

CKYC ID: One KEY for All Your KYC Needs

Unique 14-digit CKYC ID issued by CKYC Records Registry

Simple. Secure. Standardised.

Know your CKYC ID: Missed call: 7799022129 or Online: www.ckycindia.in

Online Reporting Portal: www.cybercrime.gov.in

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

@informationprjk | Information & PR, J&K | @diprjk | @dipr_jk



10,000 cancer cases in three major J&K hospitals in 2025

SKIMS Soura records 16,000 in 3 years

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said that around 10,000 cancer cases were registered across SKIMS Soura, GMC Jammu, and GMC Srinagar in 2025, with SKIMS Soura recording over 16,000 cases in the last three years.

Replied to a question in the Legislative Assembly from MLA Ahsan Pardesi, Health and Medical Education Department Minister Sakeena Itoo said that around 16,000 cancer cases have been registered at SKIMS Soura alone in the last three years.

The minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the State Cancer Institute at GMC Jammu is being made operational in a phased manner since February 4, 2023.

She said the 100-bedded State Cancer Institute (SCT) at SKIMS Soura was established with central funding under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes,



Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke (NPCDCS), with a sanctioned grant of Rs 120 crore exclusively for infrastructure. Although the institute was commissioned on December 5, 2020, infrastructure development is still ongoing, Itoo added.

The minister said that at present, approximately 80 per cent of the institute is functional through manpower deployed from the main hospital. "However, the proposal for the creation of dedicated

manpower, including doctors, nursing staff, paramedical, technical and other support personnel, on the analogy of the State Cancer Institute, Jammu is under active consideration by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Giving details about the cases, the Health Minister said that 5,108 cases were registered at SKIMS Soura in 2023, 5,387 in 2024 (an increase of 5.4%), and 5,791 in 2025 (an increase of 7.5%). She said 1,767 cases were

registered in 2023 at GMC Jammu, followed by 2,206 in 2024, and 2,569 in 2025. At GMC Srinagar, 1,159 cases were registered in 2022, 1,640 in 2023, 1,659 in 2024, and 1,558 in 2025.

While the data presented indicates a slight increase in reported cancer cases, it is important to note that this cannot be conclusively interpreted as an actual rise in cancer incidence without further detailed epidemiological research, the minister said, adding, "The observed increase is likely influenced by significantly improved diagnostic capabilities and enhanced detection rates across health-care institutions."

Sakeena Itoo said that to address the growing patient load and reduce waiting times, the government is actively augmenting diagnostic services. This, she said, is evidenced by the substantial increase in PET scans conducted at SKIMS, from 1,410 in 2024 to 2,250 in 2025.

She said SKIMS, as the premier tertiary | More on P6

87% claims rejected under Forest Rights Act in J&K

'39898 claims rejected, 6097 accepted'

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 13: Jammu & Kashmir Government on Friday revealed that it has rejected 87 per cent of claims under the Forest Rights Act-2006.

In response to a cut motion moved by Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Minister in-charge, Forests, Environment and Climate Change, Javed Ahmad Rana disclosed that 6097 claims (13.26%) have been accepted, while 39898 claims (86.7%) have been rejected.

According to the details, Jammu recorded 44 claims accepted with none rejected. Kathua saw 42 accepted but a staggering 1518 rejected, while Doda reported 51 accepted against 1744 rejected. Ramban and Reasi also showed high rejection numbers, with 1276 and 576



respectively, compared to just 10 and 2 accepted.

Kishtwar fared better, with 273 accepted and 582 rejected. Rajouri and Poonch emerged as the districts with the highest number of accepted claims—2852 and 2,054 respectively—though both also recorded thousands of rejections (13590 in Rajouri and 2,956 in Poonch). In Samba, five claims were accepted while 72 were rejected, and in Udhampur district 14 were accepted against 30 rejected.

Budgam reported 181 claims | More on P6

CM extends Herath greetings



KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 13: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday extended his warm greetings and good wishes to the Kashmiri Pandit community on the sacred occasion of Herath.

