



# India alone will guide world towards right path: LG Sinha

Says country's real strength lies in inner spiritual flame, ignited for millennia through wisdom & meditation

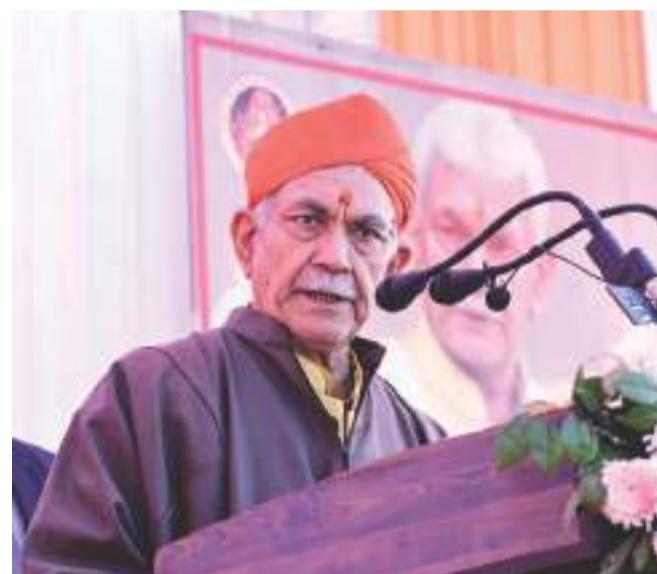
KNO Desk

Jammu, Feb 12: Asserting that India alone will guide the world towards the right path in near future, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called upon the people to celebrate India's grand renaissance.

Speaking at the Dya Dahan celebrations, part of Mahashivratri Festivities, at Mata Bhadrakali Asthan in Thalwal here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "For thousands of years, the sacred land of India has journeyed towards spiritual excellence, with our saints and great souls reaching the pinnacle of consciousness."

He said, "In near future, India alone will guide the world towards the right path. The society, especially the youth should also recognize and harness its spiritual fire alongside its technological & scientific prowess to surpass other nations in developmental journey."

He paid obeisance to Maa Shakti and Lord Shiva, and offered his prayers for peace and prosperity to bless everyone. The Lieutenant Governor observed that India has always placed the pursuit of truth



above all else. "Our ancient culture has long championed peace, global brotherhood, the erasure of social divides, mutual love among all, and steadfast adherence to dharma," he added.

"In today's world, where nations race ahead with one technological marvel after another, we must connect hearts just as deeply," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India is sparking two revolutions at once— "The outer one

empowers infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and the digital economy. The inner one transforms consciousness, values, and a global vision for society".

"We are not just conquering quantum computing; we are awakening a quantum consciousness in daily life. This dual revolution will make India not merely prosperous, but a balanced superpower," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that India's strength lies not just in its

human resources, innovations, startups, science and space tech but also in inner spiritual flame, ignited for millennia through wisdom and meditation.

"India's ancient wisdom proves spirituality and scientific discovery aren't foes but allies. For India, science labs and ashrams aren't rivals; they are twin milestones on the same path," he said.

"Our rishis and sages were the original scientists, excelling in both realms. The world now acknowledges that India gifted humanity knowledge and spirituality, paving the way for modern progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone for the cultural heritage centre at Mata Bhadrakali Asthan. He also commended the NHPC for undertaking the works worth Rs 6.60 cr for infrastructure development at Thalwal including community facility enhancement, development of ghat, parking, yagya shala, protection and compound wall, fencing and installation of gate.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional | [More on P6](#)

## Minister apologises for his conduct with two MLAs

KNO Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 12: Minister for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Satish Sharma on Thursday apologised for his conduct towards Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma and MLA Sham Lal Sharma.

As soon as the minister stood up to respond to a question from MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he requested the Speaker to first allow him to apologise to the LoP and Sham Lal Sharma.

"Before answering the question, if you give me 30 seconds, I would like to apologise for my conduct with two members—the LoP and Sham Lal Sharma. I was not feeling well at that time. I regret my behaviour. I am not like that. It was not appropriate on my part," he said.

Satish Sharma, who won as an independent candidate in the 2024 Assembly polls, is the son of deceased Congress leader Madan Lal Sharma and the nephew of Sham Lal Sharma. (KNO)

## 'Rs 290.1 cr spent on tourism promotion in Jammu, over Rs 270 cr in Kashmir in 2 years'

Raja Syed Rather



Jammu, Feb 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that more than Rs 7,647 lakh has been spent on the promotion of tourism across the Jammu and Kashmir divisions during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Replies to a question raised by MLA Yudhvir Sethi, the Tourism Department, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that in Jammu Division, an expenditure of Rs 1,619.73 lakh was incurred in 2024-25, while Rs 1,281.55 lakh has been spent in 2025-26 so far.

In Kashmir Division, the department spent Rs 1,400.16 lakh during 2024-25 and Rs 1,346.20 lakh in the current financial year till January 2026.

The government said several initiatives have been undertaken to restore traveller confidence and increase tourist footfall across the Union

The | [More on P6](#)

Territory. These include aggressive digital marketing, social media campaigns and publicity through print and electronic media.

The department has also participated in 10 national and international travel marts to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential.

To generate positive publicity, Bollywood celebrities were invited for familiarisation (FAM) tours in the Jammu Division between June 28-30 and July 2-6, 2025, during which they interacted with local stakeholders.

The | [More on P6](#)

## House passes grants of PWD, I&C, L&E, SD & Mining Depts

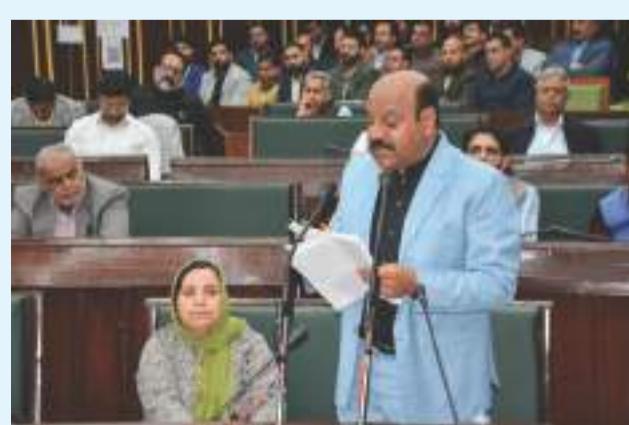
Committed to create robust road network: Dy CM

KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 12: The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the grants amounting Rs. 5,29,842.67 lakh for Public Works, Rs. 86,615.70 lakh for Industries and Commerce, Rs. 28,526.22 lakh for Labour and Employment, Rs. 19,881.72 lakh for Skill Development and Rs. 6,492.81 lakh for Mining Departments through a voice vote.

The grants were passed after daylong debate and discussion by the Members in the House.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who is incharge Minister for these departments, thanked the members for their suggestions and assured that their feedback would be considered for effective project implementation.



The Deputy Chief Minister, in his speech, said the Omar Abdullah led government aims to create a robust road network and connect habitations for enhanced socio-economic growth in the Union Territory. He highlighted the focus on Industries & Commerce to

boost investment and MSME growth and efforts under Mission YUVA to promote entrepreneurship and employment in J&K.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the Skill Development ecosystem is being strengthened to align

with the market demand and preserve traditional crafts. Besides, emphasis is being given on sustainable resource utilization and policy reforms for infrastructure growth under the Mining sector.

He highlighted that development of quality and extensive road network in Jammu and Kashmir is vital, given the topography of the UT and limited scope for development of alternate means of transportation.

Speaking on grants of Public Works Department, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the PW(R&B) Department is mandated to develop a robust road network, connecting the habitations. He added that a well-developed network of roads is necessary not only for economic development of the UT but for | [More on P6](#)

## Amarnath Yatra 2026

# LG Sinha chairs 50th meeting of SASB

» Pratham Pooja on June 29

» Accidental insurance cover doubled to Rs 10 lakh

» Laser and Sound Show approved for twin capitals

KNO Desk



commencement date for the Yatra will be finalized soon.

The Board approved various key measures and interventions to further enhance the spiritual experience and convenience of devotees for the upcoming 2026 Yatra.

Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board decided to enhance the accidental insurance cover for registered yatri, service providers, officials, seasonal workers and pujaris from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

The Board also discussed and approved various welfare measures for SASB employees.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials for identifying spots for installation of suitable toilet facilities enroute the yatra.

The Board announced that the Pratham Pooja for the 2026 pilgrimage will be performed on June 29, 2026 on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima. The formal

security personnel.

The meeting also discussed ongoing projects, dissemination of Yatra-related information, insurance cover for ponies; extension of online and pre-paid services; registration of pilgrims; disaster preparedness and mitigation measures; adequate provisioning of medical care facilities; langar and volunteer services, telecommunication, grid connectivity.

Weather Forecasting Infrastructure & Systems, security and surveillance; digital pre-paid system for hiring services, laying of crash barriers and safety railings along vulnerable stretches on both routes and the progress achieved on various ongoing works undertaken by different departments.

Reviewing the maintenance, restoration and development of | [More on P6](#)

## J&K Assembly to discuss online smear campaigns against MLAs

Legislators demand stern action against fake news, misinformation

Yogesh

Jammu, Feb 12: Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, announced on Thursday that the House will hold a half-hour discussion on online smear campaigns against legislators during the ongoing budget session.

During Question Hour, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), BJP MLA R.S. Pathania said the issue of fake news concerns the entire world as well as Jammu & Kashmir. "This issue also concerns the sensitive land of Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

Pathania added that he had approached different departments and authorities after a national party shared a doctored video of him, but no action was taken against it.

"My colleague Pawan Gupta has lodged complaints against an unverified channel, but no action has been taken against



it," he said, demanding stern action against fake news and misinformation.

The Speaker also expressed concern over the issue, stating that such complaints are frequently received. "He (Pathania) rightly said the enforcement division should be activated. This is a question of someone's honour. The Hon'ble members have expressed concern over it last year as well as this year. These acts should be tackled sternly. Anyone can say whatever they

want," the Speaker remarked.

The Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Ittoo said that a meeting would be held with the Information Department over the issue. "The concern of the member is the concern of the entire House. We cannot explain how they have wreaked havoc. Every day someone is maligned," she said.

MLA from Gurez, Nazir Gurezi, said that a defamatory video was circulated against him, accusing him of taking money in | [More on P6](#)

## Policy for setting up private universities in J&K framed: Govt

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Jan 12: In a significant development, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has said that a policy regarding the establishment of private universities in the Union Territory has been framed.

In a written response to a cut motion moved by Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Minister in-charge of Higher Education Sakina Ittoo said that a policy for setting up private universities in Jammu & Kashmir has been prepared.

"...the demands regarding the setting up of private universities in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir have been framed by the Higher Education Department following comprehensive deliberations and are currently under examination in the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs," she said.

She added that cases for establishing private universities will be | [More on P6](#)

## Take concrete steps to address unemployment, drug menace in J&K: MP Ramzan urges Centre

'Govt schemes integrating J&K youth into national mainstream'

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Feb 12: Senior National Conference leader and MP Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan on Thursday raised concerns in the Rajya Sabha over rising unemployment and increasing drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir, urging the Centre to outline concrete steps to tackle the twin challenges.

Raising a supplementary during Question Hour in the Parliament, Choudhary, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the unemployment rate in J&K was nearly double the national average and had been increasing steadily over the past few years.

