



Home Minister Amit Shah winds up 2-day Jammu visit

Says enthusiasm of tourists to visit J&K hasn't diminished | **Calls for aggressive marketing of UT's tourist destinations** | **Assures Govt's all possible assistance to develop new tourist spots** | **Highlights Modi govt's dev, unprecedented progress in J&K**

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Feb 07: Asserting that enthusiasm of tourists from across the country to visit Jammu and Kashmir has not diminished, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, on Saturday reiterated that PM Modi led regime is committed to build developed and prosperous J&K.

Before winding up his 2-day visit to Jammu region, Shah chaired a review meeting at Lok Bhavan here this morning to assess the progress of development projects in the Union Territory.

Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while chairing the meeting said, "The enthusiasm of tourists from across the country to visit Jammu and Kashmir has not diminished.



There is a need for aggressive marketing of UT's tourist destinations in other states of the country to explore the tourism potential available here."

He said, "The Government of

India will provide all possible assistance in the plan to develop new tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir."

He reiterated that Under the leadership of PM Modi, the

Government of India remains firmly committed to the vision of building a developed and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Home Minister undertook a comprehensive review of key sectors such as road infrastructure, power, industry, tourism, 4G and optical fibre connectivity.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Home Secretary, and senior officials from both, the Central Government and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah said that the due to the continuous and dedicated efforts being made by the PM Modi led government have accelerated | [More on P6](#)

Army Chief hails soldiers' unwavering dedication, readiness

Visits forward posts in Poonch, felicitates ex-serviceman with 'Veteran Achiever Award'

Yogesh

Poonch, Feb 07: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday lauded the high standards of professionalism and readiness demonstrated by the soldiers deployed along the Line of Control and International Borders.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, the Army Chief during his visit to forward areas of Poonch Sector today while addressing the soldiers commended their unwavering dedication and exceptional state of preparedness.

General Dwivedi reviewed operational preparedness and assessed deployment posture, surveillance measures and security arrangements. He also reviewed the overall readiness of



formations deployed in the sector.

An official said that during the visit, the Army Chief also stopped at Kamsar village in Poonch, where he met Subedar (Honorary Captain) Parvez Ahmed (Retired) of 18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles. General Dwivedi and

the veteran JCO had served together on multiple occasions, including during the period when the Army Chief commanded the battalion between 2002 and 2005.

He said that during 'Operation Sindoore', Parvez played a significant role in supporting | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar rules out creation of new administrative units

Says focus on making existing units fully operational

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his government has no plans to create new administrative units in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly during Question Hour, the CM—who is also the Minister in charge, Revenue—said that the government has no intention of creating new administrative units in the Union Territory.

He said the units which were opened in the past have to be operationalised fully and staffed adequately.

"The MLAs often complain to me that administrative units do



not have offices and facilities. Both things cannot run together," he said, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The Chief Minister added that these units have not yet been fully operationalised. "Our first responsibility is to make them fully operational. Thereafter, wherever gaps exist or new administrative units need to be opened, that will be considered," he said.

The administrative units were last | [More on P6](#)

Water from Indus River won't flow to Pak anymore: Union Minister

Says DPR ready to divert water to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi

Sajid Raina

Jaipur, Feb 07: Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil on Saturday said that water from the Indus River will not be allowed to flow to Pakistan, as the Centre has made all the preparations to divert it for India's benefit.

Patil, while talking to reporters at the BJP headquarters in Jaipur, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared to ensure proper water diversion. Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Delhi will gain from the additional water."

He also highlighted that work on the Yamuna water project would be expedited to



improve water management in beneficiary states.

"Significant technical work has been undertaken to ensure Rajasthan receives its share of surplus water. The DPR for the revised plan has been received and is under examination,"

Patil said.

He added that Haryana and Rajasthan have agreed to cooperate in preparing DPRs, and the pipeline scheme is estimated to cost between Rs 77,000 crore and Rs 1 lakh crore.

Patil | [More on P6](#)

NC, BJP spar in Assembly over J&K's 'special status'

Yogesh

Jammu, Feb 07: Pandemonium broke out in the Legislative Assembly on Saturday over the issue of special status of the erstwhile state, with ruling National Conference (NC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs sparring over it.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), during the budget discussion, NC MLA Javid Hussain Baig said that Article 370, Article 35-A, the Jammu & Kashmir Constitution, and the J&K flag together constitute what is referred to as the special status of Jammu & Kashmir.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma interrupted, asserting that the term special status does not exist in the Constitution of India. "If the

word special status exists in the Constitution of India, I am ready to face any punishment you hand over to me. What is special status?" Sharma questioned.

Intervening in the debate, Minister for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Satish Sharma, remarked that "those who do not know their history cannot create history." Minister for Horticulture, Javid Dar, told the Leader of Opposition that he had no right to disrupt the House.

As Treasury benches prevented the Leader of Opposition from speaking, BJP MLAs stood up and shouted slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Bharat Mata Ki Jai." NC MLAs also stood up, raising slogans of "Special Status Ayega, Special Status Ayega."

Once order | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir sees rising night temps, snow chills daytime

MeT says no major rain or snow forecast till Feb 16

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Feb 07: Minimum temperatures across Kashmir rose over the past 24 hours, while fresh snowfall in higher reaches led to a noticeable drop in daytime temperatures, officials said on Saturday.

As per details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a minimum of 3.0 degrees Celsius on Friday night, up from minus 2.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday, marking an increase of 5.5 degrees.

In Pahalgam, a key tourist destination, the minimum temperature climbed by seven degrees, from minus | [More on P6](#)

General discussion on J&K Budget begins in Assembly

Budget addresses all key sections, say some MLAs; others seek 'more people-friendly' approach

KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 07: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly began a discussion on the Budget 2026-27, presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Initiating the debate, legislator Javid Hassan Baig described the budget as a pro-people document that addresses and fulfils the aspirations and needs of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that despite challenges, consistent efforts are being made to ensure better governance and public welfare.

Legislator Devyani Rana, in her maiden speech, emphasised that local feedback must be welcomed with the intent of institutionalisation,



not treated as a mere formality. She stated that legislators have a collective responsibility to do better, and merely repackaging central schemes will not address ground realities. Rana raised the issue of staff shortages in the Power Development Department and

requested facilities such as ramps for persons with disabilities in the proposed free bus service.

Joining the debate, legislator Nizam-ud-Din Bhat called the budget a balanced one. He appreciated the announcement of a cultural centre for Bandipora

and crop insurance for farmers. He suggested that proactive steps be taken to protect the environment and raised issues related to the livelihoods of fishermen and tribal communities, power infrastructure, the opening of tourist destinations, and other concerns.

Speaking during the discussion, legislator Muzaffar Iqbal Khan called for the protection of land and jobs for residents of Jammu and Kashmir. He welcomed the announcement of regularising daily wagers made by the Chief Minister in his budget speech and highlighted the special focus on the development of border villages.

Legislator Sunil Bhardwaj said the budget should have a clear policy for daily wagers and the | [More on P6](#)

'Special status' for J&K a lie, Art-370 buried: LoP Sharma

Accuses Abdullah family of misleading Kashmiris, mocking daily wagers, unemployed

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Feb 07: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Saturday questioned demands for "special status" for the Union Territory, saying there is no provision for it in the Indian Constitution.

Speaking to the media, Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I am not a legal expert but, based on my understanding of constitutional provisions, there is no mention of special status in relation to Jammu and Kashmir's



accession or merger with India. Any constitutional demand must have a legal basis."

He said, "What is this special status? Many states demand special status. You must have seen several | [More on P6](#)

Trust has become India's strongest currency, says PM Modi in Malaysia

Cites trade deals with European Union, United States

PTI

Kuala Lumpur, Feb 07: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth" and it was reflected in the recent trade deals it has agreed with various countries, including the UK, USA and the EU.

Addressing a community programme here, Modi said the Indian diaspora served as a living bridge between

India and Malaysia and announced a new consulate in the archipelago nation and the Thiruvalluvar Scholarship to enable students to study in India.

Modi, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday on a two-day visit, referred to the trade deals India agreed with various countries and said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth".

"Trust has become India's strongest currency," Modi said, citing trade deals with the UK, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EU and the US.

Malaysia is home to nearly



three million people of Indian descent, the second largest in

the world, with an overwhelming majority of Tamil origin.

Greeting the Indian community members in different languages, the prime minister made it a point to highlight the singing abilities of his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, particularly his love of Tamil songs of legendary actor-politician M G Ramachandran (MGR).

"Tamil is India's gift to the world. Tamil literature is eternal, and Tamil culture is global. Tamil people have served humanity with their talents," Modi said, recalling that India's Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Union ministers S Jaishankar, Nirmala

Sitharaman and L Murugan, were from Tamil Nadu.

"The Tamil diaspora has been here for many centuries. Inspired by this history, we are proud to have established the Tiruvalluvar chair at the University of Malaya. We will now set up our Tiruvalluvar Centre to further strengthen our shared heritage," the prime minister said.

Modi said he was very delighted to be in Malaysia which is his first foreign visit in 2026.

"India will always embrace you with open arms. That is why, just a few months ago, we took a historic decision to

extend OCI card eligibility to Malaysian citizens of Indian origin up to the sixth generation," he said.

Modi said the Malaysian prime minister, who was present at the event, and he have been friends even before Ibrahim became prime minister. "India's success is Malaysia's success, and it is Asia's success," Modi said, adding that the guiding word of the relationship was IMPACT - India-Malaysia Partnership for Advancing Collective Transformation.

The prime minister said India and Malaysia walk hand-in-hand | [More on P6](#)

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Mandatory Segregation of Waste at Source and Collection of Only Segregated Waste within Municipal Limits of Yaripora

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public, administrators of institutions, and business establishment holders that the Municipal Committee Yaripora shall henceforth collect only segregated waste from all waste generators (households, institutions, business units) as per the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2024. All waste generators are required to segregate waste at source into the following four separate streams:

1. Wet Waste
2. Dry Waste
3. Sanitary Waste (Diapers, Sanitary Pads etc)
4. Special Care Waste (Battery, Mobile phones, electronic accessories etc.)

The Municipal Committee will not collect mixed waste from any waste generator. Waste must be segregated into the above four streams and handed over to the Municipal Committee Yaripora (Hooper Driver) or to an authorized waste collector. The general public is earnestly requested to extend full cooperation in keeping Yaripora Town clean and green and to support sustainability in waste management.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/184-86 Dated: 06/02/2026
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Prohibition of open dumping of faecal sludge within the limits of Municipal Committee Kulgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that dumping of faecal sludge in drains, open areas, water bodies, or in the vicinity of water bodies is strictly prohibited within the territorial limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora. Any person or vehicle operator found dumping faecal sludge at any place within the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Yaripora shall be penalized 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) on the spot, and further action as warranted under law shall be initiated against the offender.

The general public is earnestly requested to extend full cooperation in keeping Yaripora Town clean and green and to support sustainability in waste management.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/187-89 Dated: 06/02/2026
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: On-Call C&D Waste Collection Service & Charges Notification

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Municipal Committee Yaripora is pleased to announce the availability of an On-Call Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Collection Service for the convenience of residents, builders, and institutions. This service ensures the proper collection, transportation, and disposal of C&D waste in compliance with Construction & Demolition Waste Management Rules 2016.

1. On-Call C&D Waste Collection Service: Residents and bulk waste generators can request the Municipal Committee for the collection of C&D waste directly from their locations. This service is designed to prevent illegal dumping and ensure efficient waste management. Contact No 01931-260028
2. Designated C&D Waste Collection Points: In addition to the on-call service, designated geo-tagged collection points are available across the city for citizens to dispose of C&D waste responsibly on user charges basis.
3. Charges for C&D Waste Collection & Processing: The following charges have been fixed for the collection, transportation, and processing of C&D waste:

S.No	Particulars	Waste Quantity	Charges
1	On-call Services (Transport)	Upto1 ton	Rs.2000.00
2	On-call Services (Transport)	Above1 ton	Rs. 4000.00
3	Providing of drop Point	1 Trip	Rs 3000.00

(Note: Charges may vary based on distance and type of waste. Please contact the MC Yaripora office for detailed pricing.)

