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Trust has become India's strongest currency: Modi on trade deals

Now, we are also going to give Thiruvalluvar Scholarships for students to study in India. And we look forward to seeing you in the Know India Program. You would be happy to know that we will soon be opening a new Consulate of India in Malaysia. This will bring us even closer," the Prime Minister said.

Reflecting on India's rapid transformation over the past decade, PM Modi added, "When we met in 2015, I spoke to you about India's potential. Now, I speak to you about India's performance. In one decade, India has seen a massive transformation. Then, we were the 11th largest economy in the world. Now, we are knocking on the doors of the Top 3. We are also the world's fastest-growing major economy."

He highlighted key achievements, including India becoming the world's second-largest mobile manufacturer, the significant growth of defence exports, India emerging as the third-largest startup hub globally, and the creation of the world's largest Digital Public Infrastructure and fintech ecosystem, with nearly half of the world's real-time digital transactions happening in India through the UPI platform.

He also noted India's commitment to clean energy, noting that solar capacity has increased 40-fold over the last decade.

Prime Minister Modi is on a two-day visit to Malaysia to further strengthen the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership through enhanced cooperation in economic, digital, cultural, and people-to-people domains.

Enthusiasm of tourists to visit J&K hasn't diminished: Amit Shah

Secretary Govind Mohan, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and DGP Nalin Prabhat, among others, officials said.

Shah arrived here late Thursday night and kicked off his three-day visit to the region by touring the forward outposts of the Border Security Force (BSF) at Gurnam and Bobiyian along the International Border in Kathua district on Friday.

On his return from Kathua, he had chaired a security review meeting, which, among others, was attended by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, with a focus on freeing J&K from terrorism.

The home minister also met the families of several policemen who had laid down their lives fighting terrorism and handed over job letters to them. A BJP delegation also called on the home minister on Friday.

"I held meetings in Jammu with the state office-bearers and MLAs and MPs of J&K BJP. The party will continue working to ensure the ground-level reach of PM Modi's development initiatives, while expanding the organisation to realise the vision of a developed Jammu and Kashmir, a secure Jammu and Kashmir," Shah posted on X after the meeting.

The home minister returned to Delhi on Saturday afternoon after the conclusion of the review meeting, officials said.

No proposal to relax CLU norms: Govt tells Assembly

It was clarified that there was no proposal to exempt rural areas from the existing provisions related to CLU.

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

MLAs - Vikram Randhawa, Rajiv Jasrotia & R S Pathania - raised supplementary questions on the subject.

Mystery shrouds SI's death

awaited. Police had taken cognizance of the matter and initiated necessary proceedings.

No proposal to open new wine shops: Govt

existing wine shops during 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The government clarified that no complaints regarding issuance of benami liquor licences had been received. It clarified that all licences were issued strictly to domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir, as per provisions of the J&K Excise Act, 1958, and the Excise Policy notified from time to time.

No new admin units for now

Eidgah and Srinagar North tehsils.

The chief minister said the government's focus was to make the already created administrative units in Jammu and Kashmir fully functional. Most of the MLAs had met him and expressed concern over the non-functioning of several units established in the past, he added.

"It is impractical to demand new units when existing ones remain non-operational," he remarked.

He stated that the government would consider creation of new administrative units only after ensuring full functionality of the existing ones.

Earlier, Jal Shakti minister Javed Ahmed Rana, replying on behalf of the chief minister, who also holds the revenue portfolio, informed the legislative assembly that services in Eidgah Tehsil and Srinagar North Tehsil were being delivered efficiently to the general public well within the prescribed timeframe under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

He said the existing infrastructure and manpower were being optimally utilised to ensure smooth delivery of services.

Responding to a question on whether the government intends to consider the persistent public demand for carving out a new Tehsil by bifurcating areas under Eidgah and North Tehsils, the Minister said that there is no such proposal presently under consideration in the department.

Legislators Abdul Majeed Larmi and Tanvir Ali Sadiq raised supplementary questions on the subject.

AN-32 Kargil courier service commences

Commissioner Development (ACD), Kargil, Shafiq Ahmed.

The executive councillor and the deputy commissioner appreciated IAF for its sustained support in operating the Kargil Courier Service every winter. They emphasised that the service was of immense benefit to needy passengers, particularly elderly citizens, patients undergoing medical treatment in Jammu and Srinagar, and students.

In Srinagar, the AN-32 aircraft crew was received by Chief Coordinator, Kargil Courier Service, Aamir Ali, Javed Anjum, Airport Director, Srinagar, along with officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), CISF, Station Manager

AIASL, Liaison Officer, and Assistant Liaison Officer.