Citing figures, he said that while the national unemployment rate hovered around 3.2 to 3.5 per cent in recent years, the rate in J&K stood at 4.4 per



cent in 2022-23, rose to 6.1 per cent in 2023-24 and further to 6.7 per cent in 2025.

"The national average remains largely stable, but J&K's unemployment rate has almost doubled and continues to rise every year," he said, seeking to know whether the government had any concrete proposals to

curb the trend.

The MP said over 3.57 lakh educated youth in J&K were unemployed, including 2.34 lakh men and 1.27 lakh women. Of them, around 66,000 were graduates and 47,000 postgraduates, while over 15,000 held professional degrees and more than 10,000 | [More on P6](#)

## CS assesses impact of HIMAYAT scheme in J&K

Calls for stronger placement linkages under HIMAYAT 2.0



### KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) – HIMAYAT scheme in J&K, an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, aimed at skilling rural youth and ensuring their sustainable placement.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), Ajaz Asad; Chief Operating Officer (COO), HIMAYAT, Rajneesh Gupta; and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need to achieve the training targets under the revamped HIMAYAT 2.0 within stipulated timelines. He directed the department to adopt a result-oriented approach and strictly link payments to Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) with their placement performance to ensure accountability and improved outcomes.

Reviewing the performance of the scheme's first phase, the Chief Secretary took note of the number of youth trained and the overall fund utilisation. He also assessed the progress achieved during the current financial year 2025-26 and the targets

earmarked under HIMAYAT 2.0. On this occasion Secretary, RDD, Ajaz Asad, informed that the scheme provides job-linked skill training to eligible rural youth and facilitates their placement in regular employment, gig economy opportunities, or self-employment ventures, thereby promoting sustainable livelihoods.

He stated that the first version of the programme, implemented from 2016 to 2026, resulted in the training of 36,316 candidates across the Union Territory. Under DDU-GKY 2.0, which became effective from April 2025, Jammu and Kashmir has been assigned a target of training 2,248 candidates for the year 2025-26 with an approved outlay of Rs 37.64 Cr. Of this, 1,838 candidates have already been trained so far.

Providing further details, COO HIMAYAT, Rajneesh Gupta, highlighted that during 2025-26, against a target of 996 candidates, 1,589 candidates were trained, with 850 of them successfully placed in various sectors. An expenditure of Rs 27.49 Cr has been incurred during the year.

The meeting was informed about the key features of DDU-GKY 2.0, which mandate that PIAs must ensure a minimum of 70 percent placement of trained candidates, with a minimum monthly wage of Rs 12,000, to qualify for project cost claims. It was

also apprised that batch-wise monitoring has been introduced, including live streaming of training sessions to the HIMAYAT office for real-time monitoring and quality assessment of training delivery by PIAs.

At present, 13 PIAs have been allocated 175 candidates each to meet the overall training targets. These agencies are conducting skill training in various trades across different training centres, including Office Assistant, Assistant Designer, Sales Assistant, Front Office Assistant, General Duty Assistant, Supply Chain Executive, Assembly Operator, Food & Beverage Assistant, and Multi-Skill Technician for Home Appliances. The meeting also reviewed the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) initiatives undertaken under the scheme. Activities such as Kaushal Parv, Alumni Meets, operation of Kaushal Rath (mobilization van), and screening of documentaries and awareness video have been conducted across various districts of the Union Territory to enhance outreach and mobilization of eligible youth.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening skill development initiatives and directed the department to ensure quality training, enhanced placement outcomes, and sustained livelihood opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

### DC Budgam reviews Ramadan arrangements

#### KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat, Thursday convened a high-level meeting of district officers to comprehensively review the arrangements put in place for the ongoing holy month of Ramdan-ul-Mubarak and to ensure that all necessary facilities are made available to the public in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

During the meeting, it was stressed that uninterrupted power and potable water supply across the district must be ensured throughout the holy month, with special emphasis on the critical hours of Sehri (Suhoor) and Iftar. The Executive Engineers of the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department were directed to sensitise their respective field staff and ensure round-the-clock monitoring so that any disruptions are promptly addressed and minimum inconvenience is caused to the public.

The DC, as per an official statement further directed that special measures be adopted to maintain stability in essential supplies and ensure that adequate manpower is deployed to handle increased demand during peak hours. It was impressed upon the concerned departments that uninterrupted electricity supply during Sehri and Iftar timings shall be accorded top priority across all areas of the district.

At the outset, directions were issued for the constitution of special market checking squads to strictly monitor markets and take firm action against profiteering, hoarding, black marketing and overcharging. It was emphasized that regular market inspections shall be carried out to ensure availability of essential commodities at notified rates and that strict enforcement of consumer protection norms shall be ensured in letter and spirit.

## DC Srinagar reviews telecom infrastructure at District Telecom Committee meeting



#### KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12: A meeting of District Telecom Committee (DTC) was held on Thursday under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review and discuss the development of telecom infrastructure under Jammu & Kashmir Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Project (JKCCIP). The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Dy Superintendent of Police,

mobile towers, 4G saturation, status of Right of Way (RoW) applications for Optical Fiber Cable (OFC), progress under the amended BharatNet Project, 5G street furniture mapping and other related matters.

During the meeting, the DC stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of telecom infrastructure projects. He stressed the importance of connecting all panchayats with their respective blocks in a time-bound manner to improve governance and service delivery mechanisms. He also called for expediting the implementation of 4G saturation and BharatNet projects across the district.

Highlighting the significance of robust telecom networks, the DC stated that improved connectivity is vital for effective governance, delivery of essential services, education and economic activities. He reiterated that strengthening network coverage and improving signal quality are crucial for public welfare and the overall development of the district.

During the meeting, the DC also took detailed feedback from telecom companies operating in Srinagar district and urged them to enhance the quality of telecom services, particularly in remote areas. He stressed the importance of close coordination between excavation agencies and asset owners to avoid any damage to existing infrastructure at project sites.

## KASHMIR THUNDER



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## Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT TREHGAM KUPWARA

Subject: Merit cum Tentative Selection List of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Trehgam.

### (P U B L I C   N O T I C E)

Whereas, Pursuant to the Human Resource Policy for recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers/AWWs) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers/AWHs) issued vide Government Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022 and Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023, the vacancies of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers/AWHs) have arisen due to various reasons, i.e., attaining the age of sixty, resignation, death, etc.

Whereas, this office submitted the vacancy position to the District Programme Officer, Kupwara vide No. CDPO/POSHAN/TRH/25/634 Dated: 10-12-2025, who further submitted it to the Mission Director, Poshan Jammu and Kashmir for accord of approval for recruitment of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) at vacant positions.

Whereas, the Mission Director, Poshan J&K, accorded approval for the recruitment of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) vide letter No.: MD/POSHAN/47213-23 Dated: 24-12-2025 which was further communicated by the District Programme Officer, ICDS Kupwara to this office vide letter No. DPO/POSHAN/25/6043-55 Dated: 29-12-2025.

Whereas, this office advertised (05) vacant posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) against Anganwadi Centre Rashwari Payeen (PH Awoora C Ward NO 11), Mirpora Zirhama (PH Zirhama -A Ward NO 09), Khan Mohalla Zirhama (PH Zirhama -A Ward NO 07), Shah Mohalla (PH Trehgam-E Ward NO 06) Tangwari Gulgam (PH Gulgam C Ward NO 02) vide this office advertisement notification No. 02-CDPO-TREHGAM of 2026 Dated 01-01-2026, and Extension Notice No. CDPO/TRH/ADV/2025-26/773-789 dated 16-01-2026, published in daily newspapers Global Kashmir, Inside Kashmir, Roshan Kashmir, Kashmir Tribune Weekly English on 03-01-2026, and Kashmir Vision, Nigahban, and Victory of Kashmir on 17-01-2026, respectively, and also uploaded on departmental/district websites for wide publicity.

Whereas, in response to the said advertisement notice, the following number of applications were received within the prescribed/Stipulated time; the details are as under

S. No	Name of Anganwadi Center	Ward No	No of Applications Received
01.	Rashwari Payeen	11	05
02	Mirpora Zirhama	09	03
03	Khan Mohalla Zirhama	07	01
04	Shah Mohalla Trehgam	06	01
05	Tangwari Gulgam	02	02

Whereas, the requisite screening has been conducted as envisaged in Government Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022

and Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023, and a merit panel has been prepared. Whereas, the merit list along with the tentative selection list was prepared as per the criteria laid down in the said Govt. Orders and placed before the committee. After thorough deliberations and analysis, the Selection Committee approved the merit list cum tentative selection list for wide publication local newspapers, display at the offices of all committee members, respective Panchayat Ghars, and on the department's website, as well as the NIC website at the Deputy Commissioner's office, inviting objections (if any). Therefore, the merit-cum-tentative selection list attached at Annexure-A and Annexure-B of this notification is hereby published today on 12-02-2026 for inviting appeals/objections (if any). The appeal/objection (if any) against the said merit-cum-tentative selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project (ICDS) Trehgam, Main Road, Near Post Office Trehgam, against proper receipt, within ten days from the date of publication of the merit cum tentative selection list during working hours (up to 4:00 PM). No appeal/objection shall be entertained after the lapse of the last date.

### Annexure-A

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for Anganwadi centre Rashwari Payeen (PH Awoora C Ward NO 11), Mirpora Zirhama (PH Zirhama -A Ward NO 09), Khan Mohalla Zirhama (PH Zirhama -A Ward NO 07), Shah Mohalla (PH Trehgam-E Ward NO 06) Tangwari Gulgam (PH Gulgam C Ward NO 02)

S. No	Index No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ Spouse Name	Residence/ Panchayat Halqa	Location of AWC	Ward No	D.O.B	Qualification	Marks obtained in 10 <sup>th</sup> Out of 10 <sup>th</sup>	Total Merit	Remarks
1	007	Dilshada Akther	W/O Abid Hussain Mir	Zirhama	Mirpora Zirhama	09	03-03-1991	10 <sup>th</sup>	208/500	41.6	
2	004	Abida Kouser	D/O Gh Khazir Mohammad Malik	Zirhama	Mirpora Zirhama	09	01-02-2005	10 <sup>th</sup>	262/500	52.4	Unmarried
3	009	Sayma Bano	D/O Nazir Ahmed Mir	Zirhama	Mirpora Zirhama	09	09-10-2002	10 <sup>th</sup>	215/500	43.0	Unmarried
4	001	Nafeesa Bano	W/O Sajad Ahmed Shah D/O Bashir Ahmed Parray	Trehgam	Shah Mohalla Trehgam	06	01-02-1996	10th	188/500	37.6	
5	011	Shafeeqa Akther	W/O Sajad Ahmad Khan Pathan D/O Bashir Ahmed Khan	Awoora	Rashwari Payeen	11	24-3-1997	10 <sup>th</sup>	260/500	52.0	
6	005	Zaheeda Bano	W/O Rezay Ahmed Khan D/O Gh Ahmed Mir	Awoora	Rashwari Payeen	11	01-02-1995	10th	231/500	46.2	
7	010	Zafoora Bano	D/O Fayaz Ahmad Khan	Awoora	Rashwari Payeen	11	27-8-2007	10th	273/500	54.6	Unmarried
8	006	Muskan Bano	D/O Ghulam Mohammad Khan	Awoora	Rashwari Payeen	11	01-03-2006	10 <sup>th</sup>	250/500	50.0	Unmarried
9	002	Waheeda Bano	D/O Ali Mohd Khan	Awoora	Rashwari Payeen	11	04-03-2000	10 <sup>th</sup>	233/500	46.6	Unmarried
10	012	Neghat Bano	W/O Rayees Ahmed Khan D/O Bashir Ahmed Wani	Zirhama	Khan Mohalla Zirhama	11	15-3-1995	8 <sup>th</sup>	205/500	41	
11	008	Refath Akther	W/O Naseer Ahmad Lone D/O Sharif U DIN Lone	Gulgam	Tangwari Gulgam	02	24-01-1989	10 <sup>th</sup>	240/500	48.00	
12	003	Shahzada Habib	W/O Tariq Ahmed Tariq Lone D/O Habibullah Dar	Gulgam	Tangwari Gulgam	02	24-01-1989	10 <sup>th</sup>	240/500	48.00	

