



# The Himalayan Mail

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## Road **Safety** First

**Your Phone can wait , Life Cannot**



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### Sinha greets people on Shab-e-Baraat

LG Manoj Sinha today extended his greetings to people on the occasion of Shab-e-Baraat.

In a message, he said, "On the occasion of Shab-e-Baraat, I convey my greetings and best wishes to all."

"This sacred night offers devotees a precious opportunity to seek divine pardon, blessings, and wisdom. It invites seekers to ponder their inner journey and forge a profound

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### Committee formed for disaster management projects

The government today constituted a committee for the examination and submission of project proposals under the additional SASCI allocation related to disaster management.

A GAD order issued in this regard says: "Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of committee for examination,

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### 2 killed as vehicle falls into gorge

Two youth were killed after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Dharangli Tote area of Reasi district of Jammu early this morning.

They were identified as Mannu, son of Rattan Singh, and Jagdev Singh, son of Balwan Singh. Both hailed from Shorhal.

Officials said the incident took place in the early hours after the driver lost control over the vehicle on a hilly stretch of the road.

A rescue operation was launched immediately after the incident and the bodies were retrieved from the gorge, the officials added.

Police had registered a case in this connection.

### Omar tables Jan Vishwas Ordinance

Himalayan Mail News  
JAMMU, FEB 03

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today tabled 'The Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Ordinance, 2025' (Ordinance No 01 of 2025) in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The Ordinance proposes amendments to certain laws.

It seeks to decriminalise a range of minor offences and rationalisation across several sectors.

## Modi warns NDA MPs against resting on laurels after poll wins

**Urges them to stay grounded**

**NEW DELHI, FEB 03:** *Warning NDA MPs against resting on laurels after various poll wins and urging them to stay grounded, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today told them that 'the coalition has been winning various elections due to its people-friendly policies and hard work'.*

PM Modi also told NDA MPs that they should not be complacent with their win in various polls, including local bodies, but continue with the good work, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters after the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting.

At the meeting, Modi was felicitated by the NDA leaders for successfully concluding trade deals with 39 countries.

Referring to the US and India agreeing on a trade deal under which Washington will bring down reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to



18 per cent from current 25 per cent, the minister said there is an excitement about it in the entire country.

"There is excitement among the MPs that these trade deals have been concluded under the leadership of PM. The trade deals have been signed with a total of

39 countries. This is historic. All these 39 countries are developed countries...This is historic. There has been a very good atmosphere in the country," he said.

Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora said, "PM Modi explained to all the MPs that

the government works in favour of India, be it a trade deal or budget".

"The credit for the trade deal between India and America and India and India-Europe goes to PM Modi. This has happened because of his determina

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## Amid objections, govt halts 3 proposed railway projects in Kashmir

**NEW DELHI, FEB 03:** The railway ministry today said that three proposed railway projects in Kashmir had been put on hold, following objections from locals & elected representatives, who raised concerns over the large-scale land acquisition and its impact on apple orchards.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that there was already a railway line from Srinagar to Baramulla, and there was a demand to set up three more railway lines.

"Later, the Jammu and Kashmir government and Members of Parliament raised concerns that these lines must not be set up as these would impact apple

orchards significantly. Now, the government has decided to put these proposed projects on hold," he said.

The decision comes amid protests by apple growers and residents in Pulwama, Shopian and Anantnag districts, voicing concern that these projects would affect the agricultural and horticultural land, damage orchards, and lead to the displacement of families.

Several demonstrations were held over the past months, with locals demanding rerouting of the projects, fair compensation, and consultation before any land acquisition.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah welcomed the rail-

way ministry's decision to put three projects on halt in the valley, but requested an increase in the frequency and number of coaches of Vande Bharat trains operating between Katra and Srinagar.

Earlier in the day, NC's Pahalgam MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani informed the assembly that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced the decision to put three railway projects-proposed to connect Srinagar with Pahalgam and Shopian-on hold.

"Regarding the railway lines, there was no specific public demand for these routes. The road conditions there are good, and proper

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## Kremlin dismisses Trump claim on India halting Russian oil purchases

**MOSCOW, FEB 03:** The Kremlin has reacted strongly to recent claims made by US President Donald Trump that India would cease importing oil from Russia.

Trump publicly asserted that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave him assurances that New Delhi would halt purchases of Russian crude, framing the alleged commitment as a significant development in efforts to economically isolate Moscow and reduce funding for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Trump's remarks, delivered in Washington and reiterated in later comments, suggested India had "more

or less stopped" buying Russian oil and described such a shift as a "good step" in global energy diplomacy.

"So far, we haven't heard any statements from New Delhi on this matter," reports quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as telling reporters.

Peskov said Russia valued its relationship with India and would continue to develop its strategic partnership.