On the first day of operation, 29 passengers were lifted from Kargil to Srinagar and around 53 from Srinagar to Kargil including children and infants.

Later, the deputy commissioner, along with the additional deputy commissioner, inspected the arrangements at Kargil Airport, including security, frisking, ticket-checking counters, luggage scanning, boarding procedures, and other related facilities. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officials to ensure the smooth, safe, and efficient functioning of the Kargil Courier Service throughout the winter season.

Sonia opposes revision plea in electoral roll case

ments.

Opposing these claims, Sonia Gandhi, in her reply, has maintained that the allegations are unfounded and that the petition is built on incorrect and misleading assertions.

Recently, the Sessions Court at Rouse Avenue had issued a notice to Sonia Gandhi while hearing the revision petition. The direction was passed by Sessions Judge Vishal Gogne after preliminary submissions were made on behalf of the revisionist.

Senior Advocate Pavan Narang, appearing for Vikas Tripathi, had argued that the material placed on record indicated serious irregularities in the manner her name was entered into the electoral roll before she became an Indian citizen. He submitted that certain documents may have been forged or falsified to secure her inclusion in the 1980 rolls and pointed out that her name was later deleted and then re-entered in 1983 on the basis of an application filed in January 1983.

He further argued that under the Representation of the People Act, only an Indian citizen can be enrolled as a voter, and therefore, the entries require judicial scrutiny. He also stated that while the initial complaint relied on an article containing clips of electoral rolls, the revisionist has since obtained attested copies from the Election Commission of India and placed them on record to support the allegations.

The revision petition stems from Tripathi's earlier complaint, which was dismissed by the Magistrate at the threshold on the ground that it lacked legal foundation and relied on uncertified photocopies of electoral records. The Magistrate had also observed that issues relating to citizenship and electoral rolls fall within the jurisdiction of the Central Government and the Election Commission of India and cannot be adjudicated through a criminal complaint.

NC, BJP MLAs clash in assembly over 'special status'

Referring to sloganeering by an NC MLA in the House, Sharma asked where such a status exists in the Constitution.

The BJP leader accused the Abdullah family of deceiving the people of Kashmir and using the demand for 'special status' to cover up governance failures. He alleged that the issue was being raised to legitimise past electoral promises.

Sharma said that instead of addressing concerns of daily wagers, unemployed youth and beneficiaries under AAY, DPL and EWS categories, the ruling party was resorting to rhetoric. "When questioned on failures, they raise the bogey of special status," he said.

His remarks were countered by NC MLAs with slogans in favour of Article 370. BJP MLAs also resorted to sloganeering, leading to commotion that continued for a few minutes.

No import benefits to US for agricultural products: Goyal

pecially MSMEs, farmers and fishermen.

The union minister also named key items that will enjoy zero duty under the India-US interim trade agreement. He said that several Indian exports to the United States, including gems and diamonds, pharmaceutical products, and smartphones, will continue to attract zero duty.

"In this way, there are numerous such items on which zero duty will be levied in the future," he added.

In the agricultural sector, a wide range of products will also benefit from a zero reciprocal tariff. These include spices, tea, coffee and their derivatives, coconut and coconut oil, vegetable wax, areca nut, Brazil nut, cashew nut, chestnut, as well as many fruits and vegetables, providing significant opportunities for Indian farmers.

Adding to the details, the senior leader also stated that the increase in exports will create lakhs of new job opportunities for women and youth in India.

Govt action against Maoists ended fear in Bastar: Prez

gion, and a new dawn of development was setting in.

Speaking after inaugurating the three-day divisional-level Bastar Pandum festival in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, the President appealed to those who have renounced violence and joined the mainstream to trust the Constitution and democracy and not be misled by those seeking to divert them from the path of peace.

"Bastar's natural beauty and rich cultural traditions have always attracted people, but the region unfortunately suffered for years due to the menace of Maoism," the President said.

Noting that Naxalism caused the maximum damage to youth, tribals and Dalits, Ms. Murmu said that people associated with Maoist activities are now shunning violence, leading to the return of peace in the region.

"Government of India's decisive action against Maoists resulted in bringing an end to the atmosphere of fear and distrust", she added.

The President said she had been informed that a large number of Naxalites have surrendered and that the government is ensuring those who return to the mainstream are able to lead a normal and dignified life.

"With the government's efforts and the cooperation of the people, a new dawn of development is rising in Bastar," Ms. Murmu said.

She urged people to have faith in the system and move forward with hard work and dedication, describing democracy as a source of strength.

