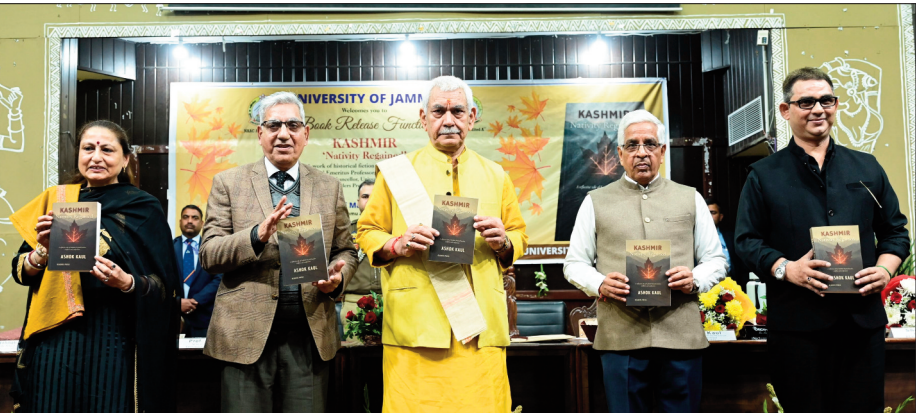


JK transformed since 2019, terrorism ending soon, Kashmiri Pandits returning: LG Sinha

Releases Ashok Kaul’s book ‘Kashmir-Nativity Regained’



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that J&K has been undergoing a profound transformation since 2019, and the sinister plot of adversary to destroy the dreams and destiny of people of the UT has been decisively dismantled.

“Through tireless effort, this land’s ancient glory has

been restored, and development has been accelerated. Very soon, this soil will be completely freed from the scourge of terrorism,” LG said.

He said that return of Kashmiri Pandits with full dignity and security is the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was speaking at the release of the book titled “Kashmir-Nativity Regained”, au-

thored by Prof. Ashok Kaul.

“Kashmir-Nativity Regained” explores the Kashmiri Pandit exodus and captures the terror of those dark days and the lasting devastation of being wrenched from ancestral roots.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Prof Kaul’s book is not just a literary endeavour but laudable effort to shatter the silence that has shrouded

our collective consciousness for decades.

“I salute the indomitable spirit of Kashmiri Pandit Community. Every displaced family carried within them a living ember of Kashmir. In the crucible of struggle and adversity, they preserved philosophy, spirituality, culture, language, and traditions. Even in agony, they unearthed possibilities and scaled new pinnacles of success,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that in 2021, Kashmiri Migrant web portal was launched to recover house and lands of Kashmiri Pandit community, which were encroached upon by others.

“I firmly believe that among the world’s gravest sorrows is the agony of becoming a stranger on one’s own soil. This is precisely what had transpired in Jammu & Kashmir. The anguish of the 1989-90 massacre of ► P11

Democratize AI for World's good: Modi; presents MANAV vision at Impact Summit

NEW DELHI: Pitching strongly for democratising Artificial Intelligence (AI), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said some countries believe that AI should be developed in a confidential and closed manner but India thinks it will truly serve the good of the world when it is shared and its codes are open.

Inaugurating the India AI Impact Summit here, Modi unveiled the ‘MANAV’ vision for a human-centric approach and use of artificial intelligence (AI) with a strong accent on sovereignty and inclusivity.

He asserted that the country does not fear AI but sees a fortune in it and a blueprint of tomorrow.

“Some countries believe that AI should be developed in a confidential and closed manner. But India is different. We believe AI will truly serve the good of the world when it is shared and its codes are open. Only then will millions of young minds be able to improve it further,” he said.

Emphasising the importance of child safety, the prime minister said just as



school syllabi are curated, the AI space must also be child-safe and family-guided.

He said there are two kinds of people – those who see fear in AI and those who see fortune – and asserted that India sees fortune and future in AI, backed by talent, energy capacity and policy clarity.

Welfare and happiness of all is “our benchmark” for AI to ensure that humans don’t

become a data point or raw material, Modi stressed.

“I present the MANAV vision for AI where M stands for moral and ethical systems, A for accountable governance, N for national sovereignty, A for accessible and inclusive, and V for valid and legitimate,” Modi said in the presence of world leaders at the Bharat Mandapam here.

The prime minister also said the MANAV vision will

become a crucial link for humanity’s welfare in the AI-driven world of the 21st century.

AI, he said, must be given an open sky, but command must remain in human hands.

Global leaders, including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, ► P11

Terror associate held in Rajouri

JAMMU: A terror associate with direct links to Pakistan-based handlers was arrested along with two foreign-made pistols in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Thursday.

Sachin Kumar alias Pamma, a resident of Sair village near the Line of Control, was arrested in a joint operation by police and Rashtriya Rifles from a forward village in Nowshera sector, a police spokesman said.

He said a terror module was busted with the arrest of Kumar who, as per ► P11

Assembly approves key dept grants after heated debate; CM signals regularisation of daily wagers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Following extensive two-day heated discussions in the House, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed grants amounting to Rs 61,575.88 lakh for the General Administration Department (GAD), Rs 47,648.38 lakh for Planning, Rs 12,408.31 lakh for Information, Rs 12,54,383.63 lakh for the Power Development Department (PDD), Rs 52,37,955.90 lakh for Finance, Rs 7,742.54 lakh for Parliamentary Affairs, Rs 75,028.93 lakh for the Law Department (excluding the



Election Department), Rs 78,461.35 lakh for Revenue, Rs 4,22,783.97 lakh for Housing & Urban Development (H&UDD), Rs 66,622.88 lakh for Tourism, Rs 40,749.54 lakh for Hospital-ity, Protocol & Estates, Rs 17,622.31 lakh for Culture, and Rs 1,46,098.46 lakh for Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruc-

tion (DMRRR).

