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No need ...

same scientific graft model is used to make Tamil Nadu an ATM for one family."

The DMK was "infamous for their scientific corruption" model, he said retorting to party president and Chief Minister M K Stalin's refrain on the Dravidian model of governance, and alleged that "ministers may change, MLAs may change, but power remains only with one dynasty."

Targeting DMK in the cash for jobs scam, he said when jobs were sold for money, the dreams of the middle class and poor were destroyed.

"The whole of Tamil Nadu has made up its mind to throw out DMK regime," Modi said.

On the international airport status for Madurai, he said the Centre brought the world to the doorstep of the city. Also, he underscored a new terminal for Tiruchirappalli airport, which is 'modern, also fully immersed in culture of TN.'

He could feel the pulse of the state very clearly that a desire for change was gaining huge momentum.

He took a keen interest in connecting with Tamil people, and when it came to respecting TN and its culture, the Centre has always been at the forefront. It was a matter of pride that C P Radhakrishnan, a son of TN, has become the Vice-President.

Recalling his "divine experience" in the city two years ago, he said it was a privilege to be among the people again in Tiruchirappalli, "a land of courage and faith."

AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran, AMMK founder TTV Dhinakaran and PMK leader Dr Anbumani Ramadoss among others participated.

Amid panic buying in some parts of the country, the government on Wednesday said India has enough LPG stocks to fully meet household cooking gas requirements, even as it stepped up efforts to secure alternative supplies to replace volumes disrupted by the West Asia conflict.

While India has been able to source additional crude oil - the raw material for fuels such as petrol and diesel - from alternative suppliers to offset disruptions caused by the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz, refinery adjustments have lifted domestic LPG output by about 25 per cent. The push to secure supplies has also resulted in securing at least two LNG cargoes, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said.

The widening conflict in the Middle East has largely halted shipments through the strait that was the conduit for most of India's oil, gas and LPG needs. While India scrambles to seek alternative crude sources from countries like Russia, LPG and LNG supplies remain constrained. Shortages are affecting businesses nationwide, from restaurants and crematoriums to ceramic units and even the Delhi High Court canteen. Household kitchens are getting fuel, but there are reports of long queues at dealers and the fuel being sold at higher rates in the black market.

At a media briefing - the first on record by an oil ministry official since the conflict broke out on February 28 - Sharma sought to allay concerns on availability, saying the government's efforts are primarily directed at maintaining uninterrupted supplies to households.

Sharma said India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, and 90 per cent of this is through the Strait of Hormuz.

This shortfall meant prioritising household kitchens over commercial usage. But even this has led to panic buying by common users.

"Feedback suggests that some panic booking and hoarding behaviour has been triggered by misinformation," she said. "We have enough stocks. There is no need for panic. There is no need for the customer to rush and book cylinders."

The pre-war delivery cycle for a refill of two-and-a-half days remains, said Sharma, who is in charge of LPG in the ministry.

Giving a full account of the fuel supply scenario, she said India's daily crude oil consumption is about 5.5 million barrels, 55 per cent of which came from countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE through the Strait of Hormuz.

She said oil companies have diversified procurement and secured volumes larger than those that were displaced by the blockage of the strait after the US and Israel attacked Iran and Tehran's retaliatory action.

"As a result of this diversification, about 70 per cent of our crude imports are now coming from routes outside the Strait of Hormuz, compared with about 55 per cent earlier," she said.

All the oil refineries, which convert crude oil into fuels, are operating at full capacity.

On natural gas, which is used for power, fertilizers, CNG, and household cooking, she said that out of the total consumption of 189 million standard cubic meters per day, 97.5 mmscmd is produced within the country, and the rest is imported. Out of the imports, about 47.4 mmscmd supply has been affected due to the Strait of Hormuz disruption.

"We are making efforts to procure from alternate routes, and supplies are underway to offset this disruption," she said. "Gas companies have procured LNG cargoes from the new sources, and two LNG cargoes are on their way to the country."

To manage the shortfall, the government has prioritised household cooking and transport fuels, directing refineries to maximise LPG output by cutting petrochemical feedstock streams and barring units, including Reliance Industries Ltd's export-oriented plants, from using LPG as feedstock. Industrial LNG and LPG deliveries have been curtailed to protect more than 33 crore households, which account for roughly 86 per cent of LPG consumption.

