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From Kerala Story to Dhurandhar, Cong, Left pros at lying: Modi

urge Congress leaders to refrain from making remarks that could endanger Indians living in the Middle East. "It is our government's strong ties with Gulf countries that are helping protect our people in these difficult times," he contended.

Earlier, the BJP accused Rahul Gandhi of spreading falsehoods to "praise" Pakistan and criticise India's stance on the West Asia conflict, alleging that "INC now means Islamabad National Congress".

BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, in a series of posts on X, claimed that the Congress had wrongly stated that Indian vessels such as Shivalik and Nanda Devi were not reaching the country and that India's ties with Iran had collapsed.

"Facts: seventh tanker of India Green Sanvi crosses Hormuz for India in another big embarrassment for 'Islamabad National Congress'," he said, adding that India has not only secured its people in the affected region but also safeguarded its energy interests.

In a video message, Poonawalla accused Rahul Gandhi of "continuously spreading falsehoods and politicising foreign policy".

"Politicising foreign policy has become Rahul Gandhi's standard operating procedure and that too based on falsehoods," he said.

"Rahul Gandhi, as Leader of Opposition, seems to behave like a 'Leader of Pakistan'. The same Pakistan he praises is not even in a position to stabilise its own economy. It is struggling to repay loans, and fuel is being distributed in small bottles. Iran and other countries have rejected Islamabad as a mediator," he said.

He alleged that Gandhi was prioritising "politics over national interest" and claimed that even leaders within the Congress had publicly disagreed with his statements.

"Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly undermined India's position simply because he opposes the BJP; Every time national interest is discussed, Congress resorts to petty politics, even on foreign policy. Once again, Congress leaders themselves are holding up a mirror to Rahul Gandhi. Will he accept it?" Poonawalla said.

Citing remarks by former Union minister Ashwani Kumar backing the government's handling of the situation, Poonawalla alleged that it exposed the Congress party's "double standards".

"After Tharoor, Tiwari, Kamal Nath, Anand Sharma, now Ashwini Kumar holds a mirror to Rahul Baba," he said.

"He clearly stated that the contribution of India's prime minister in these difficult circumstances was commendable.

In significant development, LA passes J&K Pvt Universities Bill

the passage of J&K Private Universities Bill as a milestone moment for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Jammu & Kashmir legislative assembly has passed the Private Universities Bill, marking a significant step towards shaping a brighter future for our youth," he said.

Highlighting the broader vision behind the legislation, he said the bill would open new avenues for quality higher education within the Union Territory, significantly reducing the need for students to move outside for studies, and attracting reputed institutions to establish campuses in J&K.

"The move reflects the government's commitment to strengthening academic infrastructure, fostering innovation, and creating a vibrant ecosystem for learning and research," Omar said.

"The passage of the bill marks a decisive step towards positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub of higher education and academic excellence," he added.

Sinha greets people on Easter

ness, love over despair," he added. "On this auspicious day, let us embrace the values of righteousness, compassion, sacrifice and selfless service and strive together toward building a more harmonious, peaceful and prosperous society," the LG said.

SPO disengaged from service

the inquiry revealed that the SPO was passing information through WhatsApp to help an accused evade checking at a checkpoint in connection with cases registered under section 223 of BNS and section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act at Udhampur police station.

The SPO's involvement was established by WhatsApp chats and witness statements, officials said.

Officials termed the act as a grave instance of indiscipline and misuse of official position, following which he was disengaged from service with immediate effect.

'Jammu Divn of Northern Rly now fully functional'

sion of infrastructure, and an increase in freight loading. We will be undertaking extensive work in all these areas in the coming year," he told reporters here.

Kumar noted that the division, formed during 2025-26 after reorganisation from the Firozpur Divi-

sion, had made significant progress in a short span of time.

"During the financial year 2025-26, the Jammu Division was established for the first time as a new division under Northern Railway. It has now been reorganised as a full-fledged division. The division is fully carrying out all operations," he added.

Kumar mentioned that the Indian Railways has achieved a record freight loading of around 1.7 billion tonnes this year, reflecting robust growth in the sector.

Highlighting major developments, Kumar noted that rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir had expanded significantly, with previously unconnected sections now integrated into the main railway network.

"As part of the broader vision of expansion of Indian Railways, our network in Jammu and Kashmir has also expanded significantly. Rail lines that were earlier not connected to the main railway network have now been successfully integrated," he added.

