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World moving towards new global order, leaning to-wards India: Modi

world is openly praising these trade deals. When we signed the trade deal with the EU, the world became more confident about the greater likelihood of global stability. After the trade deal with the US, the world became even more confident that, with stability, they could sense speed too. This is a positive sign for the world," the PM said.

"A significant part of our energy is being spent on correcting the mistakes of the past. It takes great effort to erase the image that was created in the minds of the world during that period, they left things in such a damaged state. That is why we have placed strong emphasis on future-ready policies. Today, the country is being governed on the basis of policy and strategy. Global trust in India is growing. Guided by the mantra of 'reform, perform, transform,' we have moved forward, and the reality today is that the nation has boarded the Reform Express," he added.

"The first quarter of the 21st century has completed. But this second quarter is decisive, just like the second quarter of India's freedom struggle in the last century was. I can clearly see that in the direction of building Viksit Bharat, this second quarter is going to be equally capable," he said.

"In the journey of Viksit Bharat, previous years have been the years of rapid development of the country. This has been the era of change in every walk of life, in every section of society. The country is going ahead in the right direction at a fast pace," Modi said.

Abolish UT-with-assembly system, will be gift to nation: Omar to PM

claimed that the chief minister had himself admitted that officers do not listen to him, Abdullah said. "Though there is no truth in the statement, it is extremely difficult to run the government with your hands tied behind the back through this UT-with-Assembly model, which is a huge betrayal of the people's mandate".

"How difficult it is to work under these conditions...while preparing a budget, will you change your finance secretary 10 days before presenting it?" he asked Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, who had been finance minister several times in the past.

"We were preparing the budget, and on social media I read that the finance secretary of Jammu and Kashmir- because now we are part of the UT cadre and transfers are not in our control- has been transferred to Delhi with immediate effect. This is the situation. Tell me, if there is anywhere else in the country where, while a budget is being prepared, the finance secretary is suddenly told goodbye," Abdullah said.

Thankfully, he said, after speaking with the chief secretary, it was ensured that the finance secretary was retained till February 9. "Otherwise, he would have left, and I do not know under what circumstances the budget would have been prepared. This is the situation," he added.

"The most important post in administration is considered to be the Resident Commissioner in Delhi, because his job is to coordinate with the central government, follow up on projects, and secure approvals. But our Resident Commissioner's post has been given as an additional charge to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. Now tell me, how will the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu also handle the work of the Resident Commissioner in Delhi?" he said.

Abdullah, however, expected hope that the long pending Business Rules would be approved in the coming days.

"Until our Business Rules are approved- and work on this is ongoing- it will take time because it is a complex issue...I am fully confident that in the coming days our Business Rules will be fixed. Until we receive full statehood, this confusion over Business Rules continues to trap many of our issues," he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir government framed the Transaction of Business Rules in March last year and sent the file to the LG for approval to facilitate smooth governance without confusion.

He also reiterated that his government remained committed to restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Article 370 was not specifically mentioned in the address as the provision still exists in the Constitution despite being hollowed out," he said.

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

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

Some opposition members had criticised that Article 370 was not explicitly mentioned in the LG's address.

Referring to a resolution passed in the assembly before, Abdullah said Article 370 continues to remain on the statute books and the House has already expressed its view that it should be restored.

"There is nothing more that needs to be said. Most of its substance was removed, but that part embedded in law still remains," he added.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre had abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Calamity-hit landless families to get land

Kashmir.

He said the land would be provided on a lease basis for residential purposes without charging any premium.

Amit Shah launches Bharat Taxi; govt-backed alternative to Ola, Uber

NEW DELHI, FEB 05: Launching the government-backed ride-hailing platform Bharat Taxi at Vigyan Bhawan Thursday, Union Cooperation and Home Minister Amit Shah said no private cab aggregator can offer drivers the kind of "ownership" promised under the cooperative model.

Without naming any of the private platforms, Shah said that since the announcement of Bharat Taxi last year, one company reduced its commission by 30 percent, another began offering free rides while others rolled out lucrative offers for customers. "But I would like to tell you that no company will make you the owner of the company like Bharat Taxi," Shah said, addressing a packed audience at Vigyan Bhawan that included cooperation ministry officials and registered Bharat Taxi drivers.

Last year, private players Ola and Uber started to shift to a subscription-based model from the commission-based model owing to changing market practices and pushback from

drivers. Starting June last year, Ola shifted to a subscription model to capture the market early, whereas Uber followed suit in October.

"Companies are running taxis for their own benefit, whereas Bharat Taxi is for the benefit of Sarathis (drivers)," Shah said.

The Union minister hailed Bharat Taxi as working under the framework of "Sarathi Hi Malik". Under the structure, drivers are enrolled as cooperative members, and given a direct stake in the platform's ownership and profit-sharing.

