

INBRIEF



Shah credits growth amid global chaos

PANAJI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said India had maintained the momentum of its economic growth despite global geopolitical turmoil as it engaged with other countries and built strategic partnerships in key areas.

He asserted India's reach in the diplomatic world was increasing and it had concluded nine free trade agreements (FTAs) by 2026, noting wider economic engagement helped **► P11**



Rajnath: Forces empowered to react decisively

NEW DELHI: Indian armed forces have been given "freedom and resources" to respond decisively to threats, including striking adversaries inside their own territory, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

In his address at an event here, he reiterated that India believes in peace and it does not desire war or seek to occupy the territory of **► P11**



Tahir Khurshid Raina posted as Sessions Judge

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has transferred Principal District and Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Tahir Khursid Raina, and posted him as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, against a vacant post.

According to an order issued by the Registrar **► P11**

India-China armies discuss 'peace, stability' along LAC

NEW DELHI: The Indian and Chinese armies reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Arunachal Pradesh sector, days after the two sides held Special Representative talks in Beijing on the festering boundary question.

The focus of the corps commander-level talks at the Wacha-Damai border meeting point in Arunachal Pradesh's Kibithoo region was to maintain peace and tranquillity along the frontier, people familiar with the matter said.

The Indian delegation was headed by Lt General Girish Kalia, the commander of the Army's Dimapur-based 3 Corps.

1st International Film Festival of J-K begins
Filmmakers from 30 countries to
showcase 130+ films over 4 days

CM Omar declares UT open to global filmmakers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), marking a new chapter in Jammu & Kashmir's long and enduring relationship with cinema.

The four-day festival brings together filmmakers, artists, delegates and cinema



enthusiasts from across the world, with participation from over 30 countries and more than 130 films being showcased during the festival.

Describing the inaugural edition of IFFJK as more

than a celebration of cinema, the Chief Minister said the festival shall portray Jammu & Kashmir's as a vibrant and alluring destination for filmmakers, storytellers and creative talent from across India and the world. **► P11**

IFFJK opens J-K to international cinema: Chopra

SRINAGAR: Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra on Monday hoped that the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) would open the Union territory's doors to international cinema.

"I hope so, in fact, I fully expect so. I am very optimistic," Chopra told reporters on the **► P11**

In touch with Home Minister on pending J&K issues: Omar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he is in constant touch with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as there are several issues pending between the Union Territory and the Centre, including restoration of statehood.

Talking to reporters here, Abdullah also lauded the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is hosting its first international film festival.

"I am in constant communication with the home minister. There are several issues between Jammu and Kashmir and the central government that are discussed," he said. The chief minister



said Jammu and Kashmir and the Centre have pending issues, such as restoration of statehood, approval of business rules, the appointment of the advocate general delayed for almost two years now and the reservation report that has not been forwarded to the Union government after the Union Territory cabinet answered the queries raised earlier.

"Discussions are held on all these issues," Abdullah said when asked about his recent meeting with Shah in New Delhi.

On the demolition of a mosque in Uttar **► P11**

Manhunt on for peddler who eluded NCB custody

JAMMU: A suspected drug peddler escaped from the custody of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Jammu, triggering an alert and intensified search and checking operations across the region, officials said on Monday.

Aqib Bashir, a resident of Pulwama district's Kakapora, was arrested by the NCB along with 522 grams of heroin from a passenger bus in Samba district on September 3.

Bashir allegedly escaped from NCB custody at Narwal during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the officials **► P11**

6 Khauf Gang members held with 3 pistols, 'sharp-edged' weapons
Inter-state drugs smuggling network busted

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/KATHUA: Six criminals were arrested, and 3 pistols and various some sharp-edged weapons recovered from them in Arnia area on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday, officials said.

The arrested individuals are residents of Bishnah and the alleged members of the Khouf Gang, accused of threatening a local of Kool Kalan, Ashwani Kumar, on September 3 by displaying a pistol and 'tokkas (sharp-edged weapons)', according to the officials.



Today, Jammu Police successfully arrested them along with the weapons and 6 live rounds have also been recovered.

Taking immediate cognizance of the incident, Police

Station Arnia launched a preliminary enquiry and initiated sustained efforts to identify and apprehend the persons involved. The available CCTV footage was meticulously scrutinized and back-

tracked, covering various points along the route taken by the suspects from the place of occurrence. Clear snapshots of the suspects were subsequently extracted from the footage and circulated among reliable local sources. Based on the reliable intelligence all six accused were rounded up and taken to police custody for questioning.