"I appeal to those who have renounced violence and joined the mainstream to have faith in the Constitution and democracy, and not be misled by those who seek to divert them," the President added.

Referring to her own journey to the top Constitutional post, Ms. Murmu said it reflected the strength of Indian democracy that a daughter from a small village in Odisha was today addressing you as President.

"You have even greater courage and strength. The government is dedicated to you," she said.

The President said the government is committed to the welfare of the poor, deprived and backward sections of society, stressing that their upliftment remains a top priority.

Rejecting the notion that Chhattisgarh is a backward State, President Murmu highlighted the State's grandeur and cultural heritage.

She described the culture of the tribal communities as invaluable, ancient yet enduring, saying those who wish to understand inclusivity and equality should experience Bastar Pandum.

Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and others were present.

India reiterates stance on import of Russian oil

In a press briefing later in the day, Union minister Piyush Goyal assured that the India-US trade deal framework will not harm Indian farmers, MSMEs, artisans, or craftsmen, and said their interests remain fully protected.

"I can say with absolute certainty that the farmers, MSMEs, artisans, and craftsmen of India will not suffer any kind of loss," Goyal said

When asked whether India will stop purchasing Russian oil, as mentioned in a White House statement announcing the elimination of the additional tariffs imposed on India for the purchase, Piyush Goyal had said, "MEA will give information about it."

After announcing the interim framework between the United States and India trade agreement, the White House had said, "India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil, has represented that it will purchase United States energy products from the United States, and has recently committed to a framework with the United States to expand defense cooperation over the next 10 years."

Cong alleges Indo-US trade pact 'betrayal' with India

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India has not given any duty concessions on any dairy product and claimed that several Indian goods, including agricultural products, will attract zero reciprocal tariff in the US.

India and the US announced on Saturday that they have reached a framework for an interim trade agreement, under which both sides will reduce import duties on a number of goods to boost the two-way trade.

Khera said this is not a pact with the US, but a "compromise with our self-esteem and the interests of our farmers, MSMEs, and the middle-class".

Noting that India has become a dumping ground for the US, and it has happened under Modi's rule, he said, "With this deal, the back of farmers would be broken further, and the coming days will prove how farming in the country would be destroyed due to this deal."

Taking a swipe at the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, Khera said it now works according to the US time, alleging that all decisions, whether on announcing a ceasefire of military conflicts or a trade deal, are taken in the US.

He said the trade deal was signed between India and the US without Goyal even travelling abroad.

"The government is functioning in accordance with the American time zone, and there cannot be anything more regrettable than this. A deal is between two partners sitting across the table and not due to blackmail.

"That is called surrender. The name is Narendra, the work is surrender. This deal has once again proved this," Khera said, alleging that Modi has "surrendered" before the US.

He said the Congress does not feel good when the prime minister "surrenders" before any other country, as "it is unfortunate".

Khera alleged that this was not the first time that Modi was seen "surrendering" India's interests before other countries.

"You have seen Narendra Modi giving clean chits to China. Now, we have gone and announced that we will buy products worth USD 500 billion over the next five years from the US. There is no corresponding commitment from the US.

"Your import bill with the US, from USD 40-42 billion a year, will have to go up to USD 100 billion a year. You know about the health of the rupee and the health of the economy. Where are you getting the money from, and what are the products you will buy? Piyush Goyal read out from the list of products that we will not buy. But he, very conveniently and cleverly, hid the list of what all will come and what all will be dumped," the Congress leader said.

He said earlier, India used to hold talks with the US and other countries, looking them in the eye.

According to a joint statement, India has expressed its intention to purchase US energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal worth USD 500 billion over the next five years.

Goyal said the interim pact will open a USD 30 trillion market for Indian exporters, especially for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), farmers, and fishermen, as the US duties on Indian goods will come down to 18 per cent.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that Goyal's defence of the India-US trade deal from the point of view of Indian farmers is "too clever by half".

He said the joint India-US statement has something called "additional products" that are not specified.

"This is far too open-ended and shows something is being hidden. It says India has agreed to address long-standing barriers to the trade in US food and agricultural products. What does this mean if not the removal of restrictions on GM crops and dairy products? There will undoubtedly be more concerns as fuller details are revealed," Ramesh said in a post on X.

Gen Dwivedi visits forward posts

at forward locations.

He commended the troops for their high morale and operational readiness.

During his visit, Gen Dwivedi also stopped at Kamsar, where he met Subedar (retd) Parvez Ahmed of 18 J&K Rifles.

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

Sub Parvez joined Army in March 1991 and retired in March 2019 after 28 years of service. Over the course of

his career, he served extensively in operational and instructional roles, including tenures as an instructor at training establishments. He also excelled in various specialised courses and was awarded for his service.

