

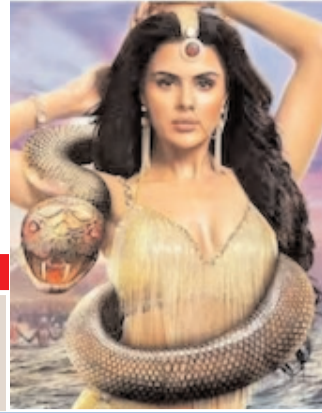


**SC Suspends Look Out Circular Against Man Facing Prosecution In CBI, ED Cases**

P-7

**Naagin 7 To Go Off-Air Soon, Ekta Kapoor Reveals Finale Episode Date: 'We Will Be Back Next Year'**

P-10



## Chugh visits Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine

BJP general secretary and the party's J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh today visited the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Trikuta Hills of Katra along with his family and offered prayers for peace, prosperity, and development in the region. Expressing deep faith, he said that the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi inspire strength and commitment towards nation-building.

Chugh emphasised that

## Govt blacklists Reliance General Insurance

The government has blacklisted Reliance General Insurance Company for two years due to serious lapses and contractual failures in implementing a group mediclaim insurance policy for employees and pensioners.

The order was issued by the finance department. As per the order, the government, after following a transparent tendering

Cont. on P9 >

## 'Criminal' detained under PSA

A 'criminal' was today detained under Public Safety Act in Jammu's Poonch district.

He was identified as Mohammad Yousaf, son of Hakim Din of Salwah in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch.

According to officials, he allegedly had a long criminal history, with six FIRs registered against him at Mendhar police station.

Despite repeated legal actions, he continued to engage in unlawful and anti-social activities, disturbing peace and public order at Mendhar and in its adjoining areas, officials said.

Cont. on P9 >

## BDO suspended over poor progress in electoral roll revision

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28

District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma has placed BDO, Plangher, Mohitshim Hanief under suspension with immediate effect over poor progress in the ongoing panchayat electoral roll revision.

Officials said the officer, who was also serving as assistant electoral registration officer, had been repeatedly warned regarding slow

Cont. on P9 >

## CCTVs in police stations SC directive to convene meeting on fund utilisation

NEW DELHI, APR 28: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that a meeting be convened on May 6 to deliberate on the aspect of utilisation of funds by the states on installation of CCTVs in police stations across the country.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, who is assisting it as an amicus curiae in a suo motu matter concerning lack of functional CCTVs in police stations, to hold a

Cont. on P9 >

# Terrorism has no nationality, no theology: Rajnath

### Says nations must take collective stance against it

KYRGYZSTAN, APR 28: Stating that Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's firm resolve that terrorism epicentres were no longer immune to justifiable punishment, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that 'terrorism has no nationality, no theology', and there must not be any double standards in combating it.

"Op Sindoor demonstrated India's firm resolve that terrorism epicentres are no longer immune to justifiable punishment," he said in his address at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, underlining the need to forge a unified front to tackle the "evils" of terrorism, separatism and extremism by eliminating safe havens and rejecting any political exceptions.

"The real test of collective credibility remains in con-



sistency. We must not forget that terrorism has no nationality and no theology. Nations must take a firm & collective stance against terrorism," he added.

"The sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism which attacks the sovereignty of a nation must not be lost as there is no place for double standards," Singh said.

SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists, he added.

"By tackling terrorism, separatism, and extremism

without exception, we transform regional security from a challenge into a cornerstone for peace and prosperity," he said.

Describing counter-terrorism as a foundational principle of SCO, Singh stated that the organisation had condemned such acts and ideologies in a common fight against the menace.

He recalled last year's Tianjin Declaration which brought out India's firm & collective stance against terrorism, terming it as a testimony to the country's zero-tolerance outlook towards terrorism and its perpetrators.

He highlighted the significant role being played by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO, stating that the joint statement of the Heads of State on 'Countering Radicalisation leading to terrorism, separatism and extremism' issued during India's chairmanship symbolises shared commitment in this regard.

He stated that, in view of the present global uncertainties, SCO holds a pivotal role as today's world view appears fractured and countries are becoming increasingly inward-looking.

"Do we need a new world order or a world which is more orderly? We need an order where every citizen of this world is treated with dignity and respect. We need an order where differences do not become disputes and disputes don't precede disasters. The real crisis today is not of a non-existent order but a tendency to question the estab-

Cont. on P9 >

## UAE pulls out of OPEC

DUBAI, APR 28: The United Arab Emirates today said it had quit the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+, dealing a heavy blow to the oil exporting groups and their de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, at a time when the Iran war has caused a historic energy shock and unsettled the global economy.