The service follows a zero-commission and surge-free pricing system, ensuring that the entire fare amount is transferred directly to drivers, unlike private aggregators that "typically deduct a hefty commission".

Outlining his ambition for Bharat Taxi, Shah said, "In three years' time, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, and from Dwarka to Kamakhya temple, the entire country will see the benefit of Sahakar Taxi."

"The beneficiaries will be required to pay an annual ground rent of Rs 10 per marla for a period of 40 years, which can be extended further as per rules after approval by the competent authority," he said.

The chief minister said the allotment would be subject to the conditions laid down in the government order.

He said over 6,400 families affected by flash floods and landslides in Udhampur district have been provided financial assistance amounting to more than Rs 23.49 crore.

"A total of 6,449 affected families across Udhampur, Chenani, Ramnagar and Latti-Marothi tehsils were provided compensation as per prescribed norms," he added.

He said 2,666 affected families in Udhampur tehsil were sanctioned Rs 9.32 crore, approximately while 1,208 families in Chenani tehsil received over Rs 5 crore.

In Ramnagar tehsil, 2,298 affected families were sanctioned Rs 7.8635 cr, and 277 families in Latti-Marothi tehsil were provided over Rs 1 crore as relief assistance. The chief minister said damage assessment was conducted by field teams and eligible cases were verified as per State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms. He added that compensation was sanctioned and disbursed directly to the affected families through prescribed financial mechanisms.

He said the government has also taken steps for rehabilitation of families rendered landless due to natural calamities by providing state land for residential purposes on a lease basis under approved norms.

J&K economy to grow at 5.82 pc: Economic Survey

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

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

The report further said that per capita income in the Union Territory is estimated at Rs 1,68,243 in 2025-26, registering a higher growth rate compared to several northern states and UTs, including Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana, during 2019-20 to 2024-25.

Jammu and Kashmir contributes around 0.8 per cent to the national GDP.

The report said that sector-wise, the primary sector is estimated to contribute 20.45 per cent to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2025-26 and continues to provide livelihood support, employing about 42.99 per cent of the workforce.

"The primary, secondary and tertiary sectors are estimated to contribute 20.45 per cent, 18.52 per cent and 61.02 per cent, respectively, to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2025-26", it added.

On the inflation in the UT, the report said that it has declined from 4.5 per cent in 2024 to 3.8 per cent in 2025, reflecting improved price stability. "Revenue receipts of Rs 13,521 crore were realised up to November 2025, which is 64 per cent of the total revenue realised in the previous financial year", it said.

Unemployment rate in the UT declined from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20 to 6.1 per cent in 2023-24, while the labour force participation rate and worker population ratio improved to 64.3 per cent and 60.4 per cent, respectively, it said.

The report further said that under employment generation schemes such as PMEGP and JKREGP, over 10,800 units were established in 2024-25, generating self-employment opportunities for around 85,000 youth. Over 36 lakh unorganised workers have been registered on the e-SHRAM portal till November 2025.

The report said "The agriculture sector is shifting towards high-value crops, organic farming and exotic varieties under initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP)".

Horticulture also witnessed expansion, with the area under major crops increasing to 3.47 lakh hectares and overall production recording a 12.5 per cent growth. Exports of almonds and walnuts stood at Rs 602.53 crore in 2024-25, it added.

Tourism continued to remain a major growth driver, with 1.78 crore tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir in 2025, including 36,000 foreign tourists, it added.

The report said that industrial growth remained robust, with 2,227 units becoming operational over the last seven years, attracting investments of Rs 15,940 crore.

As per the report, the neonatal mortality rate declined to 9.8 and the infant mortality rate to 14, while life expectancy increased to 74.3 years. Institutional births reached 99.7 per cent, and full immunisation coverage touched 100 per cent.

It said that over 87.64 lakh Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards have been issued, and around 19 lakh treatments have been provided under the AB-PMJAY-SEHAT scheme, saving approximately Rs 3,435 crore.

In education, it said that total enrolment exceeded 26.17 lakh students in 2024-25, with a sharp decline in dropout rates and improved transition rates across schooling levels.

The report highlighted that hydropower generation capacity is being doubled to 3,014 MW by 2028, while transmission and distribution capacity has increased by 44 per cent over the last six years.

The chief minister also tabled 'The Jammu and Kashmir Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023' in the assembly.

The rules were tabled as required under section 6(4) of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 (Central Act 7 of 1909).

Nathatop, Daggan Top to be developed as tourism areas

gan Top, Neel Top, Mahoo, Sarvadhara (Pogal Paristan), Sargali Pogal, Chanderkote and Bhatni village.