In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister conveyed heartfelt greetings to all celebrating the festival and prayed for peace, blessings and prosperity for everyone.

"Herath Poshte! On the auspicious occasion of Herath, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all our Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters. May this sacred festival bring peace, prosperity and happiness to every home, and further strengthen the bonds of harmony and brotherhood in our society," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival would continue to | More on P6

BJP MLA's allegations on land encroachment trigger uproar in Assembly

Treasury benches, Kashmir opposition protest remarks

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 13: BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa's claim that Kashmiris have encroached upon land in Jammu triggered an uproar in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, with MLAs from the Kashmir Valley strongly protesting his remarks.

During Question Hour, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Randhawa alleged that 90 per cent of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) land has been encroached upon by Kashmiris.

"90 percent of JDA land has been encroached by Kashmiris. It is a matter of shame for them. We will welcome Kashmiris if they construct houses after purchasing land," he said.

Referring to legislators from the treasury benches who stood up to counter his accusation, Randhawa remarked: "They may be feeling infuriated because someone among them might also be living on encroached land."

Waving documents, Randhawa rushed to the Well of the House. Soon, members from the opposition benches as well as PC's Sajad Lone and PDP's Mir Muhammad Fayaz were on their feet, protesting his remarks.

Enraged by | More on P6

Higher Education Conundrum....

'61% seats vacant in J&K colleges'

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Feb 13: At least 61 per cent seats remain unfilled in Government Degree Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir due to lack of student enrolments—raising a question on functioning of higher education department.

The official figures reveal that the total admissions during the previous session stood at 45,438 with officials claiming that it was higher than the enrolment figures recorded in earlier years.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the government on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the enrollment trend in Government Degree



Colleges of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has shown an improvement during the last admission session. "The total admissions during the previous session stood at 45,438, which is higher than

the enrollment figures recorded in earlier years. However, it is pertinent to mention that the existing Government Degree College across the UT have a cumulative sanctioned intake capacity | More on P6

Govt should review food safety law: J&K Speaker

MLAs express concern over food adulteration

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 13: Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday suggested that the Government should itself review the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to give more teeth to the Food Control Organisation.

During Question Hour, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Speaker urged the Minister Sakina Itoo that the Government should take the initiative to amend the Act and empower food safety officers.

"You yourself said the Act has weaknesses and officers don't have powers. You said members should take steps. But members cannot take steps the



Government itself should review the Act. If you find that the Act doesn't have teeth, you can give more powers to food safety officers," the Speaker said.

"The members can give suggestion which we will incorporate in it," he said.

Raising the issue during Question Hour, as per KNO, MLA Tangmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah said the main | More on P6

Seva Teerth, Kartavya Bhawan important milestone in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the new buildings housing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Central Secretariat mark an important milestone in India's journey towards 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) and they reflect the government's commitment to citizen-centric governance and national progress.

Inaugurating the new PMO, named Seva Teerth, and two buildings of the Central



Secretariat, called Kartavya Bhawan 1 and 2, Modi said the move from the South Block and North Block built during

the British era was vital to shed every trace of colonial mindset. "Seva Teerth, and Kartavya

Bhawan 1 and 2 mark an important milestone in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat. These reflect our commitment to citizen-centric governance and national progress," he said at an event attended by central ministers, senior bureaucrats and other officials of the central government.

Modi said a new model of governance has emerged in the past 11 years where the citizen is at the centre of decision-making.

He said that "Nagrik Devo Bhava" (citizen is akin to God) is not just a | More on P6

Facilitating Pak terrorists in Kashmir

NIA Court sentences 2 LeT OGWs to 15 years imprisonment

KNO Desk

New Delhi, Feb 13: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Court on Friday sentenced two overground workers (OGWs) of LeT terrorist outfit to 15 years of imprisonment for providing logistic support to terrorists.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a NIA spokesperson said, "The special NIA Court in Delhi sentenced two OGWs of the Pakistan Army backed banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

terrorist outfit to a maximum of 15 years of imprisonment in RC-11/2016/NIA/DLI, for providing shelter, food and logistic support to a heavily armed Pakistani terrorist who had infiltrated into Kashmir along with others with the intent to unleash terror in the Valley in 2016."