### Annexure-B

Tentative Selection list for the post of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for Anganwadi centre Rashwari Payeen (PH Awoora C Ward NO 11), Mirpora Zirhama (PH Zirhama -A Ward NO 09), Khan Mohalla Zirhama (PH Zirhama -A Ward NO 07), Shah Mohalla (PH Trehgam-E Ward NO 06) Tangwari Gulgam (PH Gulgam C Ward NO 02)

S. No	Index No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ Spouse Name	Residence/ Panchayat Halqa	Location of AWC	Ward No	D.O.B	Qualification	Marks obtained in 10 <sup>th</sup> Out of 10 <sup>th</sup>	Total Merit	Remarks
1	007	Dilshada Akther	W/O Abid Hussain Mir	Zirhama	Mirpora Zirhama	09	03-03-1991	10 <sup>th</sup>	208/500	41.6	
4	001	Nafeesa Bano	W/o Sajad Ahmed Shah D/O Bashir Ahmed Parray	Trehgam	Shah Mohalla Trehgam	06	01-02-1996	10th	188/500	37.6	
5											

From The Parliament

## AT&C losses above national average in J&K: GoI

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 12: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses of around 20 per cent, higher than the national average of 15.04 per cent, the Government of India informed Parliament on Thursday.

The information was shared in the Lok Sabha in reply to a starred question raised by Dr Prabha Mallikarjun regarding the financial and operational performance of power distribution utilities.

According to official data as on March 31, 2025, AT&C losses stood at about 20 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting energy losses in distribution networks as well as commercial losses due to theft, billing inefficiencies and poor collection. The figures also show that neighbouring Ladakh recorded AT&C losses of 26.82 per cent, significantly higher than the national average.

The Ministry of Power said the Centre has been supporting States and Union Territories to reduce losses and improve the financial



health of power utilities through schemes such as the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Under these programmes, financial assistance has been provided for strengthening distribution infrastructure, including upgradation of substations, installation of new transformers, replacement of old conductors, underground cabling, SCADA systems and smart metering.

The government said projects worth over Rs 1.53 lakh crore for loss reduction infrastructure and Rs 1.31 lakh crore for smart metering have been sanctioned under RDSS, while works worth Rs 58,686 crore were executed earlier under IPDS.

Officials said the release of funds under RDSS is linked to the performance of distribution utilities, aimed at improving efficiency and ensuring reliable and quality power supply to consumers—(KNO)

SBM-U 2.0

## GoI approves Rs 666.95 Cr for J&K SWM

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Feb 12: The Government of India has approved financial assistance of 666.95 crore for Jammu and Kashmir under the Solid Waste Management (SWM) component of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0, the Parliament was informed on Thursday.

Replies to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said the funds have been

allocated to strengthen scientific management of garbage and solid waste in urban areas across the Union Territory.

The Ministry said sanitation is a State subject and the Centre supplements the efforts of States and UTs by providing financial and technical support, policy guidance and standard operating procedures for effective waste management.

The government further informed that under the AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 schemes, Jammu and

Kashmir has been sanctioned 18 sewerage and septage management projects—15 projects worth 137.26 crore under AMRUT and three projects costing 373.35 crore under AMRUT 2.0 to improve sewage treatment infrastructure in urban areas.

The Ministry said the initiatives are aimed at improving urban sanitation, enhancing waste processing capacity and ensuring better sewage management to make cities cleaner

and environmentally sustainable.

At the national level, the government noted that 97 percent wards have achieved door-to-door waste collection and 88 percent wards have achieved source segregation, under SBM-U 2.0.

The progress of sanitation initiatives is monitored through annual third-party assessments under the Swachh Survekshan, the Ministry added—(KNO)

## J&K has 201 registered drones: Centre

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 12: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 201 registered civilian drones, while no drone has been registered in Ladakh so far, the Government of India informed Parliament on Thursday.

The information was shared in the Lok Sabha in response to a question raised by MP Smt Sajida Ahmed regarding the promotion and regulation of civilian drones in the country.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, a total of 38,475 drones have been issued Unique

Continued on  
[www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## Asian waterbird census begins in Kashmir wetlands



SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Feb 12: The 2026 Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) began across Kashmir on Thursday, covering 27 major wetlands as part of a global exercise to monitor migratory bird populations and assess wetland health, officials said.

The annual census, conducted between December and March in different regions, is being organised in Kashmir by the Department of Wildlife Protection in coordination with the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA).

Deputy Conservator, WUCMA, Altaf Hussain said that the exercise aims to record migratory bird patterns and estimate their numbers across key wetlands, including Hokarsar, Wular Lake, Shallabugh and Haigam.

"Basically, the exercise is called the Asian Waterbird Census. It is a global initiative where we try to understand and record the pattern of migratory birds and their migration," Hussain said.

This year, 27 wetlands have been identified for the census, with 58 designated counting points across these sites. "For

example, in Wular Lake alone, we have 10 different points. Teams visit each point and record species, numbers and location details on properly designed data sheets," he said.

Around 58 teams, accompanied by bird experts, were deployed to the field on Thursday. The collected data sheets will be analysed by departmental experts to arrive at an estimated number of migratory birds visiting Kashmir's wetlands this season.

An orientation programme was held in Srinagar a day earlier, drawing over 350 participants, including students and volunteers from institutions such as the University of Kashmir, SKUAST, Amar Singh College, SP College and Government Degree College Ganderbal, besides representatives of non-governmental organisations.

"We train volunteers on how to conduct field visits, record data, and follow standard protocols. They are briefed about the do's and don'ts while estimating bird populations," Hussain said.

Continued on  
[www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## J&K takes up student suspension with Rajasthan Govt: Advisor Wani

WARIS FAYAZ

Kupwara, Feb 12: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Thursday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Administration has taken up with the Rajasthan Government the issue of suspension of 33 J&K students studying in a college there.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Kupwara, Wani, as said, the J&K has taken up the matter with the Rajasthan government and efforts are on to resolve the issue.

Responding to queries about education facilities in the district, the Advisor said the government has prioritised the education sector, describing it as vital for every society and nation. "Education is very important for every society, every nation, every area and every sector. We have taken it very seriously and our Education Minister, Sakina Ji, is working very hard," he said.

Wani, who inspected the district library in Kupwara, expressed concern over its condition and called for immediate improvements. "Today, I saw the condition of the district library. A new block is being constructed. There is a good inventory of books, but the arrangement and accessibility to children is lacking."

"Equipment is insufficient, seating is improper and staff strength is inadequate," he said, adding that he will request Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other concerned departments for additional funding to upgrade the facility.

"We will bring it to a level where children can truly benefit," he said.

On the issue of daily wagers,



casual labourers and ongoing protests, the Advisor appealed for calm and patience, assuring that the government is actively working to address their concerns.

"My request to them is that since their issues are being resolved, they should have some patience. The report will be out soon. All genuine cases will be regularised. The process started last year and the government is committed to resolving their legitimate matters," he said.

He said that wherever there are pending cases, they will be cleared as soon as the committee's report is received. "In systems like ours, both the political and bureaucratic sides have to move together. This has been the pattern since independence with sometimes tense, sometimes smooth—but always evolving," he said.

Reflecting on the transition from State to Union Territory, Wani said the change posed challenges both politically and administratively. "It was difficult for us when we were brought from a State to a UT.

It's not easy to accept that we were downsized. Many officers were not accustomed to a political setup here."

"Now that elections have been held and it's been a year since, things are gradually streamlining—both bureaucratically and politically," he said.

Commenting on the Budget and the opposition's mixed reactions, Wani said such differences are part of democracy. "There are always mixed reactions. If everyone supported us, that would be extraordinary, but disagreement is natural. Those who oppose the Budget are playing their role—opposition's job is to oppose," he said.

He said the Budget presented under the prevailing circumstances was commendable. "Given the current conditions and available resources, this is a remarkable Budget. Every sector has been allocated funds thoughtfully, perhaps for the first time in this manner," he said.

"We are fulfilling the commitments we made in our manifesto," he said—(KNO)

JKLA Question Hour

## 28 fake news rebuttals since April 2025: Govt

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Jammu, Feb 12: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday told the Assembly that the Directorate of Information and Public Relations has issued 28 rebuttals to fake and misleading news reports between April 1, 2025, and Jan 31, 2026, as part of its efforts to counter misinformation.

Replying to a question by BJP MLA R.S. Pathania, the J&K government stated that a dedicated Media Monitoring Cell has been set up in the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) to monitor fake and misleading news in real time.

The government said that out of 28 rebuttals, 20 were issued through press releases while eight were issued through official social media handles of DIPR, J&K.

It further clarified that



regulation of websites, digital platforms, online news channels and Fact Checking Units (FCUs) does not fall under the purview of the Information Department. The department also stated that it does not impose fines on organizations, corporate entities or individuals for spreading fake news.

In response to another query, the government said that no

private Fact Checking Units (FCUs) are recognized or authorized by the Information Department, and at present, it does not verify or grade private FCUs.

The House was also informed that a Draft New Media Policy-2026 has proposed provisions to regulate new and social media alongside print media. The draft policy is currently under inter-departmental consultation for

finalization.

On cyber security measures, the government said comprehensive steps have been undertaken in coordination with the IT Department to strengthen cyber infrastructure across government departments and institutions. Mandatory security audits have been conducted for websites hosted on the State Data Centre and NIC Mini Data Centre, while redundant websites have been decommissioned or DNS de-mapped.

The government added that cyber security governance has been institutionalized through monthly review meetings chaired by the Chief Secretary, establishment of an Information Security Steering Committee, nomination of Internal Security Officers and preparation of Cyber Crisis Management Plans by all departments—(KNO)

## BJP set for third term in Assam: Sunil Sharma

KNO

Assam, Feb 12: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and BJP Election Co-incharge for Assam, Sunil Sharma, addressed a massive Mahila Sammelan in Silchar, energising party cadres and women supporters ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

According to a statement, addressing the Sammelan, Sunil Sharma emphasized that women are no longer passive beneficiaries but decisive stakeholders in nation-building, asserting that their rising participation is strengthening democracy and reshaping India's socio-economic landscape. The Modi government has empowered women with opportunities, confidence and respect, and the Union Budget further strengthens this resolve, he said.

Sunil Sharma highlighted the pro people and women centric initiatives of the BJP led government, stating that the Union Budget reflects the party's firm commitment to inclusive growth, women empowerment and economic development. He emphasized that



women are playing a decisive role in strengthening democracy and driving social change across the country.

Expressing strong confidence in the BJP's prospects, Sunil Sharma said that the people of Assam, especially in the Barak Valley, are fully aware of the BJP's development-oriented governance model, which has delivered stability, infrastructure

growth, welfare benefits and transparent administration. He asserted that the party's deep grassroots connect and performance-driven politics have earned the trust of every section of society.