"We respect bilateral US-Indian relations. But we attach no less importance to the development of an advanced strategic partnership between Russia and India. This is the most im-

portant thing for us, and we intend to further develop our bilateral relations with Delhi," he said.

Moscow's official response has been dismissive of what it described as Washington's pressure tactics and unfounded assertions. The spokesperson for the Kremlin made clear that the Russian government does not consider threats of tariffs or attempts to influence India's energy policy to be legitimate, underscoring the principle that sovereign nations have the right to pursue trade and economic cooperation based on their own national interests.

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### 8 Oppn MPs suspended from LS

**NEW DELHI, Feb 03:** Eight opposition members were suspended from Lok Sabha on Tuesday for the remainder of the budget session for violating rules and "throwing papers on the chair", following uproar in the House over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's insistence on mentioning a specific reference about the standoff with China in eastern Ladakh in 2020.

The House, which witnessed two adjournments earlier in the day, resumed proceedings at 3 pm and Rahul Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition, said that he would not refer to any magazine article about former Army Chief Gen <

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### Encounter erupts in Udhampur woods

Himalayan Mail News  
JAMMU, FEB 03

An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in a remote forest area in Udhampur district of Jammu today.

According to officials, gunfire erupted during a joint search operation by Army and police in Jaffer woods of Ramnagar, Udhampur.

The operation was launched yesterday, following information about the movement of two to three terrorists, said to be affiliated with Pakistan-

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## Assembly witnesses uproar Oppn members raise demand for NLU in Jammu

Himalayan Mail News  
JAMMU, FEB 03

Noisy scenes were witnessed in the assembly today as the opposition BJP members raised demand for the establishment of a National Law University in Jammu.

However, despite the uproar, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather continued with the Question Hour.

As the assembly proceedings started, BJP MLA Surjit Singh Slathia drew the attention of the House towards the students of Jammu University who were on the roads for the past few days in support of the demand for a National Law University in Jammu.

"We are not against granting National Law University (NLU) for Kashmir but also want one such University for Jammu to fulfill the demand of the students of the region," he said.

While Slathia was speak-



ing, other BJP MLAs also stood up and displayed placards in support of the demand and also raised slogans like "NLU for Jammu".

Congress legislator Nizam-ud-Din Bhat objected to the display of placards and said the recent meeting of the business advisory committee had decided to maintain the decorum of the House while raising any issue.

"The action of displaying placards by BJP legislators is akin to encroachment and intrusion which is not acceptable. The govern-

ment granted permission for NLU in Kashmir following due process," he said.

Amid the ruckus, National Conference legislator Mubarak Gul alleged that Kashmiri students and traders were facing harassment and assault in different parts of the country.

PDP MLA Wahid Rehman Para said that he had moved an adjournment motion to discuss growing incidents of harassment of Kashmiri students and others.

National Conference MLA Saifullah Mir also

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## 'Only 7 witnesses examined in 7 yrs' SC pulls up J&K prosecution over delay in murder trial

**NEW DELHI, FEB 03:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday strongly criticised the prosecution in a Jammu and Kashmir murder case after noting that only seven witnesses had been examined over the past seven years, while the accused continued to remain in jail as an under-trial.

Granting bail to the accused, Anoop Singh, the bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan termed the delay a "mockery" of the constitutional right to a speedy trial under Article 21 and sought an explanation from the Home Secretary of the Union Ter-

ritory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is a mockery of Article 21. You have made a mockery of the concept of speedy trial," Justice Pardiwala remarked, expressing shock at the pace of the proceedings in a case dating back to October 4, 2018.

The court directed the J&K Home Secretary to file a response within four weeks and to appear before the bench via video conferencing on the next date of hearing. It also asked him to place on record details of all pending criminal trials in the Union Territory where accused persons

have been in custody for more than five years.

The observations came after the court examined a report submitted by the trial court, which described the progress of the case as "extremely disappointing". The report revealed that despite 82 hearings having taken place, not a single witness had been examined in recent years, even though the prosecution still proposes to examine 17 more witnesses.

"The trial judge appears exasperated," Justice Pardiwala noted, adding that the prosecuting agency owed an explanation for

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## Kavinder reiterates UT admin's commitment to welfare of people

Himalayan Mail News  
LEH, FEB 03

During his interaction with the delegations that called on him here today, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta assured all of them that the UT administration was committed to the welfare of people.

Dr Padma Gurmet, Director of National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, informed about Rs 52 cr central allocation this year for the institute, plans for establishment of 15 new branches across India, plantation of 100 different medicinal plants at Trans-Himalayan Herbal Garden in Phey,



and need to strengthen traditional healers in rural areas for elderly seeking treatment.

A Hemya-Khatpu delegation led by a nambardar raised telecommunication connectivity issues, need

for multipurpose hall, residential hostel for students, and playground.

Zanskar delegation sought Rangdum's inclusion in new Zanskar district, Stod as block head

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