"Residents of Handwara in Kupwara district of Kashmir, the two accused, identified as Zahoor Ahmed Peer and Nazeer Ahmad Peer, have been convicted and sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment each | More on P6

Former ministers Akhoun, Shah pass away

LG, CM, Speaker, other express condolences, pay tributes

Assembly observes two-min silence

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Jammu, Feb 13: Senior National Conference (NC) leader Qamar Ali Akhoun and former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Devsar, Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Shah passed away on Friday. Both were former ministers.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Akhoun, a senior political leader from Kargil, served as NC Additional | More on P6

Bandipora-Gurez Road opened under regulated traffic plan

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 13: Bandipora-Gurez road was Friday thrown open for regulated traffic movement, facilitating the safe passage of commuters amid prevailing weather conditions.

The movement, as per an official statement, was carried out under the supervision of the District Administration Bandipora in coordination with the concerned departments.

During the regulated window, a total of 23 vehicles were allowed to ply from Bandipora towards Gurez. No heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) were permitted, and only vehicles fitted with anti-skid chains were allowed to proceed. Traffic from the opposite direction, i.e., from Gurez towards Bandipora, remained restricted in view of safety considerations.

Importantly, in view of the forthcoming holy month of Ramadhan, vehicles carrying essential supplies were also allowed to cross, ensuring timely availability of necessary commodities in Gurez. The development has brought relief and joy to residents, particularly as preparations begin for the sacred month.

All the permitted vehicles successfully reached Gurez, and the traffic movement was conducted smoothly.

The District Administration Bandipora appeals to commuters and passengers to strictly adhere to official advisories, confirm road status through designated control rooms before undertaking journeys, and cooperate with authorities to ensure safe and hassle-free travel.

DC Bandipora chairs meeting on preparations for Census 2027



KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 13: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, who is also the Principal Census Officer, chaired a meeting to review preparations for Census 2027, one of the largest and most sensitive administrative exercises.

Deliberations were held on the constitution of Census Cells at District and Tehsil levels, including provision of necessary infrastructure and deployment of computer-proficient operators. The meeting also discussed the process for procurement and outsourcing of manpower, including engagement of Technical Assistants, with priority to timely hiring of technical staff.

During the meeting, the nomination of Master Trainers at the district level and Supervisors/Enumerators by the concerned Charge Officers, including Tehsildars and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees,

was also discussed. Groundwork for field-level training and capacity building of enumerators was emphasized.

Highlighting the sensitive nature of the Census, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of meticulous planning and coordination among departments.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to extend full cooperation to ensure smooth and effective conduct of Census 2027 in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora (District Census Officer), Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (District Nodal Officer Census), Deputy District Election Officer, Sub Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, District Information Officer and other concerned officers. Sub Divisional Magistrate Gurez, Tehsildar Gurez and Tulail and other concerned officers attended the meeting virtually.

District admin Pulwama intensifies market checking drives

KT NEWS DESK

Pulwama, February 13: Ahead of the upcoming holy month of Ramadhan and acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, joint teams of Revenue, Food Safety, Legal Metrology and Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (CAPD) Friday conducted extensive market checking across various areas of the district to ensure strict adherence to quality standards and safeguard consumer interests.

During the drive, as per an official statement, several establishments dealing in food items and

essential commodities were inspected for compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS Act). During the inspection drive at Pulwama, several cases were recommended for compounding under Section 69 of the FSS Act for violations detected during the inspections. The teams stressed the importance of maintaining hygiene, proper labeling, quality standards and fair pricing practices. Meanwhile, the teams also carried out intensive market checking in Kakapora and adjoining areas. Establishments dealing in essential commodities and grocery items were inspected to ensure protection of consumer rights and compliance with Legal

Metrology provisions. During the drive, three offenders were booked for violations under relevant provisions of the Act. Furthermore, the Legal Metrology Department has been conducting routine inspections as part of its mandated enforcement responsibilities. During the current financial year, penalties amounting to Rs 11.70 lakh have been realized from erring traders.