To manage demand, cooking gas prices were raised for the first time in 11 months, and the minimum interval between subsidised refills was extended from 21 to 25 days.

To deal with the shortfall arising from blockage of supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, she said the government has taken various steps, including maximising LPG production in refineries by cutting other fuel streams. "Domestic LPG production has increased by 25 per cent, and all these domestic LPG is being directed towards household consumers."

For non-domestic LPG, priority is being given to essential sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions, she said, adding that a three-member committee of executive directors of oil marketing companies - IOCL, HPCL and BPCL - has been constituted to review the allocation to restaurants, hotels and other commercial users.

The committee is consulting with state authorities and industry bodies to finalise a plan to ensure that available LPG is distributed in a fair and transparent manner on LPG prices, she added.

State governments have been advised to crack down on hoarding and black marketing of LPG.

Union Home Secretary held a meeting with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all states and Union Territories.

States and Union Territories were advised to take strict measures against hoarding of essential commodities and ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential supplies. The government, the officials said, is closely monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia and maintaining continuous coordination among the concerned ministries and agencies.

They reiterated that necessary steps are being taken to ensure energy security, safeguard Indian nationals in the region, maintain the safety of maritime operations and ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential supplies. The government remains committed to keeping the public informed and taking timely measures to protect India's interests during the evolving situation.

India, the world's third-largest crude importer, sources 88 per cent of its oil needs from abroad. It consumes 5.8 million barrels per day, of which 2.5-2.7 million barrels come from Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE via the Strait of Hormuz. The chokepoint also carried 55 per cent of India's cooking gas (LPG) and 30 per cent of liquefied natural gas (LNG), used for power, fertilizers, CNG, and household cooking.

63-yr-old ...

police statement reads that an attempt on the life of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah while he was attending a marriage ceremony here has been thwarted, police said.

"An attempt was made on the life of Farooq Abdullah when he was attending a marriage ceremony at the Royal Park in Greater Kailash, Jammu.

"The security deployed with the protectee immediately swung into action, thwarted the attempt and took the accused into custody, who was later identified as Kamal Singh, son of Ajit Singh, a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu," police said in a statement.

The pistol used in the crime has also been seized from the accused's possession, the statement said.

"Further investigation is underway," police said.

Country adopts ...

(technologies etc that negate a superior force's advantage) alongside traditional battlefield winners, saying adaptation and innovation are critical to sustaining operational advantage.

He also emphasised that 'Change Management' is a strategic necessity and not an option.

He urged officers to develop and apply five dimensions of thinking — creative, critical, systems, cognitive and imaginative — to enhance institutional adaptability and foster innovative problem-solving, it said.

The Army Chief noted that all "five generations of warfare" (evolution of combat from traditional warfare to modern conflict) must be fought in unison through an integrated, multi-domain approach.

He also highlighted the need for a holistic understanding of 'grey-zone warfare' (not a full scale war)— from the level of the Commanding Officer to the Chief of Army Staff — to effectively counter evolving threats.

Emphasising optimal human resource utilisation, he called for empowering Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) to bridge officer shortages and reinforce leadership at tactical levels.

General Dwivedi also referred to raising new organisations such as the Bhairav Battalion (the Indian Army's elite force tasked with operational requirements along the Indo-Pak borders) and the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Brigade, illustrating the Army's proactive adaptation to contemporary security challenges.

During an interaction with the faculty of CDM and international participants from friendly foreign countries, the Army Chief exchanged views on strategic management, leadership development and resource optimisation.

He commended the College for its pivotal role in developing strategic leaders, promoting tri-service synergy and strengthening India's defence preparedness through higher defence management education, the release added.

CM reviews ...

government assets reflect a unique blend of heritage and modern functionality," the Chief Minister said.

The meeting reviewed the status of J&K government properties in Dwarka and 5, Prithviraj Road in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Mumbai and also discussed proposals for expansion and modernisation of facilities meant for officials, students, patients and visitors from Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was informed that the government has initiated steps to establish a new JK House in Dwarka, New Delhi, to augment accommodation and administrative infrastructure for J&K officials and visitors. Similarly, the government is pursuing the development of a JK House at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai to enhance J&K's presence in the country's financial capital.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasised that these government properties should serve as symbols of pride for Jammu and Kashmir and showcase its cultural richness and architectural identity.