Sunil Sharma categorically declared that the Bharatiya Janata Party will form the government in Assam for the third consecutive term with an even bigger and historic mandate. He said that the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the organisational strength of the BJP, and the tireless work of party workers have positioned the party for a resounding victory.

Calling upon women to play a pivotal role, Sharma said that Mahila Shakti will be the backbone of BJP's third victory in Assam, urging them to take the message of development, good governance and nationalism to every household.

"The BJP's victory in Assam is not just an electoral outcome, but a reaffirmation of the people's faith in Modi ji's policies and vision. The third term will mark a new chapter of accelerated growth and empowerment," he added—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

## Friday Brief: Children's Education As The Supreme Sadaqah

In the Qur'an, Allah describes the righteous believer as one who prays: "My Lord, grant me from Yourself a good offspring. Indeed, You are the Hearer of supplication" (3:38). This supplication reveals a profound truth: children are not merely gifts; they are trusts. They are the only assets we send forward into a world we will not inhabit, and their education is the highest-yielding investment in both the ledger of this world and the scales of the Hereafter. The Qur'an explicitly frames children as a parental investment. Scholarly

analysis confirms that "children are the most important asset, capital, investment of every family that must be maintained, nurtured, cared for, educated". Allah warns: "Let those who would fear for the future of their weak offspring be concerned, and let them fear Allah and speak justly" (4:9). This verse is a divine mandate to invest intellectually and spiritually in our children's preparedness for the world they will inherit. The Prophetic tradition elevates this duty to the pinnacle of devotional spending. Abu Hurairah (RA) reported the Prophet (PBUH)

declared: "A dinar you spend in Allah's way, or to free a slave, or as charity to a needy person, or to support your family—the one yielding the greatest reward is that which you spend on your family" (Sahih Muslim). Imam An-Nawawi (RA) commented that spending on family surpasses even voluntary charity and jihad in reward because it is simultaneously an obligation, an act of preservation, and a means of enabling dependents to worship and contribute to society. To spend on a child's education, therefore, is to engage in sadaqah

jariyah—continuous charity—of the highest order. Every lesson understood, every skill mastered, every ethical decision made by that child throughout their life flows into the parent's record. As the Prophet (PBUH) said: "When a person dies, his deeds are cut off except from three: ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, or a righteous child who prays for him." An educated child is precisely this: beneficial knowledge personified. This investment must be intentional and Sharia-conscious. The Qur'anic story of Prophet Yusuf (AS)—saving during abundance to

withstand famine—is a masterclass in long-term planning. It teaches that preparation is not distrust in providence but obedience to divine wisdom. Parents are urged to begin early, save consistently, and avoid riba-based financing. Let us understand: land appreciates, markets fluctuate, but a well-educated child who benefits humanity and worships its Creator is an asset no inflation can erode. When we invest in their minds and character, we invest in the Ummah's future and our own eternal ledger. There is no better portfolio. There is no greater return.

## India's New Legal Architecture For Synthetic Media: Labelling, Provenance, And Platform Accountability

The amended Intermediary Rules introduce precise definitions, mandatory user declarations for significant platforms, and ex-ante technical measures, supported by the India AI Governance Guidelines' emphasis on transparency and human-centric design

**S Krishnan**

India's digital public sphere is at a defining moment. Advances in artificial intelligence, particularly in the generation and alteration of audio, visual, and audio-visual content, have fundamentally reshaped how information is created, consumed, and trusted. While these technologies expand the possibilities of expression, creativity, and accessibility, they also introduce new risks that touch directly upon individual dignity, social harmony, and constitutional values.

Recognising the distinctive challenges posed by synthetically generated information, the Government of India has strengthened the legal and policy architecture governing digital intermediaries. Recent amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, read alongside the India AI Governance Guidelines, 2025 released under the India AI Mission in November 2025, reflect a coherent and calibrated approach: binding legal obligations to address concrete harms, supported by policy principles to guide responsible AI adoption.

Together, these instruments, the outcome of extensive consultation with stakeholders, signal a clear governing intent—technological advancement must proceed within a framework that preserves transparency, accountability, and the dignity of the citizen.

A Statutory Response to Synthetic Media Risks

The amended Intermediary Rules introduce, for the first time, a precise and operational definition of "synthetically generated information." The definition is carefully calibrated. It captures content that is artificially or algorithmically created or altered in a manner that appears authentic or indistinguishable from reality, while expressly excluding routine, good-faith activities such as technical editing, accessibility enhancements, educational or research material, and legitimate creative use.

This definitional clarity performs an important legal function. By expressly bringing synthetically generated information within the scope of "information" for the purposes of due diligence, grievance redressal, and intermediary responsibility, the Rules ensure that emerging forms of digital harm are addressed within the existing statutory framework,



rather than left to informal moderation practices.

Equally significant is the explicit clarification that good-faith actions taken by intermediaries, through automated tools or other reasonable technical measures, do not undermine statutory protections. This reinforces a compliance-enabling environment while preserving accountability.

Labelling, Provenance, and Ex-Ante Safeguards

The most consequential shift in the amended framework lies in its movement from reactive moderation to ex-ante governance. Intermediaries that enable or facilitate the creation or dissemination of synthetically generated information are now required to deploy reasonable and appropriate technical measures to prevent the circulation of unlawful content at the point of creation or dissemination.

Where synthetically generated content is lawful, the Rules mandate clear and prominent labelling, supported by persistent metadata or other provenance mechanisms, to the extent technically feasible. The modification,

suppression, or removal of such labels or identifiers is expressly prohibited.

This techno-legal approach reflects a nuanced regulatory understanding. Rather than relying solely on takedowns after harm has occurred, the framework treats transparency as a safeguard of dignity and trust. Citizens are empowered not only through remedies, but through the ability to distinguish authentic content from synthetic content in real time. It is a recognition of a right to know for citizens.

The amended Intermediary Guidelines also require the Intermediaries to periodically and clearly inform users of their rights, obligations, and the consequences of non-compliance, using accessible language.

Heightened Responsibilities for Significant Platforms

For significant social media intermediaries, the regulatory framework imposes additional obligations commensurate with scale and influence. Such platforms are required to obtain user declarations regarding synthetically generated content, deploy proportionate technical measures to assess the accuracy of

those declarations, and ensure that synthetically generated information is not published without appropriate identification.

Failure to comply with these requirements may constitute a lapse in due diligence under the Rules, with attendant statutory consequences. This approach reflects a calibrated allocation of responsibility, recognising that platforms with greater systemic impact must shoulder higher governance obligations.

Policy Guidance for Responsible AI Adoption

Complementing these enforceable legal rules, the India AI Governance Guidelines, 2025 articulate a policy framework for responsible, safe, and inclusive AI adoption. The Guidelines emphasise transparency, accountability, human-centric design, and risk awareness, while expressly operating within the boundaries of existing law.

Importantly, the Guidelines do not displace statutory obligations under the IT Act or the Intermediary Rules. Rather, they provide directional guidance to developers, deployers, and institutions, reinforcing the expectation

that AI systems, particularly those capable of generating synthetic content, must be designed and deployed with due regard to societal impact and public trust.

Legislative Competence and Democratic Stewardship

India's approach to governing emerging technologies is anchored in constitutional legitimacy and institutional capacity. While the present framework relies on calibrated rule-making and policy guidance, Parliament retains full legislative competence to respond to evolving technological realities where required in the public interest. This is not an assertion of regulatory excess, but a reaffirmation of democratic stewardship—ensuring that innovation remains aligned with constitutional values, due process, and the protection of individual dignity. The existing framework therefore reflects not regulatory finality, but regulatory readiness: adaptive, proportionate, and firmly grounded in the rule of law.

A Citizen-Centric Digital Governance Model

India's approach to digital regulation has

consistently avoided rigid or reactionary responses. Instead, it has favoured principle-based and proportionate governance built on extensive consultation that preserves innovation while safeguarding rights.

The evolving framework for synthetic media exemplifies this approach. By combining definitional precision, ex-ante safeguards, mandatory transparency, time-bound remedies, appellate oversight, and policy guidance for responsible AI, India is strengthening confidence in its digital public sphere.

The challenge posed by synthetic media is ultimately one of trust, that technology will not outpace rights, that platforms will remain accountable, and that institutions will respond effectively to citizen harm. Empowering users through enforceable procedures, embedding transparency by design, and reinforcing institutional oversight are not competing objectives. They are the foundations of a resilient digital democracy.

Anchored in these principles, India's response to synthetic media offers not only a domestic governance solution, but a globally relevant model for democratic, rights-respecting regulation in an AI-mediated world.

The author is Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India

## The Eternal Couple Of Kashmir: A Conversation Between Samavar And Kehwa

The Samavar heats slowly, teaching patience. The Kehwa rises with stories of joy and sorrow. Together, they are not just a pot and a drink—they are a bond, a promise of warmth in a cold land.

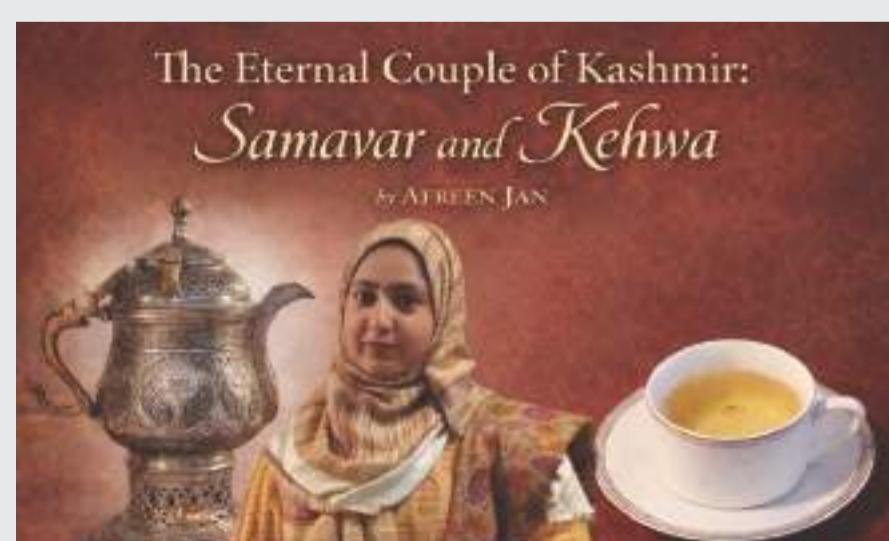
**Afreen Jan**

Samavar stood quietly in the room, with fire glowing inside his copper body. He spoke with calm pride: "I carry fire in my heart. Without me, winter would feel longer, and homes would feel colder."

From within him, Kehwa replied in a gentle voice: "Without me, your fire would have no meaning. I turn your heat into comfort and your silence into stories."

Samavar, warming the water slowly, continued, "Every morning, people gather near me. Their hands rest inside warm phans. Their faces wait with patience. I heat the water slowly because Kashmir teaches calm and waiting."

Kehwa answered with warmth: "When the time comes, I rise with my soft



fragrance. I bring saffron that gives hope. I bring cardamom that gives peace. I bring almonds that give strength. I flow into cups when hearts need warmth more than words."

Samavar spoke with memory: "I have seen many moments of life. I have stood in homes full of wedding joy. I have stood in quiet rooms where sorrow lived silently. Snow pressed against windows while I burned steadily inside."