Important Guidelines for Citizens

- Do not dump C&D waste on roads, drains, or public spaces.
 - Use the designated collection points or book the on-call service.
 - Ensure timely payment of collection charges as per the notified rates.
 - Failure to comply may result in penalties as per municipal regulations.
- Let's work together for a cleaner and sustainable Yaripora

No: MC/YRP/S B M /2026/172-74 Dated: 06/02/2026.
Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Lifting Charges of Garden Waste/ Horticulture Waste.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for better management of solid waste across the country.

As per Clause No. 4(p) - Duties of Waste Generators, "The waste generator shall store horticulture waste and garden waste generated from his premises separately within his own premises and dispose of the same as per the directions issued by the local body from time to time."

In accordance with the "Polluter Pays" principle, which states that "those responsible for waste generation shall pay for its collection and safe disposal", the general public is hereby informed through the medium of this notice that Municipal Committee Yaripora shall:

- Provide vehicles for the separate collection of garden / horticulture waste on a paid basis.
- Impose a fine on violators who dispose of garden / horticulture waste in front of their houses, on public lanes, or in vacant plots.

Lifting Charges of Garden Waste/ Horticulture Waste:

S.No	Category	Amount
1.	Hooper	1000/Trip
2.	Tractor	2000/ Trip

Penalties:

Sr. No	Category of offences	Fine for first time offence	Fine for Second time offence	Fine for subsequent offences or recurring offences
1.	Mixing of garden waste/ horticulture waste with Municipal Solid waste	500/=	1000/=	2000/=
2.	Throwing of garden-waste/horticulture waste near outside the house or open plot.	500/=	1000/=	2000/=

No: MC/YRP/S B M /2026/190-92 Dated: 06/02/2026
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in

Subject: Ban on Manual hazardous entry (without safety gears)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that manual hazardous entry for the cleaning of sewer lines and septic tanks without prescribed safety gear is strictly prohibited within the territorial limits of the Municipal Committee Yaripora. Any vehicle owner, contractor, agency, or person found involved in such practice within the limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora shall be liable to a penalty of 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) on the spot, and further action as warranted under law shall be initiated against the defaulter in a court of law.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/196-98 Dated: 06/02/2026
Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Onsite wet waste processing of bulk waste generators.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all Bulk Waste Generators of Yaripora Town that they shall take necessary steps for the processing of wet waste generated in their respective units, strictly in accordance with the standard procedures prescribed in the Bulk Waste Generator Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Manual, in order to preserve the environment and contribute towards sustainable and environment-friendly waste management.

Any Bulk Waste Generator found violating the prescribed SOPs within the limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora shall be liable to an on-the-spot penalty of 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only), and proceedings for cancellation of the trade license shall be initiated accordingly. (A SMALL STEP CAN BRING A BIG CHANGE.)

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/202-04 Dated:- 06-02-2026
Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Strict Enforcement of Ban on Single-Use Plastic and Non-Biodegradable Plastic Items under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance of the provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022, and in the interest of environmental protection, public health, and urban cleanliness, it is hereby notified for the information of the general public, traders, shopkeepers, vendors, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters, event organizers, and all other stakeholders that the Municipal Committee Yaripora has imposed a strict ban on the use, sale, storage, supply, transport, and distribution of single-use plastic and non-biodegradable plastic items within its jurisdiction.

The following is strictly prohibited with immediate effect:

1. Use, sale, and storage of non-biodegradable plastic carry bags and plastic products below 120 microns, in compliance with the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022.
 2. Complete ban on storage, supply, transport, sale, or distribution of Single-Use / Throw-away Plastic, including: Styrofoam, Thermocol and all products made thereof.
 3. Ban on the following Single-Use Plastic items: Plastic carry bags (below permissible thickness), Earbuds with plastic sticks, Plastic plates, cups, glasses, and cutlery, Plastic straws, Wrapping/packing films used for sweet boxes, Plastic wrapping on invitation cards, Plastic wrapping on cigarette packets
 4. Absolute prohibition on non-biodegradable plastic carry bags and single-use plastic products below 75 microns.
- Violations shall attract strict enforcement action, including: Monitoring and inspections, E-challenging, Imposition of penalties as per rules and municipal bye-laws Compliance & Enforcement
- All concerned are hereby directed to ensure strict compliance with this notice. Enforcement teams of the ULB shall conduct regular and surprise inspections, and any violation shall be dealt with strictly as per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022.
- The public is advised to adopt eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth bags, jute bags, paper bags, and other biodegradable materials.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/208-10 Dated:-02-06-2026
Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Ban on littering of waste on Roads, Lanes, Bye Lanes, Drains, Water Bodies and Open land.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public, administrators of institutions, and business establishment holders that littering of any type of waste on roads, lanes, by-lanes, drains, water bodies and open land is strictly prohibited. Littering within the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Yaripora is a punishable offence under the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2024.

Any person found littering waste on roads, lanes, by-lanes, drains, water bodies or open land within the limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora shall be penalized 500 (Rupees Five Hundred only) on the spot. The general public is earnestly requested to extend full cooperation in keeping Yaripora Town clean and green and to support sustainability in waste management.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/181-83 Dated:06/02/2026
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Ban on sale, stock, distribution and use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) with the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Yaripora.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public, shopkeepers, unit holders and distributors that the sale, stocking, distribution and use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) is strictly banned within the territorial limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended in 2018, 2021 and 2022, and in accordance with various orders issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) from time to time. Any person found involved in the sale, stocking, distribution or use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) within the limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora shall be penalized on the spot as per the penalty structure given below: Penalties:

Sr. No	Category of offences	Fine for first time offence	Fine for Second time offence	Fine for subsequent offences or recurring offences
1.	Stocking	1500/=	3000/=	10000/=
2.	Sale / Distribution	500/=	2000/=	5000/=
3.	User of SUP	100/=	200/=	500/=

The general public is earnestly requested to extend full cooperation in keeping Yaripora Town clean and green, ensuring sustainability in waste management.

No: MC/YRP/S B M /2026/193-95 Dated: 06/02/2026
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

DIPK-NB-3191/25
DATED: 07-02-2026

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in

Subject: Enforcement of the SOP's for zero waste events.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all departments, schools, colleges, professional institutions, and the general public of Kulgam town to contribute their part towards preserving the environment by organizing events with zero waste generation and by adopting and complying with the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) while organizing such events. (A SMALL STEP CAN BRING A BIG CHANGE.)

All stakeholders are earnestly requested to extend full cooperation in keeping Yaripora Town clean and green, ensuring sustainability in waste management.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/199-201 Dated:-02-06-2026
Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Self Declaration of Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+).

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that all the thirteen (13) wards of the Municipal Committee, Yaripora, have been declared Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+). ODF+ status signifies that the town is not only free from open defecation, but also ensures that all public and community toilets are functional, clean, and properly maintained. Any person found defecating or urinating in the open shall be liable to a fine as under:

- First offence: 100 for open defecation
- 50 for open urination
- Subsequent offence(s): 150 for open defecation
- 100 for open urination

The general public is requested to cooperate with the Municipal Committee Yaripora in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in the town. (A SMALL STEP CAN BRING A BIG CHANGE.)

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/205-07 Dated:- 02-06-2026
Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Declaration of Yaripora Town as Manual Scavenging free and invitation of objections thereof.

NOTICE

In pursuance of Order dated 20.10.2023 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(C) No. 324/2020 filed by Dr. Balram Singh and the Guidelines for Survey for Manual Scavengers issued by the Government of India vide letter dated 1 February, 2024, the survey of manual scavengers has been undertaken and completed and no manual scavengers have been found in the Municipal Committee Yaripora.

In accordance with this, objections, if any, regarding this declaration are hereby invited from the general public or claimants. Such objections must be submitted in writing to the Office of Municipal Committee Yaripora within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The objections may be submitted in person or sent via e-mail eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in. After the stipulated period, if no objection is received, the Town Yaripora will be officially notified as Manual Scavenging Free.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/175-77 Dated:06/02/2026.
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE YARIPORA

Email: eomc-yaripora@jk.gov.in
Subject: Ban on polythene carrying bags with the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Yaripora.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the use of polythene carrying bags is strictly banned within the territorial limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended in 2018, 2021, and 2022, and in accordance with other orders issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee from time to time.

Any person found carrying a polythene bag within the limits of Municipal Committee Yaripora shall be penalized 100 (Rupees One Hundred only) on the spot.

The general public is earnestly requested to extend full cooperation in keeping Yaripora Town clean and green, ensuring sustainability in waste management.

No: MC/YRP/SBM/2026/178-80 Dated: 06/02/2026.
Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Yaripora.

JKLA Question Hour

'1.77 crore tourists, including 36,000 foreigners, visited J&K in 2025'



RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 07: Jammu and Kashmir received more than 1.77 crore tourists in 2025, including over 36,000 foreign visitors, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Saturday.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Hasnain Masoodi, the Tourism Department said 1,77,65,390 tourists visited the Union Territory between January 1 and December 31, 2025. Of them, 36,410 were international travellers, while 1,77,28,980 were domestic tourists.

The government said it has not set specific targets for

tourist arrivals in 2026, but stressed that sustained promotional and developmental measures are underway to boost both domestic and foreign inflow.

On the resumption of international flights from Srinagar airport, the government said the airport is fully equipped with immigration, customs, security, and passenger-handling facilities. However, the start of international operations depends on the operational and commercial decisions of airlines.

The department said the airport remains prepared to facilitate international flights as soon as airlines choose to

begin services.

Regarding the Home Stay Programme, the government said the initiative has been largely successful, enhancing accommodation capacity, generating local employment, and encouraging community participation in tourism. Given its positive impact, the programme is likely to be expanded to other potential areas.

The reply also noted challenges such as limited awareness, capacity gaps, and infrastructure issues, which the department is addressing through awareness drives, capacity-building initiatives, and coordination with concerned departments—(KNO)

No new wine shops planned for 2026-27: Govt

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 07: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said there is no proposal to open new wine shops in the Union Territory during the financial year 2026-27.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Arjun Singh Raju, the Finance Department informed the House that no new JKEL-2 liquor licences are planned for the upcoming financial year.

The government also shared district-wise revenue generated from existing wine shops over the last two financial years, showing a consistent upward trend.

According to the figures, Jammu district generated ₹48,350.15 lakh in 2023-24 and ₹50,913.93 lakh in 2024-25. Udhampur recorded ₹11,322 lakh and ₹12,061.50 lakh, while Reasi reported ₹3,371 lakh and ₹3,450.50 lakh.

Kathua earned ₹10,653 lakh in 2023-24 and ₹11,272 lakh in 2024-25, and Samba reported ₹9,138.06 lakh and ₹9,740.15 lakh. Doda generated ₹2,353.61 lakh and ₹2,448.17 lakh, while Kishtwar brought in ₹1,681.90 lakh and ₹1,887.59 lakh.

Ramban reported ₹2,299.95 lakh in 2023-24 and ₹2,476.70 lakh in 2024-25, Rajouri ₹4,806.19 lakh and ₹5,336.96 lakh, and Poonch ₹1,497.78 lakh and ₹1,768.92 lakh.

In Kashmir division, Srinagar generated ₹5,489.67 lakh in 2023-24, rising to ₹6,557.66 lakh in 2024-25. Ganderbal recorded ₹223.45 lakh and ₹319.69 lakh, Baramulla ₹872.23 lakh and ₹1,139.84 lakh, Kupwara ₹415.66 lakh and ₹442.96 lakh, and Anantnag ₹1,403.50 lakh and ₹1,999.50 lakh.

Addressing concerns about alleged benami liquor licences, the government said it has received no such complaints. It added that all licences are issued strictly to J&K domiciles under the Excise Act, 1958, and the excise policies notified periodically—(KNO)

Over Rs 1,534 Cr disbursed among displaced persons: Govt

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Feb 07: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said it has disbursed over Rs 1,534 crore to displaced persons from PoJK and Chhamb. In addition, Rs 106.59 crore has been provided to 4,542 West Pakistani refugees, who have now been made eligible for domicile certificates, the document reveals.

The government said it is strengthening disaster management and rehabilitation systems to minimise loss of life, infrastructure, livelihoods, and environmental assets, alongside addressing the socio-economic needs of internally displaced persons.

"Early warning messages are being disseminated through the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) across media platforms, a system that was successfully used during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in 2025," reveals an official document.