Police HC held in graft case

involved in an accident. The complainant alleged that he had already paid Rs 5,000, but was being pressured to pay an additional Rs 10,000, prompting him to approach ACB.

According to the complaint, the accident had occurred when Abdul Hamid was on his way to Shahdara Sharif.

"I had already given Rs 5,000 earlier. Now, the investigating officer was demanding another Rs 10,000. I was told that if I don't pay, they will stretch the case and my vehicle will not be released," the complainant alleged.

Following the complaint, ACB laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting the bribe amount, officials alleged.

The accused was subsequently taken into custody, and further investigation in the case was in progress.

Al-Falah group chairman sent to judicial custody

arrested Siddiqui in his second case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Their probe found that "forged" documents were prepared and used for fraudulent acquisition of land, and Siddiqui, director and majority shareholder of Tarbia Education Foundation, conspired with some individuals and orchestrated the fabrication.

The disputed 1.14-acre land is located at 'Khasra No. 792' in Madanpur Khadar village of the national capital, and it is valued at Rs 45 crore, as per the ED. The agency said the consideration amount (for the purchase of the land) in the documents was Rs 75 lakh.

Siddiqui was earlier arrested by ED in November 2025, in a PMLA case based on money laundering allegations linked to the cheating of students enrolled in the educational institutions run by his Al-Falah Charitable Trust. The federal probe agency had alleged that the university generated Rs 415.10 crore between 2018 and 2025 and diverted student funds for personal use.

On February 5, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police arrested Siddiqui for alleged forgery linked to irregularities in his private university. The case stems from two FIRs accusing Al Falah University of falsely claiming NAAC accreditation and UGC recognition to mislead students.

The varsity had also come under scrutiny in a "white-collar terror" probe linked to the November 10 Red Fort blast that killed 15 people.

CDS stresses for multi-domain war readiness to counter threats

Application & Technology Infusion. In his address to the officers of Chinar Corps, the CDS highlighted that the character of warfare was undergoing profound transformation, necessitating a shift from Domain-Centric Approach to Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), underpinned by a robust & integrated architecture. He underscored the centrality of jointness, stressing that seamless integration across Land, Air, Maritime, Cyber, Space and Cognitive domains is indispensable for achieving decisive outcomes. He called for accelerated Joint Training for Futuristic Warfare, Harmonisation of Doctrines and development of Interoperable Command and Control Structures to enable synchronised effects, across all domains.

The CDS emphasised the need for a deliberate roadmap to counter emerging challenges - one that fosters technological adaptation, cognitive resilience and collective preparedness through integrated efforts. He reiterated that preparation for the threats envisaged must be anchored in foresight, innovation, a unified warfighting philosophy and Whole of a Nation effort. He highlighted the importance of operational readiness and resilience in the face of evolving security challenges.

Gen Chauhan exhorted all ranks to maintain operational excellence, embrace jointness as a way of life and remain prepared to dominate the full spectrum of future conflict. He also interacted with representatives of Civil Administration, eminent personalities and functionaries in Baramulla and reviewed the efforts towards Nation Building.

Jan Vishwas 2nd (Amendment of Provisions) Bill passed

nalising offences for ease of living and ease of doing business, and also to repeal certain enactments be taken into consideration."

The bill was subsequently taken up for consideration and passing by Speaker A R Rather before the House and was passed.

MLAs - Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq - withdrew their amendments following assurances from the minister.

India has come through solidly from recent global shocks: Jaishankar

many ways. "New developments in technology, energy, military capability, connectivity and resources have encouraged risk-taking in an increasingly competitive environment. Everything today is being leveraged if not weaponised," the external affairs minister said.

He said the world is confronted with the prospects of securing itself in an increasingly volatile and unpredictable environment.

"This has necessitated a larger inclination to hedge, to de-risk and diversify, whether it's a business choice or a foreign policy part," Jaishankar added. He identified the COVID pandemic, conflicts, and climate change as the three challenges in the decade.

He said more inclusive growth, representative politics and decisive leadership have created a new foundation.

MoD issues EoI for indigenous development of 1000-kg aerial bomb

are procured from foreign original equipment manufacturers and are in service with the IAF, the senior official said.

The proposed aerial bomb is described as a "natural fragmentation, high-calibre munition capable of generating high blast effect and significant peak over-pressure (PoP) against enemy targets", they said.

The first phase of the project will be undertaken by the selected development agencies, and it includes single-stage composite trials (SSCT), after which preliminary staff qualitative requirements (PSQRs) will be converted into air staff qualitative requirements (ASQRs), the official said.