Kehwa replied softly: "In those moments, I speak for them. When joy feels too full, or pain feels too heavy, I move from their hands to their hearts."

Samavar paused and then spoke again: "Times are changing now. Electric kettles arrive fast and loud."

Kehwa answered with calm strength:

"Still, they return to us when they seek comfort. They return when they need belonging. Machines cannot remember stories."

Samavar spoke honestly: "I am old. My copper body is scratched. Time has left its marks on me."

Kehwa replied with grace: "I am timeless. As long as saffron blooms and almonds grow, I will live."

Together, they watched the steam rise.

Samavar spoke once more: "We are not just a pot and a drink."

Kehwa answered gently: "We are a bond. We are a promise of warmth."

Outside, snow fell quietly. Inside, Samavar burned steadily. Kehwa flowed gently.

In their simple conversation, Kashmir found comfort, one cup at a time.

*The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper*

## BUDGET SESSION 2026 QUESTION HOUR

# Sakeena Itoo hails CM's remote area incentives

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has made a remarkable announcement of granting incentives to employees posted in far flung and remote areas while presenting Budget 2026-27.

The Minister, as per an official statement stated this while replying to a question of Legislator Javid Ahmad Mirchal in the House.

She highlighted that this unique step will streamline the public service delivery in far flung and remote areas, particularly in vital sectors like Health, Education and others.

While giving details regarding measures taken to mitigate the dearth of medical/paramedical staff at SDH Tangdar Karnah, the Minister said that in order to cater to shortage of doctors in far flung/peripheral areas, the H&ME department has recently received 480 posts of Medical Officers to JKPSC for recruitment. She added that



after completion of the selection process, the newly selected doctors shall be posted to far-flung/under-served areas and health institutions facing shortage of staff including SDH Tangdar Karnah and other border areas as per requirement and policy in vogue.

The Minister also informed the House that 292 vacancies in the non-gazetted/paramedical category from the Directorate

of Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Health (MCH) and Immunization have been referred to JKSSB for recruitment and stands advertised for making selection of suitable candidates.

She added that 802 non-gazetted, MTS vacancies and Sanitation Worker posts pertaining to Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir are under examination in the department for

referral to JKSSB. The Minister also informed the House that two doctors had been appointed as Medical Officers in the year 2024 and posted at NTPHC Hajinar and NTPHC Gundishor. She added that the two doctors failed to join duty, resulting in their appointment orders being cancelled and services terminated. She added that the two doctors failed to join duty, resulting in their appointment orders being cancelled and services terminated.

The Minister said that as per NHM guidelines, staff is ordinarily posted against the sanctioned positions in sub-centres of Karnah Constituency but over a period of time, a few NHM staff has been temporarily readjusted/relocated on exceptional and justified grounds like medical reasons or administrative exigencies, without adversely affecting the service delivery. She said that current the NHM staff posted in Karnah is largely in position.

Legislator, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) raised supplementary question.

Responding to a supplementary question, the Minister stated that the government is committed to take all necessary steps to strengthen the tourism infrastructure across Jammu division. He added that efforts will be made to establish rest houses and tourist huts at key tourist destinations to enhance facilities for the visitors and promote

# Govt examining proposal to notify new tourism areas in J&K: Javid Ahmad Dar

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Minister for Agriculture, Javid Ahmad Dar Thursday informed the House that the government is examining a proposal regarding the notification of new tourism-worthy areas across Jammu and Kashmir, including several prominent locations in Bani Constituency like Bani town, Lowang and Sarthal.

The Minister, as per an official statement, stated this while replying to a question on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah raised by Legislator Dr. Rameshwar Singh in the House.

Responding to a supplementary question, the Minister stated that the government is committed to take all necessary steps to strengthen the tourism infrastructure across Jammu division. He added that efforts will be made to establish rest houses and tourist huts at key tourist destinations to enhance facilities for the visitors and promote



sustainable tourism. The Minister further informed that, under the direction of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, a Winter Carnival was conducted on 8 February, 2026 at Bani as part of the government's broader initiative to promote tourism development in the region. He added that the event was held to

showcase the natural beauty, cultural heritage and tourism potential of the area.

The Minister reiterated government's commitment towards exploring and developing new tourist destinations to boost local economy, generate employment and position Jammu and Kashmir as a premier travel destination.

## Annual flood protection works on river Tawi executed under UT CAPEX, NABARD: Javed Rana

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that flood management and protection works on River Tawi are executed every year as per approved plan under UT CAPEX and NABARD for River Training works and strengthening of embankments.

The Minister, as per an official statement, stated this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Surinder Kumar in the House.

Javed Rana said several flood protection works under UT CAPEX are underway, with six completed and five ongoing. He added that River Tawi training work from Manwal to the

Indo-Pak border is also in progress under NABARD.

The Minister further informed that three new works have been tendered for restoration and strengthening of embankment of river Tawi for an estimated cost of Rs. 769.96 lakh. He highlighted that these works include restoration of earthen embankment on the left bank of River Tawi at Bikram Chowk and upstream of Bikram Chowk Bridge, construction of damaged flood protection structures on the right bank of River Tawi near Hari Singh Park and construction of flood protection works to safeguard houses and land on the left bank of River Tawi at Chak Malhotra Bajalta, adding that the project has already been tendered as approved.

The Minister, as per an official statement, informed the House that the jurisdiction of an Irrigation & Flood Control Sub-Division is decided on technical consideration of drainage and other things.

Responding to concerns regarding administrative or operational constraints, the Minister categorically stated that there is no lack of supervision or coordination gaps, nor has the existing administrative arrangement

## I&FC Sub-Division boundaries not tied to constituency limits: Govt

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: The government Thursday clarified that the boundaries of constituencies and Irrigation & Flood Control Sub-Divisions are determined independently and may not necessarily align.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, in the Legislative Assembly, while replying to a question raised by Legislator Kuldeep Raj Dubey.

The Minister, as per an official statement, informed the House that the jurisdiction of an Irrigation & Flood Control Sub-Division is decided on technical consideration of drainage and other things.

Responding to concerns regarding administrative or operational constraints, the Minister categorically stated that there is no lack of supervision or coordination gaps, nor has the existing administrative arrangement



resulted in delays or public inconvenience.

He further clarified that there is no proposal under consideration to merge the Irrigation & Flood Control Sub-Division, Reasi, with the PHE Sub-Division, Reasi. The present administrative structure is

functioning as per established norms and technical requirements, he added. Legislators Khurshid Ahmed and Sham Lal Sharma raised supplementary questions on the subject seeking additional clarifications which were addressed by the government.

## ARTO Office construction underway in Sopore: Satish Sharma



KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Minister for Transport Satish Sharma Thursday said that the construction work of ARTO Office building at Sopore was taken up few years back and subsequently stopped due to intervention of High Court as the locals of the area claim said land is grazing land (Khacharai).

The Minister, as per an official statement, was replying to a question raised by Legislator Irshad Rasool Kar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House that the case is being vigorously followed by the department and necessary para wise reply in the instant case has already been submitted before the High Court.

The Minister said the existing Transport Yard in Sopore handles 150 buses/mini buses and the Truck Yard Fruit Mandi handles 350 trucks.

## MMC operational in DIPR to track, rebut fake news, misinformation: Govt

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: The government Thursday informed the House that the Information Department has established a dedicated Media Monitoring Cell (MMC) in the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to track fake and misleading news on real time basis and issue prompt rebuttals through press releases and official social media platforms.

This was stated by Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a question raised by Legislator R.S. Pathania regarding measures to tackle misinformation on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister, as per an official statement, stated that the MMC continuously monitors print, electronic and social media platforms and as soon as any fake or misleading content is identified, rebuttals and fact-check posts are issued to keep the public informed.

She informed the House that 28 rebuttals have been issued by the DIPR between 1st April 2025 and 31st January 2026, through 20 press releases and eight through social media handles.

The Minister further said that all the departments have designated Nodal Officers to monitor department specific misinformation. She added that these officers have been provided login credentials to upload fake news details on a dedicated portal



created by DIPR for timely rebuttal and dissemination.

The Minister also clarified that the regulation of websites, digital platforms and online news channels does not fall under the mandate of the Information Department, adding that the imposition of penalties or fines on organizations spreading misinformation is outside its purview.

The Minister also made it clear that the Information Department does not recognize or authorize any private Fact Checking Unit (FCU), nor does it verify or grade such entities.

Referring to the evolving media landscape, she said that suitable provisions have been proposed in the draft New Media Policy-2026 to establish a regulatory framework for news and social media along with print media and draft policy is currently under inter-departmental consultation for finalization.

Sharing inputs from the Information Technology Department, the Minister said that comprehensive measures have been undertaken to

strengthen the cyber security infrastructure across government departments/institutions and provide them sustained support against the emerging cyber threats and digital manipulations.

She added that mandatory security audits of websites and web applications hosted on State Data Centre and NIC Mini Data Centre have been conducted besides redundant websites have been decommissioned.

She added that Cyber Crisis Management Plans have been prepared by all the departments while capacity building initiatives such as cyber drills, trainings, Cyber Jagrokti Diwas observance and mandatory iGOT cyber security courses are being carried out across the Union Territory.

In a supplementary reply, the Minister said rebuttals against fake or misleading news are also issued for publication in the immediate next edition of newspapers besides being uploaded on the official DIPR website.

She further highlighted that the J&K Media Policy 2020 authorizes DIPR to monitor content for fake news, plagiarism and unethical or anti-national activities and de-pannel media houses or withhold government advertisements in such cases. She added that if such entities are registered by the Press Registrar General of India under Press & Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, their de-registration is recommended under this Act.

## DIPR holds 'Cine Connect' Cinema workshop in Jammu

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Thursday organised a one-day workshop 'CINE CONNECT' a workshop on Cinema Art at Media Complex here.

The workshop was attended by students from Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu, Government Polytechnic College Gandhinagar as well as Artists from Academy of Art Culture and Languages.

The workshop, as per an official statement, was conducted by DIPR as part of ongoing efforts to promote film culture and create awareness about opportunities in the cinema industry under the Film Policy of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking during the concluding ceremony of the workshop, Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora said that the initiative aims to strengthen the cinematic ecosystem and provide valuable exposure to aspiring artists and filmmakers in Jammu & Kashmir. He added that the department will organise such kind of workshops on regular basis to acquaint the aspiring students and young minds about the nitty gritty of filmmaking and art.

Joint Director Information (HQ), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina in his address appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of such workshops



in nurturing local talent. He reiterated the commitment of DIPR towards implementing the J&K Film Policy effectively to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination and to generate employment opportunities in the creative sector.

In his welcome address, Nodal Officer, Film Policy J&K, Maheer Thakur highlighted the objectives of organizing the workshop. He emphasized that Cine Connect aims to bridge the gap between aspiring artists and industry professionals by providing first-hand exposure to various aspects of cinema art. He also underlined the significance of the J&K Film Policy in fostering a vibrant film ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The workshop featured eminent resource persons from the film industry like Actor & Director, Ajay Paul Singh Andotra; Filmmaker & Founder, AVD Motion Pictures, Atul Vinod Duggal and Bollywood Actor, Mir Sarwar briefed the participants about

as direction, cinematography, editing, sound design, production management, script-writing, and art direction. He elaborated on the vast scope of employment in Bollywood and regional cinema, encouraging participants to explore diverse technical and creative roles beyond acting.

The Resource persons also provided participants practical exposure and professional insights in the field of performing arts, particularly in acting, film-making, and theatre arts.