On rehabilitation, the government said that under the Prime Minister's Relief Package (PMRP) 2008 and the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDDP) 2015, 6,000 jobs were sanctioned for Kashmiri migrant youth. Of these, 5,880 appointments have been issued, marking 98 per cent of sanctioned jobs.

It further noted that 6,000 transit accommodation units were approved for migrants, of which 3,736 flats have been completed, and 2,264 are under construction. A total of 3,250 flats had been

allotted to beneficiaries up to December 2025.

"Financial assistance of Rs 1,534.52 crore has been disbursed to 35,552 displaced persons from PoJK and Chhamb. In addition, Rs 106.59 crore has been provided to 4,542 West Pakistani refugees, who have now been made eligible for domicile certificates," the document reveals.

To address encroachments and illegal occupation of migrant properties, an online grievance portal has been developed. Using this mechanism, 3,408 kanals and 16 marlas of encroached migrant land have been retrieved.

By December 2025, the government said, more than 1.64 lakh domicile certificates and 36,541 migrant certificates had been issued to displaced persons and migrants.

The government also plans to set up a State Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Jammu district, along with EOCs in all 20 districts of the Union Territory, to further strengthen disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

Officials said the steps are aimed at ensuring a timely response to natural and man-made hazards, improving welfare delivery, and safeguarding the interests of displaced persons and migrant communities in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

Bandipora stadium pavilion nears completion, upgrades ongoing

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Feb 07: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said multiple sports infrastructure projects have been developed in Bandipora constituency, while major upgradation works at the Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium in Bandipora and the sports stadium at Naidkhai are progressing under the Capital Action Plan 2025-26.

Responding to a question by MLA Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, the Youth Services and Sports Department informed the House that playfields have been developed at Lankergund Gundpora, HS Qazipora and

GHS Kaloosa, while badminton courts have been constructed at BMS Kaloosa and Gamroo.

The government also said a Zonal Physical Education Office has been set up in Bandipora, and both an open-air gym and a pre-fabricated indoor hall have been developed at the Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium.

It added that the construction of the Centre Pavilion Block at the Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium is 95 per cent complete.

"Additionally, the upgradation of Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium, Bandipora, and the sports stadium at Naidkhai is currently

underway as part of the Capital Action Plan 2025-26," the department said.

On delays in execution, the government said the completion of the Centre Pavilion Block was held up due to a pending revised technical sanction from the Chief Engineer, North Kashmir.

"The delay is primarily due to the pending revised technical sanction," it said. The department, however, clarified that the new indoor stadium at the Sher-e-Kashmir Sports Stadium has already been completed as per the sanctioned allotment and is ready for use.

"The new indoor stadium has been completed and is ready for use by the youth,"

it informed.

Regarding the removal of the old and dilapidated pavilion structure at the stadium, the government said the matter has been formally taken up with the District Administration, Bandipora.

"The proposal for removal of the old pavilion building at S.K. Stadium has been taken up with the District Administration," it said.

While the government did not specify a timeline for completion of the remaining works, it stated that efforts are underway to address procedural bottlenecks to ensure timely completion and improved sports facilities for local youth—(KNO)

ACB books Ex-Tehsildar in alleged bribery case



KNO

Srinagar, Feb 07: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Saturday said to have filed a corruption case against an ex-Tehsildar South Srinagar, over allegations of demanding bribe in a land demarcation case, officials said.

They said, searches at his Srinagar and Baramulla homes yielded documents and evidence.

In a statement, the Anti Corruption Bureau said of registering FIR No. 03/2026 at Police Station ACB Srinagar under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against Maeen Azhar Kakroo, the then Tehsildar South Srinagar,

for alleged demand and acceptance of illegal gratification.

The statement reads, the case owes its origin to a verification conducted by this bureau on the basis of a complaint regarding illegal encroachment issues and alleged bribery in connection with restoration and demarcation of land during the year 2021.

"Verification revealed that land measuring 4 Kanals 9 Marlas 165 Sqft, including Survey No. 998/54, is recorded in the name of few individuals including complainant."

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Article 370 history, will never return: Chugh

SAJID RAINA

Jammu, Feb 07: Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government is committed to women-led development and empowerment, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday said Article 370 is a history now and will never return.



Addressing the Mahila Samvad programme organised by the BJP Mahila Morcha at Karan Palace in Jammu, Chugh, who is also the J&K Prabhari said, "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, women empowerment has become a central pillar of governance and development across the country and the J&K women are emerging as key partners in nation building."

He said the government has transformed women empowerment from a slogan into a structured national mission through policies, welfare schemes, and socio-economic reforms.

Chugh said the Union Budget 2026-27 reflects a strong focus on women-centric schemes, with special emphasis on education, skill development, and entrepreneurship, particularly for women from rural and border areas.

Initiatives such as girls' hostels in every district,

scholarships in technical education, and support for women entrepreneurs are creating new opportunities for young women to become self-reliant and contribute actively to national development.

He said the abrogation of Article 370 was a historic step for women of Jammu and Kashmir, granting them constitutional rights that had been denied for decades. "The Article has become a history and will never return. Women now enjoy equal property rights and full legal protection under central laws related to domestic violence, dowry, and workplace safety," he added.

Chugh said, "Welfare schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana have strengthened financial and healthcare security, ensuring dignity and social justice."

He highlighted

measures to increase women's participation in governance, including the Narishakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which will enhance representation in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

Chugh added that programmes such as Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, and self-help group initiatives have enabled women to emerge as entrepreneurs and job creators, particularly in rural and agricultural sectors.

He praised the BJP Mahila Morcha for its role in connecting government welfare schemes with beneficiaries at the grassroots level.

Chugh said, "Empowered women lay the foundation of a strong nation. I am sure that women of Jammu and Kashmir will play a leading role in building a prosperous, peaceful, and self-reliant India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership."—(KNO)

In maiden speech, MLA Devyani honours father

■ Highlights disasters, civic issues

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Feb 07: Devyani Rana, BJP legislator and newly elected MLA from the Nagrota constituency, on Saturday made her maiden address in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, paying tributes to her late father and former MLA, Devender Singh Rana.

Rana began her speech by remembering her father, who won the Nagrota seat in 2024 with the highest margin in the Assembly but passed away shortly after. "His absence is deeply personal to me and to the people of Nagrota. His ideals and commitment to public service continue to guide my every step," she said.

Turning to fiscal matters, Rana welcomed the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allocating Rs 43,290 crore to the Union



Territory for 2026-27, noting an increase of nearly Rs 2,000 crore over the current financial year. She then reviewed the J&K government's budget for 2026-27, particularly focusing on the Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation Department.

Rana pointed out that the department's allocation had sharply fallen from Rs 719 crore in the 2025-26 budget estimate to Rs 350.76 crore in the 2026-27 budget, a reduction of nearly 50 percent.

She said urgent investment is needed given the UT's vulnerability to floods, landslides, earthquakes, and fires.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Fire guts Fisheries Dept structure at Nehru Park

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 07: A fire incident on Saturday afternoon reduced structures belonging to the Department of Fisheries to ashes at Nehru Park in Gagribal area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the fire was reported at Ghat No. 18, Gagribal, around 2:26 PM.

Soon, the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department rushed to the spot, he said, adding that additional reinforcements were also pressed to assist in the operation.

"The firefighters found three tin sheds, belonging to the Central Processing Office (CPO)

of the Fisheries Department, engulfed in flames," the official said.

He said that firefighting operations were promptly initiated, and after sustained efforts, the blaze was brought under control, preventing it from spreading to nearby installations and park areas.

Old furniture, one old motorcycle, lockers containing service records and a 25 kV generator were damaged, he informed.

No loss of life or injuries was reported. "However, the structures were completely gutted before the flames could be contained," the official said, adding that the cause of the fire is being investigated—(KNO)

Police nab notorious cheater in Ganderbal

KNO

Srinagar, Feb 07: Police in Ganderbal have arrested a man accused of posing as a land broker and cheating innocent people by falsely presenting disputed and government land as his private property. According to a statement, the accused has been identified as Javid Ahmad Gojree son of Ali Mohammad Gojree resident of Rangil, Ganderbal. He allegedly deceived multiple individuals by showing them land which, upon verification, was found to be either disputed or government-owned, thereby inducing them to invest under false pretences.

During investigation, it surfaced that the accused is a habitual offender and has been previously involved in several criminal cases, including FIR No. 172/2018 U/S 447, 427 RPC, FIR No. 136/2018 U/S 341, 323 RPC, FIR No. 127/2019 U/S 341, 352, 504, 323 RPC, FIR No. 232/2023 U/S 420, 120-B IPC, FIR No. 17/2026 U/S 217, 336(1), 340(2) BNS.

The accused has been booked earlier for offences involving cheating, forgery, criminal trespass, criminal intimidation and related crimes. Multiple complaints were received from aggrieved persons who later discovered that the land shown and claimed by the accused as his own was either under dispute or belonged to the government. The investigation in the said cases is in progress.

J&K Police appeals to the general public to verify land records thoroughly and deal only with authorised and genuine brokers before making any land-related transactions. Any suspicious activity may be promptly reported to the nearest police station for timely legal action—(KNO)

Pariksha Pe Charcha: A Heart-To-Heart Interaction Guiding Students Through Examination Challenges

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

Introduction: The Dawn of the "Exam Warrior"

Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC), launched in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a nationwide initiative aimed at reducing examination stress and promoting holistic learning among students. Conducted by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, PPC provides a unique platform where the Prime Minister interacts directly with students, teachers and parents, encouraging a confident and positive approach towards examinations. The programme has evolved into a mass movement, with the 2025 edition witnessing participation of over 5 crore students, teachers and parents, reflecting its extensive nationwide reach. PPC promotes time management, emotional well-being, balanced lifestyles and conceptual learning, aligning with the Government's vision of student-centric education under the National Education Policy.

The 9th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC 2026) has further expanded participation, crossing over 4.5 crore registrations from students, parents and teachers across the country, underscoring its continued relevance in addressing examination-related stress and promoting student well-being. As part of the run-up to PPC 2026, nationwide student engagement activities were organised from 12 January 2026 (National Youth Day) to 23 January 2026 (Parakram Diwas). The activities commenced with the Swadeshi Sankalp Daud, promoting self-reliance among students, and culminated with quiz and writing competitions at selected Kendriya Vidyalayas, further strengthening student participation and awareness.

The initiative reflects the core principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which promotes stress-free, experiential and conceptual learning in place of rote memorisation. Through interactive interactions, the Prime Minister highlights critical aspects such as effective time management, managing digital distractions, maintaining mindfulness and building emotional resilience, while providing practical and relatable guidance to students, parents and educators.

INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS OF PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA 2026 Special Interactions at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg (LKM)

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 featured several memorable and engaging moments during the interaction from 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi. The 2026 edition recorded over 4.5 crore registrations, with an additional 2.26 crore participants engaging in associated activities, taking the overall participation to over 6.76 crore individuals.

The Prime Minister surprised students during breakfast, significantly enhancing their enthusiasm and energy. He also presented Assamese gamosas to the students as a gesture reflecting India's cultural diversity. Students actively shared their fears related to examinations and discussed strategies to overcome them. Many participants also shared insights from the Exam Warriors book, highlighting how its messages help them manage stress and improve focus. The students presented the Prime Minister with several thoughtful gifts, including handmade bouquets, a veena crafted from recycled materials, Assamese gamosas, organic tea leaves from Sikkim and traditional sweets, reflecting creativity and cultural richness.

