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Shab-e-Baraat: ...

blessings of Almighty Allah.

In his message, the Chief Minister underscored the deep spiritual significance of Shab-e-Barat, describing it as a night of self-reflection and devotion when believers seek forgiveness and divine guidance.

He called upon people to imbibe the true spirit of the occasion and offer prayers for peace, harmony, and the welfare of all humanity.

The Chief Minister also prayed for peace, prosperity and overall progress for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, also extended his warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-i-Barat.

He said that Shab-i-Barat holds great religious and spiritual significance for Muslims and is a night of prayers, forgiveness, and reflection. On this sacred occasion, he urged people to pray for peace, prosperity and overall welfare of all.

The Deputy Chief Minister also observed that Jammu and Kashmir stands as a shining example of mutual understanding, harmony and spirit of celebrating festivals together. He said that the people of the region have always upheld the values of unity and coexistence.

He also prayed for the well-being of all and urged people to strengthen communal harmony and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additionally, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today extended her warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Barat.

In her message, the Minister said that this sacred night is dedicated to seeking forgiveness, mercy and blessings from Almighty Allah and has immense spiritual significance. She added that this holy occasion is a night of introspection when Muslims seek divine pardon and guidance from Almighty Allah.

The Minister also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity for entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today extended his warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-i-Barat.

In his message, the Minister said that Shab-i-Barat holds great religious and spiritual significance for the Muslim community as it is observed as a sacred night of prayers, forgiveness, self-reflection and seeking divine blessings. He urged the people to pray for peace, prosperity and the overall welfare of society.

Satish Sharma observed that Jammu and Kashmir has a long-standing tradition of mutual respect, communal harmony and collective celebration of festivals, which reflects the spirit of unity and coexistence among its people. He said that such occasions reinforce the bonds of brotherhood and strengthen social harmony.

BJP MLAs ...

Rather continued with the Question Hour despite the uproar and dismissed the adjournment motion moved by PDP MLA Wahid Ur Rehman Para to discuss the incidents of "hate crime" against Kashmiris elsewhere in the country. As the assembly proceedings started, BJP MLA Surjit Singh Slathia raised the issue of Jammu University students who are on the roads in support of the demand for a law university.

"We are not against granting National Law University (NLU) for Kashmir but also want one such University for Jammu to fulfil the demand of the students of the region," he said.

While Slathia was speaking, other BJP MLAs also stood up and displayed placards in support of the demand and also raised slogans like "NLU for Jammu".

Congress legislator Nizam-ud-Din Bhat objected to the display of placards and said the recent meeting of the business advisory committee decided to maintain the decorum of the House while raising any issue.

"The action of displaying placards by BJP legislators is akin to encroachment and intrusion which is not acceptable. The government granted permission for NLU in Kashmir following due process," he said.

Amid the ruckus, National Conference legislator Mubarak Gul alleged that Kashmiri students and traders are facing harassment and assault in different parts of the country which is not acceptable.

Para informed the speaker that he had moved an adjournment motion to discuss growing incidents of "hate crime" against Kashmiri students and others.

National Conference MLA Saifullah Mir alleged that dozens of Kashmiris living outside the Union Territory are not allowed to move out of their accommodations and are facing assault of they come out which needs government intervention.

The speaker intervened time and again and requested the members to maintain decorum of the house.

"There is no question of adjournment motion because the issues raised can be taken up through other means in an appropriate manner without disrupting the Question Hour, which can be used to make the government accountable," he said.

He said the J-K government has already taken up the issue of harassment of Kashmiris with various state governments and is thankful to the Uttrakhand chief minister for taking immediate action recently in one such case.

Flood restoration...

current financial year 2025-26.

"Further, an amount of Rs 289.39 crore was released during the current financial year 2025-26, under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Besides, an amount of Rs 100 crore (Rs 5.00 crore for each district) has been released under the UT Capex Budget (2025-26) of DMRRR under the activity 'Flood Relief Measures' to undertake urgent flood restoration works," the deputy chief minister said.

He said the Jal Shakti Department has received funds for ongoing flood management projects under Flood Management and Border Area Programme (FMBAP) during the current financial year.

"The released funds are mainly for Flood Management Work, amounting to Rs 164.35 lakhs and for Comprehensive Flood Management of River Jhelum, Phase-II amounting to Rs 6041.25 lakhs," he said

Besides this, based on the report of inter-ministerial central team (IMCT), the GoI under SASCI (Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) has allocated Rs 1431 cr for J-K. This will be further released to implementIng

departments once the detailed proposals for flood restoration works are received from the departments," Choudhary said.

Not satisfied with the response, Jasrotia and his party MLAs said the home ministry had already given Rs 212 crore to J-K as immediate relief and accused deputy chief minister of misleading the House.

