



32 killed in human-wildlife conflicts between 2023-2025

A total of 15,661 cases of human-wildlife conflict were recorded across J&K between 2023 and 2025, resulting in 32 deaths and 350 injuries, with Jammu district alone accounting for nearly 18 per cent of these incidents.

Forest Minister Javed Rana gave this information in the Assembly on Tuesday in a written reply to a question by National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul.

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24 PSUs loss-making, 4 non-functional

Out of the 44 public sector undertakings in Jammu and Kashmir, 24 are making losses and four are non-functional, the Union Territory government informed the legislative assembly on Tuesday.

The government said it was examining ways to strengthen the sick PSUs and improve their operational and financial performance.

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No proposal to waive power bill arrears of farmers

The government on Tuesday informed the legislative assembly that there was no proposal under consideration to waive off outstanding electricity usage charges or arrears for small and marginal farmers in the Union Territory.

In a written reply to a question raised by Gharu Ram, Minister In-charge, Power Development Department (PDD), stated that 'the government does not intend to waive elec

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Shantmanu appointed as SEC



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 17

LG Manoj Sinha today appointed retired IAS officer Shantmanu as State Election Commissioner (SEC) for the Union Territory of J&K.

According to a notification issued by general administration department, the appointment has been made under sub-section

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Committee to examine issue of daily wagers' regularisation: Govt

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 17

The government today informed the legislative assembly that a total of 1,00,501 casual, daily-rated and other workers were registered across various departments through Aadhaar-based biometric identification and skill profiling, and a committee had been formed to examine the issue of their regularisation.

The information was placed before the House in a written reply during the ongoing session in response

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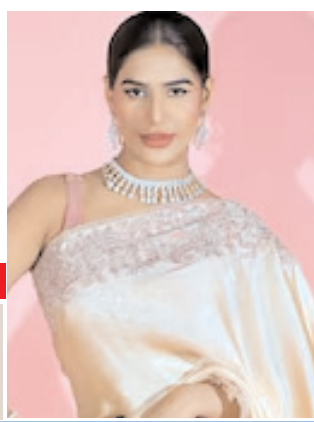
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India intensifying engagement with global partners from position of strength: EAM

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Poonam Pandey Reveals Blocking A Cricketer Who Called Her 'Cute' In DM: 'He Kept Messaging Me'

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Decision on restoration of statehood to J&K soon: Arjun Meghwal

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 17

Union Law & Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal today said statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be restored soon, prompting a quick response from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah who said that he hoped that the wait was not too long.

"While it is a very sensitive issue, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said in the Lok Sabha that J&K's statehood would be restored," he told reporters after attending a function at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

Meghwal was in Srinagar to lead a regional workshop on Tele-Law (DISHA) scheme, focusing on technology-enabled legal services. His comments on the region's political status drew immediate attention.

"You will get it but there is a process for it. I feel you will soon get to hear about a



decision in this regard," the union minister said.

"See, you have raised an important issue. It is a sensitive issue," he said. "See, the home minister has already said in the Lok Sabha that you will get this right. It has a process and I feel that you will soon get to hear a decision about it."

Reacting to Meghwal's comment, the chief minister, who was also present at the function, said that "no one will be satisfied" unless statehood was granted, and hoped the wait would not be long.

"I heard the union minister saying on the side-

lines that we will be hearing good news soon. It has been one and a half years of wait. We hope we do not have to wait much longer," Abdullah told reporters.

The chief minister said no one in Jammu and Kashmir would be satisfied till it was done.

"The process is on, though it is taking longer. We were expecting to get it by now but we have not got it yet. We have not given up hope, we are talking to the Centre on it continuously," he added.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre had abrogated the controversial Article 370

and abrogated the erstwhile J&K state into the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Home Minister Shah, while speaking in Lok Sabha on February 13, 2021, had said that Jammu and Kashmir's Union territory status was temporary and its statehood would be restored.

The workshop was held as part of the Tele-Law initiative under Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA), a Central Sector Scheme being implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

Among others, who participated in the workshop, included Justice Arun Palli - Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh - Secretary of Law & Justice Government of India, Niraj Verma and other senior officials and stakeholders.

The push for restoration recently intensified

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AI Impact Expo powerful convergence of ideas: PM

NEW DELHI, FEB 17: India AI Impact Expo 2026 was a powerful convergence of ideas, innovation and intent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

PM Modi on Monday inaugurated the Expo here featuring more than 600 high-potential startups and 13 country pavilions showcasing international collaboration in the AI ecosystem.

