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Congress Ignored Northeast, put country at risk: Modi

said, referring to the Tata group plant at Jagiroad. "More than 125 people from the North East have been bestowed with Padma awards since 2014," he added. The PM also paid tributes to the bravehearts who were martyred at Pulwama in Kashmir in 2019, and asserted that the world had seen how the government responded to the terror attack.

After the Pulwama terror attack, that had claimed the lives of 40 CRPF cops, India had launched Operation Balakote, targeting a JeM training camp in Pakistan's Balakote woods and killing several top terrorists.

The country's response was also witnessed during Operation Sindoor following the terror attack in Kashmir Pahalgam last year, the PM said.

At Pahalgam, terrorists had on April 22, 2025 massacred 25 Hindu holidayers and a local.

"The Congress did nothing to protect the nation's security but gave only statements and indulged in scams while buying weapons," Modi alleged.

The PM said the emergency landing facility (ELF) that he had inaugurated at Moran bypass in Dibrugarh this morning is "not just a landing facility but a way to ensure the nation's security".

"A new history was created when today I landed on the Moran highway where aircraft can land," he said.

The PM made a historic landing at the first emergency landing facility (ELF) of the northeast aboard the C-130J aircraft in Assam's Dibrugarh district.

Modi said, "The BJP is committed to ensuring the speedy development of Assam and also protect its identity and traditions. It is, therefore, very important that the double-engine BJP government returns to power in Assam." The party considers the NE as the 'Ashtalakshmi' and is focused on its development to make it 'Atma Nirbhar and Viksit'," he said.

The focus of this year's budget is on improving connectivity, which will lead to an increase in employment opportunities, the PM said.

"The last time I had come to Guwahati, I engaged with students in the 'Pariksha pe Charcha' on a cruise over the Brahmaputra river and today, I walked on the newly inaugurated Kumar Bhaskar Varman bridge, connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati, over the mighty river to give a message to people in the rest of the country to come here so that it will encourage river tourism," the PM said.

Modi said he had the firm belief that the BJP will secure victory by a huge margin in the 2026 Assam assembly polls, but it is "not just about winning elections alone, we must win the hearts and minds of the people".

The credit for BJP's success goes only to party workers as "we believe in organisational strength: My biggest qualification and source of pride is that Narendra Modi is a BJP party worker," he added.

"Party workers are the oxygen of BJP, and I urge them to reach out to the people of the state not only before the elections but even after the next government is formed," Modi said.

He assured the people that he will "return their love for BJP with interest through development".

He also paid his tributes to former Union Minister Kabindra Purkayastha, who died last month.

Posters of wanted JeM terrorists put up at strategic locations

dismantle terror networks operating in the area, including Doda and neighbouring Kishtwar district, which have witnessed a series of encounters in recent years after terrorists attempted to revive activities in parts of the Jammu region that had largely been cleared of terrorism," the officials added.

A massive search operation has been underway in the higher reaches of Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri and Poonch districts over the past one month, resulting in nearly a dozen encounters - mostly in Kishtwar, Udhampur and Kathua - and leading to the killing of four Pakistani terrorists of JeM and an army soldier.

While two terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Ramnagar forest area of Udhampur and another in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar on February 4, one terrorist was gunned down at Parhetar in Kathua district on January 23.

An Army paratrooper also lost his life in a gunfight in Doda's Chatroo area on January 18.

Officials said that search operations, particularly in Thathri and Gandoh areas of Doda, had been intensified after locals reported suspicious movement of persons believed to be terrorists who might have escaped recent cordon-and-search operations in Kishtwar district and moved towards adjoining forest belts.

LG, CM greet people on Mahashivratri

nity, is a symbol of our spiritual tradition and communal harmony. Mahashivratri holds a place of profound sig-

Div Com Kashmir reviews SANJY-2026 arrangements

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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To ensure a smooth and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage of Yatris during SANJY-2026, Divisional Commissioner Anshul Garg today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to review arrangements at base camps along the route to the Holy Cave.

On the occasion, The Div Com issued slew of instructions for advance preparations for forthcoming annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized optimal utilization of already released funds to augment facilities for pilgrims. He instructed departments to submit detailed action plans for SANJY-2026, float tenders in advance, complete works within stipulated timelines and prepare realistic and practical cost estimates.

Highlighting the role of the Tourism Department as the nodal agency for the SANJY, he directed it to ensure accountability among stake-



holder departments.

To facilitate registration of pilgrims, the Divisional Commissioner instructed concerned authorities to increase staff deployment at RFID registration counters. He further directed the Animal Husbandry and Labour Departments to work in coordi-

nificance in our lives. The holy festival provides opportunity to pause and reflect the timeless virtues Almighty Shiva exemplifies. The teaching of Shiva embodies is one of universal service. The holy festival reminds us that each person carries the responsibility to contribute to humanity's wellbeing in the ways uniquely available to them," the LG said.

