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ULB, panchayat elections to be held soon: Omar tells LA taken up after completion of delimitation and directions from the government.

He also informed that the tender process for the procurement of election material for panchayat polls had been completed and was underway for DDC elections.

He said 30,000 ballot boxes had been purchased and distributed to districts, while an MoU was signed with the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission for providing 7,000 multi-post electronic voting machines for ULB elections.

Highlighting reforms in the panchayati raj system, Omar said the Union territory had operationalised a three-tier structure with elections conducted for 4,291 sarpanches and 33,597 panchs, besides the constitution of BDCs and DDCs.

He said the government had undertaken construction of 600 panchayat bhawans with internet connectivity and trained over 7.25 lakh participants in governance, planning and financial management between 2022 and 2025. "Amendments to the laws have ensured reservation for women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes," he added.

Omar said that digital platforms, such as eGramSwaraj and initiatives like the SVAMITVA scheme, had been introduced to enhance transparency, accountability and provide a record of rights to rural households.

Need to strike decisively against terrorism: LG Sinha

mindset showing society that lasting peace flows from mutual trust. It proves security strengthens through relationships and community involvement," he said.

"We reaffirm our vow for a drug-free J&K and J&K Police Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament declares that commitment," he said.

He also reiterated the commitment of police and UT administration to hold youth's hands, create brighter opportunities for them, and build a society where talent gets platforms, young energy finds direction, and dreams gain resources.

DGP Nalin Prabhat, Special DG (coordination) S J M Gillani, commandant general, home guards, civil defence & SDRF, Abdul Ghani Mir, ADGP (armed police) Anand Jain, senior officials of police & civil administration, members of hockey associations and eminent sports personalities attended the inaugural ceremony.

Speaker takes serious note of mic issue

stated that bringing a microphone into the House by a member was unethical. "I take serious note of this matter," he said.

Rather directed the assembly secretariat to examine the issue thoroughly and initiate appropriate action in accordance with the rules.

Rs 19 cr worth cocaine seized

ashram, had deposited fake currency notes, having a face value of Rs 9,000, according to officials.

Officials said a probe was launched after registering an FIR under relevant sections of BNS at Bari Brahma police station. During probe, police obtained bank account statements of the accused who was presently residing at Jalalabad in Sunjwan area of Jammu.

Scrutiny of the accounts revealed balances of about Rs 18 lakh in J&K Bank and Rs 2.40 lakh in PNB, officials said, adding that a special investigation team was set up by the SSP, Samba, to ascertain the source of the bank balances, given that the accused was a driver by profession.

During questioning, the accused disclosed that he was selling cocaine since long and had earned the said amount through drug trafficking, officials said.

Police recovered two packets of cocaine, weighing approximately 1937.80 grams, in cardboards wrapped with cello tape hidden in the garage at his workplace at Bari Brahma, officials said, adding relevant sections of NDPS Act were then added in the case.

More arrests and recoveries were expected at the disclosure of the arrested drug peddler, officials said.

Meanwhile, two drug peddlers were arrested along with about 55 grams of heroin during vehicle checking at Chenani in Udhampur district in the morning, officials said.

The accused were on way to Srinagar from Jammu in a car when they were intercepted by police, leading to the recovery of the narcotic substance, the officials added.

Try not to make AI or mobile phone master: Modi to students

afraid of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, but use them to hone their skills and improve potential.

"We should try not to make AI or mobile the master; some kids do not eat food unless they see the smartphone. We can use AI efficiently," he said.

The prime minister also urged students to practice previous papers and have a good sleep to perform better at examinations.

"You will never feel tense after preparing well for exams. A good night's sleep will keep you cheerful for the rest of the day," Modi said.

The prime minister said he felt good to see that the students of Classes 10 and 12 in the country can also carry the dream of Viksit Bharat 2047 in their minds.

"This is a matter of great happiness for me. We should adopt the habits of developed countries—we should turn off engines at red lights, we should not leave food, and should reduce wastage... Discipline is very important in our life..." The prime minister recalled the role of his teachers in his days as a student and their insistence on exercise to remain healthy.

"If you ask any great person, they will say that their mother and teachers helped shape their life," Modi said.

The first episode of the ninth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha was aired last week where the prime minister advised students to listen to everyone's advice but change lifestyle pattern only when they want to. He also told them that education should not feel like a burden and advised

them to focus not only on marks but also on improving life.

Launched in 2018, Pariksha Pe Charcha began as student interaction in townhall format before expanding into one of India's largest education engagement exercises. Registrations rose from about 38.8 lakh in 2023 to 2.26 crore in 2024, before touching 3.53 crore in 2025 - a milestone that earned the programme a Guinness World Record. The ninth edition broke the previous record with over 4.5 crore registrations.

Jitendra describes India as emerging healthcare hub

here, he said thyroid disorders must be viewed not merely as clinical conditions but as a national concern linked to human productivity, demographic strength, and the broader task of nation building.