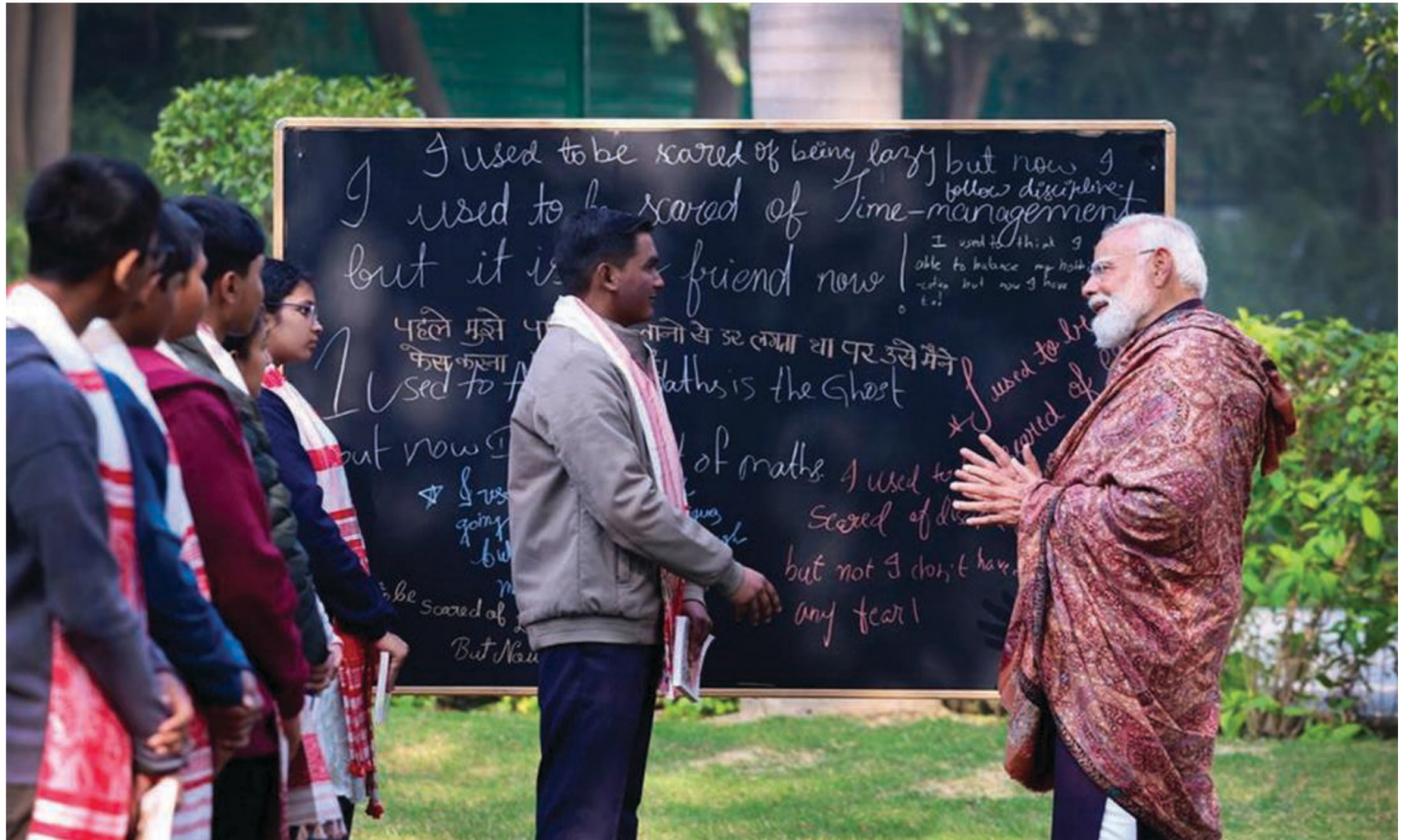
Nationwide Expansion of PPC

The 2026 edition marks a historic expansion of PPC into a truly pan-India programme. For the first time, interactions are conducted across multiple locations covering different regions of the country, including Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Devmogra (Gujarat), Guwahati (Assam) and New Delhi.

One of the most distinctive interactions took place in Assam, where the session was conducted aboard a cruise on the Brahmaputra River, symbolising regional representation and innovative outreach.

Scale and Participation: From Initiative to Jan Andolan

PPC began modestly in 2018 as a town-hall style event at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, where over 2,500 students participated in person, and an estimated 8.5 crore viewers tuned in via Doordarshan, TV, and radio. The inaugural edition focused on holistic development and resilience, setting



the tone for what would become an annual

Key Takeaways

- Launched in 2018, Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) is an annual nationwide interactive initiative where the Prime Minister engages with students, teachers and parents on examinations, life skills and well-being.
- PPC promotes stress-free examinations, emotional resilience, and holistic development, aligning with National Education Policy 2020's experiential and conceptual learning framework.
- PPC encourages students to view exams positively, promoting confidence, disciplined preparation, and resilience through the 'Be a Warrior, Not a Worrier' mindset.
- 2025 Benchmark: PPC 2025 recorded over 5 crore participants and achieved a Guinness World Record with 3.53 crore registrations, marking its largest global engagement milestone.
- Pan-India Expansion 2026: PPC 2026 introduced multi-city interactions across five regions, with interactive sessions held at Devmogra, Coimbatore, Raipur, Guwahati and 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, Delhi, strengthening inclusivity and regional representation.

tradition.

By 2019, the event expanded, lasting over 90 minutes and incorporating humor to engage participants. The 2020 edition introduced an online competition with 2.63 lakh entries from India and 25 countries abroad, emphasizing challenges as opportunities for growth.

The program adapted remarkably during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, it shifted entirely online on April 7, highlighting adaptability and resilience in uncertain times. Returning to in-person format in 2022 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, it drew around 9.69 lakh student viewers, 47,200 employees, and 1.86 lakh parents live on TV and YouTube.

The 2023 edition, held on January 27, saw close to 7.18 lakh students, 42,337 employees, and 88,544 parents watching live, reinforcing its role in stress management.

By 2024, PPC moved to Bharat Mandapam in a town-hall format with around 3,000 participants, including 100 students from Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for the first time, and garnered 2.26 crore registrations on the MyGov portal.

The 2025 edition marked a new benchmark with over 5 crore participants, earning

a Guinness World Record for 3.53 crore registrations. It featured seven episodes with renowned personalities and 36 students from diverse schools across all states and union territories.

Now in its 9th edition in 2026, PPC has surpassed 4.5 crore registrations, with some reports indicating engagement reaching over 6.76 crore participants.

This exponential growth, from thousands to crores, illustrates PPC's transformation into a Jan Andolan, or people's movement, driven by PM Modi's vision to unite society in nurturing young talent.

The Format: Engaging and Inclusive Interactions

PPC's format is designed to be accessible and interactive, starting with an online MCQ-based competition on the MyGov portal for selection. Winners get the chance to interact directly with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, sharing questions on exams, life skills, and personal growth. The main event typically unfolds in a town-hall setting, but innovations have added depth. In 2025, it began at Sunder Nursery in Delhi, an open-air venue emphasizing connection with nature, and included distributing tilgud sweets[1] for warmth during winters.

The initiative seeks to transform examination stress into confidence by promoting creativity, self-belief and a positive learning approach. It encourages participants to share ideas and express creativity, contributing to a nationwide movement that makes education more engaging and empowering.

Run-up activities for 2026, from January 12 to 23, included student-led events like the Swadeshi Sankalp Daud (a run promoting self-reliance) on Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, and quizzes on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti. These tie into national themes, making PPC more than an event, it's a cultural celebration. A fresh angle in 2026 is its multi-location format of interactions, with special episodes in cities like Devmogra, Coimbatore, Raipur, Guwahati, and Delhi's 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. This decentralized approach brings the dialogue closer to regional students, highlighting diverse experiences and fostering inclusivity.

Exploring New Dimensions: Expanding the Scope of Learning through Pariksha Pe Charcha

Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) has steadily evolved beyond a dialogue on examinations into a platform that connects education with life skills, social awareness and personality development. Its expanding themes reflect a broader approach to student growth, encouraging young learners to develop responsible, balanced and future-ready perspectives.

Integrating Environmental Awareness PPC increasingly emphasises environmental responsibility, encouraging students to link learning with sustainability and lifestyle

choices. The "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" campaign, highlighted during interactions, motivates students to plant trees in honour of their mothers, fostering an emotional bond with nature and promoting conservation. The initiative aligns with the Government's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), encouraging sustainable habits and responsible use of natural resources, while nurturing environmental stewardship among students.

Promoting Holistic Wellness PPC consistently highlights the importance of physical and mental well-being alongside academic preparation. Students are encouraged to adopt healthy dietary habits, balanced lifestyles and mindfulness practices to manage stress effectively. Wellness techniques such as breathing exercises and mindful eating are promoted to improve focus, reduce anxiety and enhance overall health, reinforcing the link between academic success, physical fitness and emotional stability.

Encouraging Responsible Use of Technology PPC recognises the growing influence of digital platforms and addresses challenges of excessive screen time and digital distractions. Students are encouraged to practise periodic digital detox or digital fasting to improve concentration, strengthen interpersonal communication and enhance family bonding. The initiative promotes technology as a constructive learning tool, encouraging purposeful use of digital resources instead of distraction.

Alignment with National Education Policy 2020 PPC strongly complements the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which promotes joyful, inclusive and experiential learning. The programme supports national education initiatives such as Samagra Shiksha and PM-SHRI Schools, which aim to enhance the quality and accessibility of education across the country. By encouraging conceptual understanding, creativity and equal opportunities, PPC reflects NEP's focus on equitable and student-centric education.

Promoting Inclusivity and Regional Representation PPC promotes inclusive participation by bringing together students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, regions and school systems, reflecting India's educational diversity. The 2026 edition adopted a pan-India format, with interactive sessions held at Devmogra, Coimbatore, Raipur, Guwahati and 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, Delhi, enabling students to share region-specific educational challenges. The edition recorded over 4.5 crore registrations, with total engagement exceeding 6.76 crore participants, including students, parents and teachers, highlighting PPC's growing nationwide trust and relevance.

Making Learning Relatable through Real-life Analogies PPC uses relatable examples from sports, daily life and inspirational stories to simplify complex ideas. Analogies such as maintaining focus like a cricketer or

narratives highlighting cooperation among Divyang students help communicate the importance of perseverance, teamwork and healthy competition. These examples encourage students to view challenges as opportunities for growth rather than obstacles.

Nurturing Leadership and Personal Development Beyond academic guidance, PPC emphasises leadership and character-building. The initiative promotes values such as self-discipline, trust-building and organic talent development. By encouraging students to lead by example and support peers, PPC helps nurture responsible and confident individuals prepared to contribute positively to society.

Through these expanding dimensions, Pariksha Pe Charcha has transformed into a dynamic platform that addresses not only examination preparedness but also broader life skills, social responsibility and personal growth, shaping well-rounded and future-ready.

Cultivating a Positive Mindset

Psychosocial Well-being: PPC has strengthened student mental well-being by complementing the Government's Manodarpan initiative, a national psychosocial support and mental health helpline under the Ministry of Education. By encouraging open conversations on examination anxiety and academic pressure, PPC has helped reduce stigma around seeking help and empowered students to openly discuss expectation-related stress.

Time Management and Micro-Planning: PPC interactions have promoted practical time-management techniques. The Prime Minister's reference to "mothers as time-management role models" has encouraged students to adopt structured study planning, prioritise difficult subjects and reduce last-minute examination stress.

The 'Exam Warrior' Philosophy: Inspired by the book Exam Warriors, PPC promotes a positive learning mindset built on confidence, discipline and resilience. Campaign themes such as "Be a Warrior, Not a Worrier" have reinforced the message of approaching examinations with optimism and self-belief, gaining wide engagement across Government digital platforms.

Conclusion: A Lasting Legacy for India's Youth

Pariksha Pe Charcha is no longer just a pre-exam ritual; it is a movement that celebrates the unique individuality of every child. By bridging the gap between the Prime Minister's office and the classroom, it has created a sense of belonging and confidence among the youth. As India moves toward Viksit Bharat 2047, PPC ensures that the future of the nation, its students, is resilient, stress-free, and ready to face the world.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

BUDGET SESSION 2026

Govt won't compromise on quality of macadamization works: Deputy CM

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday said that there will be no compromise on the quality of macadamization works and no payment is released to the contractors in case of use of sub-standard material. The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Mubarak Gul in the Legislative Assembly. He said that strict instructions have been given to the officers at district level for taking



local Legislators on board before formulation of macadamization plans or road projects. The Deputy Chief Minister also informed that 344.32 kilometre of road length has been macadamized/ black-topped across J&K during 2025-26. He added that the macadamization of roads in various constituencies during the ensuing financial year under the various sectors/schemes shall be prepared once the ceiling is received from the Finance Department. Legislator Chander Prakash Ganga raised supplementary question on the subject.

MLAs flag public hardships, seek immediate Govt intervention

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Several Legislators Saturday raised pressing public issues in the House, highlighting hardships faced by the people across different constituencies, urging the government to take immediate remedial measures.

MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan informed the House that no Patwari is available in the field or at the Patwar Khana in his constituency, causing severe inconvenience to the people. He said residents are facing difficulties in obtaining essential documents like Fard, income certificates and other revenue-related reports required for daily life needs. The MLA further pointed out that more than 50 percent of the population of Gurez migrates during the winter season. In view of this, he urged the government to direct the concerned Deputy Commissioner to postpone the digitization of revenue records until the end of April this year.

MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Baldev Raj Sharma demanded a comprehensive rehabilitation package for Mule and horse Labourers, Pithuwalas, stating that these groups are heavily dependent on pilgrimage-related activities for their livelihood and are currently facing economic distress.

MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani demanded immediate restoration of drinking water supply to Magam and adjoining areas. He stressed that basic civic facilities must be provided at the earliest to ease the hardships of the residents.



MLA Karnah, Javid Mirchal raised the issue of vacant post of SDM in Karah Sub Division, urging the government to expedite the recruitment process so that people can receive essential public services without delay.

Govt to examine creation of R&B sub-division for Ajas: Deputy CM

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday informed the House that the government will examine the suggestion for creation of R&B sub-division for Ajas area in Bandipora district.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, was replying to a question raised by Legislator Hilal Akbar Lone in the House Saturday regarding establishment of R&B Sub-division.

He said that though no request or demand has been received and no such proposal is under consideration in the department at present, however, same shall be examined in due course of time.

Additional infrastructure proposals at Latti, Patnitop under examination: Deputy CM

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday informed the House that the proposals for additional infrastructure at Latti and Patnitop are under examination and shall be considered subject to the feasibility and availability of funds.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, said this while replying to a

question raised by Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia in the Legislative Assembly.

He informed that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir regularly takes up proposals with NABARD for sanction of projects under the RIDF, wherein assistance is primarily provided in the form of loans, as per the prescribed norms.

He said that the proposals are formulated and submitted in a phased manner, based on the readiness of projects, absorptive

capacity and repayment capability. These will be processed for sanction strictly in accordance with the NABARD guidelines, he added.

He apprised that delay in disbursement of compensation is mainly attributed to pendency of court cases, land ownership disputes and non-availability of funds for land compensation at certain stages.

Legislator Nazir Ahmad Khan raised supplementary question on the subject.

AMRUT 2.0

Thanamandi Rajouri water supply project gets Rs 5.23 cr boost: Javed Rana

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: The government Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been extended by the Government of India till 2028 and necessary steps are being taken to ensure smooth implementation of Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Rajouri district, despite temporary challenges related to fund availability.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana in reply to a question raised by Legislator Iftikar Ahmed in the House.

The Minister informed that some newly completed/commissioned schemes in Rajouri district facing shortages of manpower is being taken care of through rationalization and internal deployment of

the available staff within the Division to ensure smooth operation of essential water supply services.

Giving details of manpower strength of Civil and Mechanical wings in Rajouri district, he said that the vacancies are being referred to the recruitment agencies like JKPSC, SSRB on regular basis.

On projects under AMRUT 2.0, the Minister informed that "Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Thanamandi, Rajouri", has been allotted at an estimated cost of Rs.5.23 crore. He said that the work is currently in progress and is expected to be completed during 2026-27.

He added that the project includes construction of intake chambers, gravity mains, a rapid sand filtration plant, sump tanks, ground service reservoirs and distribution systems.

NOCs issued after thorough scrutiny: Forest Minister

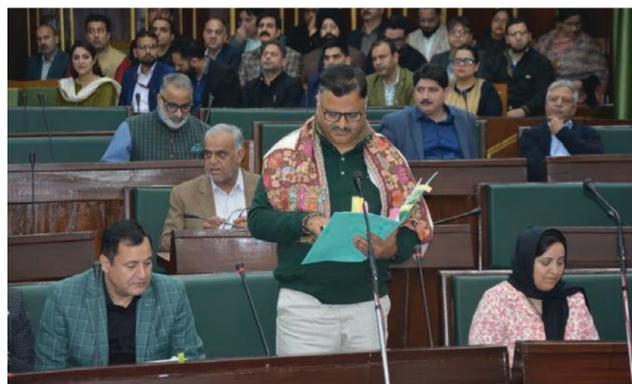
KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: The government Saturday informed the House that No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are issued only after thorough scrutiny and field verification, in strict adherence to the prescribed norms and statutory provisions for construction of residential houses.

This was revealed Saturday by Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by Legislator Altaf Ahmad Wani in the House Saturday.

The Minister informed that during the period from January 2024 to December 2025, the office of Wildlife Warden, South Division, Anantnag received a total of 349 applications for issuance of NOCs for construction of residential houses from bonafide local residents. He added that these applications were forwarded by the Pahalgam Development Authority, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Pahalgam and Block Development Officer Pahalgam and after due scrutiny and field verification reports, NOCs were issued in respect of 346 applications.

Regarding the empanelled employees,



the Minister stated that the Wildlife Department has a total of 517 empanelled employees/workers across various divisions of Jammu and Kashmir, engaged in the protection, conservation and management of wildlife resources. He stated that salaries and wages of all these empanelled employees are being disbursed in a timely manner and no

arrears are pending against them.

With regard to funding, the government stated that for the financial year 2025-26, the Wildlife Department has been allocated funds under different schemes, adding that an amount of

8575.71 lakh has been allotted under CAPEX, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and CAMPA.

No proposal to relax change of Land Use: Govt

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07: The government Saturday clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration in the Revenue Department regarding relaxation in the Change of Land Use (CLU) norms.

This was revealed Saturday by Minister Javed Ahmed Rana in response to a question raised by Legislator Surjit Singh Salathia in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister, as per an official statement, was replying on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Minister stated that the government does not intend to grant any relaxation in respect of change of land use at present. It was further clarified that there is no proposal to exempt rural areas from the existing provisions related to CLU.

The government also stated that there is no proposal under consideration to reduce the prescribed fees or to ease the prescribed formalities in respect of change of land use.

Legislators Vikram Randhawa, Rajiv Jasrotia and R S Pathania raised supplementary questions on the subject.

PIB Srinagar media tour to Kerala concludes

KT News Desk

Srinagar, February 7: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, concluded a five-day media tour to Kerala for journalists from Srinagar, held from February 2 to February 6, 2026. The tour was organised as part of PIB's media outreach programme to provide regional journalists firsthand exposure to key Central Government institutions, flagship infrastructure projects, research establishments and governance processes.

The 14-member media delegation, as per PIB statement, began the tour at Kochi with a visit to Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL), where they were briefed on the Kochi Water Metro Project, India's pioneering water-based urban transport system. Officials highlighted its climate-resilient design, operational framework and role in promoting sustainable and inclusive urban mobility.

The delegation visited Kottayam and interacted with senior officials and scientists

at the National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) and the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), functioning under the Rubber Board. The delegation was apprised of Government of India initiatives aimed at strengthening rubber production, sustainable natural rubber practices, scientific breeding programmes, value addition and efforts towards self-sufficiency in the sector.

A key highlight of the tour was the interactive meeting with the Governor of Kerala, during which the media delegation held detailed discussions on governance, development priorities and the role of media in strengthening cultural engagement. The interaction provided the visiting journalists valuable insights into governance perspectives and inter-regional engagement.

As part of the tour, the delegation also visited the Press Information Bureau office at Thiruvananthapuram and interacted with Shri V. Palanichamy, Additional Director General,

PIB Kerala. The delegation was briefed on upcoming engagements during the tour and encouraged to carry back impactful stories for wider public dissemination.

Subsequently, the delegation visited the ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, where scientists briefed them on research in tropical tuber crops, climate-smart agriculture, value chain improvement and technology transfer for enhancing farmers' livelihoods. The visit to ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI), Vizhinjam Regional Centre, provided insights into advanced marine fisheries research, hatcheries and sustainable aquaculture technologies.

The journalists also visited the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport, India's first major deep-water container transshipment hub, where officials highlighted its strategic importance in strengthening India's maritime trade and logistics infrastructure.

On the final day, the delegation visited CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram. Scientists showcased interdisciplinary research initiatives spanning advanced materials, biosciences, sustainable technologies, clean energy, healthcare innovations and technology transfer to industry and startups, underscoring the role of science in addressing societal challenges.

The five-day press tour to Kerala was led by Shri Majid Pandit, Media & Communication Officer, PIB Srinagar, who served as the Conducting Officer. The successful organisation of the tour was made possible through the close coordination and support of PIB Kerala.

The tour provided the participating journalists a comprehensive understanding of national development initiatives, scientific research ecosystems and governance practices, reinforcing PIB's objective of fostering informed, accurate and impactful media engagement across regions.

DC Bandipora presides over Unani Day celebrations

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 07: As a prelude to the nation-wide celebration scheduled on February 11, the Directorate of AYUSH J&K Saturday organised a grand event in Bandipora to mark World Unani Day-2026 under the theme "Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice."

The event was among a series of programmes being held across four districts of J&K UT.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, presided over the programme and underscored the significant role played by AYUSH during the pandemic, acknowledging the relentless services rendered by the department and urging continued recognition of their dedication.

She highlighted the need for coordinated efforts among AYUSH, Forest Department, and JKRLM to promote biodiversity initiatives and harness the potential of medicinal plants for community welfare.



The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the stalls showcasing medicinal plants, NCD screening, and yoga demonstrations, and appreciated the Department's efforts in promoting preventive healthcare. On the occasion, informative booklets focusing on preventive healthcare and healthy living were released, including Guidelines on the National Program for Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis & other Musculoskeletal Disorders (Under National AYUSH Mission) and Principles

of Healthy Living-A Preventive & Promotive Health Booklet Based on Unani Framework.

The programme paid tribute to Hakeem Ajmal Khan Sahib (1868-1927)—eminent Unani physician, social reformer, freedom fighter and pioneer of scientific research in Unani medicine, whose birth anniversary is commemorated annually as World Unani Day.

During the event, a detailed presentation was delivered outlining the departmental vision and activities, including IEC campaigns, yoga sessions in schools and colleges, outreach camps, awareness programmes at schools and ICDS centres, conservation seminars, training of medical officers, NCD screening initiatives, and drug abuse prevention efforts.

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of the Department's commitment to strengthening evidence-based Unani practices and expanding preventive healthcare services across the district.

Cancer cells 'reprogramme' immune cells to create conditions promoting tumour growth

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 07: Cancer cells could be "reprogramming" immune cells to produce a molecule that promotes tumour growth, a new study has found, postulating that presence of the molecule may be an indicator of cancer progression.

Studies have shown that cancer cells can 'trick' the immune system into believing they are healthy and prevent themselves from getting destroyed.

Researchers, including those at the University of Geneva and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Switzerland, have discovered that a type of immune cells -- neutrophils -- undergo "reprogramming" upon encountering a tumour condition, contributing to cancer progression.

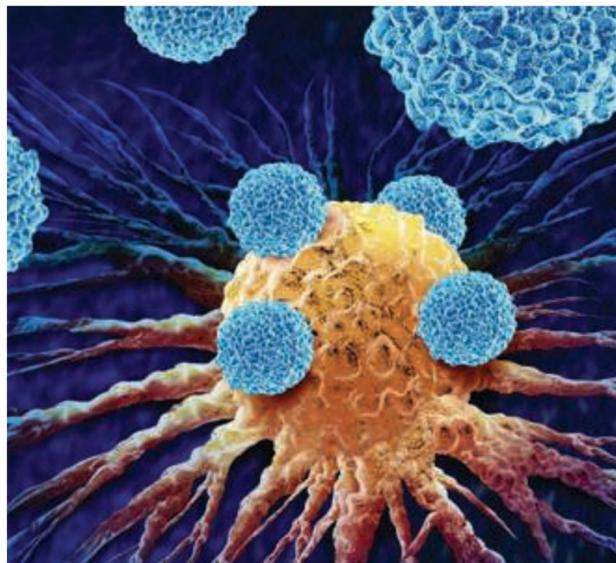
The study, published in the *Cancer Cell* journal, describes a mechanism which researchers said appears to be a major variable in tumour biology and could serve as an indicator of disease progression.

One of the difficulties is identifying the elements that truly influence the tumour's ability to grow, lead researcher Mikaël Pittet, a faculty in the department of pathology and immunology at the University of Geneva, said.

The research team had previously showed that expression of two genes in macrophages -- a type of immune cells -- is strongly linked to disease progression, constituting a simple but informative variable for understanding tumours and anticipating their trajectory, Pittet said.