Choudhary shot back at the BJP legislators and asked them to stop misleading people of Jammu on the pretext of discrimination with the region.

"We love central government as you do...But we say, whether the flood comes to Kashmir or Jammu, whether the damage is in Jammu or Kashmir, they are equally painful for us, but this is not the case with the BJP because their conscious is not clear. We have pain for both regions which is evident when our government restored Darbar move to provide relief to the local traders. This shows we do not discriminate," he said. Continuing his tirade against the BJP, Choudhary said they are now demanding National Law University for Jammu after ensuring closure of Mata Vaishno Devi Medical college.

"They distributed sweets after putting the future of our children in danger. What answer do they have as to why the medical college was closed?" he said.

He said when the government receives the money from the Centre, it will be distributed equally.

Talking to the media, Jasrotia said he raised a question in the House but the government instead of giving a direct answer tried to "mislead" the House.

"I am asking one thing, the minister is replying to something entirely different. This has always been the technique of this government - to deviate and start an entirely different debate," the BJP leader said.

He said the floods and landslides in August-September last year caused major damage in Jammu, including loss of life, but the funds that came for flood relief were given only to Kashmir and not to Jammu.

"Funds should have been released to worst hit Jammu but instead, the government gave Rs 62 crore to Kashmir. This is clear discrimination," he said.

Gupta said he walked out in support of his party colleague as "we are not satisfied with the government response".

"He (Deputy CM) is clearly a person who discriminates against Jammu and has a consistent habit of ignoring the people of Jammu. My Udhampur constituency was the worst hit by floods but got nothing. The discrimination will not be tolerated," he added.

NC protests ..

Assembly proceedings resumed, the issue of alleged harassment was raised in the House by NC MLA Mubarak Gul and PDP MLA Wahid-ur-Rehman Para.

An 18-year-old Kashmiri youth suffered serious injuries after he was allegedly assaulted by a group of people while he was selling shawls in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district on January 28. There have been reports of Kashmiri shawl sellers being harassed and roughed up in some other states as well.

Udhampur encounter: ...

darkness and thick foliage.

This was the second encounter in Udhampur since December 15 when a policeman was killed at Soan village. However, the terrorists had managed to escape taking advantage of thick foliage and darkness.

A series of encounters – three in Kathua district and four in Chatroo forest belt in Kishtwar – also occurred in January, resulting in the killing of JeM terrorist Usman of Pakistan in Kathua and a paratrooper in Kishtwar amid intensified operations to hunt down terrorists hiding in the upper reaches of Jammu region.

Usman was part of the same group which is trapped in Udhampur district and was active in the area for the last several years.

CM seeks ...

time, I requested all the chief ministers and the Union home minister to ensure the ongoing harassment of Kashmiris – whether students or traders – stops. I am grateful to the chief minister of Uttarakhand for taking timely action, with cases registered and arrests made," Abdullah told reporters after the first sitting.

He expressed concern that harassment of Kashmir-natives was being reported from neighbouring Himachal Pradesh despite the Congress being in power there.

"Himachal is our neighboring state, and despite the fact that the Congress is in power there, people (Kashmiris) are being stopped, harassed, and beaten. I request the Himachal Pradesh chief minister to take immediate action on this and put a stop to this victimisation and harassment of Kashmiris," Abdullah said.

Responding to a query on the row in the Lok Sabha on Monday over Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's attempt to quote from what he claimed was the memoir of former Army chief M M Naravane, the Abdullah said "what happens in Parliament is Parliament's matter".

"It is the privilege of Parliament and the speaker to decide. Similarly, whatever we do in our assembly is our own matter. It would not be appropriate for our assembly to be discussed in Parliament, and likewise, I should not comment on what happened in Parliament," he said.

On Jammu and Kashmir Congress's suggestion to set up a coordination committee to strengthen the coalition, Abdullah said the question should be put to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

"I am the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir; I am not the president of the National Conference. You can meet the National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and ask him what the party's stand is," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, CM Omar Abdullah today welcomed the US government's decision to bring down reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods, saying this would bring relief to many exporters in the country who were facing difficulties in view of the increased tariff.

US President Donald Trump on Monday announced that India and the US have agreed on a trade deal under which Washington will reduce the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from the current 25 per cent.

The announcement is crucial for India as the US imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering American markets from August 27, 2025.

"These tariffs were proving to be quite burdensome for us, and we also know very well why these tariffs were imposed. The United States was not happy with the fact that we buy oil from Russia. Trump announced that the Indian government has now stopped purchasing oil from Russia, and because of that, the tariffs will no longer be imposed on us," the chief

minister told reporters in the Assembly lawns here.

He said that if the Indian government had stopped buying oil from Russia, it might be a good development.