"May Almighty Shiva continue to shower his divine blessings upon us. May this festival strengthen the bonds of brotherhood for years to come. Har Har Mahadev!" he added.

Omar too extended his warm greetings to the people.

In his message, he said, "Mahashivratri is a sacred festival symbolising devotion, faith and spiritual awakening, and it inspires people to follow the path of righteousness, harmony and compassion."

"On the blessed occasion of Mahashivratri, I convey my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all. May this sacred occasion bring peace, happiness and prosperity to every household," the chief minister said.

He also prayed for strengthening the bonds of brotherhood, unity and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, and wished that the festival may usher in progress and well-being for all.

Terrorist hideout busted in Doda woods

said.

As the recovery suggested recent movement of terrorists in the area, security forces further intensified their combing operation, the officials added.

Searches were in progress when reports last came in. Details were awaited.

Duty-bound to wipe out terrorism: CRPF DG

rorism from the country," he told reporters after paying tributes to the 40 CRPF personnel, who were martyred in a terror attack at Lethpora in the valley's Pulwama district.

The CRPF top brass, along with senior officers from Army and police, laid floral tributes to the fallen CRPF personnel on the seventh anniversary of the attack.

"We lost our 40 brave jawans on this day. We are here near the spot (of the attack) to pay homage to the martyrs," the CRPF DG said.

Singh highlighted that the CRPF family and the CRPF Pariwar Kalyan Sanastha are standing firmly with the families of the martyrs.

"During this period, we have provided several resources to the families of the martyrs. We allocated housing where needed; a total of 19 families have been provided homes, and land has been given to several other families in coordination with the respective state governments," he added.

He further noted that the CRPF and CRPF Pariwar Kalyan Sanastha are covering the full cost of education for the children of these families and will continue to do so.

"All children will receive compassionate appointments as they reach adulthood. Families have been granted approximately Rs 2.25 to Rs 3 crore in relief from the government," he said.

To address the genuine concerns of martyr families, a Veer Pariwar App has been launched. The CRPF Welfare Directorate maintains active communication with all martyr families to meet their needs, Singh said.

The CRPF chief said the force lost eight of its personnel in various operations last year.

"We are in contact with their families as well and remain dedicated to their welfare, addressing all their needs. I assure all martyr families that the CRPF stands with them and will strive to fulfil their requirements," he added.

The attack occurred on February 14, 2019, when a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden car into a CRPF bus, which was part of a convoy on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, resulting in the deaths of 40 CRPF personnel.

J&K, Uttarakhand eye giant-killing acts

victory, returning match figures of 12 for 110. Nabi has been among the leading wicket-takers this season with 46 scalps, spearheading a disciplined attack, while left-arm seamer Sunil Kumar has provided solid support with 22 wickets.

With the bat, Abdul Samad has led the charge with 543 runs, while veteran skipper Paras Dogra has contributed 484, anchoring the innings in pressure situations.

They now face a formidable Bengal side boasting depth in both departments.

Sudip Kumar Gharami's monumental 299 in the quarterfinal powered Bengal to an innings-and-90-run victory over Andhra in Kalyani, highlighting the solidity of their top order. Gharami has amassed 651 runs this season,

also reviewed operationalization of control rooms including ICCC and circulation of mitigation plans among agencies.

Also, he instructed for capacity augmentation of camps and installation of headcount cameras at designated parking areas.

To ensure seamless movement of SRTC buses during SANJY-2026, Police authorities were directed to facilitate smooth circulation of buses after debarking of yatries.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the progress of works undertaken by R&B, PHE and KPDCL and emphasized adherence to timelines. He also reviewed arrangements for supply of essential items, including ration and firewood, to the yatra camps.

During the meeting, special focus was laid on sanitation along the camps and routes, stationing of fire tenders at strategic locations, installation of signages and display screens, and expansion of telecom coverage in shadow areas by communication agencies.

while Sumanta Gupta (506), Anustup Majumdar (367) and Abhimanyu Easwaran (373) have added stability.

Bengal's bowling unit has been equally effective. While Shahbaz Ahmed leads the wicket charts for his side with 39 scalps, Bengal have an Indian pace line-up, led by Mohammed Shami (28) and Akash Deep (19) and Mukesh Kumar, who took five wickets in the quarterfinals. SS Jaiswal has chipped in with 20 wickets.

Bengal will enjoy the home advantage as the contest will be played at the Bengal Cricket Academy Ground in Kalyani.

In the other semifinal to be played at Lucknow's Ekana Cricket Stadium, Uttarakhand will face the eight-time champions Karnataka after continuing their rapid ascent in domestic cricket.