"Our new study highlights a second variable, this time involving another population of immune cells, neutrophils," he said.

"These findings establish CCL3 as a conserved marker and functional driver of pro-tumour neutrophils in growing tumours, and provide a scalable



framework for dissecting neutrophil biology across cancer types," the researchers wrote.

One of the most abundant of immune cells, neutrophils form the first line of defence against infections and injuries.

However, in the context of cancer, their presence is generally a bad omen, researchers held.

"We discovered that neutrophils recruited by the tumour undergo a reprogramming of their activity: they begin producing a molecule locally -- the chemokine CCL3 -- which promotes tumour growth," Pittet said.

He said the researchers controlled the behaviour of the CCL3 gene specifically in neutrophils -- considered particularly complex as immune cells are difficult to manipulate genetically.

Without CCL3, neutrophils lose their pro-tumour action. They retain their physiological functions in the blood and can even accumulate in tumours, but no longer adopt the deleterious reprogramming previously observed, the researchers said.

They also re-examined data from numerous independent studies. "We are deciphering the 'identity card' of tumours, by identifying, one by one, the key variables that determine the evolution of the disease," Pittet said.

"Our work suggests that there is a limited number of these variables. Once they are properly identified, they could help better tailor the management of each patient and, ultimately, offer more effective and personalised care," the researcher said.

Cong always opposes India's economic growth: BJP slams Ramesh's remarks on India-US deal

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 07: The BJP on Saturday said the India-US trade deal will "significantly" benefit the country and slammed the Congress for claiming that the odds are "stacked heavily against India", accusing the opposition party of always opposing the country's economic growth.

The ruling party's retort came after the Congress took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the interim trade agreement with the United States, claiming that under the deal, the odds are stacked heavily against India and all the "huglomacy and photo-ops" have not amounted to much.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh also took a dig at the prime minister with the "Naam Narendar, Kaam Surrender" barb, citing a White House release that said Washington will now monitor whether India is importing oil from Russia.

Hitting back at Ramesh, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari claimed that the Congress is clearly uncomfortable seeing India emerge as a global deal-maker under Modi's leadership.

"Why does Congress always oppose the progress of India's MSMEs, farmers, and the growth of the Indian economy?" Bhandari asked in a post on X.

"Congress cannot digest that under PM Narendra Modi India has sealed both the 'Mother of all Deals' with the EU and now the 'Father of all Deals' with the USA, creating a USD 30-trillion economic opportunity for our

farmers, exporters, and MSMEs," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said the agreement will significantly benefit the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), farmers and fishermen, while creating new employment opportunities for women and youngsters across the country.

"Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, India has reached a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement with the United States, opening access to a nearly USD 30 trillion market for Indian exporters," he said. Patra said a major outcome of the framework is the reduction of reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent, along with a zero-tariff access in key sectors, such as generic pharmaceuticals, gems and diamonds and aircraft parts.

"Together, these steps strengthen India's export competitiveness, boost Make in India and expand opportunities for sectors ranging from textiles and leather to chemicals, machinery and artisanal products," he said.

The BJP leader further said that equally important is the clear protection extended to India's sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors, ensuring that farmers' interests and rural livelihoods remain fully safeguarded even as the global trade expands.

"This agreement reflects the growing strength of India-US economic partnership and a shared commitment to sustainable growth, innovation and prosperity for our people as we move forward on the path of Viksit Bharat," he added.

Quota-based duty concessions on apples from US; farmers fully protected: Goyal

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 07: India has granted a quota-based duty concession to the US on apples under the interim trade pact, fully protecting domestic apple growers, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

India has imposed a minimum import price (MIP) of Rs 80 per kg and an import duty of 25 per cent on apples from the US under the proposed India-US trade pact, which is expected to be signed by mid-March.

This effectively means apples priced below Rs 100 per kg cannot be imported into the country from the US.

At present, imported apples attract a 50 per cent import duty with an MIP of Rs 50 per kg, effectively barring imports of apples priced below Rs 75 per kg.

"Our apple farmers are fully protected, and there is no need to worry," Goyal told reporters here.

India imports about six lakh tonnes of apples every year, including from the US. The country meets its requirements from imported apples.

He also said that several Indian goods, including agricultural products, will attract zero reciprocal tariffs in the US under the interim trade pact.

Certain Indian fruits, vegetables, tea, and coffee will also have zero reciprocal tariff in the US, he said, adding India has not given any duty concessions on any dairy product, sugar, or millets to America.

Goyal added that the agreement will not hurt the interests of farmers, MSMEs, handicrafts, and handlooms "in any way".

He further said India has granted duty concessions to the US in sectors like alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, and medical devices.

India will also get zero reciprocal tariff in certain auto, aircraft parts in the US under the trade pact.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Home Minister Amit Shah

development and the projects have made unprecedented progress.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir needs to develop the full potential of its hydropower projects. "Special focus should be laid on achieving 100% saturation of the government's welfare schemes and ensuring that the benefits of all development projects reach the intended beneficiaries."

The Union Home Minister said that focus should be given to developing sports infrastructure and establishing sports academies to connect youth with development. "In this regard, efforts will be made to secure an investment of about 200 crore by engaging with various sports bodies."

He said, "Efforts should be made to promote the dairy sector in Jammu and Kashmir through the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)."

The Union Home Minister underlined that strengthened fiscal discipline would assist in stabilising the UTs fiscal deficit over time. "Jammu & Kashmir has been brought under the ambit of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme for the first time in FY 2025-26, enabling access to 50-year interest-free loans for capital projects," he added.

Shah said that India is steadily progressing towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, marking 100 years of independence and the Government of India will continue to extend wholehearted support to Jammu and Kashmir in pursuit of this goal.

Pertinently, Shah also met senior BJP leaders and legislators in Jammu last night. In a post on X, he said the party would continue working to expand organisational reach and ensure implementation of development initiatives.

On Friday, the Home Minister visited the International Border in Kathua district, where he interacted with Border Security Force personnel and reviewed security arrangements. He stressed the use of modern technology alongside manpower to strengthen vigilance.

Shah also paid tribute to martyrs of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and handed over appointment letters to next of kin of police personnel killed in action. (KNO)

Army Chief hails

deployed troops by assisting with logistics and local coordination, drawing on his familiarity with the area and long association with the unit. His efforts, carried out at personal risk during periods of heightened tension, earned him recognition from the Army.

In recognition of his continued contribution to society and his support during 'Operation Sindoor', the Army Chief felicitated him with the Veteran Achiever Award during the visit. Family members, ex-servicemen and local residents were present on the occasion.

Several other veterans and civilians including women and children from the region also met the Army Chief during the visit. The exchanges were informal, reflecting the close bond between serving personnel, former soldiers and civilians in the border districts of Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

NC, BJP spar

was restored, Baig resumed his speech, claiming that the erosion of Article 370 was responsible for alienation and violence.

Similar scenes were witnessed when Independent MLA from Rajouri, Muzaffar Khan, said that every state should have internal autonomy and its own constitution.

"We should also have our own flag," Khan said.

His remarks triggered protests from BJP legislators, who demanded that they be expunged from the records.

Deputy Chief Minister rebuked the protesting BJP lawmakers.

"Don't show so much hatred towards the J&K flag. When you were in power, you were hoisting two flags," he told them.

NC MLA from Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, who was presiding over the House, remarked that the comments should be expunged from the record if they had hurt them. His ruling was objected to by NC lawmakers. However, he clarified that he had not ordered the remarks to be expunged. (KNO)

Water from Indus

emphasized that the objective is to provide sufficient water for both agriculture and drinking purposes, regardless of which level of government invests.

He also noted that the Centre, for the first time, has offered up to 50 per cent financial assistance under the Jal Jeevan Mission to support states in delivering household water.

The Union Minister said previous regimes had made no concrete efforts to utilise water rights from the Indus and Yamuna, particularly for Rajasthan, which currently suffers the most acute water shortage but is expected to benefit substantially from the new projects.

He also mentioned progress in supplying Yamuna water to three districts in Rajasthan's Shekhawati region, with Haryana's consent for the plan.

On broader economic matters, Patil claimed India's economy has grown steadily over the past 12 years, and tax reforms have helped India become the world's third-largest economy, in contrast to previous regimes.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan, is considered one of the most enduring and successful water-sharing agreements in the world.

It governs the use and distribution of waters from the six rivers of the Indus River system -- Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej -- which originate in the Himalayas and flow through both countries.

Under the treaty, the three western rivers -- Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab -- were allocated to Pakistan for unrestricted use, while India was granted control over the eastern rivers -- Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

The western rivers, which flow through Jammu and Kashmir before entering Pakistan, have been a source of strategic significance for both countries.

In a historic and unprecedented move, India suspended the IWT on April 23, 2025, following a deadly terror attack in Pahalgal, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists. (KNO)

CM Omar rules

created in 2014 when Omar Abdullah was Chief Minister of the erstwhile state.

The Government then created 659 administrative units which includes 46 sub-divisions, 135 Tehsils, 177 community development blocks and 301 Niabats. (KNO)

Kashmir sees rising

7.5 degrees Celsius to minus 0.5 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district remained the coldest place in the valley, registering a low of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius.

Other areas recorded minimum temperatures with Qazigund at 0.6 degrees Celsius, Kokernag at minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara at 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Officials said fresh snowfall was recorded in the higher reaches of Gulmarg and Sonamarg in Ganderbal district, along with adjoining areas, overnight.

A light drizzle occurred in the plains of the valley during early hours of Saturday, contributing to a fall in daytime temperatures. Dense cloud cover was observed over most parts of the valley.

Weather officials said the valley is expected to remain generally dry till the evening of February 9, with light snow possible over some higher reaches by night.

Light rain or snow is likely at many places on February 10, followed by light snow at a few higher reaches on February 11. The period from February 12 to 13 is expected to remain mostly dry, with no major rain or snowfall forecast until February 16.

Tourism authorities in Gulmarg and Pahalgal have maintained that winter sports activities are ongoing as usual, though they have advised visitors to take precautions in higher altitude areas where fresh snow has accumulated.

Officials said the current weather pattern, combining rising night temperatures with daytime snow and cloud cover, is typical for the 'Chillai Khurd' period and reflects seasonal variability across the valley. (KNO)

General discussion

rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. He stressed the need for greater focus on capital investment, industrial growth, employment generation, and revenue enhancement in Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, while participating in the discussion, urged all members of the House to support the budget in the larger interest of the Union Territory. He stated that the government is committed to taking the people forward on the path of development and progress.

MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz said the government should remain committed to the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Vikram Randhawa highlighted issues faced by local transporters and remarked that the budget should have been more people-friendly and responsive to grassroots concerns.

Participating in the debate, MLA Javid Iqbal Choudhary called for special attention towards girls' education in his constituency. He raised issues of tribal empowerment, the establishment of an industrial corridor, tourism development, and health infrastructure. He asserted

the urgent need to create permanent jobs and move away from the practice of outsourcing.

MLA Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir said that while challenges remain, the presented budget is people-friendly and seeks to address the needs of all sections of society despite limited resources.

MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey urged the House to devote more time to discussing issues affecting the people and to work collectively to find solutions.

Choudhary Mohammad Akram noted that the public is watching the proceedings and called for judicious use of time. He described Omar Abdullah as a dynamic Chief Minister who cares for all sections of society, emphasising inclusive governance free from divisive or sectarian politics.

MLA Hilal Akbar Lone stated that the budget addresses key sections, including daily wages, the filling of government vacancies, and the provision of free gas cylinders to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, among other initiatives.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi remarked that the central government has been generous in providing funds to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for development works and other activities, contributing to its overall progress.

'Special status' for J&K

states seeking special packages. Special status can mean an employment package or other benefits."

He said Article 370, which provided certain privileges to Jammu and Kashmir, is now part of history. "So don't connect it to 370. It has been buried," he added.

Referring to a National Conference MLA who raised the issue of special status in the Assembly, Sharma said, "Where is it? It is not there. They should take the Indian Constitution to a legal expert and show where special status regarding J&K exists."

Sharma said he would be willing to face any punishment if proof of such a special status could be provided.

He alleged that political leaders, particularly from the Abdullah family, have always misled people of Kashmir to gain votes by making claims about special status.