Dr Singh said that undiagnosed and untreated thyroid conditions, particularly hypothyroidism, impact energy levels, workforce efficiency, and long-term national output, especially in a country where over 70 pc of the population was below 40 years of age.

The conference saw the participation of eminent endocrinologists, senior faculty members, nuclear medicine specialists, surgeons, and researchers from premier medical institutions across the country.

Referring to the estimated 42 million Indians living with thyroid disorders, Dr Singh said that the scale of the challenge demands proportionate research attention and public health response.

He stated that hypothyroidism affects nearly 11 percent of the adult population, with a substantial number remaining undiagnosed or untreated. He drew attention to the serious implications of undetected hypothyroidism during pregnancy, which can lead to congenital hypothyroidism and irreversible neurodevelopmental consequences in children if not addressed through timely screening and intervention.

MHA forms panel to deal digital arrests

mandations made by the Amicus Curiae should also be considered by the concerned quarters alongside the directions already issued on December 1 last year.

The status report filed by the MHA on January 12 detailed a multi-agency offensive involving the CBI, RBI, Telecom Department and top IT ministries to dismantle transnational syndicates using forged documents and "digital arrest" tactics to siphon funds from innocent citizens.

Acting on the directions of the bench, the report said the CBI has officially taken over the investigation into a high-profile fraud case of Delhi where the victim, a 76-year-old widowed pensioner, was allegedly duped of Rs 1.64 crore through a "digital arrest" scam where she was threatened by impersonators using fake documents.

The CBI informed the court that these scams are often perpetrated by "organised and transnational cybercrime syndicates" and that the agency is now utilising INTERPOL channels to dismantle international modules. The MHA has established an IDC under the chairmanship of the special secretary (internal security).

The panel includes joint secretary-level officers from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.

It said the committee is mandated to identify legislative gaps, suggest corrective measures and ensure "time-bound compliance" across the banking and telecom sectors.

The court-appointed amicus curiae, senior advocate N S Nappinai, has proposed a landmark shift in victim relief and suggested that releasing frozen proceeds to victims based on portal complaints and indemnity bonds, without mandating a formal FIR registration in all cases.

The amicus also suggests that platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram limit the duration of video calls from unknown numbers to prevent prolonged coercion.

The government has requested a one-month extension from the Supreme Court to consolidate inputs from all stakeholders.

The committee's next focus will be on strengthening the "Adjudication Mechanism" under Section 46 of the IT Act and finalising a national online portal for cyber-crime adjudication.

"In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to grant a period of at least one month to enable the respondents to obtain inputs from the remaining members of the Inter-Departmental Committee and to undertake further 4 deliberations thereon, so as to place a consolidated and considered outcome before this Hon'ble Court," the MHA said in its status report.

De-freezing of teachers' posts on the anvil: Sakina

Administrative Council in 2018, and the government was actively working to de-freeze these posts so that fresh recruitment was expedited in the department.

She informed the House that 594 posts of lecturers in 27 disciplines had been referred to JKPSC, and 727 non-teaching & 43 MTS posts had been referred to finance department for revival/concurrence.

Regarding filling up of vacant posts of teachers, she apprised that all these posts had been frozen for transition of RRETs, Teacher Grade II/III to clear the salary issue of teachers who were engaged under SSA.

She also said that in 2025-2026, a total of 258 senior lecturers were elevated as in-charge principals and 56 PG masters/teachers were elevated as in-charge lecturers.

She added that 551 PG masters/teachers were placed as in-charge headmasters and a proposal for placement of more than 500 additional masters as headmasters was currently under process in the department.

She said that 80 Headmasters were elevated as in-charge Zonal Education Officers. In non-gazetted cadre, she said that 1170 Teachers have been elevated as Masters in 2025-26.

Regarding Udhampur district, she said that 42 positions of Principals out of 43, 8 posts of ZEOs out of 11 and

243 posts of lecturers out of 538 have been filled in the district. She added that engagement of CRCs as well as rationalisation of staff is under process to overcome shortage of staff in schools across J&K.

The minister said that the Pupil Teacher Ratio in respect of Schools of Udhampur West constituency is 1:16, which shows sufficient staff is available as per enrolment. She added that for academic quality enhancement subject specific teachers, CRCs, online classes are being arranged.

She attributed the improved performance of Jammu Division in the 10th and 12th board exams to the government's initiatives, saying these efforts have led to a notable academic upswing, with results surpassing those of previous years.

MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania raised a supplementary question.

Oppn to moveresolution to remove LS Speaker

thanks and for not initiating action against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and for making unsubstantiated charges against women MPs of the Congress.

They said a statutory resolution in this regard would soon be moved in the Lok Sabha.

The resolution requires signatures of 100 MPs in the Lok Sabha and the signatures of various Opposition MPs is under process.

Sources said the decision to move the resolution was taken at a meeting of Opposition leaders held in the chamber of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge this morning. The TMC also attended the meeting besides other parties, including the left, DMK, SP, RJD, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (sp) and RSP.

