

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

Your purse might be empty but if your heart is full of pure compassion, you always have something to give.

—Bhikkhu Sanghsena

Sinha attends Prana-Pratishtha at Shri Lakshminarayan Temple

India witnessing civilisational awakening beside scripting tale of economic rise: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Friday offered a threefold resolution for the future: “We must transform India into the preeminent nation of the world, forge it into the most formidable global power, and establish it as the ultimate sanctuary of knowledge and intellectual wealth on Earth”.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that every citizen must honor the glorious heritage with full responsibility. He said that the devotion that preserved our culture through adversity must now drive the new generation—turning the wisdom of the past into the strength of the present, lighting the way forward.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking during a public function at the sacred and historic site of Bankatashiv in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, where he joined the devotees for the Mahayagya and Prana-Pratishtha ceremony at Shri Lakshminarayan Temple.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the sacred ceremony



marks a civilizational revival, revitalizing timeless values and sharing them across society.

“Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple will inspire the youth to stand proudly resolute in their glorious past and awaken them to an extraordinary present that bears witness to sweeping transformations across all spheres of devel-

opment,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India today is not merely scripting a tale of economic progress but also witnessing civilizational awakening.

He said the entire world now acknowledges that India ► P11

Pak violates ceasefire along LoC

SRINAGAR: Pakistan violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday, officials said.

"Ceasefire violation took place around noon at TMG (Toot Mar Gali) in Nowgam Sector of Kupwara (in north Kashmir) when PoK posts fired through small arms on Indian posts," the officials said.

The firing stopped after some time, they mentioned further, adding there was no loss of life or injury.

Pertinent to mention here that the other day ► P11

Over 41K forest rights claims received under FRA: J-K Govt

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A total of 41,944 claims have been received across Jammu and Kashmir under the Forest Rights Act, with 28,925 individual forest rights claims and 13,019 community forest rights claims, the Union Territory government informed the assembly on Friday.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, also known as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, aimed at recognising the rights of forest-dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who have lived on forest land for at least three

generations.

In a written reply to a question of BJP MLA RS Pathania in the Assembly, Forest Minister Javed Rana provided district-wise details of claims received under the Act.

The Rajouri district recorded the highest number with 16,442 claims, including 9,067 IFR and 6,002 CFR claims, Rana said.

"It was followed by Kupwara, which reported 6,039 claims (5,448 individual forest rights (IFR) and 591 community forest rights (CFR)), and Poonch with 5,175 claims (1,282 IFR and 3,893 CFR)," he added.

Rana said that Budgam accounted for 4,065 ► P11

Who authorised Yuva Rajput Sabha to evict street vendors on Jammu roads?

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A new controversy has erupted in Jammu city after members of the Yuva Rajput Sabha were seen asking roadside vendors to remove their rehdi-fadi carts from busy roads, including stretches of the National Highway near Kalu Chak and Bari Brahmana areas on Friday.

It was reported that the members of the Sabha questioning vendors about their licenses and telling them to pack up immediately. The reason cited was traffic congestion and lack of valid permissions (licenses from Jammu Municipal Corporation).

But the bigger question is

as who gave them the authority to act like an enforcement agency?

Many of the vendors are daily wage earners. Some said they had come from the neighbouring states Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to earn a living. Eyewitnesses claimed that workers from outside Jammu & Kashmir were particularly singled out during the action.

Meanwhile the general public has criticised the action of Yuva Rajput Sabha.

Taking to The Earth News they said, "This has raised concern. These vendors are mostly poor and struggling to support their families. Targeting them, es-

pecially based on where they come from, sends a wrong message. It risks creating a divide between locals and outsiders who have come to Jammu only to earn their livelihood".

At the same time, questions must also be asked to the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). Over the years, unauthorised rehdi-fadi stalls have mushroomed across Jammu city and its outskirts. Traffic jams and sanitation problems have become common. If the situation reached this level, where was the civic body?

Public was of the view that regulating street vendors is the job of the ► P11

Lok Bhavan celebrates Statehood Day of Arunachal, Mizoram

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan celebrated the Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extended his heartiest greetings to the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. He prayed for the health and prosperity of the people and rapid socio-economic development of the region. The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on upholding the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". He said that India's cultural and spiritual legacy sets it apart worldwide, while promoting ideals of unity and harmony.

“Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are more than just



geographical entities; they are living symbols of the nation's cultural heritage and unity.

These two states are the shining diamonds of India. Their unique blend of traditional culture and strong

community values serve as a blueprint for resilience and harmony for the entire country," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the transfor-

mative development journey of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He also paid homage to great luminaries and icons of both the states.

Major bureaucratic shake-up Sinha transfers 22 IAS, JKAS Officers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a significant administrative overhaul, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday ordered the transfer and posting of 22 IAS and JKAS officers in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect.