Following his retirement, Sub Parvez remained actively engaged with the local community. During Operation Sindoor, he played a significant role in supporting 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 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 & Kashmir.

For residents of the region, where military service is closely interwoven with everyday life, the visit highlighted the continuing connection between Army, its veterans and the communities they come from.

Innovation, entrepreneurship foundations of nation-building: Kavinder

addresses local challenges with global relevance.

Speaking on PRAGYAAN 2026, the LG said, "It is more than a science exhibition, a movement that nurtures curiosity and scientific thinking among children. Such platforms inspire young minds to ask questions, experiment and develop a spirit of discovery, laying the foundation for future scientists and innovators."

Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gupta said India's youth will be the driving force behind transforming the country into a global innovation powerhouse.

He emphasised that government policies were focused on empowering youth, promoting startups and strengthening research and innovation ecosystems.

Sharing his recent experience at the University of Ladakh, he highlighted the presence of world-class laboratories and modern research infrastructure in the high-altitude region.

He said these facilities were enabling youth from border and remote areas to access global-quality education and research opportunities.

Highlighting the immense potential of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and Himalayan regions, Gupta said these areas offer vast opportunities in green technologies, agri-startups, tourism innovation and digital services. He added that geographical challenges are now emerging as strengths with focused policy support.

The LG praised IIT Jammu for emerging as a hub of research, innovation and startup culture, and commended its faculty for shaping the architects of New India. He also proposed exploring a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ladakh Administration and IIT Jammu to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students and researchers, particularly from border areas.

Gupta urged youth to innovate fearlessly, learn from failures and contribute actively to India's progress. He expressed confidence that Udyamitsav 2026 and PRAGYAAN 2026 will generate new ideas, nurture enterprises and strengthen India's position as a global innovation leader.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Prof Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, highlighted the Institute's vision of building a vibrant ecosystem that promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and experiential learning.

He noted that platforms such as Udyamitsav and PRAGYAAN serve as vital bridges between academia and society, offering meaningful exposure to students, particularly school students, by connecting classroom learning with hands-on experience, research, and creative exploration.

Dr Vijay Kumar Pal, Faculty-in-Charge, shared that students from across India are participating in a wide range of activities including a startup expo, fintech competitions, CXO roundtable discussions, finance quizzes, and a mock IPL auction. These engagements aim to cultivate entrepreneurial competencies such as decision-making, teamwork, risk assessment, and leadership, while aligning with the vision of Make in India by encouraging innovation and job creation.

Presenting the vision of PRAGYAAN 2026 - Curiosity to Creation, Dr. Yogesh M. Nimdeo, Faculty-in-Charge, highlighted PRAGYAAN as IIT Jammu's flagship Open Day and a large-scale STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) outreach initiative. Designed as an experiential bridge between school education and higher learning, PRAGYAAN seeks to transform curiosity into hands-on creation and classrooms into gateways of innovation.

This year, PRAGYAAN 2026 is hosting over 6,000 students and educators from schools across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, making it one of IIT Jammu's largest academic outreach initiatives. The campus has been transformed into a living laboratory with over 130 exhibition stalls and more than 45 indoor and outdoor scientific and creative activities, featuring innovation exhibits, live demonstrations, maker spaces, ProtoSpace and Tinkerers' Lab walk-throughs, and direct interactions with IIT Jammu students and faculty.

Special emphasis has also been placed on educator and leadership engagement through initiatives such as Rubrics, a structured programme for teachers focusing on pedagogy, assessment, and technology-enabled learning, and the Principals' Conclave, which provides a forum to deliberate on sustainable STEAM ecosystems and long-term school-IIT collaboration. Creative expression forms an integral part of PRAGYAAN through platforms such as Rangmanch, along with initiatives like the Junior Open STEAM Hackathon and STEAM Innovation Challenge 2026, encouraging inquiry-driven, socially relevant problem-solving.

Gupta also visited the robotics and innovation stalls, where students showcased projects including a drone demonstration, science kits, a robotic hand, and live painting, reflecting a confluence of technology, creativity, and interdisciplinary thinking. He interacted with student innovators and appreciated their ideas and presentations. The Chief Guest also undertook a brief tour of the IIT Jammu campus, where he was apprised of the Institute's academic infrastructure, research facilities, and ongoing initiatives.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Prof. M. T. Arvind, Chief Innovation Officer; Prof. Anurag Misra, Dean (IPM); Dr. Ankit Kathuria, Faculty-in-Charge (Sponsorship), along with senior officials, faculty members, industry experts, students, and visiting school representatives.