The stunning loss of the UAE, a longstanding OPEC member, could create disarray and weaken the group, which has usually sought to show a united front despite internal disagreements over a range of issues from

Cont. on P9 >

## Er Rashid granted interim bail

NEW DELHI, APR 28: The Delhi High Court today granted one-week interim bail to jailed Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Er Rashid, to enable him to visit his ailing father.

A bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain, however, clarified that during this period, Rashid, who is undergoing jail term in a terror funding case, could either visit the hospital where his father was being treated or remain at home.

Cont. on P9 >

# Chouhan hands over PMGSY-IV approval letter to Omar

### Rs 3,566 cr road projects approved

> 5 lakh families to get 'pucca' houses after verification

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28

Rural infrastructure, women empowerment and agriculture-led prosperity in J&K received a major boost today as Union Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare & Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan handed over the sanction letter for projects approved under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-IV (Batch-II) for Jammu & Kashmir to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at a programme held at SKICC, Srinagar. He also declared that five lakh families would get 'pucca' houses after physical verification.

On the occasion, a Mother Sanction of over Rs 4,568.23 cr was also released under DAY-NRLM for 24 states and Union Territories.



In his address, Chouhan said he had come to Jammu & Kashmir not with any sense of formality or position, but with a spirit of service.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India was committed not only to building roads but also to connecting hearts, he said, adding that for the development of Jammu & Kashmir, 'the doors of both the heart and Delhi are open.'

He said

Jammu & Kashmir was accorded priority in the first phase of PMGSY-IV approvals and had again been prioritised in the second phase, reflecting the Centre's strong commitment to the region.

"The approval of road projects worth nearly Rs 8,000 cr for Jammu & Kashmir within a single year is a historic achievement," he said and assured that as construction progresses on the sanctioned roads, the central govern-

Cont. on P9 >

# Farms bedrock of civilisation, backbone of economies: LG

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28

Calling upon scientists and other stakeholders to together build climate resilience & transform sustainable agro-ecosystems, LG Manoj Sinha today described farms as bedrock of civilisation and backbone of economies.

"Our farms are the bedrock of civilisation, backbone of economies and promise of tomorrow," the LG, who attended National Summit on "Sustainable & Climate Resilient



Agroecosystems: Innovations & Policy Framework" at SKUAST-Jammu, said in his address.

He urged scientists, innovators and other stakeholders to come together to build climate resilience and

transform sustainable agro-ecosystems.

"Every policy, every intervention must respect that our fields and farmers have carried humanity through centuries of tur

Cont. on P9 >

# Committed to 'Act East, Act Fast' for 'Ashtalakshmi' in northeast: Modi

GANGTOK, APR 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said his government was not only committed to its "Act East" policy but was resolved to 'Act Fast' for the eight northeast states, which he described as India's 'Ashtalakshmi', representing the multifaceted nature of prosperity, wealth, and auspiciousness.

Asserting that tourism was the mainstay of Sikkim's economy, the prime minister, while addressing the closing ceremony of celebrations to mark the golden jubilee of



the state's statehood, said his government's focus was on boosting its connectivity, which would increase tourist inflow.

"The government is committed to augmenting Sikkim's infrastructure, including building an expressway from West Bengal's Bagdogra, and a ring

road in Gangtok to increase tourist inflow," Modi told the gathering.

He also said that ropeway and skyways projects are on the anvil for the state, while an expressway would be built in Nathula to ensure more tourist inflow.

"The northeast, including Sikkim, is India's 'Ashtalakshmi'. The government is resolved to Act East, Act Fast," Modi said.

Reflecting on the state's biodiversity, he said, "Nature and culture become alive in Sikkim. The cleanli

Cont. on P9 >

# 'Not wrong in calling you Mama' Omar terms Shivraj 'true friend', assures him judicious use of funds

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today heaped praises on Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during the launch of new rural development projects at SKICC in Srinagar, calling him a "true friend and well-wisher" of the union territory.

Earlier, Chouhan launched 330 new road projects worth Rs 3,550 under the phase IV of Prad-

han Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY), aiming to cover 1,600 kilometres in the region. These roads will benefit 363 remote habitations in Jammu and Kashmir, a government statement said.