According to Government Order No. 230-JK(GAD) of 2026 dated February 20, 2026, issued by the General Administration Department (All India Services Section), several senior officers have been assigned new responsibilities in the inter-

est of administration.

Ashwani Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 1992), has been posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Power Development Department, and will also hold additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department.

Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS (AGMUT: 1994), Financial Commissioner (ACS), Tourism Department, will additionally hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department.

Shailendra Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), ► P11

Army Cdr evaluates anti-intrusion grid in Valley

SRINAGAR: Northern Army commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Friday reviewed the anti-infiltration grid in Kashmir and assessed the operational preparedness of the forces along the Line of Control (LoC).

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, visited #NorthKashmir to review the anti-infiltration grid and assess operational preparedness along the #LoC," the army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

It said that during his visit, the army ► P11

‘No power tariff hike since Dec 2023’

Ramzan donation regulations over NGOs follow clerics’ concerns: CM

“30,000 vacancies to be filled in 2026: Omar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called for political maturity on Friday, urging lawmakers to "desist from doing politics on everything", after a government order regarding "Zakat" (alms) collection was painted as interference in religious matters.

Immediately after the Question Hour ended in the Assembly, Abdullah raised a point of order as he wanted to respond to concerns voiced by Congress MLAs Nizamuddin Bhat and Ghulam Ahmed Mir on Thursday. The two Congress legislators, along with other MLAs, had criticised a recent administrative order in Kishtwar, regulating donations.

Addressing the floor, Abdullah said he personally investigated the matter to determine if the State was overstepping and clarified that the deputy commissioner (DC) of Kishtwar did not act on a whim or a political order, but on a direct plea of Muslim community leaders in the district.

During pre-Ramzan preparatory meetings, local Muslim religious leaders had expressed deep concern over the rise of "fake NGOs" that exploit the holy month to defraud donors.

"Money is collected in the name of patients who may not even exist," Abdullah said, adding, "The religious leaders requested the DC to issue this order because legitimate NGOs were being harmed by these fraudulent actors."

Far from being seen as "interference", the chief minister noted that the order has received a formal backing from the imam of Kishtwar's Jama Masjid, local maulvis and prominent religious



IMD plans hyper-local weather alerts for hills

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said the India Meteorological Department is planning to introduce a hyper-local weather forecasting system for Himalayan states and has identified seven districts for this, with special focus on early warnings for cloudburst-induced rainfall.

The IMD plans to install four additional doppler weather radars and 34 automatic weather stations and snow gauges in Jammu and Kashmir, the government said. In a written reply to a question of National Conference MLA Sajad Shaheen in the Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the National Disaster Management Authority has identified seven districts across Himalayan states for focused intervention. Ramban and Kishtwar have been ► P11

‘Tourism projects worth over Rs 3 Cr completed’

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Legislative Assembly that three tourism projects have been completed and one project is currently in progress in Ramgarh Constituency at a total cost of ₹307.12 lakh under the Capex Budget.

The Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, which was asked on his behalf by member Surjeet Singh Slathia during the Question Hour.

The House was informed that the Tourism Development Plan for the year 2026–27 has not yet been formulated. However, new projects for Ramgarh Constituency will be considered for ► P11

House passes grants of IT, ARI, Transport, FCS&CA, S&T Deptts

Collective endeavour, constructive criticism fuel progress: Satish

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today passed the grants for key departments through voice vote, after daylong debate by the members in the House.

The approved grants included Rs. 7,462.91 Lakh for Information Technology (IT), Rs. 54,389.17 Lakh for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Rs. 3,798.68 Lakh for ARI & Training, Rs. 12,646.11 Lakh for Transport, Rs. 68,009.76 Lakh for Youth Services & Sports (YSS) and Rs. 18,972.06 Lakh for Science & Technology (S&T) Department.



ment.

Winding up the discussion on the Demands for Grants, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Transport, Science & Technology Information

Technology Youth Services & Sports ARI & Training, Satish Sharma, expressed gratitude to all the legislators for their active participation and valuable inputs. He stated that the feedback and recommendations would form the basis for further strengthening of the policy decisions, ensuring effective execution and impactful implementation of projects.

Satish Sharma said that the members have shown keen interest in deliberating upon matters concerning the departments under his charge. "The questions raised and the cut motions moved have already enabled the departments to share the ► P11

India AI Summit

‘Modi Ka Bharat’ leading world to Vishwaguru Era in AI: Gaurav

NEW DELHI: BJP Spokesperson and Convenor, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta, who attended the AI Summit in New Delhi on Friday said the event marked a defining moment for India's emergence as a global technology leader under PM Modi.

The India AI Impact Summit 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, took place from February 16–21, 2026.

Originally scheduled to conclude on February 20, the summit was extended by one additional day due to overwhelming demand and unprecedented popularity among global delegates, policymakers, innovators and technology stakeholders. The extension, according to Gupta, reflected the global enthusiasm surrounding India's AI vision. ► P11