Uttarakhand booked their place in the last four with an innings-and-six-run win over Jharkhand in Jamshedpur, while Karnataka notched up a four-wicket win over Mumbai, the behemoths of Indian domestic cricket who have secured a record 42 titles.

For Uttarakhand, spinner Mayank Mishra starred with an eight-wicket match haul, including 5 for 22 in the second innings, and currently leads the tournament's wicket tally with 52.

All-rounder Jagadeesha Suchith has been pivotal, claiming 25 wickets with his left-arm spin and scoring 414 runs. Captain Kunal Chandel has been prolific with the bat, amassing 709 runs at an average above 64, while former Mumbai opener Bhupen Lalwani has added 409 as Uttarakhand finished second in their group before carrying that momentum into the knockouts.

Having outwitted defending champions Mumbai, Karnataka now stand on the cusp of domestic glory.

The southern side have not lifted the trophy since their back-to-back triumphs in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Chasing a ninth Ranji title, Karnataka bring pedigree and depth to the semifinal.

Mayank Agarwal (492) and Devdutt Padikkal (300) headline a strong batting lineup, while Smaran Ravichandran (688) and Karun Nair (631) have also enjoyed prolific seasons.

However, it is their premier batter KL Rahul who has proved decisive, scoring 138 in the quarterfinal. During Karnataka's back-to-back title-winning seasons, Rahul had amassed a combined 1,871 runs across the two campaigns, underlining his importance to their championship ambitions.

The bowling attack is equally potent, with leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal claiming 41 wickets and pacers Vidwath Kaverappa (37) and Shikhar Shetty (33) providing quality support.

India seamer Prasidh Krishna further strengthens the pace department.

While Bengal and Karnataka start as favourites on paper, both Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand have demonstrated the belief and discipline required to challenge established powers, setting up two compelling semifinal contests.

Judicial leadership suffers when we pretend judges to be perfect: CJI

plete, already formed and already perfected.

"In my opinion, while that view flatters the institution, it does not serve it. Judicial leadership does not suffer because judges are imperfect; it suffers when we pretend they are not," the CJI said.

He also said that for educating judicial leadership, a "more honest premise" needed acceptance - judges, like the institutions they lead, remain capable of growth, correction, and improvement.

"This is where, I believe, the Commonwealth Judicial Educators step in. CJEs are the quiet architects behind transformative journeys.

"Across our vast community of nations - spanning continents, cultures and legal traditions - the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEI) guides judges to become more than mere interpreters of law, moulds them into wise custodians of justice, equipped to navigate the moral and technical challenges of a world-order in flux," he said.

The chief justice added that law is a living, breathing entity that evolves with the world around it, and that the understanding of judges is tested when society changes, new challenges emerge, and complex questions arise.

"In such a dynamic landscape, our role as judges demands not only mastery of precedent but also the agility to interpret the law in ways that serve justice in our times.

"And when we learn from each other, we ensure that our decisions are not only informed by the law, but also the collective wisdom of the global judiciary. Mutual learning is, thus, the lifeblood of judicial growth," the CJI said.

He appreciated the CJEI for linking judicial educators, encouraging peer learning, and enabling jurisdictions to learn from one another without erasing their distinct contexts.

US trade deal to affect J&K: Omar

"The more stable our neighbouring countries are, the more it benefits us. No one wants to have wars and fights, or to have unstable neighbours - be it Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal or any other country," he told reporters after inaugurating the annual agritech festival 'GONGUL' at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in the valley.

"India wants democracy in Bangladesh and wants it to remain stable and prosper," Omar said.

"We hope that after their government formation, both the countries will improve their relations, which had otherwise witnessed some bitterness," he added.

To a question about the Indo-US trade deal, the chief minister said, "While he does not know how the deal would benefit the rest of the country, for Jammu and Kashmir" as of now, we can only see losses."

"The items that will be allowed to enter here duty-free are all what Jammu and Kashmir produces, like almonds, walnuts, apples, fresh fruit & dry fruit. You are saying there will be no impact, that fruits from Jammu and Kashmir will not be sold for less than Rs 70 a kilo. But what does it mean they will sell their good fruit and we will sell our bad ones?" he said.

"The fruit growers in Jammu and Kashmir have made huge investments to improve the quality of their produce," he said and added, "New varieties and high qualities have come up, we have been able to take the fruit to the markets at the right time through the CA stores. Now, if you are saying that good things will come from outside and less valued items should be sold from here, that is a huge joke with our growers. We want our best and high value products to be sold. So, I can only see losses because of this deal and no benefit," he added.

The chief minister said attempts were being made,

with the help of the UT's agriculture universities, to take technology-driven organic solutions to farmers to give a fillip to the rural economy and agriculture.