An interactive session was also held by resource persons with the students and artists. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and artists, who posed queries related to career pathways, auditions, filmmaking techniques, and industry challenges.

Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora; Joint Director Information (HQ), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Nodal Officer, Film Policy J&K, Maheer Thakur; officers and officials of DIPR; faculty members from Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu and Government Polytechnic College, Jammu were also present on the occasion.

Pertinently, the workshop marked a significant step towards strengthening the film culture in Jammu & Kashmir and empowering the youth with knowledge and opportunities in the field of cinema.

## No proposal for separate Uri Tourism Authority: Govt

Promotion of border, eco-tourism to be taken up in phases

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Feb 12: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said there is no proposal under consideration to establish a separate Tourism Development Authority for Uri in Baramulla district, while adding that promotion of border and eco-tourism in the area will be taken up in phases.

Replies to MLA Dr. Sajad Shafii's query, J&K government, as per the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), acknowledged that Uri has appreciable tourism potential, particularly in border tourism, eco-tourism, pilgrimage linked travel and nature-based experiences.

The government stated that the department is aware of the vast potential in the constituency, especially in border tourism, wildlife and natural beauty. J&K



government, however, clarified that no proposal is currently under consideration for establishing a dedicated authority to ensure planned promotion, regulation and infrastructure development in the area.

The government said Uri offers scope for border area tourism experiences, trekking routes, scenic and nature-based visitation, waterfalls and heritage linked circuits, subject to accessibility and visitor facilitation arrangements.

On future plans, the

government informed the House that promotion of border tourism and eco-tourism in Uri, including the Boniyar Uri belt, will be undertaken in a phased manner, subject to policy approvals.

The department said it is focusing on environmentally sustainable and community-based tourism interventions. Emphasis is being laid on low impact initiatives such as homestays, aimed at generating livelihood opportunities for local youth while ensuring environmental conservation.

It further said that registration of homestays under notified guidelines is being facilitated across North Kashmir, including remote and border areas. So far, five homestays have been registered in the Boniyar Uri area, reflecting initial progress towards inclusive tourism development in the

## CONT'D. FROM FRONT PAGE

### India alone will guide

Commissioner Jammu; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Dileep Ji Pandita, President, Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Trust; Thalwal; Ram Swaroop, Executive Director, NHPC, Regional Office Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner; senior officials, members of Mata Bhadrakali Asthapan Trust and people from different walks of life also joined the celebrations. (KNO)

### LG Sinha chairs

Yatra tracks by Border Roads Organization, the Board was informed that the BRO has registered a significant progress, achieving comfortable track width on both Batal and Pahalgam routes.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, gave a detailed presentation regarding the arrangements for the upcoming Yatra.

The meeting was attended by members of the Shrine Board- Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, Prof. Kailash Mehra Sadhu, K.K.Sharma, K.N.Rai, Mukesh Garg, Dr. Shailesh Raina, Dr. Simridhi Bindroo, Suresh Haware and Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Santosh D. Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; IGPs; Deputy Commissioners (Ganderbal and Anantnag); Additional CEO SASB and senior officers of the UT Administration, BRO and Shrine Board also attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode, at Lok Bhawan Jammu. (KNO)

### J&K Assembly to

lieu for jobs. He requested the Chair to hold an hour-long discussion on the issue.

Intervening further in the matter, Sakina Itoo added that politicians themselves were responsible for circulating defamatory content against each other. "If anyone is responsible for it, it is we politicians. We are maligning each other. These videos first appear on the social media accounts of politicians," she said.

Responding to these concerns, the Speaker announced that the House would discuss the matter. "This issue is extremely important. Demands for discussion are coming from both sides. We will hold a discussion. Please give notice in writing. We will hold a half-hour or one-hour discussion on this matter during this session," he said. (KNO)

### Policy for setting

examined once the policy is approved. "As and when the policy is approved, all such cases will be examined on a case-to-case basis," she said.

The minister further said that currently there is no private university in the Union Territory, but demands have been received for their establishment, and it is also the need of the hour. (KNO)

### 'Rs 290.1 cr spent

government further informed the House that winter sports events were organised at Bhaderwah on January 17-18, 2026, while another event was scheduled at Sartal on February 8, 2026. A budget of Rs 300 lakh has been sanctioned for the development of winter sports infrastructure at Bhaderwah and Basohli/Sartal during 2025-26.

In addition, 78 promotional events have been organised across the Jammu region, including campaigns through hoardings, newspapers, radio and social media, to promote Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and other tourist destinations, the government added. (KNO)

### House passes grants

its social, political and cultural development. "Besides, constructing eco-friendly and cost effective government buildings, major thrust is being given to the schemes envisaging road connectivity to inaccessible and difficult areas for equitable development," maintained the

## Over 2,800 posts vacant in IAS, IPS and IFoS: Govt in RS

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: More than 2,800 posts are lying vacant in the three All India Services – IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) – with the IAS alone facing a shortage of 1,300 officers, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said that as per the Civil List compiled on January 1, 2025, there are 1,300 vacancies in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), 505 in the Indian Police Service (IPS) and 1,029 in the Indian Forest Service (IFoS).

According to the data, the IAS has a vacancy rate of about 18.9 per cent, with 1,300 posts vacant out of a sanctioned strength of 6,877. The IPS has around 9.9 per cent vacancies, with 505 unfilled against 5,099 sanctioned posts.

The IFoS is the worst hit, with 1,029 vacancies out of 3,193 sanctioned posts – translating



into a vacancy rate of approximately 32.2 per cent.

Overall, across the three All India Services, 2,834 posts are vacant out of a combined sanctioned strength of 15,169, reflecting an overall vacancy rate of nearly 18.7 per cent.

The total authorised strength of IAS officers across cadres is 6,877, against which 5,577 officers are in position. In the IPS, 4,594 officers are in place

against a sanctioned strength of 5,099, while in the IFoS, 2,164 officers are in position against 3,193 sanctioned posts.

Cadre-wise data placed in the reply shows that Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest authorised strength of 652 IAS posts, has 571 officers in position. In Madhya Pradesh, 391 IAS officers are in place against a sanctioned strength of 459, while Maharashtra has 359

officers against 435 sanctioned posts.

Similarly, in the IPS, states such as Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu also show shortfalls between authorised strength and officers in position. The IFoS has seen particularly high vacancies, with several states reporting sizeable gaps between sanctioned and filled posts.

Responding to a separate part of the question, the minister said that during the last five years (Civil Services Examination 2020 to 2024), a total of 245 OBC, 135 SC and 67 ST candidates were appointed to the IAS through direct recruitment. In the IPS, 255 OBC, 141 SC and 71 ST candidates were appointed, while in the IFoS, 231 OBC, 95 SC and 48 ST candidates joined during the same period.

The data was shared in response to a question by CPI-M member John Brittas on the sanctioned strength, officers in position, representation of reserved categories and vacancies in the All India Services.

financial support as well as business platform," he said.

During his speech, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Department of Skill Development plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of our youth by providing industry relevant technical and vocational education. He said that through a robust network of Polytechnics, Industrial Training Institutes and flagship Central schemes, the department is committed towards aligning the skills with market demand while preserving the traditional crafts and encouraging entrepreneurship.

The Deputy CM highlighted the major achievements of the department for the year 2025-26. These included training of 90,000 youth in traditional and new-age skills, including AI, cyber security and green jobs, supported by Aadhaar-based digital attendance and monitoring systems under PMKVY 4.0. He said that 7851 Self help Group candidates have been trained and Heritage Craft Courses have been revived in 25 units. "Under the Chief Minister's Scheme for Heritage Courses a first-of-its-kind initiative in the Union Territory has been introduced in 15 skill institutes across J&K," he said.

He said that Industry engagement has been significantly strengthened with 541 establishments active under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, with over 600 apprentices currently undergoing training. He said that at the India Skills Competition 2024, Jammu & Kashmir secured 3 Gold Medals, 4 Bronze Medals and 6 Medallions of Excellence.

He said that the Government Polytechnic Jammu was honored with the Outstanding Institution Award at the national level, reflecting the quality and credibility of technical education in the Union Territory.

He said that during financial year 2026-27, the Department intends to strengthen the Government Polytechnics at Srinagar, Jammu and the Women Polytechnics at Jammu and Srinagar through procurement of modern machinery, tools and laboratory equipment, strictly as per AICTE norms.

Among other initiatives up-gradation of infrastructure in Government ITIs with modern equipment and tools in accordance with DGT/MSDE norms, introduction of futuristic and market-driven trades, improve access for students from remote and rural areas, construction of a 50-bedded hostel at Government ITI Nowshera and a 100-bedded hostel at Government Polytechnic Bandipora, establishment of Language Laboratory at Government Polytechnic Pulwama and transforming Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir through a comprehensive four-track Skill and Entrepreneurship are being undertaken by the department, he added.

### Take concrete steps

had diplomas.

He asked whether the government was considering enhanced recruitment in the armed forces, police, railways, public sector undertakings or private sector initiatives to address unemployment in the Union Territory.

Linking joblessness to social concerns, Choudhary also flagged the issue of drug abuse in the region. He claimed that around 13.5 lakh people in J&K were affected by drug addiction, including a significant number of youth.

He said large quantities of narcotics had been seized in recent years and expressed concern over increasing substance abuse among young people. "What steps are being taken to stop this alarming trend?" he asked.

Responding to the query, the minister concerned said the government was implementing various schemes to integrate youth from J&K into the national mainstream through skill development and employment generation programmes.

He said that under formal employment measures, around 1.6 lakh people from J&K had been brought under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) network in the past two years.

He also referred to registrations under the Pradhan Mantri Vikas Bharat Rojgar Yojana and other central schemes aimed at boosting job opportunities and skill training.

He said both the Centre and the J&K administration were working to expand employment avenues and address social challenges, including drug abuse, through coordinated efforts. (KNO)

"Ease of doing business continues to remain a priority. In November 2025, Jammu and Kashmir secured 5th rank at the national level, emerging as a top achiever in the Business Reform Action Plan," he said.

He said that for the first time, Jammu and Kashmir's MSME Health Clinic has been launched in collaboration with IIM Jammu. Besides, data of 417 MSME units has been uploaded on the portal and in the first phase, 70 sickness prone units have been identified for focused revival interventions.

He added that MSME formalisation has seen a major push, Udyam registrations have increased to 6 lakh this year; J&K has been ranked second among the Small States, North-Eastern States and Union Territories in the Export Preparedness Index 2024 released by NITI Aayog. He said that during the current financial year, against a target of 6,221 units, 6,144 units have already been established under PMEGP.

The Deputy CM further said that the startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a significant transformation adding that the number of registered startups has increased from 69 in 2020 to 1,342 in 2025-26, including 490 women-led startups.

The Dy CM said that the Handloom and Handicraft sector has thrived, with J&K winning the National ODOP Gold Award 2024 for the second consecutive year. Unity Malls are sanctioned and 27.01 crore has been disbursed to support artisans and weavers under various schemes till January 2026, benefiting the artisans and weavers across J&K.

"I would like to emphasize that Omar Abdullah government is proposing amendments to the J&K Industrial Policy to further strengthen the industrial ecosystem in the UT," he said.

"With focused policy implementation, institutional reforms and sustained coordination with the Government of India, we are committed to inclusive industrial growth, employment generation and strengthening the economic foundation of Jammu and Kashmir," asserted the Deputy Chief Minister.