The Assembly also passed 19 supplementary grants amounting to Rs 3,52,341.28 lakh.

Replying to the discussion on Demands for Grants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also Leader of the House, expressed gratitude to the legislators for their active participation, noting that 43 members took part in the debate.

“I would like to thank all the honourable MLAs for taking part in the discussion. By listening to them, we get an opportunity to learn, to understand, and to correct some mistakes,” the Chief ► P11

‘AI Impact Summit 2026 sets ethical direction for new era’

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the India AI Impact Summit 2026 has positioned the country for leadership in a new era, building upon the milestones achieved under the Narendra Modi government.

In a series of posts on X, Shah said by hosting largest constellations of global leaders and tech giants, India is setting “ethical direction for new era with ancient mantra of universal happiness and welfare”.

The home minister said the summit is “India’s promise to the world to perpetually fuel the journey of

progress of humankind” through its endless power of innovation and democracy that runs deep through its culture. “The future may be unseen for many but India has already taken charge of destiny,” he added.

Shah noted that India’s AI vision, MANAV, put forth by Prime Minister Modi at the summit sets humanity’s direction towards foolproof future. He said with principles of morality, accountability, national data sovereignty, accessibility and valid systems, the world is ready for the next civilisational leap.

“Sarvam AI showcased at India AI Impact ► P11

Efforts On for ULB polls in JK

JAMMU: Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday said that necessary arrangements are being made for holding Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections in the UT at the earliest.

Replying to an unstarred Assembly question tabled by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz, the Election Department, informed that the superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections under the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 and J&K Municipal Act, 2000 vest in the State Election Commission.

The government said that the report submitted ► P11

Modi, Shah saved lives of J&K youth: LoP Sunil

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Slamming Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for failing to provide employment to youth, Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi saved the lives of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, but the Omar Abdullah led government is taking away their jobs.

Speaking during the grants of departments under the CM’s charge, the LoP, said that the Omar Abdullah led government is snatching jobs from the youth whose safety was ensured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home



Minister Amit Shah.

“I want to say here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah ensured the safety of lives in Jammu & Kashmir,

especially in Kashmir. They ensured their safety and protection. At least you should have provided them employment. But you snatching their jobs. You should give jobs to the youth whose safety was ensured by Narendra Modi,” he said.

The LoP castigated the government over outsourcing of government jobs.

“Where have the one lakh jobs gone? Instead, you sold 24000 jobs through outsourcing. Today, educated youth are waiting for job advertisements and waiting to sit in examinations, but these jobs are being filled through the backdoor,” he said, ► P11

‘All tourist spots in J&K likely to reopen by May’

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Highlighting the efforts to revive tourism following the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced on Thursday that all currently closed tourist destinations are expected to reopen by May.

He also revealed that the government is working on plans to introduce nine new tourist destinations to further strengthen and diversify the tourism industry in the Union Territory.

Winding up the discussion on Demands for Grants in the legislative Assembly here, Abdullah said his government worked “step by

step” to revive tourism in the aftermath of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack, at a time when many in the industry believed visitors would not return to the Union Territory for years.

He said the administration engaged extensively with tourism stakeholders, rebuilt confidence through sustained outreach, and gradually restored activity despite several destinations remaining closed and restrictions in place at key locations.

The chief minister mentioned that improving tourist infrastructure is a key priority, as visitors often point out that while Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg are exceptionally ► P11

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC

JAMMU: An infiltration attempt by terrorists was scuttled by alert troops of the Indian Army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, the army said.

Based on Intelligence inputs and sustained surveillance, suspicious movement of terrorists was detected in the general area of Nathua Tibba in Sunderbani sector along the LoC during the early hours of Thursday, the army’s White Knight Corps said.

They further informed that the troops ► P11

Rakwal is Publicity Secy BJYM J&K UT

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Party high command on Thursday while announcing State Office Bearers, District Presidents, State Executive Members of Yuva Morcha, nominated Anil Rakwal as Publicity Secretary BJYM Jammu & Kashmir UT.

Arun Prabhat, President, Yuva Morcha, J&K BJP, in consultation with Sat Sharma (CA), J&K BJP President & Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), announced the State Office Bearers, District Presidents, State Executive Members of Yuva Morcha, J&K BJP.

“Heartiest congratula-



tions to Anil Rakwal for being nominated as Publicity Secretary BJYM Jammu & Kashmir UT.”

Arun Prabhat, while announcing the list, expressed confidence that the new functionaries of the Yuva Morcha will work ► P11

J&K Bank rolls out revamped Credit Card suite Part of our endeavour to position J&K Bank as pan-India digital banking partner of choice: MD

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In line with its sustained thrust on digital innovation and customer-centric banking, J&K Bank today unveiled a comprehensively upgraded suite of Credit Cards designed to meet the fast-evolving preferences of its growing and diverse clientele across the country.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee launched the revamped Credit Card suite at the Bank’s Jammu Divisional Office in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, CGM (Business Development) Sunit Kumar, General Man-



agers, DGMs and other senior officers. CGM (Operations) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat joined the launch virtually from the

Corporate Headquarters along with General Managers, DGMs and senior officers. The Divisional Heads, Zonal

Heads and Cluster Heads form across the country also participated in the launch event through VC.

The upgraded products includes three distinct credit card variants - Platinum, Platinum Privilege and Eminent - each thoughtfully curated to align with different customer segments, spending behaviours and lifestyle aspirations.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, “The upgrade of our Credit Card bouquet is part of our endeavour to position J&K Bank as a contemporary, pan-India digital banking partner of choice.”

“It reflects our sustained and strategic focus on continuously strengthening Bank’s digital product suite. ► P11

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