Omar said that developmental works had already been taken up in Banihal-Gool constituency, keeping in view the feasibility reports prepared for the region.

"For the financial year 2025-26, an amount of Rs 117.27 lakh has been allocated under the Capex Budget for the development of tourism infrastructure in Banihal-Gool constituency," he added.

Deadline for filing APRs extended

submitted their property returns, causing a default in the submission of their details," a GAD notification said.

"The matter has been considered in the GAD and it is decided that a last & final opportunity may be granted to the employees, who have failed to submit their property returns within the prescribed timeline. Accordingly, the timeline for submission of property returns by the defaulting employees through online mode on the Property Return System (PRS portal) is extended by 15 days from the date of issuance of this notification," it says.

"In case employees encounter issues related to OTP, they shall update their current mobile numbers and email IDs on CPIS portal. For any other issue/technical support, employees may forward their concerns on supportprs@jk.gov.in for speedy redressal," the notification says.

J&K gets Rs 118 cr for development of fisheries

cording to a report by Kashmir Life, citing information tabled in the Parliament.

The funding details were shared by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, also known as Lalan Singh, who informed Parliament that the Department of Fisheries has been extending financial assistance to states and Union Territories under the centrally sponsored PMMSY to boost fish production, strengthen infrastructure, enhance capacity building and improve the welfare of fisherfolk.

As per official data cited by Kashmir Life, Jammu and Kashmir received central funds amounting to Rs 11,850.39 lakh between 2020-21 and 2024-25.

The year-wise releases included Rs 5,006.63 lakh in 2020-21, Rs 1,364.20 lakh in 2021-22, Rs 2,020 lakh in 2022-23, Rs 1,219.73 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 2,239.83 lakh in 2024-25.

The report noted that the assistance to Jammu and Kashmir forms part of a broader national allocation under PMMSY. During the last four financial years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, fisheries and aquaculture development proposals worth Rs 18,397.37 crore were approved across the country, with a central share of Rs 8,124.84 crore.

Of this, Rs 4,977.28 crore has already been released to states, Union Territories and implementing agencies.

According to the information placed before Parliament, the scheme also prioritises support for vulnerable and marginalised sections.

Nationally, Rs 553.40 crore has been earmarked for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries and Rs 519.21 crore for Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries.

Additionally, fisheries development proposals involving a central outlay of Rs 1,302.20 crore have been approved to benefit 95,426 women beneficiaries across states and Union Territories over the past four years.

The Minister said PMMSY assistance is delivered through multiple channels, including direct financial support, input subsidies, infrastructure creation, training programmes, group-based interventions and other capacity-building measures aimed at improving livelihoods in the fisheries sector.

Jammu and Kashmir, with its expanding inland fisheries base supported by rivers, lakes and trout farming, continues to be among the beneficiaries of the scheme.

Officials cited in the Kashmir Life report said the funding is expected to enhance aquaculture productivity, strengthen cold chain and marketing infrastructure, and create improved income opportunities for local fishing communities.

The government has reiterated that PMMSY is aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries development, modernising the sector and improving the socio-economic conditions of fisherfolk through targeted investments and institutional support across the country, including Union Territories such as Jammu and Kashmir.

Amit Shah arrives; security apparatus review to take centre stage

review for tomorrow would "accelerate the pace of development."

"A security review meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow. There will also be a review of the development-related schemes being run by the central government. This will accelerate the pace of development and boost the morale of security forces," he said.

The home minister was also expected to engage with political stakeholders.

"The visit is expected to include high-level meetings with security agencies and administrative officials to evaluate the overall law and order situation and the progress of ongoing governance and infrastructure initiatives," officials said.

On February 7 morning, the home minister would leave Jammu for Srinagar where he would launch various development projects.

This will be Shah's second high-level review of the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir in less than a month.

He assessed the situation at a meeting in New Delhi on January 8. This was followed by the visit of Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and top brass of paramilitary forces to Jammu on January 14 and 15.

LS passes Motion of Thanks on Prez's address without PM's response

members.

As the protests continued, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings till 2:00 pm.

Process to revise MOP on judicial appointments under consideration: Meghwal

The law minister said in our democracy, judiciary is an independent organ of the governance system and is competent to handle all issues.

"Our government is also committed to ensuring the independence of the judiciary. We are ensuring that jointly with the judiciary, judges get a conducive environment to help provide justice to people," he said.

The minister also said clearing pending cases is the right of the judiciary. He, however, said the government has helped increase the strength of the lower judiciary.

"In 2014, total strength of the judges in district and sessions courts was 19,518 and we have added 6,376 posts after that. The present strength of the lower judiciary has been increased to 25,894 by our government," Meghwal told the house.