The development phase is required to achieve a minimum of 50 per cent indigenous content.

The estimated timeline for the project is approximately 2.5 years from EoI issuance to contract signing, the officials said. This includes prototype development, followed by user trials and subsequent stages involving evaluation, commercial processes, and contract finalisation. The IAF will enable this process, pushing for indigenous development so that it can be scaled up in operations.

The trials will be conducted within India at IAF units or other designated locations and will involve testing on a specified IAF aircraft platform, the officials said.

Participation in the EoI is open to eligible Indian entities, including the private industry, with provisions for foreign collaboration under defined conditions, such as joint ventures, transfer of technology, or commercial off-the-shelf arrangements.

However, the respondents must clearly demonstrate compliance with indigenous design and manufacturing requirements, even in cases involving foreign partners, the officials said.

Evaluation of responses will be based on financial and technical criteria as per the DAP. Technical evaluation will assess engineering capability, infrastructure, integration capacity, indigenous content levels, and compliance with PSQRs, the officials said.

Speaker adjourns LA sine die

hours and 6 minutes were consumed for the proceedings of House.

He said eight government bills were received, introduced and passed in the House, besides 25 papers and one Ordinance was also laid in the assembly.

The Speaker also apprised the House that 36 Previous Pending Private Members' Bills and 39 new Private member's bills were received, out of which 36 were admitted and three were disallowed. 72 bills were listed, 24 were taken up and two were introduced in the House, he added.

Regarding the details of questions in the House, the Speaker informed that 1528 AQs were received, including 802 starred and 726 un-starred. He added that 1,379 AQs were listed, 151 were taken up, 144 were disallowed, 2 were withdrawn, 3 were not listed, besides 331 supplementaries were also raised.

He also informed that 110 calling attention notices were received, out of which 63 were disallowed, 47 admitted, 26 listed and 26 notices taken up.

Providing details regarding resolutions, the Speaker informed that 128 resolutions were received, out of which 101 were admitted, 27 disallowed, 14 balloted, 14 listed, 4 taken up, while as no resolution was adopted.

On Short duration notices, he apprised the House that two notices were discussed during the session. He also informed that 2231 cut motions were received, out of which 2059 were allowed and 172 were disallowed.

48 hrs left before all hell breaks loose on Iran, warns Trump

gest the US should "take the oil & make a fortune." He has alternated between declaring the war nearly over and warning of weeks of intensified strikes on infrastructure. Within days, his stance on the Strait of Hormuz also shifted - from saying other nations could reopen it once the US withdrew, to asserting that Washington could "easily" handle it itself.

LA witnesses uproar over Ganderbal 'encounter'

with the standard procedure followed for terrorists killed in encounters.

Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat said an administrative inquiry would not suffice in such a serious matter, asserting that only a judicial probe could ensure fairness and credibility.

"Inquiries at the administrative level tend to balance competing interests, which can affect accountability. What is required in such grave matters is a judicial inquiry," he said, calling for transparency and timely justice.

NC MLA Mir Saifullah termed the incident "deeply concerning" and said the demand for a judicial inquiry to identify and hold those responsible accountable must be supported.

Irfan Hafiz Lone of the Congress lodged a protest demanding a fair and time-bound probe into the encounter, saying that the truth must come out and those involved be given stringent punishment. He also demanded the release of detained AAP MLA Mehraj Malik.

Carrying two placards - one on the Ganderbal encounter and another on the AAP MLA's detention - Lone protested on the front stairs of the Assembly before entering the House.

"We want justice for the family. We want a true and fair inquiry so that the facts come to light. The concerned family must be heard, and justice ensured through a result-oriented probe," he told reporters here.

He said that the killing of any innocent person is not just an individual tragedy but an affront to humanity.

"If any innocent person is killed anywhere, it is a murder of humanity. We strongly demand a fair and outcome-based investigation so that justice is delivered," he added.

BJP's R S Pathania questioned the discussion of a law-and-order issue in the House, saying his own questions had been rejected earlier on similar grounds.

Responding to the concerns, Speaker A R Rather informed the House that a time-bound inquiry had already been ordered by the lieutenant governor into the matter.

LeT handler sent to 7-day judicial custody

station, in the national capital.

Terming Lone a "hardcore and highly trained terrorist", Delhi Police said he established links with handlers operating on behalf of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"Lone, also known by aliases Raja and Kashmiri, is a resident of Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and was allegedly operating as the handler of a recently busted module involved in pasting anti-national posters across multiple locations in Delhi and Kolkata," it said.

