

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

How wonderful it
is that nobody
need wait a single
moment before
starting to im-
prove the world
—Anne Frank

‘Govt moving towards free online coaching’ We built 50K rail coaches, Congress regime couldn’t build toilets: Modi

VADODARA: Prime Minitr Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the government was working to reduce the burden of fees faced by the families of students preparing for competitive examinations by providing free online coaching.

Speaking at the 'NaMo for Viksit Bharat' programme here where he inaugurated or laid foundation stones for Rs 35,000 crore-worth development projects, the PM referred to the announcement he had made in this regard in his August 15 Red Fort speech.

"You are aware that lakhs of young people prepare for competitive examinations. Every year, a significant portion of our families' earnings is spent on coaching for these students," Modi said.

"We aim to save money for the families of poor and mid-



dle-class students. Consequently, the government is moving towards providing free online coaching, allowing our youth to prepare under the guidance of India's best teachers. The government itself will oversee this coaching arrangement," he added.

Changing global needs

CRPF to take charge from Army across 21 locations

Proposal identifies spots in Udhampur & Kathua for deployment alongside specialised units CoBRA

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/JAMMU: Security agencies have drawn up a comprehensive plan to replace Army troops with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for counter-terrorist operations across select locations in the Jammu region, officials said on Tuesday.

Under the proposal, about 21 locations in Udhampur and Kathua districts in Jammu region have been identified for the deployment of the paramilitary force alongside specialised units of its jungle warfare wing, the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA).

Officials in the security

establishment said that these camps had been reduced to a skeletal presence following earlier troop movements and with the CRPF now taking over these operating bases, better operational coordination between the Army and paramilitary forces will be ensured across the terrain.

In 2020, it was decided that CRPF will fill the vacuum created due to the troop movement to the Line of Actual Control.

It has been decided to deploy approximately 21 CRPF companies, comprising around 2,100 personnel, to man 21 camps across the two districts in the Jammu region, officials said.

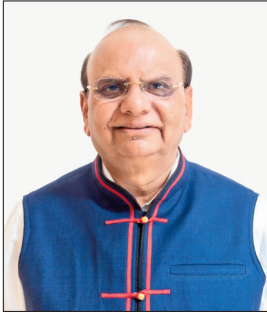
These CRPF companies, supported by CoBRA teams, will conduct targeted counter-terrorist operations in the forested areas and rugged tracks of Jammu that have witnessed terrorist movements and the creation of hideouts in recent years.

The security ► P11

Ladakh LG gets ‘addl charge’ of J-K; to administer Oath to High Court CJ

NEW DELHI/LEH: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena was given additional charge of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday during the "absence, on leave" of incumbent Manoj Sinha, with Saxena's new assignment beginning with administering the oath of office to new chief justice of the high court.

This is for the first time since Ladakh became a Union Territory in August 2019 that an LG of the region will administer the oath of office to the chief justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.



Kumar Saxena, Lt. Governor of Ladakh to discharge the functions of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, during the absence, on leave, of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir," a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Tuesday.

On September 5, President Murmu appointed Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High

Court. He will succeed Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice since June 2.

The swearing-in ceremony for Justice Bhati will take place at the Convention Centre in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said.

Traditionally, the Jammu and Kashmir LG has administered the oath of office to a newly appointed chief justice of the High Court. However, this time, Ladakh LG Saxena has been designated to administer the oath to Justice Bhati, marking a first for the Union Territory.

The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended Justice Bhati's name for Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court on August 31.

Earlier this month, a regulation for a permanent bench of the High ► P11

5 J-K films selected for competitive section Day 2 of event attended by Sriram Raghavan, Imtiaz Ali

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: From memories to displacement, heritage and the changing social landscape of Kashmir, five films by directors from Jammu and Kashmir have been selected for the J&K Select section, the competitive category of the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), 2026.

The films were recommended by the Preview Committee constituted for the festival after reviewing the submissions and assessing their artistic merit and suitability for the competitive



section, officials said here on Tuesday.

The selection reflects a diverse range of narratives, genres and perspectives, with

CS underlines UT Film Policy, single-window authorizations

SRINAGAR: The second day of the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK-2026) witnessed an engaging policy dialogue on the prospects of building a sustainable cinematic ecosystem in the Union Territory, with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasising the need to create an enabling environment for local talent, filmmaking, film education and investment.

Participating in a panel discussion on "How the J&K Film Policy, Single-Window Clearances, ► P11

CM watches ‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ Omar interacts with lead actors, hails their participation in IFFJK

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today watched *Mirzapur: The Movie* at INOX Multiplex, Shivpora, Srinagar, as one of the films being screened during the ongoing International Film Festival Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), being held under the theme 'Rang-e-Cinema'.

The screening provided the Chief Minister an opportunity to experience the festival's celebration of cinema alongside film enthusiasts and audiences. The IFFJK, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Omar Abdul-



lah at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) last evening, is bringing together filmmakers, artists and cinema enthusiasts from across India and abroad, with a diverse range of films being showcased during the festival.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister interacted with the lead actors of ► P11

Sunidhi Chauhan lauds Kashmir's beauty, wish to organize concert

SRINAGAR: Mesmerised by Kashmir's beauty and hospitality, Bollywood playback singer Sunidhi Chauhan on Tuesday said it was her childhood dream to visit the valley and hoped to organise a concert here.