"India AI Impact Expo 2026 was a powerful convergence of ideas, innovation and intent. It showcased the extraordinary potential of Indian talent in

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17.27 lakh kanals of state land encroached: Govt tells LA

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 17

The government today informed the legislative assembly that over 17.27 lakh kanals of state land had been encroached across Jammu and Kashmir, of which over 14.29 lakh kanals was retrieved so far.

Replying to a question tabled by MLA Sham Lal Sharma regarding the status of encroached and retrieved state land, the revenue department told the House that in Kashmir division, 3,27,198.50 kanals of state land was en

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No land of KP migrants acquired without due process: Govt

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 17

No land belonging to Kashmiri migrants has been acquired in the valley in violation of prescribed legal procedures, Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Tuesday, asserting that the ruling National Conference has consistently worked to ensure justice for the displaced community.

Replying to a starred

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India, France forge 'Special Global Strategic Partnership'

Ink 21 agreements

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, FEB 17: India and France on Tuesday elevated their relations to a "special global strategic partnership" and vowed to boost cooperation in key sectors of defence, trade and critical minerals with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron describing the bilateral ties as a "force for global stability" in the face of increasing geopolitical turbulence.

The two leaders, following their talks in Mumbai, also virtually inaugurated an assembly line in Karnataka's Vemagal to build Airbus H125 helicopters that is expected to enhance India's aerospace manufacturing capabilities.

The two sides inked a total of 21 agreements and documents providing for deepening of cooperation in an array of areas including critical minerals, defence, high technology, renewable energy, and health.

The pacts included one



on defence cooperation and another on a joint venture between Bharat Electronics Ltd and French defence giant Safran to produce Hammer missiles in India. A separate pact was inked for reciprocal deployment of officers at Indian Army and French Land Forces establishments.

Modi hosted Macron for the talks hours after the French leader landed in Mumbai on a three-day India visit.

"The world is going through a period of uncertainty. In such an environment, the India-France partnership is a force for global stability. We are

combining France's expertise and India's scale," Modi said in his media statement.

The prime minister said the two countries share a "very special relationship" and that France is one of India's oldest strategic partners.

"And together with President Macron, we have given this strategic partnership unprecedented depth and energy. Based on this trust and shared vision, today we are establishing our relationship as a 'special global strategic partnership'," Modi said.

"This partnership is not

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Tarique Rahman sworn in as new PM of Bangladesh



and military brass.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath of office to 60-year-old Rahman at the

South Plaza instead of Bangabhaban, in a departure from a long-standing tradition.

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6 cops suspended after Pak duo, gangster flee juvenile home

Pakistanis held from Ludhiana after long chase

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 17

Even as higher authorities have placed under suspension an ASI and five cops, following the escape of two Pak nationals and a local gangster from a juvenile home at R S Pura near here on Monday evening, the Pakistanis were today apprehended by a police team from Ludhiana in Punjab following a hot pursuit.

Karajeet Singh alias

Gugga of Dablehar, R S Pura, and Pak nationals - Mohammad Sanaullah and Ahsan Anwar - attacked police personnel and fled from the juvenile home on Monday evening. Two cops were injured in the incident.

Officials said six police personnel, including an Assistant Sub-Inspector, were placed under suspension for dereliction of duty in connection with the incident.

The suspensions form part of a departmental in-

quiry to determine how the escape happened, why security was compromised, and whether there were lapses in duty by the deployed personnel, the officials added.

Special teams constituted after the escape carried out raids at dozens of locations amid an intensified manhunt for the runaways, officials said, adding that the teams finally apprehended both the Pakistanis were apprehended from Punjab's

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Committed to address problems of general public: Kavinder

Himalayan Mail News
LEH, FEB 17

Interacting with the delegations, that called on him here today, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today reiterated the UT administration's commitment to address problems of general public.

The delegations apprised him of several key issues related to employment, development and tourism.

A delegation led by Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohamad Haneeza Jan, discussed several is-



sues with the LG.

A delegation from Nubra, led by former Councillors - Tsering Sandup and Kunzang Lotus - highlighted development issues in the subdivision.

Skalzang Namgyal Gara from Zaskar raised development matters related to Pipting and sought the LG's intervention.

Another delegation from

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