

"Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there someday."

—A. A. Milne



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World moving towards new global order: PM Modi in RS

'Cong will never be able to dig my grave'



NEW DELHI: The world is moving towards a new global order, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday while replying on the President's address, adding that India has emerged as a loud voice of the Global South.

The Prime Minister took a dig at Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, and suggested he can raise slogans while sitting.

Opposition MPs later staged a walkout.

The Prime Minister said

the world is moving towards a new global order after the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is clear, the world is moving towards a new world order. After the second world war, a world order was created, now the world is moving towards a new world order. If we analyse it independently, it is leaning towards India," Modi said.

"The world is talking about the global south, India is a loud voice of the global south," he said.

He mentioned the trade deals being finalised with different countries.

"We are doing future-ready trade deals with a lot of countries. In the past few days, we have had nine major trade deals, and the mother of all deals was the one with the European Union," he said.

He also took a jibe at the Opposition, which had ▶ P11

CM to present Budget today Survey projects 5.82 pc growth for JK economy

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will present the Jammu and Kashmir budget for the financial year 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly on 6 February 2026, as the 27-day Budget session of the House began on 2 February.

This will be the second budget of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government after it assumed office on 16 October 2024, marking the end of nearly six years of Central rule in the Union Territory.

Pertinently, the Budget session, spread over a three-month period with double sittings, which commenced with an address by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who described the Budget session as an important opportunity to reflect on the Union Territory's journey and review achievements.

According to the schedule, the Budget session will conclude on April 4 and will be held in three phases, with the first phase before the commencement of Ramzan and the remaining sittings after Eid-ul-Fitr in March and April. Ramzan is expected to begin on February 18 or 19, subject

to moon sighting.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir's real Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is estimated to grow at 5.82 per cent, according to the Economic Survey Report 2025-26.

The report said that Jammu and Kashmir achieved a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.47 per cent in real GSDP during 2019-20 to 2024-25, indicating economic resilience and post-pandemic recovery.

"The growth rate is higher than Delhi and Himachal Pradesh and marginally higher than Haryana during the same period," it added.

The Economic Survey Report, tabled on the floor of the J&K Legislative Assembly by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday, estimated the size of the J&K economy at about Rs 2.86 lakh crore in nominal terms and Rs 1.50 lakh crore in real terms.

The report further said that per capita income in the Union Territory is estimated at Rs 1,68,243 in 2025-26, registering a higher growth rate compared to several northern states and UTs, including Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, ▶ P11



HM Amit Shah arrives on 2-day Jammu visit

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Jammu on late Thursday evening on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from Thursday.

He landed at Jammu Technical Airport at 10:45 pm and straight away drove to Lok Bhawan in Jammu.

During his visit, he will preside over high-level review meetings on security and development issues. He is also set to visit the Border Security Force's Bobia and Gurnam Border Outposts. In addition, the minister will meet with the families of fallen soldiers and hand over appointment

letters. Meanwhile, security forces in Kashmir are on alert for Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day visit beginning Thursday, officials said.

Police and paramilitary CRPF personnel carried out area dominance exercises and surprise checks around the commercial hub of Lal Chowk and adjoining areas, they said.

Security personnel have been deployed in higher numbers and random vehicle checks and frisking operations have also been intensified.

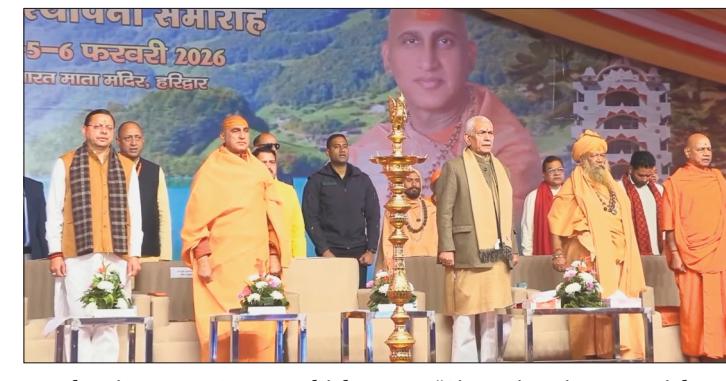
Meanwhile, security forces carried out a surprise cordon and search operation in the Ab Guzar area of Srinagar. ▶ P11

Saints' guidance driving vision of modern India: Sinha LG attends idol installation ritual of Swami Satyamitranand Giri ji

HARIDWAR/ UTTARAKHAND: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday attended the Idol Installation Ceremony of Swami Satyamitranand Giri Ji Maharaj at Haridwar in Devbhoomi Uttarakhand.