Besides, action was also initiated against various Food Business Operators (FBOs), particularly butchers who had failed to install mandatory glass enclosures and were displaying meat outside their shops in violation of prescribed hygiene norms.

KASHMIR THUNDER

IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS

NOTICE

I ABDUL RASHID KAWA S/O AAMAN RASHID R/O Chan Khan Sopore Baramulla 193201 Jammu and Kashmir do hereby declare that I have changed my son name from AMAN RASHID to AAMAN RASHID for all purposes... including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No. 3323 1286 9734

I request that my name be updated accordingly in my Aadhar card.

Henceforth, I shall be known as AAMAN RASHID.

If anyone has any objection, they should contact the concerned department within 7 days.

NOTICE

I Rayeesa Begum W/O MOHAMMAD AZHAR DAR R/O Muslim Peer Sopore Baramulla 193201 Jammu and Kashmir do hereby declare that I have

changed my name from RASIYA AKHTER to RAYEESA BEGUM for all purposes... including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No. 7240 9293 0337

I request that my name be updated accordingly in my Aadhar card.

Henceforth, I shall be known as RAYEESA BEGUM

NOTICE

I FEROU AHAMAD SOFI S/O MOHAMMAD ILYAAS R/O Sidiq Colony Sopore Baramulla 193201 Jammu and Kashmir do hereby declare that I have

changed my son name from ZUHAN FEROUZ to MOHAMMAD ILYAAS for all purposes... including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No. 7675 1192 4875

I request that my name be updated accordingly in my Aadhar card.

Henceforth, I shall be known as MOHAMMAD ILYAAS

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu / Zam Zam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar
(www.jkssn.nic.in)

Subject: Final Selection List for the posts of Museum Curator (Item-195), Div Cadre Kashmir, Psychiatric Social Worker (Item-203), Div Cadre Kashmir, Medical Record Keeper (Item-231), Div Cadre Kashmir, Refrigerator Mechanic (Item-260), District Cadre Poonch, Animal Keeper (Item-412), Div Cadre Jammu, Laboratory Technician (Item 416) Div Cadre Jammu, (Item 420) Div Cadre Kashmir, advertised vide Notification Nos. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021. Notification No. 06-Selection of 2026

Whereas, Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board vide different indent No's received various posts from the Health and Medical Education Department, which were advertised vide Notification No. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021. The details of these posts, along with the corresponding item numbers, are provided below:

Indent No	Post	Item No	Cadre	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total	Qualification
ME/NG/83/2020 Dated: 08.03.2021	Museum Curator	195	Div Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	B.Sc. with Zoology as one of the subjects or M.S.C Zoology from any recognized University
	Psychiatric Social Worker	203	Div Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Graduation with Psychology or sociology as one of the subject or M.A Psychology / MA Sociology with Masters Degree in Social work from any recognized University
	Medical Record Keeper	231	Div Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10+2 or above qualification with diploma in Medical Record Technician from any recognized institute.
HD/Coord/63/2020 Dated: 25-09-2020	Refrigerator Mechanic	260	District Poonch	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Degree or Diploma in Mechanical engineering from any recognized institute / University or Matric or above qualification with 2 year certificate course in refrigerator and air conditioning from ITI OR ANY other recognized institute.
ME/NG/83/2020 Dated: 28.09.2020	Animal Keeper	412	Div Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Middle pass for direct recruitment
HD/Drug/24/2020 Dated: 25.09.2020	Laboratory Technician	416	Div Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy /BSC with chemistry
		420	Div Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

Whereas, The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) accordingly conducted OMR-based Written Examination for the said posts, followed by the publication of the Result/Score Sheet. Candidates falling within the consideration zone were subsequently called for Document Verification, which was held at both the Jammu and Srinagar offices. The details of the examination date, Document Verification notification, and DV schedule are provided in the table below:

Post Item	Exam Date	Result Date	Result Not. No	Main Dv	Suppl DV
Museum Curator (Item 195)	02.02.2025	15.04.2025	JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT) 3/2025-26(E-7641035), Dated: 15.04.2025	06.05.2025 (Sgr & Jammu)	17.06.2025
Refrigerator Mechanic (Item 260)	16.02.2025	24.02.2025	JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT) 9/2025-26(E-7641028), Dated: 24.04.2025	06.05.2025 (Sgr & Jammu)	20.06.2025
Laboratory Technician (Item 416,420)	25.02.2025	05.05.2025	JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT) 11/2025-03(E-7655961), Dated: 14.05.2025	27.05.2025	23.06.2025
Psychiatric Social Worker (Item 203)	02.03.2025	14.05.2025	JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT) 9/2025-26(E-7641028), Dated: 24.04.2025	09.06.2025	24.06.2025 to 25.06.2025
Medical Record Keeper (Item 231)	03.02.2025	16.04.2025	JKSSB-COE0EXAM (UT) 4/2025-26(E-7643763), Dated: 16.04.2025	07.05.2025	18.06.2025

Whereas, a Selection Committee was constituted for preparing the Final Selection List for the aforementioned posts. Accordingly, the Selection Committee prepared the Provisional Selection List in accordance with the Merit/Eligibility and same was placed in the board in its 328th Meeting, held on 28.11.2025, which after due deliberations and consideration of the matter, approved its notification; and

Whereas, the Provisional Selection List for the post of these posts, were accordingly, notified vide No. JKSSB-Scry/12/2025-06 (E-7729719) Dated 04.12.2025, seeking objections/ grievances from the candidates through the email address healthposts2of21@gmail.com within period of 10 days from the date of issuance of its notification; and

Whereas, pursuant to the above, various representations were received from the candidates, pertaining broadly to submission of documents with respect to withheld cases, correction in particulars etc., which were examined and necessary changes, where-ever required, have been made in per the available record/ extant guidelines while finalizing the selection.

Now, therefore, the Final Selection List of the candidates for posts of Museum Curator, Psychiatric Social Worker, Medical Record Keeper, Refrigerator Mechanic, Animal Keeper, Laboratory Technician advertised vide Notification Nos. 02 of 2021 dated 26.03.2021 under various Item Nos, is hereby notified as per "Annexure-A" to this Notification. It is further notified that:

- The Final Selection List shall be subject to outcome of the "As/Writ Petition(s), if any, pending in the competent court of law.
- The List shall also be subject to the outcome of any pending inquiry, involving any candidate(s), as figuring in this list.
- The formal recommendation of the concerned indenting department shall be forwarded separately.
- The Selection of the candidates has been made on the basis of Self-declaration/ certificates submitted by them and if at any stage, it comes to light that they have submitted false information or have secured selection on the basis of fake or invalid documents/ certificates, the selection shall be liable to cancellation at any stage.
- This being a combined selection, the Waiting List shall be notified and forwarded on the request of the Indenting Department, against the non-joining candidates, if any.

No: JKSSB-Scry/7/2025-03(E-7680969)
Dated: 12.02.2026

DIPK-10892/25
DATED: 13-02-2026

Sd/
(Atul Kumar) JKAS
Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE TANGMARG/GULMARG

eomctangmarg@gmail.com
eo.mctangmarg@jk.gov.in

Subject: Engagement of Self Help Groups as Community Mobilizers in Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg.

Reference: List of shortlisted candidates received from the office of the Mission Director SBM(U)-2.0 vide No. MD/SBM-U/2025-26/2153 Dated: 04/02/2026.