"These institutions must make J&K proud of its properties and should stand as dignified representations in different regions of the country," he said, directing the officers to ensure quality infrastructure and timely completion of projects.

While reviewing the proposed JK House in Amritsar, the Chief Minister asked the concerned authorities to take up the issue of land consolidation with the Punjab government. He said that the presently available land parcels are scattered and may not serve the intended purpose of building a functional government facility.

The Chief Minister instructed the officers to request the Punjab government to allot a single, consolidated plot so that a properly planned JK House can be developed in Amritsar.

Regarding the Navi Mumbai project, the officers informed the Chief Minister that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth Rs 29.56 crore has been submitted to the administrative department along with a capital expenditure proposal of about Rs 30 crore for construction of the facility.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of entrusting the execution of the project to government-owned agencies in Maharashtra to ensure smooth and hassle-free construction.

The Chief Minister advised the officers to study similar government properties established by other states and Union Territories across the country so that best practices in infrastructure development, architecture and service delivery can be incorporated into the upcoming J&K facilities.

"Benchmark these projects with the best state guest houses and institutional facilities across the country so that Jammu and Kashmir develops world-class infrastructure for its residents visiting these cities," he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that efforts should be made to complete these projects within the shortest possible timeframe so that new facilities for officers, students, patients and other visitors from J&K are made available at the earliest.

The meeting also deliberated on the allotment of construction and renovation works to agencies such as the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for efficient execution of projects.

Earlier, Resident Commissioner Ramesh Kumar gave a comprehensive presentation to the Chief Minister on the status of various government properties managed by the Resident Commission, including offices, staff quarters, guest houses and VIP accommodation facilities.

He highlighted several development proposals including the upgradation of VIP rooms into suites at the Chanakyapuri JK House Complex, redevelopment of the Rajaji Marg property in New Delhi and extension of guest house facilities at 5, Prithviraj Road.

The meeting also reviewed the condition of other properties under the Resident Commission's management in cities such as Chandigarh, Amritsar, Malabar Hill in Mumbai, and Sirsa in Haryana.

LS rejects ...

Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has been compromised" and that it was the first time that an LOP was stopped for speaking in the House.

Responding to the debate, the home minister hit out at the opposition for bringing the motion for the removal of Birla as Speaker and asserted that the House will be run by its rules and not by the rules of a party.

"We never suppressed the voice of the opposition. The voice of opposition was suppressed during the Emergency when leaders were put in jail. False propaganda is being spread that opposition leaders are not allowed to speak. Rahul Gandhi said he is not allowed to speak. But the fact is he doesn't want to speak in the Lok Sabha," Shah said.

The home minister shared Rahul Gandhi's attendance in the House and other statistics to rebut allegations of bias made by opposition members against the Speaker.

According to Shah, in the 17th Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's attendance was 51 per cent while the average was 66 per cent; in the 16th Lok Sabha, his attendance was 52 per cent while the average was 80 per cent.

He said that in the 17th Lok Sabha, the Congress was allotted 157 hours and 55 minutes, while the party had just 52 members. In comparison, the BJP was given 349 hours and 8 minutes, while the BJP membership stood at 303.

"Thus, the Speaker has ensured that the Congress Party received six times more time than the BJP," he said.

Shah claimed that foreign trips were a major reason for Rahul Gandhi's relatively low attendance during Parliament sessions.

"During the 2025 Winter session, Gandhi was on a visit to Germany. In the Budget session in 2025, he was on a visit to Vietnam; in the Budget session in 2023, he was on a visit to the UK; in the Budget session in 2018, he was on a visit to Singapore and Malaysia; in the Monsoon session in 2020, he was absent the entire session due to foreign travel. In the Budget session in 2015, he travelled abroad for approximately 60 days," he said.

The home minister said Gandhi did not participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018.

"Gandhi did not participate in the discussion on the Union Budget during the 16th Lok Sabha, he did not participate in any discussions on government bills, he did not participate in the discussion on any finance bill in the 16th Lok Sabha except the 'Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Bill, 2015'," he said.

Shah said the speaker serves as a neutral custodian, representing both the ruling party and the opposition. He said it is not an ordinary occurrence as after nearly four decades, such a motion has been brought against the speaker.

He said it was unfortunate for Parliamentary politics that some opposition parties were questioning the integrity of the speaker.