To another query by AIADMK MP M Thambidurai on what the

government was doing to change the name of Madras High Court, the minister said. "There are several High Courts in the country which have old names. All these issues are under consideration."

In his written reply to the question on pendency of cases, the Law Minister said, "Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors, which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. besides the shortage of judges."

"The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary..."

"The government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 19.01.2026, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1162 new Judges were appointed and 820 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period," he said.

He said the sanctioned strength of judges of high courts has increased from 906 in May 2014 to 1122 to date.

Further, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in district and subordinate courts is the responsibility of the high courts and state governments concerned, the minister said.

As per the constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective state government, in consultation with the high court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of judicial officers, Meghwal said.

SC to hear PIL against poll freebies promises by political parties

eye on elections is not only the greatest threat to the survival of democratic values but also injures the spirit of the Constitution," said the plea.

"This unethical practice is just like giving bribes to the electorate at the cost of the exchequer to stay in power and must be avoided to preserve democratic principles and practices," it said.

The petition has also sought a direction to the ECI to insert an additional condition in the relevant paragraphs of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, which deals with conditions for recognition as a state party, that a "political party shall not promise/distribute irrational freebies from the public fund before the election".

The petitioner has urged the apex court to declare that the promise or distribution of private goods or services, which are not for public purposes, from public funds before the elections, violates several articles of the Constitution, including Article 14 (equality before law).

The plea has referred to the promises being made by certain political parties ahead of the Assembly poll in some states.

The fulcrum of democracy is the electoral process, and the distribution of money and the promise of freebies have reached alarming levels with elections being countermanded several times, it said.

"Petitioner submits that arbitrary promises of irrational freebies violate the ECI's mandate for free and fair elections and distributing private goods-services, which are not for public purposes, from public funds clearly violate Articles 14, 162, 266(3) and 282 of the Constitution," it said.

18 killed in Meghalaya coal mine blast

More people are feared trapped," she said.

One person who sustained injuries in the blast was initially taken to Sutnga Primary Health Centre before being referred to a Shillong hospital for better treatment. East Jaintia Hills superintendent of police Vikash Kumar said.

The explosion is suspected to have occurred during coal mining activities at the site, which is believed to be an illegal operation.

Asked whether the mine was operating illegally, Kumar said, "Yes, it seems like that." He said the cause of the explosion is yet to be ascertained, and an inquiry will be conducted.

Kavinder vows to transform Ladakh into knowledge, innovation hub

class teaching and advanced laboratory infrastructure, he expressed appreciation for facilities such as Genome Sequencing, ICP-MS, XRD, and the Centralised Interdisciplinary Science Instrumentation Centre (CISIC).

"The availability of such cutting-edge facilities in a high-altitude region reflects Ladakh's emerging identity as a centre of excellence in higher education and research," he said.

"The university, which began with a handful of courses, is now offering around 72 academic programmes, including skill-based, agriculture, science, and technology-oriented courses," he said and emphasised that education must not remain limited to degrees alone but should produce job creators, innovators, and responsible global citizens.

Highlighting the importance of research, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies, Gupta encouraged the faculty to guide and mentor students towards opportunities in areas such as artificial intelligence, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and local innovation suited to Ladakh's unique ecology.

He stressed that teachers play a decisive role in preparing Ladakhi youth to drive inclusive development while preserving the region's cultural and environmental heritage.

Reaffirming the UT administration's full support, the LG assured that all necessary steps would be taken to further strengthen the University of Ladakh, including academic collaborations, exposure programmes, and capacity building of faculty and students.

He said efforts would be made to bring reputed national institutions like IIM/ IIT closer to Ladakh so that quality education is accessible within the region and brain drain is reversed.

The LG also highlighted the importance of value-based education, leadership, and peace studies, stating that Ladakh can emerge as a model for harmony-driven development through education. During the visit, he inaugurated the NABL-accredited ICP-MS facility, visited advanced laboratories, the Central Library equipped with digital and e-learning resources, and reviewed innovation-driven initiatives, including entrepreneurship and skill development programmes.

Earlier, the vice-chancellor (Prof) Saket Kushwaha and administrative secretary, higher education, Bhanu Prabha accorded a warm welcome to the LG.

In-charge registrar Nawang Tundup gave a detailed PPT presentation on various ongoing activities and courses offered at UoL campuses and colleges in Leh and Kargil.

Kushwaha apprised the LG of the academic and administrative initiatives undertaken by the university, including efforts to strengthen teaching-learning processes, promote research and innovation, foster global citizenship among students, and streamline governance through coordinated decision-making. He also briefed the LG on steps being taken to fill vacant teaching and non-teaching positions and to ensure improved academic infrastructure and student facilities across UoL campuses.

Administrative, teaching staff, faculty of the university, under-secretary, higher education, Sumera Shafi and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.