However, he wondered where the BJP-led government would obtain oil now that it is no longer sourcing from Russia, and whether purchasing from alternative sources would result in an increase in petrol and diesel prices in the country. "For that, we have to wait and see," Abdullah said.

Regarding the reduction of tariffs, the chief minister mentioned, "It will benefit our exports, which is a good step, as many of our exporters were facing significant challenges. Some even felt they might have to shut down their businesses. Now that tariffs have been reduced, we hope that their businesses will begin to thrive again."

Omar to ...

Union Territory of the Jammu and Kashmir, for criminalising and rationalizing offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business."

Meanwhile, CM will also introduce "A Bill to amend certain enactments of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to eliminate any discrimination or denial of equal treatment for persons affected by Leprosy that negatively affect such persons and promote their segregation and discrimination and to enable the Union Territory to discharge its positive obligations through affirmative action."

8 MPs ...

of the Budget session.

Moving the resolution seeking their suspension, Rijju said the members acted in utter disregard to the House and the authority of the Chair.

They also tore papers and them on the Chair and were named by the Chair for their behaviour, the minister added.

The suspended members had tried to climb on to the table of the Secretary General, tore papers and threw them at the Chair.

The House passed the resolution by a voice vote, following which the proceedings were adjourned for the day amid uproar.

Congress members, led by Rahul Gandhi, staged a protest outside Parliament building against the suspension of party members.

Later, Opposition MPs said the suspended members will continue to protest outside the House.

The suspended MPs also spoke with the media after coming out of the House.

Congress MP Tagore said, "This is an attack on the democracy of India, and we all know that the Prime Minister Modi does not want the Leader of the Opposition to speak."

"Yesterday, Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi ji was asked to submit authenticated documents on the book of General (Former Army Chief) MM Naravane ... Today, he did, and after that he was not allowed to speak. This has never happened... We protested that and then we were suspended," he said.

Congress MP Eden said Gandhi was not allowed to speak in the House and that is why "we raised slogans and got onto the dais, and that is when we got suspended".

"Eight of our members of the House were suspended, but we will continue our fight inside and outside Parliament. The members who are not suspended will fight inside," he said.

Another suspended Congress MP Warring said, "If I tore a paper, why did that situation arise? Why was it forced upon us? Because you suppressed our voice. You suppressed the voice of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition. For two consecutive days, you have not allowed the respected Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, to speak. Why?"

Aujla, who was also suspended, slammed the BJP and said "they are disciples of Godse".

Krishna Prasad Tanneti, who was in the chair earlier during the day said one member addressed the Chair as "yaar" and at that moment he took a stand and questioned the MP.

"Another member standing next to him questioned what was objectionable about saying 'yaar', which itself was inappropriate and should not have happened. Subsequently, they came down to the Table of the House and threw papers. These actions are objectionable," he said.

Congress general secretary in-charge organisation K C Venugopal said the entire country is witnessing how the government is turning Parliament into a mockery.

"Yesterday, Rahul ji referred to an article from a magazine quoting the memoir of a former Army chief. At that time, the Speaker gave a ruling, on the government's instructions, that books or magazines cannot be quoted unless authenticated. Today, even before starting his speech, Rahul ji sought permission from the Chair to authenticate the magazine. The Chair permitted it, and he authenticated the magazine and laid it on the Table of the House."

"Even then, he clearly stated that he was not quoting the book or the magazine, but was speaking broadly on the country's internal security. Despite this, his microphone was switched off. If the Leader of the Opposition is not allowed to speak in Parliament, what will happen to parliamentary democracy," Venugopal asked.

Suspended MP Krishna Kumar Chamala said, "We were suspended from Parliament for one reason: questioning the BJP and its governance. Over the past two years, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi ji has often been disturbed by BJP MPs while speaking the facts. Even today, as he spoke on the President's address, they tried to distract him to hide the truth from the people."

"This disruption is planned, with speakers sent specifically to distract him and prevent the failures of the BJP from being exposed," he said.

Since Monday afternoon, the House has been witnessing uproar after Gandhi was disallowed to cite the article based on excerpts from Naravane's unpublished book on India-China conflict of 2020.

In AI era, ...

master artisan at the forge, teacher knows learning ignites from sheer curiosity.

"Inspirational teachers avoid rote learning and they weave science into captivating tales that electrify the classroom and for them history transcends mere dates and timelines, blooming into vivid sagas of human triumphs and tumbles," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that we need more inspirational teachers who can transform students from passive listeners into intrepid explorers.

"Teachers are bedrock of tomorrow. A classroom is not just four walls and a blackboard. A classroom is the glowing forge of a blacksmith, where raw futures are hammered and shaped anew.