The Spiritual, Cultural, and Sadguru Memorial Celebration was held under the guidance of Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of Juna Akhara.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on profound economic, cultural and spiritual renaissance in the country, which is igniting a vibrant new consciousness in the society. "With the blessings of revered saints, people are advancing steadfastly toward the vision of building a modern, transformed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.



The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the values envisioned by our ancestors millennia ago are now being embraced worldwide, with nations adopting the philosophy of Vaishnava Kutumbakam—"the world is one family"—as a beacon for peace and harmony.

"Since time immemorial, our tradition has championed the welfare of all humanity. It has gifted us the expansive vision of the world as one family. Our ancient culture has never sown division; it has always championed unity, individual ▶ P11

UPSC prelims to be held on May 24

NEW DELHI: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has made face authentication mandatory for all aspirants at examination centres and introduced strict eligibility restrictions for candidates already appointed to certain services.

These changes were announced in an official notification for the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2026, released on Thursday.

The commission announced 933 vacancies for this year's recruitment cycle, which include 33 posts reserved for persons with benchmark disability. The preliminary examination of the competitive examination will be held on May 24, it said.

The prestigious exam is conducted annually ▶ P11

Art 370 still part of Constitution, no explicit mention needed: CM Omar calls for minority status to SMVDIME

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reiterated in the budget session of the assembly that his government remains committed to restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Winding up the discussion on the Motion of Lieutenant Governor's Address in the assembly, Abdullah said Article 370 was not specifically mentioned in the address as the provision still exists in the Constitution despite being "hollowed out".

"I want to reiterate that the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and this government remain committed to the promises made during the elections, particularly the promise to restore the special status of Jammu



and Kashmir."

"We do not consider it necessary to explicitly mention Article 370 because it has not been removed from the Constitution. Had it been removed, I would have said it must be reinserted. It still exists. You hollowed it out and snatched away our constitutional status," he said. ▶ P11

Omar tables Anand Marriage Rules in LA

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday tabled "The Jammu and Kashmir Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023" as required under Section 6(4) of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 (Central Act 7 of 1909). The Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023, aim to provide a clear legal framework for the registration of Anand marriages, which are solemnised according to Sikh religious rites. Officials said that the rules will help ensure ▶ P11

J&K Bank hosts HNI Customer Meet Digital platforms upgradation on cards: MD & CEO Amitava

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE



KATHUA: As part of its commitment to deepen customer engagement and garner direct feedback, J&K Bank today organised second High Net-Worth Individual (HNI) Customer Meet in Jammu at its Kathua Zonal Office. The interactive session witnessed active participation of the Bank's valued clients from the Kathua zone which extends from Samba to Batala, Mohali and other parts of Punjab.

The meeting was chaired by MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee, and was attended by Chief General Manager Sunit

Kumar, General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, Zonal Head (Kathua) Suresh Kumar Choudhary and other senior officers. During the interaction,

the participating HNI customers lauded the Bank's recent Q3 financial performance and congratulated the management for posting strong growth numbers. They also shared valuable ▶ P11

Statehood to J-K only after end to violence: LoP Sunil

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Thursday criticised the Omar Abdullah government for repeatedly raising the statehood restoration issue, asserting that it would not be done until it is ensured that no youth or child falls victim to violence.

Addressing the House, he said that even children used to indulge in stone-throwing in Kashmir earlier. But steps taken by the Narendra Modi government had brought significant changes and ensured that such incidents do not recur, the BJP leader said.



"The BJP wanted peace and stability in the region and maintained that children should not be exposed to violence. Statehood would be restored only after ensuring that the security situation remains stable and no youth or child falls victim to bullets," he said.

Sharma batted for building cordial ▶ P11

Over two lakh dog bite cases; Jammu tops list

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said that more than two lakh dog bite cases were reported across the Union Territory in 2024 and 2025, with the Jammu district recording the highest number of over 1.26 lakh incidents.

This was revealed in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly by Minister for Health Sakina Ito in a written reply to a question by NC member Mubarak Gul. Sharing district-wise figures, the minister said that 2,06,460 dog bite cases were reported in the Union Territory during the two-year period, including 93,765 cases

in 2024 and 1,12,695 cases in 2025.

In the Jammu division, 1,26,844 cases were recorded in 2024-25, with 54,863 cases in 2024 and 71,981 cases in 2025. Dara revealed. The Jammu district alone accounted for 76,824 cases, followed by Kathua with 17,129 cases and Udhampur with 8,179 cases.

Other districts in the division reported 7,140 cases in Rajouri, 5,332 in Samba, 4,111 in Doda, 2,752 in Reasi, 4,023 in Poonch, 1,772 in Ramtan and 1,582 in Kishtwar, she said. The Kashmir division reported 79,616 cases during the same period, including 38,902 cases in 2024 and 40,714 cases in 2025. ▶ P11