

THOUGHT
of the
DAY

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

—Maya Angelou

Population Census in J-K, Ladakh from Sep 1: Govt

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday notified that the second phase of the ongoing Census -- population enumeration -- for Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand shall take place from September 1 to 30.

In a gazette notification on Monday, Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan said that conduct of Census of the population shall be undertaken in these regions from September 1 to 30 this year, with a revisional round from October 1 to 5.

"For the conduct of the above Census, there shall be an option for self-enumeration from August 17 to 31 just before the start of house-to-house population enumeration," it said.

The notification said the reference date for the Census in Ladakh and **► P11**

NEET Protests SC allows states to withdraw FIRs; CJP welcomes decision

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that the expression "criminal antecedents" in its order on releasing student protesters referred only to those involved in grave and heinous offences, and said states could close or withdraw FIRs against the remaining students in accordance with law.

The clarification came after the Centre submitted that it was "serious" about not pursuing FIRs against students who participated in the NEET examination paper leak protests, including the July 20 Parliament march in Delhi, provided they did not have criminal antecedents.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a batch of pleas alleging police excesses against student protesters during the agitation spearheaded by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

"It is clarified that NCT of Delhi and any other state shall be at liberty to close or withdraw FIRs against protesters... The word criminal antecedents is to be read as grave and heinous offences," it said.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that there was some misconception **► P11**

21 suspected Bangladeshis travelling to Kashmir held

JAMMU: At least 21 suspected Bangladesh nationals including three women and seven children have been detained in Ramban district, officials said on Monday.

The group, travelling in two vehicles towards Kashmir from Jammu, was intercepted during routine checking at a checkpoint in Ramban on Sunday, they said.

During verification, the individuals failed to produce any valid identity or travel documents to establish their legal stay in the country.

Following preliminary questioning at the spot, all 21 persons were taken **► P11**

Govt approves Rs 10.95 Cr for restoration of 2 religious sites

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has approved two projects worth ₹10.95 crore for the preservation, restoration and upgradation of two prominent religious sites in Anantnag district.

An amount of ₹5.03 crore has been approved for the restoration and renovation of Ziyarat Sharief Khiram, while ₹5.92 crore has been sanctioned for the repair and renovation of Shiv Mandir, Thajiwara, Bijbehara.

The projects aim to preserve the sanctity, heritage and architectural character of these revered places of worship while upgrading essential infrastructure to provide a better experience for devotees and visitors.

The approvals are part of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led Government's sustained efforts to conserve religious and heritage sites across Jammu and Kashmir through focused investments in restoration, preservation and infrastructure development. By protecting these sites and enhancing public amenities, the Government seeks to ensure that future generations continue to benefit from the region's rich spiritual, cultural and historical legacy. Recently, the Government has approved a **► P11**

LS clears Bill to increase SC judges from 34 to 38

Govt replaces British-Era banking law



NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a bill to replace an ordinance that increased the number of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38 without a debate as opposition members persisted with slogan-shouting over the issues of NEET paper leak and alleged theft of Ram temple donations.

Last week, a bill to amend the law on birth and death registration was also passed without any debate in the Lok Sabha under similar circumstances.

A statutory resolution moved by the opposition members denouncing the promulgation of the ordinance was also rejected by a voice vote.

After brief introductory remarks by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Chair urged the members to speak on the statutory resolution, but as sloganeering continued, the bill was put to vote and subsequently cleared.

After the passage of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, the House was adjourned for the day.

The bill was listed in the agenda almost every day since its introduction on July 20 but could not come up for consideration and passage.

The government has maintained that an enhanced strength is one of the most exigent and viable solutions for tackling pendency in the top court.

In May, the Union Cabinet had cleared the bill to increase the sanctioned strength of the top court, but soon thereafter the government brought an ordinance.

After the ordinance, five judges were appointed to the apex court based on the upgraded sanctioned strength.

After the **► P11**

Foundation Day of AFHQ Civilian Services Military-civil integration essential to tackle emerging challenges: Rajnath

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said there was a need to "deepen integration" between the military and civil components of his ministry to foster greater synergy within the defence ecosystem to tackle evolving security and technological challenges.

In his address at the foundation day celebrations of Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services here, he also said that if officers of the AFHQ Civilian Services develop defence-specific common cyber tools leveraging their expertise, it



Important to anticipate future 'challenges': CDS

NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani on Monday addressed military officers attending a tri-service future warfare course here and emphasised the importance of anticipating future security **► P11**

IUST Conference Climate change impacting Himalayas, eco-friendly solutions needed: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said climate change was taking place at an alarming pace in the Himalayas, while calling for nature-based solutions for development.

The alarming pace of climate change in the Himalayan region is highlighted by the fact that, between January and August last year, the Himalayas witnessed a natural disaster almost every day, Sinha said while addressing a climate conference at the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) in Awantipora.

The LG said in Jammu and Kashmir alone, flash floods and cloudbursts have damaged public infrastructure, disrupting roads, water supply schemes, and power feeders.

He said that there is no dichotomy between development and conservation, and nature itself is infrastructure.