He added that various milestones were achieved in the industries sector during 2025-26 including an investment worth 5,349 crore (till Jan 2026) which is highest ever in any fiscal and is 12 times the average investment before 2020. He said that in November 2025, Jammu & Kashmir secured 5th rank nationwide, emerging as a top achiever in Ease of Doing Business.

The Dy CM said that J&K Startup has witnessed transformation growing from 69 startups in 2020 to 1,342 in 2025-26 including 490 women-led startups, a surge of over 1800 percent. Besides, 853 new startups have been registered in 2025-26.

"With procurement of new machinery, GI labelling and certification has increased from 20 to 100 per day in 2025, marking a 400 percent increase over the previous count. Efforts are on to further reduce the waitlist. During 2025-26, loan worth 21.06 crore has been disbursed by the banks to 1011 artisans/weavers ending December 2025 under Credit Scheme for Artisans and Weavers," said the Dy CM.

He said the J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30 will be amended to recalibrate incentives and sustain growth, local employment and income security post-NCSS closure.

He said financial support to JKTPo for buyer-seller meets boosts market access, stable incomes and sustains artisans' skills. The department has prepared revival plans for JK Industries and SICOP, he added.

Speaking on the grants of Mining department, the Deputy CM said the government has prioritised effective policy formulation and sustainable mineral resource use, leveraging J&K's limestone, gypsum, marble and other minerals vital for cement, construction, fertilisers and more. Effective policies are in place for environmentally responsible mining, he added.

He added that the government has implemented the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) and Mobile Application Portal to enhance monitoring, transparency and enforcement of mining rules. "Using satellite imaging, GPS, geospatial tools and a Command-and-Control Centre, the system tracks operations and detects illegal mining while e-Challan PoS machines, introduced with J&K Bank, enable on-the-spot penalties," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said 144 satellite

alerts had led field checks and 1.10 crore in penalties. Besides, 3,065 GPS devices have been installed in mineral transport vehicles, with 2,473 linked to the Mining Surveillance System. Over 40 non-compliant vehicles were seized, 2.50 lakh recovered, 7,500 above seizures made and 234 FIRs lodged against the violators this year.

The Department of Geology and Mining has auctioned 238 RBM blocks since 2020-21, granting 208 mining leases. Besides, E-auction of 7 limestone blocks (Anantnag 3, Rajouri 3 & Poonch 1) is underway and 5 more are being processed, expected to generate over 70 crore in 2026-27.

He said that under the SASCI 2025-26 scheme, the government has completed key mining reforms and the Union Ministry for Mines has sanctioned 100 crore as an incentive to the Mining Department.

To improve ease of doing business, several digital reforms and regulatory changes to simplify mining operations have been introduced. "Studies and e-auction of Lithium in Reasi, Lignite and Marble in Kupwara and biogenic shallow gas in the Karea Basin have been targeted by June 2026 while Sapphire in Paddar and Granite besides Graphite in Doda and Ganderbal are also being prepared for early auctioning," he said.

He said that the vision for 2026-27 is to build a stronger and more transparent mineral revenue system through better royalty collection, revised royalty, stricter penalties and wider enforcement powers to civil and police officers at district level.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to economic growth, governance reform and sustainable resource management, making the mining sector transparent, efficient and sustainable. He said that efforts will be continued to strengthen this sector as a key source of economic stability while ensuring that natural resources are used responsibly and safeguarded for future generations.

Speaking during the grants, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Labour and Employment Department remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguard the interests of workers and empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through inclusive and reform-oriented policies.

He said that based on the historic success of Mission YUVA during the financial year 2025-26, this Department shall continue to implement the program with renewed energy to promote entrepreneurship and generate sustainable employment opportunities across the UT.

He said that 36.28 lakh unorganized workers have been registered on e-Shram Portal besides 13281 new registrations and 9125 renewals have been made under various Labour Acts through online services.

"The present government is committed to improve the living conditions, safety and welfare of migrant and seasonal labourers from remote areas. Funds amounting Rs 244.64 lakh have been spent on labour Sarais at Rajouri and Kathua which are being completed within this financial year," added the Dy CM.

He said that 1.35 lakh entrepreneurship units are being created which will generate employment for 4.5 lakh youth over the next 5 years.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that 49,000 applications have been approved and 17,200 enterprises have been sanctioned by various banks, with nearly 1000 crore already disbursed.

"Omar Abdullah administration has launched capacity building programme where over 8,000 entrepreneurs have been trained and 5,000 more are currently undergoing entrepreneurship development courses. The JK Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has paid ex-gratia relief of 69.29 crore in favour of 1.05

## India's foreign policy responded fully to requirements of multipolar world: Govt tells Parl

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: India's foreign policy is guided by its "overarching" national interest," and engagements with different partners are guided by considerations of mutual benefit, the government informed Parliament on Thursday.

In a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh also said "strategic autonomy" is an important strand of the country's foreign policy.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut asked the Ministry of External Affairs whether the government has reviewed "concerns" that India's foreign policy is projecting "conflicting signals" under the rubric of strategic autonomy.

"India's foreign policy is guided by its overarching national interest. Strategic autonomy is an important strand of our foreign policy. Engagements with different partners are guided by considerations of mutual benefit," Singh said.

Decisions relating to energy and defence are based on "considerations of security and availability, as well as the need to diversify sourcing," he said. The MEA was



also asked how continued energy trade and military engagements with Russia are being reconciled with India's commitment to a rules-based international order and partnerships with Western nations.

Singh said, "India's foreign policy has responded fully to the requirements of a multipolar world".

"We are regarded as a credible partner by a wide variety of groupings and this is reflected in expanded diplomatic engagements. This is also the case in the neighbourhood, where India continues to maintain strong

relations," he added.

Sustained political and developmental engagement in its immediate neighbourhood covers India's initiatives in being a primary provider of development finance, acting as a first responder in crisis situations, building strong people-to-people linkages and bolstering capacity development, the MoS said.

In a separate query, the government was asked whether it has assessed the impact of the recent H-1B visa policy and processing issues on Indian professionals working in the US, and the number of Indian nationals expected

to return to India due to such issues.

"While visa-related decisions are sovereign matters, India believes that skilled talent mobility has long played a significant role in promoting technology advancement, innovation, economic growth, and wealth creation in both India and the United States. Stakeholders in both countries remain engaged in discussions on ensuring continued support for innovation-driven industries," Singh said.

On September 19, 2025, the US administration issued a Presidential Proclamation

titled Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers which imposed a fee of USD 100,000 on certain new H-1B petitions filed on or after September 21, 2025, the government said in the response.

The objective of the proclamation was to reform the H-1B visa programme to "curb abuses and protect American workers".

"Subsequently, on September 21, 2025, the United States Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) issued FAQs providing clarity that the fee of USD 100,000 is not applicable to the following categories -- Those who already have H-1B visas; Those who have filed H-1B petitions prior to 12:01 am eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025; Those who have filed for H-1B renewals; Those who hold a current H-1B visa and are travelling in and out of the United States; F-1 students already in the United States and transitioning to H-1B status via change of status," he added.

On December 3, 2025, the US Department of State announced that beginning December 15, it will carry out a vetting of the online presence of all H-1B applicants and their dependents (H-4) to determine their admissibility to the US.

## Kerala fed up with LDF, UDF; looking to BJP-NDA with great hope: PM Modi



PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Kerala is fed up with ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF), and asserted that the state is now looking to the BJP-NDA with "great hope".

Modi made the remarks after he met newly-elected BJP councillors from the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation and representatives of other civic bodies from Kerala here.

"At 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, hosted Kerala BJP Panchayat members, Municipality members and members of corporations from across Kerala, including the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, where the BJP was blessed with a historic mandate," the prime minister said in a post on X, sharing pictures of his meeting

with them.

Modi said he discussed a wide range of subjects with them, "notably ways to deepen the BJP's connect with the people, further our good governance agenda and further 'Ease of Living'".

It is clear that Kerala is "fed up" with LDF and UDF and is looking to BJP-NDA with "great hope", he said.

"Therefore, elected members from BJP-NDA will work at the grassroots and address the challenges faced by the people," he added.

The prime minister said that in the meeting with Kerala BJP elected representatives, he paid homage to every 'karyakarta' who has worked hard to build the party over the years.

"It is due to their selfless efforts that we have grown across the state. In the coming times, the BJP will grow even further in Kerala," he added.

## India-US joint statement remains basis for interim trade agreement: New Delhi

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: India on Thursday said its joint statement with the US remains the basis for a proposed interim trade agreement, and that the amendments in a White House fact sheet reflect the shared understandings.

The fact sheet, brought out by the White House on Monday, triggered a controversy as it mentioned that India would reduce tariffs on "certain pulses" and had "committed" to buying American goods, including energy and technology, worth USD 500 billion over five years.

The document was revised later and the contentious issues were removed.

"As you are aware, the India-US joint statement on the framework for an



interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade was issued on February 7," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

"The joint statement is the framework and

remains the basis of our mutual understanding in the matter. Both sides will now work towards implementing this framework and finalising the interim agreement," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a question on the issue.

"The amendments in the US fact sheet reflect the shared understandings contained in the joint statement," he said.

It is learnt that the Indian side flagged concerns over the formulations in the fact sheet following which the White House made the amendments.

The revised fact sheet issued Tuesday removed the reference made regarding pulses.

"India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," it said.

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over \$500

billion of US energy, information and communication technology, coal, and other products," it said.

It also removed a reference to India removing its digital services taxes.

The amended document said that the Indian side is committed to negotiate digital trade rules.

The amended fact sheet also stated that India "intends to buy" more US goods.

Following a phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, both sides announced reduction of US tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent.

To a question on Trump's Board of Peace, Jaiswal said India received an invitation for it and New Delhi is currently considering it.

## Defence ministry seals Rs 2,312 cr deal to procure 8 Dornier aircraft



PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: The defence ministry on Thursday inked a Rs 2,312 crore contract with state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to procure eight Dornier aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard.

The procurement programme was finalised in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for acquisition of eight Dornier 228 aircraft along with operational role equipment for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of Rs 2,312 crore under "Buy (Indian) category", an official readout said.

The programme is expected to generate significant direct and indirect employment by

strengthening the HAL's production ecosystem and supporting a broad network of MSMEs & ancillary industries, it added.

The contract reinforces the government's commitment to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and Make-in-India initiatives while bolstering India's maritime security architecture, the defence ministry said in the readout.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: 1. Balance works of SITC of 02 No. (G+2) 08 Passenger MRL Lift at Social Welfare Building (Front and Rear Side) of Old Secretariat Building, Srinagar  
2. Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 03 Nos (G+5) 08 Passenger MRL Lifts including CMC for 02 years at new civil secretariat (Balance Works of lift door entrance)

Ref : This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2025-26/139/e-tendering Dated: 05.02.2026.

EXTENSION

In view of no response, the critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	16.02.2026 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	16.02.2026 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,  
Srinagar.

DIPK-10831/25

No: M&HDS/TS/8654-57, DATED: 12-02-2026

Dated: 12-02-2026

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tentative Seniority list of Junior Theatre Technician (2210) District Cadre Budgam Reference:- Administrative Department Health & Medical Education Circular No: 15-HME of 2024 Dated: 24-06-2024 duly endorsed by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir under No:- DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024, and also Est-5<sup>th</sup>/DHSK/NG/724855 Dated: 12-11-2025.