He accused the National Conference of mocking daily wage workers, unemployed youth, and beneficiaries of government schemes such as AAY, DPL, and EWS during discussions on special status.

Sharma claimed that some leaders are now using the demand for special status to legitimise electoral setbacks and failures in governance. "Abdullah Parivar has cheated Kashmir. Today, when exposed for their failures, they are making claims of special status to justify themselves," he said.

Sharma questioned the relevance of the term in contemporary politics: "If there is a special status word about J&K, I am ready to face any punishment. But it is a lie. Where is the special status?" (KNO)

Trust has become

as partners for progress and prosperity, celebrating each other's successes as their own.

"I was deeply touched by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's warm wishes on the historic

success of Chandrayaan-3. I fully agree with my dear friend, India's success is Malaysia's success, and Asia's success. This spirit of shared impact defines our relationship," he said.

The two leaders also walked through a PIO history and heritage exhibition paying tribute to the rich legacy, resilience and contributions of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia and their journey across generations, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a social media post.

"The Indian Government's decision of extending OCI card eligibility to Malaysian citizens of Indian origin up to the 6th generation has caused immense happiness among the diaspora. In the times to come, an Indian consulate will also be opened in Malaysia, thus bringing our nations even closer," Modi said in a post on X.

Earlier, Modi and his Malaysian counterpart received a rousing welcome at the event.

Over 800 dancers showcased a tapestry of Indian classical and folk dances, including Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Yakshagana, Lavani and Odissi.

Modi and Ibrahim, who travelled to the venue in the same car, arrived on the stage amid slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and chants of 'Modi, Modi'.

An announcement was made that the dance performance had entered the Malaysian Book of Records for the most number of performers in an Indian dance performance.

"A grand celebration of Indian culture in Malaysia! A highlight of the community programme in Kuala Lumpur was a dance performance which has set a record in Malaysia. Congratulations to all those who took part in the dance performance," Modi said in a social media post.

"I am personally excited to have a great friend from India joining us in Malaysia," Ibrahim told the gathering.

The Malaysian prime minister recalled ancient ties between the two nations "long before embassies and trade agreements" came in vogue.

India or Bharat is among Malaysia's top trading partners. It is not only goods that move between us, but in 2025 over 1.5 million Indian visitors came to Malaysia," Ibrahim said.

"I am proud to be a personal friend of Modi ji and India," the Malaysian prime minister said.

Modi said it was "very special" to have his friend, Prime Minister Ibrahim, at the community programme in Kuala Lumpur.

"He delivered a wonderful address, highlighting the strong ties between India and Malaysia as well as the potential this friendship holds for the future," Modi posted on X.

Modi arrived in Kuala Lumpur to a grand red-carpet reception, with his Malaysian counterpart Ibrahim receiving him at the airport, signalling a new momentum in the bilateral ties.

"Deeply touched by the warm welcome extended by my friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the airport. I look forward to our conversations and to further strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Malaysia," Modi said on social media.

This is the third visit of the prime minister to Malaysia, and the first after the elevation of the India-Malaysia bilateral relationship to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership', in August 2024.

PM Modi receives red-carpet welcome in Kuala Lumpur

Stage set for deeper India-Malaysia strategic alignment

PTI

Kuala Lumpur, Feb 07: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday to a grand red-carpet reception, with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim receiving him at the airport, signalling a new momentum in the bilateral ties.

Malaysian Minister of Human Resources Ramanan Ramakrishnan and Deputy Foreign Minister Lukansman bin Awang Sauni accompanied Ibrahim in receiving Modi amid artistes performing traditional music and dance that highlighted the shared cultural heritage of both nations.

"Deeply touched by the warm welcome extended by my friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the airport, I look forward to our conversations and to further strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Malaysia," Modi said on social media.

The two leaders will hold wide-ranging talks on Sunday that is expected to produce a number of agreements to further expand cooperation between the two nations.

Modi and Ibrahim travelled in the same car to the venue of an Indian community event which was also attended by the Malaysian prime minister.

"Celebrating the India-Malaysia people-to-people connect! PM Anwar Ibrahim and I are heading to the community programme in Kuala Lumpur," Modi said in another social media post.

In his departure statement, the prime minister signalled that the visit will focus on a major push for deeper defence cooperation and robust



economic engagement. "The historic ties between India and Malaysia have seen steadfast progress in recent years. I look forward to my discussions with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and further enhancing our comprehensive strategic partnership," Modi said.

"We will aim to deepen our defence and security ties, enhance our economic and innovation partnership, and expand our collaboration into new domains," he said.

India and Malaysia elevated their bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership in August, 2024.

In the delegation-level talks, New Delhi is set to once again press Kuala Lumpur to extradite controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik. External

Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said PM Modi's visit features a "rich agenda and will give a major boost to the special partnership between India and Malaysia".

"The visit is expected to impart significant momentum to our close & multi-faceted partnership," he said.

In his departure statement, Modi said he was eager to meet the Indian community in Malaysia.

"Numbering nearly three million, they represent one of the largest Indian diasporas in the world," he said.

"Their immense contribution to Malaysia's progress and their role as a living bridge between our two nations provides a strong foundation to our historic friendship," Modi said.

Home Minister Shah arrives in Raipur; to chair meeting on LWE



PTI

Raipur, Feb 07: Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived here on Saturday on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh during which he will chair a meeting on Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and attend the closing ceremony of the Bastar Pandum 2026 festival.

Shah landed at Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, shortly after 4.15 pm, and was greeted by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and other state ministers. He will stay at a hotel in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar where he is scheduled to chair a meeting in the evening.

On Sunday, Shah will chair a review meeting on LWE from 10.30 am onwards at the same hotel. The Centre has resolved to eliminate Naxalism from the country by March 31 this year.

Later in the day, he will attend an event of a weekly magazine. On Monday, the Union minister will attend the closing ceremony of Bastar Pandum 2026 in Jagdalpur before departing for Delhi. The festival was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday.

KASHMIR THUNDER

IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS

NOTICE

I want to change my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No 332906728746 from Morifat Jan to Morifat Manzoor as per my school certificate and other documents. Now I want to apply for its correction. If anybody have any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Morifat Manzoor
D/o Manzoor Ahmad Dar
R/o Chandpora, Harwan, Srinagar

NOTICE

I want to change my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No 214270793732 from Ghulam Mohammad Dhoobi to Gh Mohd Dhoobi as per my domicile certificate and other documents. Now I want to apply for its correction. If anybody have any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within 7 days after that no claim shall be entertained

Gh Mohd Dhoobi
S/o Mohammad Sidiq Dhoobi
R/o Pazwalpora, Shalimar Srinagar

Oppn to be squarely blamed for PM skipping debate in Lok Sabha: Rijiju

PTI

Patna, Feb 07: Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Saturday squarely blamed the opposition for Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipping the reply, in Lok Sabha, to the debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's address. The BJP leader claimed that before Modi was scheduled to make his speech, "40-50 MPs" had barged into Speaker Om Birla's chamber where they "spoke in a nasty way", which "made us decide that it would be better if the PM stayed away".

Rijiju, who addressed a press conference at the BJP office here, was responding to a query about the opposition's charge that the PM did not face the Lok Sabha as he was wary of charges levelled by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who had cited remarks about skirmishes with Chinese forces in a book authored by former Army chief M M Naravane.

"Let me be very clear that we are not afraid of anything. We are in power. We could have simply smothered our detractors inside the House by calling in the marshals. But we do not believe in such undemocratic behaviour. So, initially, we tried to get the opposition at the negotiation table," Rijiju said.

"But we took a different decision after 40-50 opposition MPs stormed into the chamber of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and spoke nastily ('anap shanap bole'). We realised they were itching for a fight and it would be better if the PM did not come to the House," he added.

"As a result, the PM, who went on to give a detailed speech in the Rajya Sabha, skipped the debate in the Lok Sabha, upon our request. Of course, we had the numbers so the Motion of Thanks was passed in Lok Sabha through voice vote," the minister said.

Earlier, talking to reporters at the airport, Rijiju had charged Gandhi, a former Congress president, with indulging in "frivolous rhetoric to remain in headlines" by claiming that his attacks on Modi had made the PM "flee the Parliament and he would be made to flee the country, too".

"The nation has made so much progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now, the people of the country will never again repose their trust in the Congress which has weakened the country so much in the 60 years it enjoyed power," he alleged.

Debate, discussion part of democratic process, but decorum must be maintained: Om Birla

PTI

Patna, Feb 07: Maintaining that debate and discussion are part of the democratic process, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said the decorum of the House must be maintained at any cost.

Birla was addressing a function on the foundation day of the Bihar assembly, where he unveiled the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), aimed at creating paperless legislative processes.

"Elected representatives must maintain the decorum of the House. Members of the assemblies and Parliament have the privilege to express their views. They should share their opinions. But they must maintain dignity while sharing their views," he said.

"Debate and discussion are all part of the democratic process, but decorum of the House must be maintained at any cost. They should also learn the rules of legislative functioning," he added.

Birla said empowered legislators are the foundation of a strong democracy. He said that public representatives empowered by the trust of the people energise democracy by taking issues to their resolution and by making law-making meaningful.

"Today we are witnessing a



decline in the decorum of legislative chambers," he said, appealing to members to avoid sloganeering, disruptions, and entering the Well of the House, and instead present their views through dialogue and reasoned debate.

"The true strength of a legislator comes from moral values, a sense of responsibility, and knowledge of constitutional procedures. A capable legislator makes governance more transparent, accountable, and people-centric," he said.

Birla said Bihar has been the birthplace of democratic traditions, and its heritage has provided the ideological foundation for the

country's parliamentary system. NeVA is a workflow system deployed on the NIC cloud to help conduct legislative business in a paperless manner.

It equips members to handle diverse businesses smartly by putting information regarding rules of procedures, the list of businesses, notices, bulletins, bills, questions and answers, and committee reports, among others, in their hand-held devices, officials said.

The aim of the project is to bring all the legislatures of the country together, thereby creating a massive data depository, they said.

Boeing is major aircraft parts buyer from India; excited from trade pact: Goyal

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 07: US-based Boeing is a large buyer of aircraft parts from India and is looking at the country as its largest foreign original equipment manufacturer (OEM) base for components going forward, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

Under an interim trade agreement with India, the US has agreed to remove tariffs on certain aircraft and aircraft parts of India.

"Already Boeing and Airbus are large buyers of aircraft parts from India...I am told both these companies are looking at India as the largest foreign OEM for parts going forward and I have had conversations with the top board and CEO of both companies. There is a lot of excitement about the India-US partnership," he told reporters here.

Boeing has over 265 commercial and military aircraft operating in India, which is a key market for the plane maker. The company has more than 325



suppliers and the annual sourcing from the country is worth over USD 1.25 billion. The amount includes components and services.

Airbus also aims to increase its sourcing of components and services from India to USD 2 billion by 2030. Currently, it is around USD 1.4 billion.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU-180016

Website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in> Jammu: 0191-2566533

Subject: Conduct of Written Test for filling up of posts of Lecturer (Urdu) in the School Urdu Department—Disposal of the Objections /Representations received against the Provisional Answer Key and issuance of Final Answer Key thereof.

Reference: Rule 10 (d) to 10 (f) of the J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examination) Rules, 2022.

Notification No. PSC/Exam/S/2026/17 Dated: 06.02.2026

1. Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission conducted the Written Test for filling up of post of Lecturer (Urdu) in the School Urdu Department, on 05.10.2025; and

2. Whereas, the Provisional Answer Key was notified and uploaded on the official website of the Commission for information of the candidates on 05.10.2025, inter-alia notifying that, if any candidate feels that the keys to any of the questions is wrong/incorrect, he/she may prefer objection on the prescribed proforma to the Controller of Examinations upto 08.10.2025

(5:00 p.m.) along with documentary proof /evidence and the fee of Rs.500/- per question; and

3. Whereas, in response to the said notification, objections were received by the J&K Public Service Commission against Provisional Answer Key; and

4. Whereas, all the objections were referred to the Experts as envisaged in Rule 10 (d) of the J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examination) Rules, 2022, as amended from time to time, for Expert opinion; and

5. Whereas, the Experts have recommended changes in the Provisional Answer Key in respect of the said paper; Now, therefore, in view of the above and on the basis of opinion of the Experts, it is hereby notified that:-

a) The changes recommended by the Experts are hereby adopted and the Final Answer Key is annexed to this notification as Annexure A in respect of Urdu. In terms of Rule 10 (d) of the J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examination) Rules, 2022 as amended upto date, the marks allocated to the deleted questions shall be individually added to the marks secured by the individual candidates to ensure that the mark(s) allocated for the question paper as a whole remain unchanged, at the time of calculation/compilation of award sheet before the declaration of the result;

b) The amount deposited @ Rs 500/- per question is also hereby released in respect of genuine/correct representations and same shall be transferred through RTGS in individual account of candidates.