"For example, constructing a watershed is also an effective flood-control system. It is infrastructure that also serves as a water purification system and forms the basis of an irrigation system.

"Similarly, a wetland is nature's vast reservoir because it absorbs excess water during the monsoon and then slowly gives life to surrounding areas during the dry months," he said.

Sinha said a dense forested mountain slope is like a strong wall that protects the entire mountain from collapsing onto the villages below.

"Therefore, I believe that when we destroy these natural systems, we are playing with the future," he said, urging

the experts to put forward nature-based solutions for development.

While addressing the conference, he also suggested using technologies like remote sensing, geospatial mapping and AI to track glacier retreat, spring flow, soil health, and forest cover.

"This data should inform every development project in the region. Nature-based solutions must be embedded into project budgeting, appraisal, and monitoring. Farmers, shepherds, orchard owners, and tribal communities must be equal stakeholders," he said.

Sinha said annual budget reviews should include whether forests and ecosystems have grown richer or weaker, ensuring accountability for environmental wealth.

Recalling the Green Jammu Kashmir Drive launched in 2020, which raised forest cover to nearly 55 percent, the **► P11**

PoJK Polls: PML-N sweeps 2nd phase amid 'violence'

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) swept the second phase of elections in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK), winning 14 out of 18 contested seats, which will enable it to form a government in the region.

The Pakistan People's Party won the remaining four seats, PoJK's Election Commissioner Ghulam Mustafa Mughal said on Monday.

The second phase of the ongoing PoJK polls was held on Sunday, amid violence and rigging allegations. One person was killed, and several were injured in the violence.

Mughal said polling in

three more seats, which were supposed to happen on Sunday, will now take place on Tuesday. "Polling staff and election material could not reach the constituency because of landslides and bad weather that resulted in blocked roads."

The elections for 45 contesting seats in the so-called legislative assembly in PoJK are happening in three phases between July 27 and August 10.

India maintains that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of it. New Delhi also asserts that Pakistan has been in "illegal and forcible occupation" **► P11**

Over 1,000 pilgrims leave for holy shrine

JAMMU: The 26th batch of over 1,000 devotees left Jammu base camp on Monday for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra in Kashmir amid multi-tier security arrangements, officials said.

Over 4.50 lakh pilgrims have visited the 3,880 metres high holy cave shrine of Shri Amarnathji in Kashmir Himalayas since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3. The 57-day Yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 28. As many 1,056 pilgrims left from **► P11**



On the auspicious occasion of first Shravan Somwar, His Holiness Atal Pethadeswar Rajguru Acharya Mahamandaleswar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj bestowed his divine blessings upon the scores of devotees who thronged Gyan Ganga Math, Sunderbani, to seek spiritual guidance and offer prayers to Lord Shiva.

Bhagwat to address Gen Z on August 6

MUMBAI: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with Gen Alpha and Gen Z students in Mumbai on August 6, days after Dharmendra Pradhan resigned as Union education minister following the Cockroach Janta Party-led youth protests against the NEET exam paper leak.

Bhagwat will address the inaugural ceremony of India's International Movement to Unite Nations' (IIMUN) Annual Championship Conference at the Nita Mukesh **► P11**

Over 1,100 movies enter for 1st IFFJK Dir Information reviews preparations

SRINAGAR: The first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir has received an overwhelming response as more than 1,100 films have been entered for the event to be held here next month, officials said on Monday.

"The festival has received an overwhelming response with more than 1,100 film entries received from around 50 countries under categories like International Competition, Short Film, Bharat Panorama J-K Select,



etc," an official spokesperson said, adding that it has received a tremendous response.

He said the first IFFJK is slated to be held from September 7-10, 2026 and is guided by the theme 'Rang-e-Cinema'. The festival aims to bring filmmakers, **► P11**

Cloudbursts lead to flash floods; 1 dies

SRINAGAR: A woman was washed away while hundreds of people were evacuated as multiple cloudbursts struck the Valley on Monday, triggering flash floods in several districts, officials said.

Naseema Begum (52) was washed away in a flash flood caused by a cloudburst as she was trying to manoeuvre across a culvert over a swelled stream in Lolab area of Kupwara district, officials said.

Her body was later recovered downstream near Shahabad.

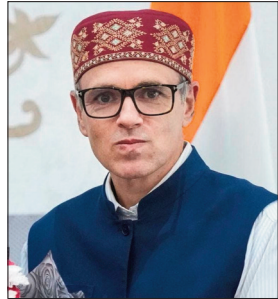
A mosque and a footbridge were also damaged due to flash **► P11**

CM to lead I-Day event at Bakshi Stadium; ministers given districts

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday finalized arrangements for the 79th Independence Day celebrations across the Union Territory, assigning the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Advisor to the Chief Minister and senior civil officers to preside over official functions and take the ceremonial salute at district headquarters.

City & Local Guides According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Chief Minister Omar Abdul-



lah will preside over the main Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, where he will hoist the National Flag and take the ceremonial salute.

As per the official order, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar **► P11**