It is hereby notified for the information of all the shortlisted candidates, whose particulars have been received from the office of the Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)-2.0, for engagement of Self Help Groups (SHGs) as Community Mobilizers in Municipal Committee Tangmarg, that the interview of the said candidates shall be conducted as per the schedule detailed below:

SNO	Candidates from SNo - To	Date of Interview	Venue	Time
1	4285 to 4336	19-02-2026	Town Hall Tangmarg/ Gulmarg	11:00 A.M

All candidates are advised to bring the duly filled Personal Interview Application Form (Annexure-3) along with original documents pertaining to their eligibility, including:

- Educational qualification certificates / mark sheets
- Aadhaar Card
- Endorsement Form
- SHG Passbook / SHG Member Card
- SHG Registration Certificate (LOKOS Certificate)

Failure to produce the requisite original documents at the time of interview shall render the candidature liable for rejection.

No: MC/TG/2026/356-62
Dated: 13/02/2026

DIPK-NB-3314/25
DATED: 13-02-2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Tangmarg/Gulmarg

GoI approves 7 GMCs for J&K: Union Ministry

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Government of India on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that seven Government Medical Colleges have been approved for Jammu and Kashmir under the centrally sponsored scheme aimed at establishing new institutions attached with existing district or referral hospitals.

Replying to unstarred question No. 2500, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said that a total of 157 Government Medical Colleges have been approved across the country under the scheme, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The Minister said the scheme gives preference to underserved areas and aspirational districts where no Government or private medical college exists. It aims to strengthen tertiary healthcare facilities at the district level and increase the availability of MBBS seats across the country.

As per the details placed before the House, five medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir were approved in Phase-I of the scheme. These include Anantnag, Baramulla, Rajouri, Doda and Kathua districts.

In Phase-II, two more medical colleges were approved for Udhampur and Handwara in Kupwara district, taking the total number of colleges sanctioned for J&K under the scheme to seven.

Regarding funding, the Minister informed that the scheme follows a Centre-State sharing pattern of 90:10 for North Eastern and Special Category States, and 60:40 for other States and Union Territories. The financial assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district or referral hospitals.

The government said the initiative is aimed at reducing regional disparities in medical education and healthcare services, particularly in remote and underserved districts—(KNO)

AIIMS Vijaypur operational, Awantipora site underway: GoI



RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Government of India has informed the Lok Sabha that while the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Vijaypur in Jammu division is fully functional, the AIIMS at Awantipora in Kashmir division is still under construction.

Replying to unstarred Question No. 2466 in the Lok Sabha, raised by MP Abhishek Banerjee, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav said that 15 AIIMS have been approved across States and UTs under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) since 2015. All India Institute of Medical

Sciences Vijaypur, located in Samba district of Jammu division, is functional. Sanctioned bed strength: 750 beds, sanctioned faculty posts: 183, faculty filled: 119 vacant posts: 64.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences Awantipora is under construction. Sanctioned bed strength: 750 beds, sanctioned faculty posts: 94 faculty filled: 0, vacant posts: 94

The reply indicates that while the Jammu division AIIMS has become operational and is catering to patients, the Kashmir division institute is yet to be completed and made functional.

The Minister further stated that completion of AIIMS projects depends upon several factors, including transfer of

encumbrance-free land by the concerned State/UT Government, obtaining regulatory and statutory clearances, and resolution of site-specific issues.

No specific revised deadline for completion of AIIMS Awantipora was mentioned in the reply. However, the Government said that projects under PMSSY are being regularly monitored.

The development is significant for J&K, where the establishment of two AIIMS—one each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions—was announced to strengthen tertiary healthcare infrastructure and reduce patient referral burden outside the Union Territory—(KNO)

Northern Railway announces Holi specials from Katra to Delhi, Varanasi

SAJID RAINA

Jammu, Feb 13: To manage the expected rush during Holi, Northern Railway will run special reserved trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to New Delhi and Varanasi, officials said on Friday.

According to the officials from Jammu Division, special train numbers 04081/04082 will run between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, while train numbers 04603/04604 will operate between Varanasi and Katra.

Train number 04081 will depart from New Delhi Railway Station at 11:45 pm from February 21 to March 8, completing 16 trips, and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway station at 12 noon the following day. En route, it will halt at Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu and Udhampur stations.