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS

Controller of Examinations

J&K Public Service Commission

No. PSC/Ex-Secy/2025/22 Dated:06.02.2026

ANNEXURE A

To Notification No. PSC/Exam/S/2026/17 Dated: 06.02.2026 (Urdu)

Q.No.	SERIES A	34	D	68	C
1	C	35	C	69	B
2	B	36	B	70	D
3	D	37	C	71	C
4	D	38	C	72	B
5	D	39	B	73	D
6	C	40	B	74	A
7	A	41	A	75	A
8	D	42	C	Q.No.	SERIES A
9	D	43	D	76	B
10	A	44	C	77	C
11	B	45	C	78	C
12	B	46	D	79	B
13	B	47	B	80	D
14	DELETE	48	A	81	B
15	A	49	A	82	C
16	D	50	C	83	C
17	B	Q.No.	SERIES A	84	A
18	C	51	B	85	C
19	B	52	B	86	C
20	A	53	D	87	C
21	D	54	C	88	C
22	B	55	B	89	D
23	D	56	DELETE	90	B
24	D	57	C	91	B
25	A	58	C	92	B
Q.No.	SERIES A	59	A	93	B
26	DELETE	60	D	94	A
27	B	61	C	95	C
28	DELETE	62	D	96	C
29	C	63	B	97	B
30	C	64	B	98	A
31	D	65	A	99	A
32	D	66	C	100	B
33	A	67	A		

DIPK-10699/25
DATED: 07-02-2026

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Public Service Commission

Bangladesh PM front-runner rejects unity govt offer, says his party set to win

REUTERS

Dhaka, Feb 07: Bangladesh's leading prime ministerial contender, Tarique Rahman, on Friday rejected a proposal from his main rival for a unity government after elections next week, saying his party was confident of winning on its own.

Rahman, 60, who heads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), returned home in December after nearly two decades in exile in London following a youth-led uprising that toppled long-time leader Sheikh Hasina, a bitter rival of his mother, the country's first woman Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The BNP's main rival in the February 12 election is the Islamist group Jamaat-e-Islami, once banned but now resurgent.

The two parties governed together between 2001 and 2006, and Jamaat has said it is open to renewing the partnership for a unity government to help stabilize the country, whose giant garments industry was badly disrupted by months of turmoil in 2024.

Bangladesh has been run by an interim government since August 2024 when Hasina fled to long-time ally India, where she remains.

"How can I form a government with my political opponents, and then who would be in the opposition?" Rahman said in an interview at his party office, sitting beneath portraits of his mother and his father, a former president.

"I don't know what will be their seat number, but if they are in the opposition, I hope to have them as a good



opposition."

His aides said the BNP was confident of winning more than two thirds of the 300 parliamentary seats up for grabs. The party is contesting 292 of them, with allies vying for the rest.

Rahman declined to give a number but said "we are confident that we'll have enough to form a government."

All opinion polls have forecast a BNP victory but also a stiff challenge from the Jamaat alliance, which includes a Gen Z party that emerged from the anti-Hasina protests.

Good relations globally New Delhi's decision to shelter Hasina, whom a Dhaka court last year sentenced to death for her role in a deadly crackdown on the protests, has badly strained Bangladesh-India relations while giving China an

opening to expand its investments and political outreach.

Asked whether he would pivot away from India toward China should he win, Rahman said Bangladesh needed partners capable of boosting economic growth for its nearly 175 million people.

"If we are in the government, we need to provide jobs for young people. We need to bring businesses into the country so that jobs can be created and people can have a better life," he said.

"So whoever, while protecting the interests and sovereignty of Bangladesh, offers what is suitable for my people and my country, we will have friendship with them, not with any particular country."

On Hasina's presence in India,

Rahman said: "She did commit a crime in the eyes of the law in Bangladesh in 2024. A judgment has been passed, so she must be brought to justice."

Asked whether Hasina's children were free to return from abroad and engage in politics, he said: "Whoever is involved in any kind of crime must face the consequences. (But) if someone is accepted by the people, if people welcome them, then anyone has the right to do politics."

Hasina's Awami League is banned from contesting the election. Many senior leaders and members of her family were already abroad before her fall or fled around that time.

Rohingya welcome to stay until safe to return

Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated countries with high rates of extreme poverty, hosts nearly 1.2 million Rohingya Muslim refugees, many of whom fled multiple crackdowns in neighboring Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where they are treated as outsiders.

The interim government said last year it had no capacity to allocate additional resources for the refugees "given our numerous challenges" and called on the international community to help repatriate them.

Rahman said he too wanted them to return home but only when conditions were safe.

"We will try to work on the issue so that these people can go back to their own land," he said. "The situation has to be safe for them to go back there. As long as it is not safe, they are very welcome to stay here."

Donald Trump renews Iran national emergency

Introduces tariffs on countries trading with Tehran



INANS

Washington, Feb 07: US President Donald Trump signed an executive order renewing the national emergency on Iran and creating a new tariff system targeting countries that buy goods or services from Tehran.

The White House said the order is designed to protect US national security, foreign policy, and the economy. It allows the United States to impose additional tariffs on imports from any country that "directly or indirectly purchases, imports, or otherwise acquires any goods or services from Iran."

The White House said the move is part of a broader effort to confront Iran's actions abroad. It cited Tehran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities, its ballistic missile program, support for terrorism, and activities that destabilise

the Middle East.

In a fact sheet, the White House described Iran as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. The fact sheet said Tehran supports proxy groups and militias across the region, including forces that have killed and wounded Americans and that continue to target US troops, partners, and allies.

The administration also pointed to Iran's internal conditions. It said the regime has spent national resources on nuclear and missile programs while the country's infrastructure and population struggle.

The White House accused Iran of severe repression at home. It said the regime has killed protesters, denied basic human rights and used violence to maintain power. It also accused Tehran of spreading extremism and undermining efforts aimed at peace and regional stability.

PCB writes to ICC to invoke 'force majeure'

Global body asks for justification

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 07: The ICC has sought an explanation from Pakistan on how the 'Force Majeure' clause can be invoked to justify the team's refusal to play the T20 World Cup match against India after the PCB tried to wriggle out of the situation by putting the onus on its government.

The ICC has asked the Pakistan Cricket Board to justify pulling out of one match while playing the remaining tournament on government instructions.

A few days back, the PCB had officially written to the

ICC about wanting to invoke the 'Force Majeure' clause and cited the government's tweet, banning the team from the February 15 clash in Colombo, as the reason. But there is a glimmer of hope now as PCB has approached the ICC for deliberations, as per an ICC Director.

Having received the world body's formal communication, the PCB initiated further discussions. The ICC is currently engaging with the board in a structured manner to explore possible resolutions, with a view that interest of the game must supersede unilateral action.

China conducts naval, air patrols around disputed South China Sea

REUTERS

Beijing, Feb 07: China conducted naval and air patrols in the South China Sea from Monday to Friday, the China Southern Theater Command said in a statement on Saturday.

"In an attempt to stir up troubles in the South China Sea, the Philippine side roped in countries outside the region and conducted so-called 'bilateral air patrol', undermining peace and stability in the region," the statement said.

Forces of the Southern Theater Command will remain on high alert and resolutely safeguard China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, according to the statement. The Philippine embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump refuses to apologize for racist clip of Obamas as monkeys

AFP

Washington, Feb 07: President Donald Trump refused to apologize Friday for a video posted on his social media account depicting Barack and Michelle Obama as monkeys, though he said he condemned the post as the White House shifted the blame to staff. The video shared on Trump's Truth Social account late Thursday night sparked censure across the US political spectrum, with the White House initially rejecting "fake outrage" only to then blame the post on an error by a staff member.

"I didn't make a mistake," Trump said on Air Force One late Friday when asked if he would apologize

for the post. Asked if he condemns the racist imagery in the video, Trump replied: "Of course I do."

Democrats slammed Trump as "vile" over the clip of the Obamas — the first Black president and first lady in US history — while a senior Republican senator said the video was blatantly racist.

Near the end of the one-minute-long video promoting conspiracies about Republican Trump's 2020 election loss to Joe Biden, the Obamas were shown with their faces on the bodies of monkeys for about one second.

The video, uploaded late Thursday amid a flurry of other posts, repeated false allegations that ballot-counting company Dominion Voting Systems helped steal the election from Trump.



It's always good to have more teams in World Cup: Rashid Khan

PTI

Chennai, Feb 07: Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan on Saturday welcomed the expansion of the T20 World Cup into 20 teams from the ongoing edition, saying it has opened the doors to players from more countries to showcase their talent on the global stage.

The 2026 iteration of the ICC showpiece is the biggest ever in its history in terms of the number of participating teams.

"It's always good to have more teams in the World Cup, that's why lots of nations come in and you see lots of new talent, which you haven't seen and different teams come in, they give tough time to the oppositions and I think that's how the World Cup becomes bigger and bigger," Rashid said on the eve of the match against New Zealand.

"It doesn't matter if you are losing or winning the game, but you show to the world that you are capable of beating any side, any time as long as you have that belief," he added.

Afghanistan are in Group D along with contenders New Zealand and South Africa, and Rashid said the team was looking forward to taking the rough road.

"In World Cup, you don't get things easily, it's always very tough and that's the beauty of T20 cricket. You have to pass through the tough lines to achieve something bigger and I feel like that's something which is a challenge for us. If



you want to achieve bigger things, you have to go through tough routes and we have tough oppositions."

"But still you have to keep that belief in yourself and keep pushing yourself in the ground, as we have done in the '24 World Cup, where we have beaten big teams. I think the confidence is there, but it's just about making sure we do the right things at the right time," he added.

The leg-spinner said the Afghan players' experience in playing in the IPL will stand them in good stead in the tournament.

"We do have good spinners, but still you have to bowl well. And the wicket looks good, I think it looks good to bat on, but still the experience you have of playing a lot in IPL in here, I think you have to use that experience here and you can bowl the best to the batter, so it's going to be a good game,"

he said. Rashid is four shy of completing the 700-wicket mark in all T20 competitions, and he was proud of his performance.

"Feeling 'Nalla'! I only played 9-10 years of international cricket and then to be the leading wicket taker is something more than a dream for me. T20 cricket came, I don't know, 2004-05. I never counted my wickets, I only get to know it from the media that I have reached 400, 500, 600. I try my best, every single day, I have to keep performing well for the team, I have to pick up wickets, I want to bowl in tough situations where the team needs and that made me focused."

"I still sometimes think 700 wickets is not something small, getting there it needs lots of time and lots of hard work, but I am blessed and I am so, so happy that reaching that milestone and, hopefully, we will make it to 7000," he added.

Movies Schedule

Sunday, 8 February

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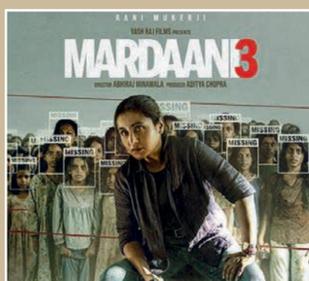
VADH 2 (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 11:15 AM



DEVSDAS RE-RELEASE
HINDI - 02:15 PM



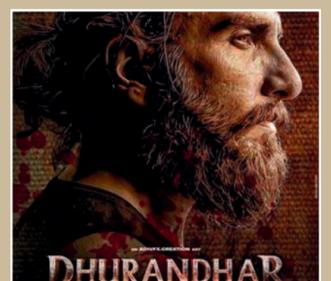
BHABIJI GHAR PAR HAIN FUN ON THE RUN (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 05:45 PM



MARDAANI 3 (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 11:10 AM, 06:15 PM



BORDER 2 (U/A 13+)
HINDI - 10:45 AM, 01:55 PM, 06:30 PM



DHURANDHAR (A)
HINDI - 02:30 PM

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