Statehood Day celebration reflects essence

of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat': Kavinder marked by cultural exchanges that brought alive the rich heritage of Rajasthan, Odisha and Bihar.

The government employees hailing from these three states shared their personal experiences of living and working in Himachal Pradesh, highlighting the warmth, camaraderie and sense of belonging they had experienced in the state. Their heartfelt accounts underscored the true essence of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

The governor emphasised that initiatives like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat strengthen the cultural fabric of the nation and remind every citizen that while our traditions may differ, our spirit is one.

He said that the states of Bihar, Rajasthan and Odisha are renowned for their ancient civilizations, rich history and vibrant cultural heritage. He added that the diversity of India is its greatest strength, and understanding each other's culture, language and traditions helps in strengthening national unity.

Gupta said that citizens from these states have made significant contributions to the development of Himachal Pradesh. He noted that such cultural interactions foster harmony, mutual respect and a spirit of brotherhood, which ultimately strengthens the social fabric of the nation.

He also made a significant announcement that Shimla Lok Bhavan would be opened for the general public on two days every week, aiming to bring Lok Bhavan closer to the common people of Himachal Pradesh, so that every citizen feels a sense of ownership and connection with this institution.

The governor said that the doors of Lok Bhavan should not remain confined to officialdom alone, but must reflect the aspirations and participation of the people it serves.

Governor's secretary Sandeep Bhardwaj was also present on the occasion.

District Level Census Training concludes at Shopian

SHOPIAN, APRIL 04: District Level Phase-I training programme for Charge Level Officers for Census 2027 concluded successfully today at the Meeting Hall, Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The training was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone who presided over the concluding event.

The final day of the training focused on equipping charge level functionaries including Tehsildars, CEO Municipal Council, Shopian and other concerned officers with practical and operational aspects of census implementation.

The training sessions were conducted by Census Officers of Directorate of Census Officers, J&K who provided hands on guidance on digital data collection processes, use of the Census 2027 HLO mobile application, and portal based operations.

Officers were briefed on core census procedures including house list-



ing, numbering, data entry protocols, and enumeration methodologies to ensure accuracy and uniformity in data collection.

Special emphasis was laid on the creation and finalization of HLBs (House Listing Blocks), handling of enumerator related workflows, and efficient use of the census portal.

The participants actively engaged

in the sessions and raised various field level concerns regarding portal functionality, HLB formation, and deployment of enumerators. The queries were addressed in detail to ensure clarity and preparedness at the ground level. During the programme, officers were directed to complete all preparatory activities, including finalization of HLBs and

related census frameworks, well before April 15, 2026, to avoid any last minute inconvenience. The training also reiterated key provisions of census operations, emphasizing its statutory importance under the Census Act, 1948, and its role as a vital tool for evidence based planning and governance. District Census Handbook was also provided to the trainees for their guidance.

District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Shopian, Bilqeesa Zahoor appreciated the dedicated efforts of Census Officers for delivering detailed, practical, and result-oriented training sessions. She also acknowledged the active participation of officers and stressed the importance of coordinated field execution.

As a token of appreciation, mementos were presented to trainers by ADDC in recognition of their valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of the training programme.

Departure of Hajj Pilgrims: Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations

SRINAGAR, APRIL 04: In preparation for the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the smooth departure of pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners from across Jammu & Kashmir and Kargil, besides departments including Airport Authority, Emigration, Customs, Tourism, Public Works (R&B), PHE, KPDCL, Health, Transport, Traffic, Police, CISF, J&K Bank, and other concerned agencies.

Hajj flights are scheduled to operate from April 18 to April 28, 2026. This year, a total of 4,706 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir will undertake the sacred journey of Hajj.

Emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to ensure comprehensive preparations for the pilgrimage. He instructed Deputy Commissioners to oversee

arrangements and facilitate pilgrims effectively.

Special attention was given to ensuring the availability of essential services at the Hajj House, including uninterrupted electricity and water supply, sanitation, and healthcare facilities.

The Divisional Commissioner further instructed J&K Bank to maintain adequate availability of foreign exchange in lower denominations to avoid inconvenience to pilgrims. He also called for proper boarding and lodging arrangements for pilgrims arriving from Jammu and Ladakh.

To ensure seamless travel, Customs and Emigration authorities were asked to establish special facilitation counters at the airport for quick clearance.

For real-time coordination and information sharing, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Hajj Officer to create a dedicated WhatsApp group comprising all concerned officials and Hajj aspirants.