

## STATES/Uts

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### **In a first, terror attack by drone on Jammu IAF base**

In a first terror attack of its kind, two low-intensity improvised explosive devices dropped by drones went off in a highly secure Indian Air Force base in Jammu, about 14 km off the International Border, in the early hours on Sunday. Both blasts in the technical area of the airbase took place within five minutes of each other. While the first explosion around 1.37 am on an administrative building close to a helicopter hangar left a gaping hole on its roof, the second blast took place around 1.42 am in an open area. Two IAF personnel sustained splinter injuries, but no equipment was damaged. The security establishment saw in it as a major escalation of the situation. A high alert has been sounded across the state and security cover at airports and government installations have been strengthened. Shortly after the attack, teams from the IAF, National Bomb Data Centre, forensic experts, J&K police, NIA, NSG and intelligence agencies reached the spot. The NIA is likely to take over the probe. J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh confirmed it was a terror attack. Sources said investigation agencies are trying to ascertain whether the drones had come from across the International Border or were they remotely controlled from within Jammu by terrorists. How they managed to fly into the IAF station, where IAF personnel have observation posts, without being detected is a mystery.

(N.I.E., 28/06)

### TELANGANA

#### **11,900 SC families in Telangana to get Rs 10 lakh assistance under new scheme**

IT appears that manna is falling from the sky for the SC community in Telangana. In the all-party meeting convened by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday, it was decided that at least 11,900 poor SC families would be given Rs 10 lakh each, which would help them start their own businesses and stand on their own two feet. The beneficiaries would comprise at least 100 families from each of the 119 Assembly constituencies in the State as the Chief Minister's Dalit Empowerment Programme would kick off with an initial outlay of Rs 1,200 crore. The financial assistance would reach them in cash — the same way the beneficiaries under Rythu Bandhu receive their subsidy amount. Presiding over the day-long meeting attended by the TRS, Congress, CPI, CPM and MIM, the Chief Minister said that the welfare of the SC community was always a priority for him and that he would go to any lengths to improve their standards of living. The BJP boycotted the meeting, accusing the government of not being sincere in implementing its promises to the SC community. "In the next three to four years, the government will spend nearly Rs 35,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore for SC/ST welfare," the Chief Minister said, and said that the Opposition parties should strengthen the government's hands as it endeavours to empower the marginalised communities.

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