### CIRCULAR

On the basis of information received from subordinate offices and as per the available records in this office, 1<sup>st</sup> Tentative Combined Seniority List of Junior Theatre Technician (2210) of the District was issued vide this office circular NO: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/17534-61 Dated: 28.01.2026, which was circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs, and also published in the local newspapers for inviting objections. In response, no objection has been received from any quarters within the stipulated period of time. Now the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tentative combined seniority list of Junior Theatre Technician (2210) is circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs for inviting objections, if any, and also in case any such employee is left out the concerned DDOs shall furnish his/her complete biodata along with documentary evidence in order to include his/her name at the appropriate place/serial within 05 days positively from the date of publication of this notification in the news eaters and website.

S. No	Category of Post	Name of Jr. Theatre Tech	Date of Birth	D.O. Ist Appt	Initial place of posting	Present place of posting	Category	SSRB Merit
1	Junior Theatre Technician	Masrat Jan	01-03-1984	28-02-2016	Block Nagam District Budgam	Block Nagam District Budgam		66.00
2	Junior Theatre Technician	Niyaz Ahmad Ganie	02-04-1992	07-04-2016	Block Nagam District Budgam	Block Nagam District Budgam		63.53
3	Junior Theatre Technician	Imtiyaz Ahmad Reship	23-05-1991	29-02-2016	Block Beerwah District Budgam	Block Nagam District Budgam	RBA	57.80
4	Junior Theatre Technician	Rishu Kumar	19-08-1989	11-04-2016	D, H Budgam	D, H Budgam	SC	40.06

No: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/18341-66

Dated: 12-02-2026

DIPK-10832/25

Dated: 12-02-2026

Chief Medical Officer  
Budgam

## Union Sports Minister announces dates for Gulmarg leg, says 'perfect time' for Khelo India Winter Games

- Gulmarg leg of KIWG 2026 will be held from Feb 23-26
- First leg of KIWG 2026 was held in Ladakh from Jan 20-26
- Army to defend overall championship title in Jammu & Kashmir

PIB

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, has announced the dates for the Gulmarg leg of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026, which will be held from February 23 to 26 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. This will be the sixth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games.

The first leg of KIWG 2026, featuring ice sports, was successfully held in Ladakh from January 20 to 26, while Gulmarg will host the snow sports competitions. The Indian Army will defend its overall championship title in Jammu & Kashmir.

"The Gulmarg leg is coming at the back of the Winter Olympics and this is the perfect time to host the Khelo India Winter Games. We had a very successful first phase in Leh (Ladakh) and surely, we will see the same excitement in Jammu & Kashmir as athletes will once again battle with nature and challenging conditions," said Dr Mandaviya.

"Every season of the Khelo India Winter Games has seen exciting performances and rising competition. In Leh, the addition of figure skating enhanced the competitive intensity, and in Gulmarg, we are expecting some impressive timings on the Kongdoori slopes," he added.

Until the introduction of the Khelo India Winter Games, winter sports in India had very limited visibility, awareness,



or structured competition. Ice and snow disciplines largely remained niche pursuits with negligible public engagement and sporadic athlete participation at the international level.

The Khelo India Winter Games have fundamentally transformed India's winter sports ecosystem by creating a national competitive platform for both ice sports and snow sports, significantly expanding participation, performance standards, and public awareness. What was once a marginal sporting segment is now steadily evolving into a structured talent pipeline.

These achievements highlight how Khelo India Winter Games are laying the foundational bedrock for sustained international participation, moving India beyond an earlier phase where participation in the

performances abroad, signalling the emergence of a new generation of talent. Notably, Indian figure skater Tara Prasad has delivered medal-winning performances at international competitions, while the Indian women's ice hockey team won a historic bronze medal at the 2025 IIHF Women's Asia Cup, marking India's first-ever podium finish in an international ice hockey championship. The team also recorded landmark victories during the tournament, underlining the rapid progress being made in ice sports at the global level.

These achievements highlight how Khelo India Winter Games are laying the foundational bedrock for sustained international participation, moving India beyond an earlier phase where participation in the

Winter Olympics was often limited to one or no athletes. With regular domestic competition, exposure to high-pressure environments, and increasing depth across disciplines, this trajectory is expected to strengthen further in the coming years.

The timing of the Gulmarg leg of KIWG 2026 is also strategically significant, as it follows soon after the conclusion of the Winter Olympics Milano Cortina 2026, where India is represented by alpine skier Arif Khan and cross-country skier Stanzin Lundup, helping to carry forward global momentum, enthusiasm, and competitive energy into the domestic winter sports calendar, and ensuring continuity in athlete motivation, public interest, and national focus on winter sports development.

Gulmarg will feature four medal disciplines, namely Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (Cross-Country), and Snowboarding, with around 400 athletes expected to compete, and Alpine Skiing drawing the highest participation. At the conclusion of the KIWG 2025 season, the Indian Army topped the team standings with 18 medals, while Himachal Pradesh finished second, followed by Ladakh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. At the end of the KIWG 2026 Ladakh leg, Haryana led the medal tally with four gold medals, all won by its figure and ice skaters, followed by Ladakh, Maharashtra, and Telangana.

## US allies at NATO focus on Europe as Trump admin steps back

AP

Brussels, Feb 12: European allies at NATO on Thursday brushed aside concerns that the United States has stepped back from its leadership role of the world's biggest security organization, leaving them and Canada to do the lion's share of defending Europe.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth did not attend Thursday's gathering of defense ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels. His no-show came after Secretary of State Marco Rubio skipped the last meeting of NATO foreign ministers in December.

It's rare for members of a US administration to miss a meeting of the organization's top decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, at the level of ministers, let alone two meetings in a row. Under Secretary of Defense Elbridge Colby was sent in Hegseth's place.

"Sadly for him, he is missing a good party," Icelandic Foreign Minister Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir told reporters. "Of course, it's always better that the ministers attend here, but I would not describe it as a bad signal."

"I'm not disappointed," German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said. "Each of us has a full agenda. And one time the American defense minister is here, and one time not, so it's his decision and his duties he has to fulfill."

How times have changed

When asked what



guarantees NATO's nuclear deterrent.

But doubts linger, and surprises from the Trump administration cannot be ruled out. Allies still wonder whether more US troops will be withdrawn from Europe.

"What for me is the most important is the no-surprise policy that has been agreed between the NATO secretary-general and the US," Dutch Defense Minister Ruben Bredelmann said.

Stepping back Publicly at least, the Trump administration is doing much less at NATO. A year ago, Hegseth

"They have to take care of the whole world. This is the United States," Rutte told reporters before chairing the meeting.

"I totally accept it, agree with it." They have always consistently pleaded for Europe doing more, Canada doing more, taking more care of the defense of NATO territory, of course in conjunction with the United States," he said. That means more European spending on conventional weapons

and defense, while the US supplies of US guns and money that were sent to Ukraine by the previous administration of President Joe Biden have dried up under Trump. European allies and Canada are obliged to buy weapons from the United States to donate now.

## ICC chairman Jay Shah helped us building stadium in Windhoek: Cricket Namibia prez

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: Namibia will be hosting the men's ODI World Cup games in 2027 and a lot of credit for constructing a brand new stadium goes to ICC chairman Jay Shah, Cricket Namibia president Rudi van Vuuren said on Thursday.

Van Vuuren was all praise for Shah for his efforts in empowering associate nations and improving their

cricket infrastructure. "The ICC has adopted a policy of empowering associate members. Jay Shah has really brought significant change there. He was in Windhoek visiting our new stadium, and how the ICC has helped us develop that facility," Van Vuuren said. In fact, with the 2027 World Cup in mind, the ICC has also developed high-performance facilities which will help Namibia grow as a cricketing nation.

## Russia sends 'hundreds' of missiles, drones at Ukraine

REUTERS

Andrii Sybiha said in a post on X.

Two people were hurt in a "massive" attack on Kyiv, which also hit various buildings, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Klitschko said on Telegram there had been hits on both residential and non-residential buildings on both sides of the Dnipro River bisecting the city.

Fragments had fallen near two residential buildings in one district, but no fire had



broken out. Reuters witnesses heard explosions resound in the city.

Four people, including a baby boy and a four-year-old girl, were hurt in a missile and

drone attack on the southeastern city of Dnipro and surrounding district, regional governor Oleksandr Ganzha said on Telegram.

One person was hurt in a drone attack on the southern city of Odesa on the Black Sea, which also damaged an infrastructure facility and an apartment building where a fire broke out at an upper floor, head of the city's military administration, Serhiy Lysak said.

## Rathnayake, Shanaka, Mendis fire as Sri Lanka hammer Oman by 105 runs



Pallekele (Sri Lanka), Feb 12: Blazing fifties by Pavan Rathnayake and skipper Dasun Shanaka along with Kusal Mendis assured half-century helped Sri Lanka register a statement 105-run win over Oman in their T20 World Cup Group B clash, here on Thursday. Rathnayake (60 from 28 balls) and skipper Dasun Shanaka (50; 20b) returned to form, while Kusal (61; 45b) anchored the innings with successive World Cup half-century as Sri Lanka piled up 225/5 -- their second highest in T20 World Cup and the highest score of this tournament so far -- after Oman opted to bowl.

Oman's chase never quite recovered from early setbacks as they wilted under scoreboard pressure to be restricted to 120/9.

Skipper Jatinder Singh was cleaned up by Dushmantha Chameera in the first over, and Aamir Kaleem and Hamid Mirza soon followed with

single-digit scores as Oman slipped to 36/3 inside the power play.

Chameera (2/19) struck twice with the new ball, while spinner Maheesh Theekshana was tidy and incisive, returning figures of 2/11 from his full quota of four overs.

There was brief entertainment when Wasim Ali counter-attacked Dushan Herantha, clubbing the leg-spinner for two sixes in a row -- one over deep midwicket and another forward square leg -- lifting Oman to 75/3 in 11 overs. But the recovery was short-lived as they crashed to 91/6, losing three wickets in six balls.

Theekshana triggered the collapse by dismissing the fluent looking Wasim for 27 (20 balls; 3x6), caught by Kusal.

A direct hit from Kamil Mishara at deep point ran out Vinayak Shukla the very next ball, and Jiten Ramanandi was brilliantly stumped by Kusal for a golden duck. Mohammad Nadeem, back after missing the opener, waged a lone battle with a valiant fifty, as the

43-year-old hit his third T20I fifty in 71 appearances.

The 2014 champions now have two wins from as many matches, topping Group B, ahead of Australia and Zimbabwe, who have one win each.

After a poor World Cup debut against Ireland where he fell for sloppy upper cut for 5, Rathnayake made amends in style smashing eight fours and one six en route to his maiden fifty that came off just 24 balls.

In the process he overtook his previous best of 40 at this venue earlier this month.

The 23-year-old charged pacer Ramanandi for the innings' first six in the 12th over and hammered Sufyan Mehmood for three successive fours to reach the milestone.

Rathnayake and the experienced Kusal added 94 runs off just 52 balls, maintaining a run-rate in excess of nine through the middle overs.

They rotated strike smartly as 40 of Sri Lanka's 96 runs at the halfway mark came in singles and twos.

Kusal, playing the senior partner's role to perfection, capitalised on width from the Oman spinners and struck seven fours in his 61 off 45 balls, his second successive fifty and 19th overall.

He was run out in the penultimate over.

Shanaka, who had endured a lean build-up to the tournament with scores of 1, 4 and 0, exploded at the death with a 19-ball fifty -- the fastest by a Sri Lankan in the T20 World Cup.

**INOX**  
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