I envision classrooms where teachers don't merely dispense bookish answers but ignite inquiry with probing questions. To forge a knowledge economy and vibrant society, transform learners from passive consumers of information

into sharp analysts who dissect it," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor exhorted upon the teachers to cultivate a culture of collaboration in their classrooms.

"The truth is, tomorrow's world belongs to those who work as a team. So, we need to turn classrooms into collaboration hubs, where research, writing, and innovation unfold as collective quests," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor further advised the teaching community to think beyond the curriculum's rigid map. He stated that curriculum offers mere direction, but creativity and curiosity propel students toward life's true readiness.

The Lieutenant Governor said that a teacher must tie learning to life itself, so every day sparks fresh discoveries and generates further curiosity.

"In this AI era, teaching isn't about rote delivery but nurturing creativity. I believe humanity's greatest asset in future will be innovative and creative thinking. I want our teachers to break down preconceived boundaries and offer every student not just knowledge but unlimited possibilities," he said.

Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Mahendra Tiwari, Editor, Amar Ujala, Naresh Sharma Unit Head and other senior office bearers of Amar Ujala Group; heads of educational institutions, teachers, families of awarded teachers and students attended the award ceremony.

NIA raids ...

Srinagar, officials said.

The NIA officers carried out the raids at the residential premises of former Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh and former militant Iqbal Sheikh at Bomai.

Raids were also carried out at the residences of former government employees Mohammad Munwar Mir at Rafiabad and Farooq Ahmad Peer at Model Town in Sopore.

The other premises included the residence of a retired teacher, Mohammad Maqbool Mir, in Bandipora town, and the residence of Zahoor-ul-Raheem in Parimpora, officials said.

India-US ...

country," he said after the meeting.

Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora said, "PM Modi explained to all the MPs that the government works in favour of India, be it a trade deal or budget".

"The credit for the trade deal between India and America and India and India-Europe goes to PM Modi. This has happened because of his determination. The trade deal will give benefits to small-scale businessmen," he asserted.

Shrikant Shinde, leader of the Shiv Sena and a key NDA partner, said "During the meeting, NDA leaders welcomed the major breakthrough following the productive conversation between Prime Minister Modi ji and US President Donald Trump, which led to the announcement of reduced tariffs on Made in India products,"

Modi wrote on 'X': "Attended the NDA Parliamentary Party meet, where we discussed a wide range of issues".

At the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, the members also welcomed new BJP President Nitin Nabin and congratulated him on the election to the top party post.

The prime minister told NDA leaders that the coalition has been winning various elections due to its people-friendly policies and hard work, Rijju said.

Modi also told NDA MPs that they should not be complacent with their win in various polls, including local bodies, but continue with the good work.

Rijju said the prime minister gave broad guidelines for the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs to carry forward their parliamentary and welfare works.

"The prime minister said the NDA is winning one after another elections due to its good work. He said elections can't be won without being on the ground. We have to be on the ground and do good work for the welfare of the people," Rijju said.

JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy said the NDA meeting reflected the collective commitment to strengthening India's economic partnerships and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

MPs belonging to the BJP, TDP, JD(U), LJP (R), Shiv Sena, JD(S) and other constituents of the NDA attended the meeting.

LJP(RV) leader and Union Minister Chirag Paswan said the NDA meeting also discussed the general budget, which has been widely appreciated by a large section of the country's population.

"PM Modi ensures constant dialogue with all NDA allies so that there is no lack of communication. MPs form the foundation of any government, and it is their important responsibility to take the government's policies and decisions to every village and district," Paswan said.

BJP member Aparajita Sarangi said the prime minister provided extensive guidance and direction on key issues.

"He asked us to actively participate in Parliament, both in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. He also spoke about the role of Standing Committees and urged everyone to give their 100 per cent. He spoke about the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and discussed the Budget in detail, motivating all of us," Sarangi said.

Mirwaiz placed ...

closed for the night despite prior preparations for the sacred observance.

"Auqaf expresses deep regret that once again congregational prayers on an important religious occasion could not be held at Jama Masjid and that Mirwaiz has been placed under house arrest," the managing body said.

The managing body further alleged that a pattern, which began in 2019, of prohibiting major religious gatherings at the historic mosque continues.

"This amounts to a blatant interference in the religious rights of the people," it added.

Mirwaiz, in a post on X, said he has been placed under house arrest.

"As mosques across the region light up in devotion on this sacred night, Jama Masjid Srinagar stays shut under watch. Yet another closure, and I remain detained at home. Shab-e-Barat joins a long list since 2019 when prayers at the Valley's largest mosque have been stopped by force.

"No reason offered, just locked gates and silence. For those who beat the drums of 'normalcy' and 'Naya Kashmir,' this contrast needs an explanation," he said.