Shah said the BJP has been in opposition for the longest period of time, but the party has never brought a no-confidence motion against the speaker.

"We can speak of our rights, but no one can violate the rules of the House. We may not agree with the speaker's ruling, but it is binding and cannot be doubted. When the BJP was in the opposition, it never brought a no-confidence motion against the speaker," he said.

"This is a regrettable event for both Parliamentary politics and the House. Because the speaker does not belong to any party, the speaker belongs to the House. The House will be run by its rules, not by the rules of a party," he said.

Shah said in India's parliamentary history, three times a no-confidence motion against the speaker of the Lok Sabha was introduced in the House, but neither the BJP nor the NDA has ever brought such a motion.

The home minister said it is highly regrettable and condemnable when the opposition questions the integrity of a decision by the speaker.

"This is a very unfortunate... To oppose the government, you are raising questions on the speaker, who is a symbol of the dignity of democracy," he said, hitting out at the opposition.

Responding to BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad, who cited parliamentary procedures to say that the Leader of Opposition should measure his words carefully, especially on issues of national security, Gandhi, during his interjection, said that his name was being raised during the debate multiple times and "vile things" were being said about him.

"The discussion here is about the democratic process and the role of the speaker. But multiple times, my name is being raised, vile things are being said about me. This House is the expression of the people's will. This House does not represent one party; it represents the whole country," the former Congress president said.

"Every time we get up to speak, we are stopped. The last time I spoke, I raised fundamental questions about the compromises made by our prime minister. Multiple times, I have been stopped from speaking. Just a few days ago, for the first time in India's history, the Leader of Opposition was not allowed to speak during a debate," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader said that the last time he spoke in Parliament, he raised the issue of "the prime minister being compromised".

"I raised the issue of Mr (M M) Naravane, I raised the issue of Epstein, I raised the issue of Adani, and I was silenced. These issues are fundamental to the people of India," he said.

"Our prime minister has been compromised; everybody knows the result of that," Gandhi said.

Lt Gen ..

Srinagar and Nagrota to undertake a comprehensive review of the operational and security situation," the Northern Command headquarters said in a post on X.

During the visit, the Army commander interacted with formation commanders and held detailed deliberations on the evolving security dynamics in the region.

He also reviewed strategies aimed at strengthening multi-domain surveillance, enhancing real-time intelligence integration, and maintaining vigil along the borders and hinterland, the Army said.

Emphasis was laid on synergy among security agencies to sustain peace, stability and normalcy across Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu University ...

immense cultural, linguistic, and artistic diversity. Through this initiative, the University seeks to bring together writers, artists, scholars, and cultural practitioners so that the many voices and traditions of the region can be presented collectively.

He added that in many ways the Jammu region represents a living example of unity within diversity, and the festival seeks to celebrate and present that spirit.

Prof. Rai further said that such initiatives resonate with the broader vision of PM Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor JK UT Manoj Sinha, which places strong emphasis on promoting regional studies, local languages, and cultural traditions while empowering youth through meaningful engagement with their heritage. He observed that this vision seeks to transform Jammu region into a vibrant knowledge hub, where education connects with local strengths such as handicrafts, tourism, literature, and cultural creativity. Prof. Rai added that such initiatives also reflect the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat," which celebrates India's cultural diversity while strengthening the bonds of unity among different regions of the country. He said the cultural ethos of the region has always been guided by the values of humanity, compassion, and mutual respect, deeply reflected in its languages, literature, and traditions. By bringing literature, art, and community knowledge onto a shared platform, the University is contributing to an approach that blends traditional Indian values with contemporary learning while encouraging youth participation in the journey towards "Viksit Bharat @2047."

Prof. Rai also emphasised the importance of cultural roots in shaping society. Drawing a simple analogy, he said that just as a tree cannot withstand storms if its roots are not deep, societies too must remain connected with their cultural foundations. Universities, he said, must create opportunities where young minds can engage with their heritage and learn from individuals who have devoted their lives to literature, art, and culture.

He further informed that the Samagam will bring together writers, artists, and scholars representing several languages spoken across the Jammu region, including Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri, Pahari, Siraji, Bhaderwahi, Pogli, Padri, Hindi, and Urdu. Alongside literary interactions and discussions, the event will also present traditional music, dance, local cuisine, and cultural expressions that reflect the everyday life and traditions of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, said that the programme has been thoughtfully designed to bring together prominent cultural personalities, writers, and artists from the region on one platform. She noted that several distinguished personalities, including Padma Shri awardees, have been invited to participate and interact with the audience through discussions, performances, and literary engagements.