Police Station Arnia registered an FIR under the relevant provisions of law. Further investigation is in progress to cover backward and forward linkages of the case. **► P11**

LG addressed IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Meet in Chicago
AI to drive fiscal growth by blending human, machine intelligence: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday addressed the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Meet in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Paying tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the visionary legacy of Mahamana and his monumental contributions to advancing engineering education and industrializing India.

He said that Mahamana's ideals and vision continue to inspire generations to advance technology, strengthen the economy and serve society.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor discussed how Artificial Intelligence will drive economic growth by combining human poten-



tial with machine intelligence, and called for Responsible AI.

He emphasized that AI must remain anchored in ethics, core values, and strict human oversight. Technology must be proactively guided by humanity to ensure it serves the collective well-being of all people, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke about the rise of a new India, which is stronger at home, confident abroad

and prepared to contribute in shaping the new future of humanity.

"Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is building its own place in the world and preparing to lead it. This is India's moment. This is India's century. I can confidently say that this is the rise of a civilisational power, which is confident, compassionate, innovative and unstoppable. **► P11**

Stipend Talks Fail
Medical interns begin 48-hour hunger strike

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Medical interns from 10 Government Medical Colleges and two Dental Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir began a 48-hour hunger strike on Monday after talks with the state government failed to end their seven-day strike for an enhanced monthly stipend.

"Our strike is indefinite. It will not stop until we receive an official order. But now, over a week has passed since the strike began. If the government takes an issue seriously, it doesn't take this



long to issue an order," a protesting medical intern, Dr Faraz, said.

He said the medical interns were compelled to sit on a hunger strike to create sus-

tained pressure on the government. "No one forced them. Two to three students from each college have come forward to sit on a hunger strike," he said. **► P11**

Dr Jitendra, Luxembourg Minister discuss Space sector cooperation

NEW DELHI: Lex Delles, Minister of the Economy, SME, Energy and Tourism, Govt of Luxembourg, currently on India visit, today called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Minister of State for the Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and proposed identifying concrete areas of collaboration between the two countries, primarily in the Space sector, as also in other emerging technologies and life sciences.

The proposed mechanism could also explore cooperation in areas including Artificial Intelligence, quantum



technologies, advanced materials and life sciences, and help develop specific inputs from both sides ahead of the proposed State Visit of Luxembourg to India in January 2027. The bilateral meeting between the two Ministers

discussed the current status of India-Luxembourg cooperation in Space, future developments in the sector, opportunities for further institutional and commercial collaboration, and preparations for the **► P11**

Detained Pak citizen repatriated

JAMMU: A Pakistani national, who was recently apprehended after inadvertently intruding into this side, was handed over to Rangers along the International Border here on Monday, officials said.

Nazir Sadhir, a resident of Luni Pundra village in Sialkot, was handed over to Pakistani Rangers by the Border Security Force (BSF) at Golpattan Border Out-Post area, the officials said.

He was nabbed in Kanachak area of Jammu on September 3 soon after he entered into Indian territory from across the border.

The questioning of **► P11**

UN rights experts ask Pak to stop persecuting Ahmadiyyas

UNITED NATIONS: Voicing grave concern over continuing reports of discrimination and violence targeting the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan, UN human rights experts on Monday asked Islamabad to break the "pattern of impunity" that allows perpetrators to act without restraint.

In a statement from Geneva, the experts also called on Pakistani authorities to ensure the protection of the community and uphold the country's international human rights obligations.

"We are deeply concerned by persistent reports that members of the Ahmadiyya community continue to face harassment, criminal prosecution, vio-

lence, and exclusion because of their religious identity," the experts said.

"Pakistan must break the pattern of impunity that has allowed perpetrators of attacks and incitement to hatred and violence to act without restraint," they said. "These attacks take place with tacit official complicity whilst the cycle of fear prevents people and institutions from upholding the rights and dignity of these minority groups."

Pakistan's Parliament in 1974 declared the Ahmadiyya community as non-Muslims. A decade later, they were banned from calling themselves Muslims. They are banned from preaching and from travelling to Saudi Arabia for **► P11**

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