

THOUGHT  
of the  
DAY

“Our greatest  
glory is not in  
never falling, but  
in rising every  
time we fall.”  
—Confucius

# Road Safety First

## Your Phone can wait , Life Cannot

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

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INBRIEF

Shab-e-Baraat:  
Sinha, Omar  
extend wishes

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Baraat.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: “On the holy occasion of Shab-e-Baraat, I convey my greetings and best wishes to all.

This sacred night offers devotees a precious opportunity to seek divine pardon, blessings, and wisdom. It invites seekers to ponder their inner journey and forge a profound bond with the almighty. Above all, Shab-e-Baraat reminds us to embrace a life grounded in truth, humility, and kindness.

May this holy night shower peace, prosperity, and joy upon everyone”.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Baraat, a revered night marked by prayers, repentance, and seeking the mercy and ▶ P11

Demand for National Law University echoes in LA

BJP MLAs display placards to press demand;  
Speaker continues proceedings amid uproar



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday as opposition BJP members raised the demand for a National Law University (NLU) for Jammu, while National Conference and PDP drew attention to incidents of alleged harassment of Kashmiris outside the Union Territory. Speaker Abdul Rahim ▶ P11

Flood restoration row: 2

BJP MLAs stage walkout

JAMMU: Two opposition BJP MLAs on Tuesday walked out of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly over the issue of allocation of funds for flood relief works, alleging discrimination against the Jammu region.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary denied the charges levelled by BJP MLAs Rajiv Jasrotia and Pawan Gupta, and also exchanged heated words with them leading to an uproar in the House.

Responding to the question of Jasrotia about details of funds released by the Centre for flood restoration works and district-wise distribution and utilisation, the minister said no funds till date have been released by the Centre for flood restoration works during the ▶ P11

NC protests for Statehood restoration,  
flag alleged ‘harassment’ of Kashmiris



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Members of the National Conference (NC) on Tuesday staged a Dharna in front of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, demanding the restoration of statehood and an end to the alleged harassment of Kashmiris in some parts of the country.

Ahead of the start of the Assembly session, the NC MLAs were seen carrying placards reading “Restore statehood and Constitutional guarantees” and “Stop harassing Kashmiris outside J&K”.

They raised slogans demanding the restoration of statehood and the protection of Kashmiris outside the Union Territory.

“We are sitting on a dharna in support of the demand for restoration of statehood,” minister Satish Sharma told reporters here.

NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq said all NC members were participating in the protest.

“This was promised to us... It is now time to restore it,” he told reporters.

Sadiq also raised the issue of alleged harassment of Kashmiris outside Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to direct states to ensure their protection.

When the ▶ P11

Udhampur encounter: JeM  
terrorists believed trapped

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: An intense encounter firefight lasting nearly an hour rattled a remote forest area in Udhampur district on Tuesday after security forces trapped two to three suspected Pakistani terrorists of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit inside a natural cave, officials said.

One of the terrorists was hit during the encounter but managed to retreat into the cave, even as the Army inducted paratroopers and a sniffer dog squad to neutralise the holed-up terrorists, the officials said.

Army’s White Knight Corps in a post on X said a contact was established with the terrorists during an operation, named ‘Kiya’, by the troops of Counter-Insurgency Force Delta, police and CRPF at around 4 pm in the general area of Basantgarh.

“Cordon has been established. Firefight is on and the operation is in progress,” the Army said.

However, the officials said heavy gunfire and deafening explosions rocked Jaffer, Gjurada and Chigla Balotha forests in Ramnagar area of the hilly district for nearly an hour following detection of some terrorists near a natural cave.

The operation in the vast forest area started early Monday following information about movement of suspected terrorists affiliated with Pakistan-based JeM, they said.

The officials said the cordon around the location was strengthened further to ensure that the terrorists are not able to flee the area by taking advantage of the ▶ P11

CM seeks safeguards for Kashmir  
students, traders across country

Omar welcomes US' tariff cut on Indian goods

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for an immediate halt to alleged harassment of Kashmir natives, whether students or traders, reported from across the country, asserting that continued victimisation of people from the Valley was unacceptable.

The issue of the alleged harassment of Kashmir-natives in different parts of the country was also raised in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly ahead of the Question Hour during the Budget Session, with Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejecting an adjournment motion moved by PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para seeking a discussion on the matter.

“This is not a good thing. I spoke on this issue at the North Zone Chief Ministers’ Conference. At that ▶ P11



Jan Vishwas  
Ordinance  
introduced

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday tabled The Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Ordinance, 2025 (Ordinance No. 01 of 2025) in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. The Ordinance proposes amendments to certain laws. It seeks to decriminalise a range of minor offences and rationalisation across several sectors.