NIA seeks ...

not just part of the conspiracy but were the main perpetrators," the National Investigation Agency (NIA) submitted in its written arguments.

The special public prosecutor representing the NIA submitted before the court that Andrabi and her two associates used social media and seditious gatherings with the support of terrorist entities based abroad to wage a war against India.

"From a reading of posts, imputations made and assertions on Twitter and Facebook posts of convicted persons, it is evident that they were running a concerted war against the government established by law in India," the SPP said.

She submitted that they used their proscribed organisation, Dukhtaran-e-Millat (DEM), to incite insurrection and seek the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India.

The trio was convicted by the court on January 14, 2026, for various offences under the UAPA and IPC, including conspiracy to commit terror acts and waging war against the state.

The agency highlighted that Andrabi, the chairperson of DEM, has a long history of criminal activities, with 33 FIRs registered against her across various police stations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Her associates, Fehmeeda and Nasreen, are involved in nine and five cases, respectively.

The NIA informed the court that the convicts colluded with Pakistan-based entities and UN-designated terrorist Hafiz Saeed, the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"This transforms their conspiracy from a domestic matter into a cross-border collusion against the security, sovereignty, and integrity of India," the agency told the court.

The NIA counsel argued that the convicts' provocative speeches and social media posts radicalised impressionable youth, leading them to join militancy.

She cited several major terror attacks, including those in Pulwama, Uri, and at the Red Fort and noted that such radicalisation often results in the loss of innocent lives and public property.

The prosecution also pointed to a specific instance where Andrabi slaughtered a cow during a protest to defy the Indian legal system and promote enmity between communities, an act the NIA termed "prejudicial to national integration".

Responding to this, the defence counsel representing all three convicts argued that the agency did not provide any evidence to prove its claim.

Seeking the harshest penalty, the NIA argued that any leniency would undermine public confidence in the efficacy of the law.

"The social impact of the crime, where it relates to terrorism and waging war against India, requires exemplary treatment. A stern message is required to be sent that conspiring against the state will invite the harshest penalty," the agency said.

The NIA has requested the court to award life imprisonment under IPC Section 121A and relevant sections of the UAPA, further praying that the sentences for different counts should run consecutively.

Opposing the life term punishment, the defence counsel argued that the prosecution failed to show any evidence that the speeches or posts of the convicts ever instigated people to violence.

The judge also gave Asiya and two others an opportunity to speak as they attended the hearing virtually.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court listed the matter for March 24 for pronouncing the sentencing order.

Andrabi and her associates were convicted under the offences of UAPA sections 20 (punishment for being a member of a terrorist gang or terrorist organisation), 38 (offence relating to membership of a terrorist organisation) and 39 (supporting a terrorist organisation).

The court also convicted the three under IPC sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) and 121A (conspiracy to commit offences against the State).

Slain terrorist ...

senior operative of LeT's launchpad module assigned to facilitate the infiltration of armed terrorists into the Indian side, officials said, describing his killing as a major setback for the proscribed outfit.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including an AK-type rifle with two magazines, two pistols with four magazines, 58 rounds, three hand grenades, one mobile set, two SIM cards and some Pakistani currency were recovered from the possession of the slain terrorist.

However, his associate managed to escape and cross back to the Pakistani side during the encounter, officials added.

This was the second infiltration bid foiled by the army in the Rajouri sector this month. On March 4, army troops opened fire on infiltrating terrorists in the Turkandi area, forcing them to retreat.

Earlier, the army foiled an infiltration bid in the Sunderbani area of Rajouri during the intervening night of February 19-20, recovering some arms and ammunition.

"A robust operational posture and heightened alert continue across the sector. The wall stands vigilant – every infiltration bid will fail," the army had said.

Terror hideout ...

appeared to be old, as most of the recovered material had rust. Officials said the search operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of a militant hideout in the forested belt. The area was thoroughly combed by joint teams of the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

NOTICE

I Zahid Hussain S/O Abdul Qayyum R/O Village Lowang, Tehsil Bani District Kathua. I am applying for Seed license. Anybody having any objection shall contact to the concerned department with in seven days of the publication of this notice