The return service, train number 04082, will operate from Katra to New Delhi from February 22 to March 9 with 16 trips. It will leave Katra at 9:20 pm and arrive in New Delhi at 10 am the next day, with stoppages at the same stations.

Similarly, train number 04603 will run from Varanasi Junction railway station to Katra with

four trips between February 24 and March 8. The train will depart Varanasi at 5 am and reach Katra at 6 am the next day. It will halt at Pratapgarh, Rae Bareilly, Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu and Udhampur.

The return service, train number 04604, will operate from Katra to Varanasi with four trips from February 22 to March 6. It will depart at 6:15 pm and arrive in Varanasi at 7 pm the next day.

Officials said the special trains are aimed at facilitating smooth and convenient travel during the festival period, when regular services witness heavy rush.

Meanwhile, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has also introduced a full-fare tourist train, number 00913, from Pratapnagar in Gujarat to Katra. The train departed on February 11 and is scheduled to reach Katra on February 14 via Amritsar. It will return on February 16 and arrive back in Pratapnagar on February 18.

Passengers can book tickets through the official IRCTC website, mobile application, or access train information through the 139 helpline and the National Train Enquiry System—(KNO)

3 sexual harassment complaints in J&K government offices since 2024: Centre

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Government of India on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that three complaints of sexual harassment at workplace have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in Government offices and affiliated departments since the launch of the SHE-Box portal in August 2024.

Replying to Unstarred Question No. 2490, raised by MP Sudama Prasad, Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur said that a total of 79 complaints have been received nationwide on the Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHE-Box) portal since its launch on August 29, 2024.

As per the State/UT-wise data placed before the House, Jammu and Kashmir recorded three complaints, out of which: Two cases have been disposed of and one case remains pending.

The Minister informed



State/UT — is responsible for taking action on complaints and monitoring implementation of the law.

The reply stated that the Supreme Court of India, through orders issued in December 2024 and subsequent directions in 2025 and 2026, directed States and UTs to ensure constitution of Internal Committees and proper uploading of their details on the SHE-Box portal to strengthen compliance.

Under the provisions of the Act, employers are required to act within 60 days on recommendations of the Internal Committee, which may include disciplinary action, compensation or other remedial measures. The law also provides interim relief to the aggrieved woman during inquiry.

Nationwide, out of 79 complaints reported on the portal, 23 have been disposed of while 56 are pending, the Minister said—(KNO)

'3 state drug testing laboratories functional in J&K'

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Government of India on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that Jammu and Kashmir has three State Drug Testing Laboratories funded under the centrally sponsored scheme for strengthening the drug regulatory system in the country.

Replying to Unstarred Question No. 2504, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme — Strengthening of States' Drug Regulatory System (SSDRS) — to upgrade laboratories, set up new drug testing labs and modernize State drug control offices.

The Minister informed that under the SSDRS scheme, funds amounting to 756 crore have been released to States and Union Territories as Central share. So far, 19 new drug testing laboratories have been constructed and 28 existing labs upgraded across the country.

As per the annexure tabled in the House, Jammu and Kashmir has three State Drug Testing Laboratories funded under the scheme. These laboratories function under the administrative control of the UT Government. The reply further

stated that manpower in State drug testing laboratories falls under the jurisdiction of respective State/UT Governments and related data is not maintained centrally. However, in laboratories under the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), there are 276 sanctioned posts, of which 178 are filled and 98 are vacant. Recruitment is an ongoing process.

Providing nationwide data on drug quality, the Minister said that during 2022-23, as many as 96,713 drug samples were tested across States/UTs, of which 3,053 were declared Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and 424 were found spurious or adulterated. In 2023-24, 1,06,150 samples were tested with 2,988 declared NSQ and 282 spurious/adulterated. In 2024-25, 1,16,323 samples were tested, 3,104 were declared NSQ and 245 were found spurious or adulterated. Prosecutions were also launched in cases involving manufacturing, sale and distribution of spurious or adulterated drugs.