"People are visiting this festival in lakhs to benefit from this. That is what we want. If we have to compete with countries like the US - which seems to be the case after the trade deal because their agriculture produce will enter our country - we will have to improve our productivity and quality, for which this festival plays an important role," he added.

Sports emerging as transformative force for youth: Kavinder

edging out Shakar Chiktan Queens 2-1.

Gupta said Ladakh's winters, once seen as a challenge, had become a symbol of strength, discipline, and innovation. "Winter sports are opening new avenues for skill development, livelihoods, and sports tourism, while instilling confidence and resilience among the youth," he added.

Highlighting Ice Hockey as Ladakh's most popular and identity-defining sport, he said that being the state sport of Ladakh, it had become a powerful medium for nurturing talent and enabling young players to represent the region at national and international platforms.

He also welcomed the equal participation of women and men in the league, noting that Ladakh's daughters were moving forward with confidence and determination. "Sports are playing an important role in driving positive social change by promoting equality, self-belief, and leadership," he said.

Expressing gratitude to Royal Enfield Social Mission, the LG said, "Meaningful partnerships between institutions and local communities create lasting impact and strengthen grassroots sports ecosystems."

He lauded the active participation of youth from remote and border areas including Leh, Nubra, Sham, Kargil, Drass, Zaskar, Changthang, and Kharu, stating that Ladakh's talent was not limited by geography.

With the right opportunities and guidance, he said, Ladakh's youth could excel at every level.

Referring to the successful organisation of the Khelo India Winter Games, he said the event sent a strong message to the entire nation about Ladakh's immense potential to emerge as India's Winter Sports Capital.

The LG said the clear and inspiring vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop Ladakh as a national and international winter sports hub is guiding this transformation. He added that focused efforts are underway for infrastructure development, modern training facilities, promotion of sports tourism, and increased participation of local youth, ensuring holistic regional development.

He stated that sports are not limited to winning medals but play a crucial role in character building by promoting discipline, teamwork, leadership, and positive thinking. He emphasized the need to further strengthen Ladakh's sports culture so that every village, block, and school becomes a center of sporting activity, and sports are seen as a viable career pathway.

Congratulating the winning teams, the LG said that every player who stepped onto the field is a winner, as they chose hard work, discipline, and courage. He encouraged Ladakh's youth to believe in their dreams, work with dedication, and face challenges fearlessly to contribute to the progress of Ladakh and the nation.

He congratulated all winners, wishing players a bright future, and thanking the organisers for successfully conducting an inspiring and impactful sporting event.

The league, running from January 29 to February 14 in a full round-robin format, featured 75 matches across 11 men's and 6 women's teams from the region, including Leh, Nubra, Sham, Kargil, Dras, Zaskar, Changthang, and Kharu, highlighting widespread grassroots participation.

Among those present were Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Shri Moses Kunzang; former MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Ladakh; SSP Leh, Shree Ram R; President, IHAL, Namgyal Angchuk; Regional Head of Royal Enfield Social Mission Tsewang Dolma; District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Leh, Tsering Tashi and officials from ice hockey associations and Royal Enfield along with senior officials from UT Ladakh.

Pak drone-dropped heroin seized

the wee hours of this morning, officials said. During searches, two yellow packets containing 6.582 kg of heroin were found in the fields and seized, the officials added.

A case under the relevant sections of law was registered in this connection at the concerned police station.

'Lok Bhawan Chalo' march of Cong foiled; several detained

Besides them, AICC general secretary and CLP leader G A Mir, working president Raman Bhalla, and AICC secretary & Punjab MLA Pargat Singh were among others detained by police near Jewel Chowk, Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

Condemning the police action, he said Congress had planned a peaceful march to the Lok Bhawan to highlight the public welfare issues, but the leaders & activists were carted away in waiting police vehicles and lodged in district police lines.

The Congress said it would continue to fight for the rights and welfare of people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Interest of Bangladesh comes first: Tarique on ties with India

comprising the National Citizen Party (NCP) of students who led the 2024 uprising, came second with 77 seats.

Hasina's Awami League party was barred from taking part in elections.

Calling for unity among the political rivals, Rahman said, "Our paths and opinions may differ, but in the interest of the country, we must remain united," Rahman said in his first speech since the election.

"I firmly believe that national unity is a collective strength, while division is a weakness," he added.

Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman, 67, had initially alleged "inconsistencies and fabrications" in the vote, but earlier on Saturday he conceded, and said he would "serve as a vigilant, principled, and peaceful opposition".

"Freedom loving pro-democracy people of the country have once again brought victory to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party," he added, in an initial speech in English, before switching to Bangla.

The success of BNP chief Rahman, 60, marks a remarkable turnaround for a man who only returned to Bangladesh in December after 17 years in exile in Britain, far from Dhaka's political storms.

His father, president Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated in 1981, while his mother, Khaleda Zia, served three terms as prime minister and dominated national politics for decades.