 550 crore.

A deputy superintendent of police probing the allegations had submitted

a status report, seeking additional time to complete the inquiry.

According to the status report, the probe involves examination of substantial documentary and electronic material, including CCTV footage, statements of officials and records relating to the handling, storage and transportation of silver.

The DSP said that detailed examination and correlation of the material was required before the final report could be submitted.

"The inquiry officer has sought some time for completing the inquiry. On the basis of facts/grounds stated in the report, further time is granted to the inquiry officer to proceed with the inquiry," the court said, listing the case for next hearing on October 10.

Sharma, who appeared in person, said the police have disclosed that 116 pages of official records and

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▶ Sinha inaugurates new facilities at Jammu University

In age of AI, students should embrace lifelong learning, empathy, values: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated a series of new facilities at the University of Jammu. The inauguration included a modern sports complex, a shooting range, high-mast lights for the cricket stadium and the Tawi Guest House complex, developed at a cost of nearly Rs. 10 Crore. These facilities, the Lieutenant Governor noted, will empower the University's athletes, scholars, and visitors, strengthening its role as a hub of excellence in the Union Territory.

Congratulating the Vice-Chancellor and stakeholders, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that while infrastructure is important, the true transformation of an institu-



tion lies in the values, ideas, and innovations nurtured within its walls. He reminded the audience that every generation experiences change, but the intensity of transformation in the present era, which is driven by artificial intelligence, is unparalleled.

The Lieutenant Governor in his address raised a critical question that in the age of AI, what does it mean to be educated? He highlighted global concerns about AI's accelerating power, citing experts. He warned that AI, as a "quadruple-use" technology, could operate independently, producing both beneficial and harmful outcomes. Stressing that technology must remain humanity's servant, he declared that decisions affecting human dignity, livelihood, health, and freedom must always be made by accountable humans, not machines.

"The day technology becomes the master of humanity, our very existence will be at risk. Machines can calculate, but they cannot feel. Machines can predict, but they cannot bear responsibility for

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3 rusted landmines found in Mendhar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Three rusted landmines were found and subsequently destroyed in Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

The mines were recovered by army personnel while carrying out some work in Phagwari Gali area near border village Dharana Basoni, the officials said.

They said the recovered explosive items were safely disposed by the bomb disposal team of the Army without causing any damage. As part of the counter-infiltration

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J&K Bank holds 88th AGM of its shareholders Recruitment notification in J&K, Ladakh to be issued within days, says MD & CEO



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank today held 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of its shareholders here at SKICC.

Bank's Part-time Non-Executive Chairman S. Krishnan chaired the AGM - themed 'Trust, Tradition and Transformation' - in the presence of MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and the Bank's Directors on

the Board, including Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Shailendra Kumar (IAS), representing the majority shareholder and promoter, i.e. the J&K Government; Commissioner and Secretary of the Finance Department, Ladakh UT, Tsewang Tharchin (IAS), who was recently recommended by the Bank's Board for appointment as a Non-Executive Non-Independent

Director. Along with a large number of valued shareholders, the meeting was attended by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General Managers, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Company Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Scrutinizer, auditors and other senior officers, besides members of the media fraternity.

Addressing the shareholders, Chairman S. Krishnan captured the essence of theme, saying, "Our past gives us identity. Our present gives us strength. Our future gives us responsibility. Trust is our inheritance. Tradition is our anchor. Transformation is our obligation." Chairman emphasised that the Bank's progress must ultimately be measured by its wider contribution. "The

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