Referring to Chouhan as 'mama', an affectionate tag given by the people of Madhya Pradesh, the chief minister said that his government would ensure that the funds were used judiciously.

"Our government has

been in power for one and a half years now. You have repeatedly proven that you are not just a friend, but also a well-wisher of Jammu and Kashmir. The people of MP are not wrong in calling you 'mama,'" Abdullah said at a function here.

Abdullah said he does not feel like asking for more funds at the moment, as Jammu and Kashmir was granted projects worth Rs 8,000 cr in the past one year under PMGSY.

Cont. on P9 >

# Ladakh LG approves appointment of DCs, SPs in 5 new distts

Himalayan Mail News LEH, APR 28

A day after the creation of five new districts in the UT of Ladakh, LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today approved the appointment of deputy commissioners and superintendents of police in these districts.

According to officials, the appointments were approved for the administrative works to commence immediately.

With this prompt action, posts of DCs and SPs in all



the five new districts - Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass - have been filled.

Nitish Rajoria is DC & SZ Abbas Jaffari is SP for Changthang district, Mukul Beniwal is DC & Stanzin Losal is SP for Nubra, Omkar Rajendra

Gundage is DC & Rigzen Sandup is SP for Zaskar, Kunzes Angmo is DC & Aijaz Malik is SP for Sham, and Imteaz Kacho is DC & Ishtyaq Ahmad is SP for Drass.

The existing district administrations of Leh and Kargil will continue to function with their current officials, while coordinating closely with the newly created districts during the transition phase, says the order issued in this regard.

This move is aimed at ensuring immediate opera

Cont. on P9 >

# Train from Jammu to Srinagar - hopes and challenges

Sahil Mahajan

A big announcement has been made : Vande Bharat train will run from Jammu to Srinagar, connecting the two capital cities on April 30 . It is going to be a special inaugural train, but it is a beginning that the people of the whole of Jammu and Kashmir had been waiting for ages. True, as it is that the first train to the Valley from outside of Kashmir division was flagged off from Katra, the base camp of the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi in June last year , but there was a sense of incompleteness among the people.

This connection was incomplete was admitted by the authorities too, as they simultaneously declared that the train from Jammu to Srinagar will start running from September 2025 . Katra and Srinagar conveyed a profound message of connectivity , manifesting the national commitment to connect the Valley with destinations outside of it . The reality of the train running from Jammu to Srinagar was the ultimate translation of Kashmir to Kanyakumari . There is a context and perspective behind it . In the national and internal perception Jammu and Kashmir is the real unit , and the very national definition and founda-

tion of Kashmir to Kanyakumari concept and its translation as integral part of the country . This larger canvas has many meanings for the people of Jammu . Here, the context is about the people of Jammu city and its suburbs, and to some extent the surrounding areas . In the months and years after national highway bypass was constructed , and the train started chugging from Delhi to Katra in 2014 , Jammu city business community, transporters and eateries were weighed down by the feeling of loss, as the quest for alternate means was not met with the vigour and practical steps . That kind of depression re-

mains, though it was sought to be mitigated by the return of Durbur move offices to Jammu in November 2025 after a gap of four years , but it was a case of too little and too late . The online shopping and other modern-day factors dampened the expectations of the people who were looking for a bonanza . With plans for the running of Vande Bharat train , with increased bogies from Jammu to Srinagar , at least for now , have raised the hopes that Jammu would regain some of its lost prestige and economy both . This will help in boosting the idea of staying for a while in Jammu from both ends . For the people in the

Valley, a non-stop rail journey from Srinagar to Jammu will incentivize them to visit the city of temples, as we say it, more frequently as the idea of breaking journey at Katra did not go well with them . Likewise, for the travelers from other parts of the country, Jammu to Srinagar offers an opportunity of breaking journey in Jammu . They had all the trains that culminated in Jammu to do so, but the very thought of having the opportunity to board the train to Srinagar from here will offer an added attraction . The awkward limbo of the yesteryear is expected to end . The stakes have to be developed for them to stop over , not as mandatory

as was the case before the train started to Katra and highways moved out of Jammu city . The artificial lake , which at last has started coming up , will not replace the thrill and imagery of Shikara ride in Dal lake amidst cool environs and mesmerizing beauty of Zabarwan hills . There is still a stand-off of sorts . What's happening is something akin to a stop-gap arrangement with little sense of permanency . Train from Jammu to Srinagar is a fulfilment of long cherished dream for the people of Jammu , but this dream needs to be given a meaning . It is a good beginning, but much more needs to be done .