Omar to  
table two  
Bills today

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is set to introduce two Bills tomorrow in the Legislative Assembly. The information in this regard was given by Legislative Assembly Secretariat on Wednesday.

As per details, CM Abdullah will introduce “A Bill to amend certain enactments of the ▶ P11

8 MPs suspended  
for unruly conduct

NEW DELHI: In an escalation of the tussle between the government and the opposition, seven Congress members and one CPI-M MP were suspended from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday for ‘unruly behaviour’ after they tore papers and threw them at the Chair.

Their suspension from the House for the remaining part of the Budget Session that concludes on April 2 will intensify the face-off with the government over various issues, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi being denied an opportunity to cite an article based on excerpts from an unpublished ‘memoir’ of former Army chief M M Naravane on India-China conflict of 2020.

The suspended members are Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose (all Congress) and S Ventakesan (CPI-M).

The opposition has also raised concerns about American President Donald Trump announcing the India-US trade deal and the alleged demolition drive at the Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi.

As soon as the House met at 3 pm following multiple adjournments, Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, named the eight members.

Subsequently, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju read out a resolution seeking suspension of the eight members for the remaining period ▶ P11

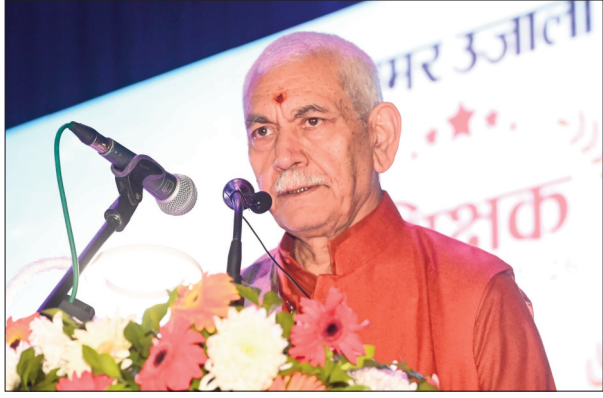
‘Amar Ujala's Inspirational Teachers Award’ ceremony

In AI era, education must nurture  
creativity, not rote learning: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday emphasised the need for forward-thinking teachers who can equip students for tomorrow’s uncertainties, like Artificial Intelligence (AI) disruptions, climate shifts, inspire to pioneer breakthroughs and fuel a dynamic and innovation-driven economy.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the “Inspirational Teachers Award” ceremony organized by Amar Ujala Group at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government



College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. At the ceremony, a total of 101 best inspirational teachers from various schools across Jammu were honoured with the prestigious

Award.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the valuable contribution of teaching community in shaping the character and cultivating the talents that boldly reshape the future at full throttle, equipping young students with skills and courage to brave an unpredictable world.

“I believe teachers and their craft form the backbone of a society and the soul of the nation,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that like a ▶ P11

NIA raids  
continue  
in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday carried out searches at the residence of a suspect in Rainawari area here as part of a probe into the terror ecosystem in Kashmir Valley, officials said.

The searches were carried out at a residential house in Hazari Bazar locality in the early hours, they said.

The NIA on Monday raided six locations across three districts of Kashmir at Rafiabad, Sopore and Bomai in Baramulla district, Bandipora, and the Parimpora area of ▶ P11

India-US trade deal  
a 'big decision': PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the India-US trade deal is a “big decision” that will benefit everyone in the country, and asserted that his government always works in favour of the nation.

The prime minister made these remarks at the meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party, coalition MPs present at the meeting said.

NDA coalition members congratulated Modi for the trade deals with the EU and the US, saying it would strengthen Indian manufacturers, exporters and entrepreneurs.

The prime minister said the India-US trade deal is a “big decision” and will benefit everyone in the country, an MP who attended the meeting said.

India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from a total 50 per cent.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there is excitement about the deal in the entire country.

“There is excitement among the MPs that nine trade deals have been concluded under the leadership of the PM. The trade deals have been signed with a total of 39 countries. This is historic. All these 39 countries are developed countries... This is historic. There has been a very good atmosphere in the ▶ P11

Mirwaiz  
placed under  
house arrest

SRINAGAR: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chief cleric of the valley and a moderate separatist leader, was placed under house arrest on Tuesday, according to the managing body of the 16th-century mosque in Old Srinagar city.

“Shortly after Asr prayers, the Auqaf authorities were directed by the police to close the gates of Jama Masjid Srinagar as permission to observe Shab-e-Barat has been denied by the authorities at the mosque,” the managing body said in a statement.

It claimed that the Auqaf was asked to ensure that the premises remain ▶ P11