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Forge India's future from knowledge to global Tech leadership; LG to youth

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha rallied India's youth on Tuesday to turn knowledge into innovation, silos into collaboration, and dreams into reality, positioning educational campuses as frontrunners in achieving Developed India@2047.

At the closing of the 48-hour national "Innovathon 1.0" Hackathon, he urged students, "Don't just join the future—define it."

Sinha stressed building dynamic tech ecosystems that evolve constantly, embracing change as a chance to lead.

"India can't just participate in the tech revolution; we must dominate it," he declared. With AI and Machine Learning reshaping civilization, he said mastering them will let India set the century's

rules.

Sinha hailed today's youth as the true architects of tomorrow, armed with breakthrough ideas and research to

gan but represents a commitment- a promise made to ourselves and to future generations," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that our campuses have evolved beyond mere degree-granting institutions and they have transformed into factories of ideas, workshops of innovation where possibility takes tangible form.

He lauded the University of Jammu for its unique endeavour to bridge the gap between classroom theory and authentic learning, between abstract concepts and practical application through Innovathon 1.0. He said five thematic pillars of Innovathon 1.0-AI, Cyber-Physical Systems, Sustainability, Health-Tech, and Responsible Tourism represent the actual challenges and ► P11

Meghwal signals quick restoration of Statehood; Omar hopes wait ends fast

CM calls for strengthening Tele-law service in J&K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Meghwal on Tuesday said statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be restored soon, prompting a quick response from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah who said that he hoped that the wait is not too long.

After attending a function at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here, Meghwal told reporters that while it was a "very sensitive issue", Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said in the Lok Sabha that J-K's statehood would be restored.

"You will get it but there is a process for it. I feel you will soon get to hear about a decision in this regard," he said.

Reacting to Meghwal's comment, Abdullah, who was also present at the function, said, "I heard on the

sidelines that the (Union) minister said that we will be hearing good news soon.

"It has been one and a half years of wait. We hope we do not have to wait much longer," Abdullah told reporters.

The chief minister said no one in Jammu and Kashmir will be satisfied till it is done.

"The process is on, (though) it is taking longer. We were expecting to get it by now but we have not got it yet. We have not given up

PM Modi, Macron launch India-France Year of Innovation

MUMBAI: India and France on Tuesday resolved to further strengthen cooperation in innovation in different fields as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron launched the India-France Year of Innovation.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi said the ties between the two countries are not just about innovation, but also about shared values.

"Today, two innovation hubs are coming together," Modi said.

"I and President Macron have decided to celebrate 2026 India-France Year of Innovation. This is also our commitment to innovate, lead," Modi added.

France and India have worked together in strategic technology sectors. The trust between the two countries has cemented and this has taken it to an ► P11

CM Omar directs seamless services in holy Ramadan

SRINAGAR: Emphasizing the importance of ensuring smooth public services during the sacred month, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday directed all concerned departments to take proactive measures for the convenience and welfare of the people.

He issued these directions while chairing a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for intensified sanitation drives across J&K, particularly around major places of worship, shrines, mosques and other congregation points. He instructed authorities to increase the frequency of garbage collection and ensure cleanliness throughout Ramadan.

He directed all departments to ensure seamless public service delivery, effective grievance redressal, and necessary arrangements at major places of worship to ensure a peaceful and ► P11

Jammu juvenile home escape: Pak nationals held in Ambala

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Two Pakistani nationals, who along with a local gangster escaped from a juvenile home in a border village here, were arrested within 20 hours of the incident near Ambala railway station in Haryana while they were heading for Nepal, officials said on Tuesday.

However, local gangster Karajeet Singh alias Gugga, who allegedly masterminded the escape, remained at large and efforts are on to arrest him, they said.

Karajeet Singh, a resident of Dablehar in R S Pura, and Pakistan citizens Mohammad Suna-ullah (20) and Ahsan Anwar (21) allegedly attacked police personnel and fled from the juvenile home at around 5 pm on Monday. Two cops were injured in the incident.

Earlier, six police personnel were suspended over alleged dereliction of duty after the three inmates escaped from the juvenile facility in R S Pura sector here.

The officials said both the Pakistani nationals were tracked near Ambala railway station by a police party and subsequently handed over to the J&K Police.

The gangster's mother is also missing from her Jammu residence and is believed to be accompanying his absconding son, they said.

Citing preliminary information, the officials said the duo who were taken into custody in 2019 and 2021 after they crossed into Indian side, were lodged at the Juvenile Observation Centre despite being turned major.

After their escape, they boarded a sleeper coach in Jammu and were heading for Uttar Pradesh to cross over to Nepal, the officials said, further details are awaited.

Earlier, the officials said six police personnel, including an assistant sub-inspector, were placed under suspension for alleged dereliction of ► P11

Chaotic scenes erupt in J&K Assembly over land grab claims

JAMMU: Uproarious chaos unfolded in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday after BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa's February 13 allegation that Kashmiris were encroaching on land in Jammu.

As soon as the House convened, Khursheed jumped up, urging the Chair to address Randhawa's provocative remarks.

The Speaker directed him to sit down, prioritizing obituary references for two deceased lawmakers.

After the obituary references were read, Khursheed again stood up and waved a placard that read "Khasra No. 211" in an attempt to highlight alleged land encroachment by Randhawa himself. Randhawa had received a show-cause notice from the Jammu Development Authority for allegedly encroaching on land in Khasra No. 211 at Chak Ganeshu village in ► P11

Shantmanu is State Election Commissioner

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday appointed former IAS officer Shantmanu as the new State Election Commissioner (SEC) of the Union Territory.

Shantmanu replaces B R Sharma, who completed his tenure after serving in the post since July 20, 2023.

According to an official notification issued by Commissioner-Secretary M Raju, the appointment was made under by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha under subsection (3) of section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

Shantmanu, a 1991-batch officer of the AGMUT cadre, recently retired as Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner in Jammu and Kashmir.

His terms as SEC ► P11

Bhagwat pitches 3-child Hindu families, 'Detect, Delete, Deport' for infiltrators

LUCKNOW: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday called for uniting and empowering the Hindu society, saying there is no threat but vigilance is necessary, and suggested that Hindu families should consider having at least three children.

He also said that infiltrators should be "detected, deleted and deported".

Addressing a social-harmony meeting at the Saraswati Shishu Mandir here, Bhagwat expressed concern over what he described as a declining Hindu population and said inducement- or coercion-based religious conversions should be stopped.

He also emphasised accelerating efforts to bring

people back to the Hindu fold and ensuring their welfare.

"There is a need to unite and empower Hindus. There is no threat to us but vigilance is necessary," the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief said.

Raising concerns over infiltration, Bhagwat said infil-

trators should be "detected, deleted and deported" and should not be provided employment.

He also said Hindu families should consider having at least three children, citing scientific opinions that societies with an average fertility rate of below three could disappear in the future.

Bhagwat said newly-married couples should be made aware of this and added that the purpose of marriage is to carry forward creation, not merely fulfilling one's own desires.

Bhagwat said a lack of harmony leads to discrimination and stressed that all citizens share one country and one motherland.

"The Sanatan thought is a philosophy of ► P11

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