"I cannot express how happy I am because it was my childhood dream to come to Kashmir. Over the years, I have travelled to so many places, but I never had the opportunity to visit Kashmir. Finally, I am here, and it ► P11

Dr Jitendra inaugurates day-care cancer facility

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Tuesday said that the rising cancer burden in the country calls for a sustained expansion of cancer-care facilities at different levels so that patients can access quality treatment closer to their homes. He said that the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), through Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), is working to take cancer-care capabilities to different parts

of the country, with services ranging from cancer treatment and radiation to prevention, early detection, diagnosis and training of medical professionals.

Dr Jitendra Singh also called for cooperation from citizens and society to check malpractices like food adulteration etc that may add to the Cancer burden.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was speaking at the inauguration of the Day-Care Cancer Facility at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government Medical College, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Shivraj Singh ► P11

Strike called Off: Medical interns get ‘assurance’ on stipend hike

JAMMU: Medical interns across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday called off their strike and resumed duties after Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Masood Itoo assured them that their demand for enhancement of stipend will be finalised within 30 days, according to the record note of a meeting held between the minister and the interns' delegation.

Meanwhile, MBBS interns of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu today announced the suspension of ► P11

BJP exposes NC Govt’s failures: Sunil Sharma

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH/RAJOURI: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, today led a senior BJP delegation on a mass public outreach programme 'Jan Samvad' in Poonch and Rajouri, taking the party's campaign against the failures, misgovernance and anti-people policies of the National Conference-led government directly to the people.

Sunil Sharma was accompanied by senior leader Adv. Vibodh Gupta, District Presidents S. Gurdeep Singh Khalsa, and Dev Raj Sharma, former MLC Pardeep



Sharma and other senior BJP functionaries.

During the outreach, the BJP delegation interacted with several public delegations, listened to their grievances and took detailed feedback on issues confronting the people, particularly relating to ► P11

Assembly's 6th session from Sep 21

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is set to convene its sixth session from September 21, with the Assembly Secretariat issuing a provisional calendar outlining the business to be taken up during the proceedings.

The provisional calendar has been issued under the authority of Assembly Speaker Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather.

According to the provisional schedule issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, the session will begin on Monday, September 21, with ► P11

Cong nudges ‘ally’ on full version of Vande Mataram at J-K event

NEW DELHI: In the wake of all six stanzas of Vande Mataram being played at an official event in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress on Tuesday said it would like its allies to honour the wisdom and judgment of freedom fighters and stand with the party in singing only the version of the song that they adopted.

The party has championed a truncated version of the national song -- to much criticism of the BJP-led Centre -- in line with its CWC resolution of 1937.

Congress's blunt assertion came after the full ver-

sion of the national song played out at Jammu and Kashmir's international film festival on Monday with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference president Farooq Abdullah present.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) and the Congress are part of the INDIA bloc at the national level. The Congress also extends outside legislative support to the Omar Abdullah-led government in J-K.

Tagging the video of the full version of the song ► P11

Enforcement agencies discuss anti-drug plan

SRINAGAR: Representatives of various enforcement agencies, including ED, BSF, NIA, Customs and DRI, on Tuesday deliberated on ways to curb the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, official said.

The discussion took place at the 2nd UT Level Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting on narcotics control for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, held here.

The meeting was chaired by NCB Deputy Director General (North Western Region) Sambit Mishra.

"Senior officers from various enforcement and stakeholder agencies including ED, BSF, State Drug Controller, IB, Customs, DRI, Income Tax, NIA along with District SSPs from Jammu, Srinagar and Ganderbal participated in the meeting," a police spokesperson said.

He said the participating agencies shared their experiences and enforcement initiatives and deliberated upon emerging trends in drug trafficking, ► P11

IIFJK: Multiple films screened at Wave Cinemas Div Com Ramesh Kumar felicitates acclaimed filmmakers and artists

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday felicitated filmmakers, producers and artists associated with a number of renowned and acclaimed films during the International Film Festival Jammu & Kashmir (IIFJK) event organised at Wave Mall, Jammu.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Shridhar Patil, Director Census Operations J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma, Director Tourism, Director Handloom, Controller Legal Metrology, Director Floriculture, Director CAD, Joint Director Information Deepak Dubey, officers from the Information Department



and other departments, members of the filmmaking and artist community and college students were present in a large on the occasion.

During the special screening of the movie IKKIS, the Divisional

Commissioner, felicitated prominent filmmakers, producers and artists associated with the local cinema for their contribution towards promotion of language, art and cultural heritage. ► P11

Mehraj Malik seeks security cover, escort

JAMMU: The high court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has directed authorities to consider the plea of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik seeking restoration of his security cover, including escort vehicle, and take an appropriate decision within six weeks.

Justice Sanjay Dhar passed the directions on Monday while disposing of Malik's petition, filed through advocate Appu Singh Slathia.

The counsel informed the court that authorities had not restored Malik's security cover and escort vehicle following his release from jail after quashing of his detention under the Public Safety ► P11

India-China armies hold 2 sessions of border talks

NEW DELHI: The Indian and Chinese armies held their first high-level commanders' flag talks in two sessions on both sides of the frontier in the Arunachal Pradesh sector this week in line with the outcome reached at last month's Special Representatives dialogue in Beijing, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had held the Special Representatives (SR) talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that focused on delimitation of the frontier and sustaining work on trans-boundary cooperation as well as to maintain peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Senior Highest Military Commander-Level Flag Meeting was held at Wacha on the Indian side in Arunachal Pradesh on September 6 and Damai on the Chinese side on September 7.

The talks were held amid reports of aggressive military posturing by Chinese troops along the LAC in Upper Subansiri region of Arunachal Pradesh.

"Pursuant to the understandings reached between the Special Representatives of India and China in August 2025 and August 2026, and subsequent ► P11