Uproar in LA over SASCI; BJP MLAs

Walk out alleging unfairness

had received a huge mandate to protect the interests of Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and to work towards reclaiming the erstwhile state with all its safeguards intact.

"It is unfortunate that instead of honouring that mandate, you are putting the entire J&K on sale today," he said.

Para urged the CM to rethink the scheme, cautioning that J&K should not be pushed towards a situation similar to the one faced by "failed states like Sri Lanka and Pakistan".

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary led the counter attack and rejected the allegations, accusing the opposition leaders of "playing to the gallery" and politicising a financial assistance framework intended for development.

While the chair was trying to pacify the situation and was asking a National Conference member to speak, BJP objected and tried to enter the well, alleging that they were not being given adequate time to speak and later moved out of the House.

As the disorder continued, Gul adjourned the House half-an-hour before the scheduled time till 2.30 pm.

Raising concerns over governance and budgetary performance, the PDP legislator said while people had high expectations from the NC government, Jammu and Kashmir was passing through "the most unprecedented times".

"There is no doubt that the challenges before the NC government are immense, and it is also true that such challenges have not been faced by any government in the past seven decades," he said.

He acknowledged that the present government was operating under serious constraints but said public expectations remained high and could not be ignored.

Referring to last year's budget of Rs 1.40 lakh crore, he said nearly Rs 40,000 crore was earmarked for revenue expenditure while capital expenditure stood at around Rs 7,600 crore.

"With barely 30 days left for the financial year to end, I want to know whether the government is capable of spending nearly Rs 1 lakh crore within this short period," Para said.

He claimed that only about 12 per cent of expenditure had been achieved so far and alleged that around 100 projects recorded zero spending, including in critical sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, health and education.

He also described cancer as a "silent pandemic" claiming thousands of deaths without adequate response and questioning the silence of the government on this issue.

The legislator further raised concerns over the closure of 215 schools linked to banned Jamaat-e-Islami, affecting nearly 50,000 students, and sought a detailed explanation for the decision.

He pointed out that there was no allocation for a National Law University in the budget and criticised the government for failing to take a decision on setting up deemed universities in all 20 districts as an effort to prevent targeted attacks on Kashmiri students outside J&K and the alleged failure of the government to protect them.

He also flagged rising diesel and transport costs, mounting financial pressure on the population, and the lack of focused support for orphans and other vulnerable sections.

Won't allow anyone to

create impediment: SC

uniformly to all States.

The Bench also recorded the State government's submission that it had provided a list of 8,505 Group B officers to the poll panel.

It said these officers could be trained and deployed for the SIR process, clarifying that the manner of their engagement and their work profile would be decided by the Election Commission.

The court further emphasised that the final authority for revisions to the electoral rolls would rest with the designated electoral roll officers.

During the hearing, senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Mamata Banerjee, raised concerns over the appointment of micro-observers and the possibility of large-scale exclusion of eligible voters. "We do not want any mass exclusion," he submitted.

"Gunda Raj" unacceptable: CJI

plea for urgent listing before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria.

"I was appearing before the Tis Hazari court in a court of ADJ (Additional District Judge) Harjit Singh Pal. I was appearing on behalf of the accused. The complainant's advocate, with many goons, attacked me... They hit me, and the judge was sitting right there. All members of the court were there," the lawyer said.

"This happened on February 7. Have you informed this to the Delhi High Court chief justice. Write a letter to the Chief Justice and mark that to me as well. Let the High Court Chief Justice take cognisance. Action will be on the administrative side. This kind of 'Gunda Raj' is not acceptable to us. This means the failure of the rule of law. Do this and tell me," the CJI said.

The bench asked the lawyer to move the jurisdictional high court.

Empowering local enterprises

key to inclusive growth: Kavinder

strengthening the UT's presence in national markets.

As part of the programme, products from 11 different

brands developed under the 'Enterprising Ladakh' initiative were on display. The participants represented a wide cross-section of Ladakh's emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem, including students from colleges, universities and ITIs, young entrepreneurs, SHGs, and established business owners.

The exhibition featured a diverse range of products such as 3D models, crocheted items, khataks, Ladakhi cookies, sheep-wool products, locally made cakes, sea buckthorn products, and traditional Zanskar ghee. These displays reflected the vast economic and creative potential of the region and provided participants with valuable exposure to entrepreneurship and business management practices.

Later, artists from Ladakh presented a vibrant cultural programme, highlighting the region's unique traditions and artistic expressions, which drew appreciation from visitors at Dilli Haat.

The LG remarked that the vibrant colours, craftsmanship, and dedication on display reflected Ladakh's rich cultural heritage and the determination of its people.

He stated that the participants were not merely exhibiting products but were strengthening the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" by bringing Ladakh's traditions, skills, and entrepreneurship to a national platform.

He said India's diversity is its strength, and such initiatives help connect regions, markets, and people.

The LG noted that every showcased product carried the values of tradition, dedication, and dignity of labour.

He added that the artisans and entrepreneurs were not just selling goods but presenting Ladakh's story to the nation, describing