The government said the SSDRS scheme is aimed at upgrading infrastructure, strengthening regulatory oversight and ensuring quality control to safeguard India's reputation as a global pharmaceutical supplier—(KNO)

CEO praises GHSS Zadibal for smart diaries, sustainable campus plan

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Feb 13: Following the Review Meeting of Zone Hawal today, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat

conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School Zadibal.

During the visit, the CEO Srinagar unveiled the school's innovatively designed Integrated Diary-cum-Lesson Plan Book, along with customized Student and Teacher Folders. These resources, meticulously prepared by the school, exemplify a commitment to streamlined academic planning and personalized education management.

The CEO also reviewed the Annual Institutional Plan for GHSS Zadibal under the Green Campus Initiative. The school presented a compelling demonstration, showcasing the current

campus layout alongside a visionary blueprint of its transformed, eco-friendly future post-implementation. This practical illustration underscored the school's proactive steps toward sustainability.

The CEO Srinagar showered high praise and applause on the Lesson Plan Diary and the Annual Institutional Plan for the Green Campus Initiative, commending the school's innovative approach and dedication to academic excellence and environmental stewardship.

Principal GHSS Zadibal, Mohammad Shafi Lone, in response, said that the institution remains steadfast in its mission to foster holistic development, blending cutting-edge educational tools with sustainable practices for the brighter future of its students.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

LA Question Hour

J&K seizes 12,000 Kg of rotten meat

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday informed the Assembly that over 12,000 kilograms of rotten and unsafe meat has been seized and destroyed across the Union Territory during the current financial year 2025-26 (up to December 2025).

Replying to a question in the House, the Health & Medical Education Department said that while food adulteration is not a generalised fact, incidents relating to sale and seizure of rotten/unsafe meat were reported in Kashmir Valley during routine surveillance and special enforcement drives conducted across districts. As per the official data,

a total of 1,676 inspections were carried out, during which 144 samples were lifted. Of these, 18 were found Non-Standard Quality (NSQ). The department said 2,139 kg of meat was seized, while 12,183.5 kg of rotten meat was destroyed, with the total value of destroyed stock pegged at Rs 29,19,060.

District-wise Seizures Srinagar recorded the highest seizure with 4,220 kg of rotten meat destroyed, followed by Jammu with 3,881 kg and Kupwara with 1,520.5 kg. Other districts where seizures were reported include Anantnag (700 kg), Ganderbal (770 kg), Pulwama (450 kg), Budgam (234 kg), Bandipora (162 kg), Baramulla (125 kg) and Shopian (121 kg).

In addition, 7,665 kg of paneer

was seized/destroyed in Jammu (6,465 kg) and Samba (1,200 kg), with the total value of seized paneer stock amounting to Rs 16,32,150.

The government further stated that samples were sent for analysis to Food Testing Laboratories within and outside J&K, including FSSAI-recognised NABL-accredited laboratories.

The department also informed that J&K has two NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories with one each at Jammu and Srinagar and 12 Mobile Food Testing Laboratories, which are fully functional.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

'No proposal to enhance pension for widows'

RAJA SYED RATHER

Jammu, Feb 13: The J&K Government on Friday said that there is presently no proposal to further enhance the widow pension under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) or under the National Social Assistance Programme.

Replying to an un-starred A.Q. No. 1314 tabled by MLA Dr Devinder Kumar, the Minister In-charge Social Welfare Department informed the House that the widow pension under ISSS and IGNWPS has already been enhanced along with other components vide Government Order No. 96-JK (SWD) of 2025 dated 03.04.2025 for eligible beneficiaries. The government further stated that the present age-wise monthly pension provided to eligible beneficiaries is Rs 1,250 for widows aged between 40-59 years, Rs 1,500 for those aged 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for beneficiaries aged 80 years and above—(KNO)

17 of 40 Zainapora health centres run on rented premises: Govt

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Feb 13: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said that out of 40 healthcare facilities in Zainapora constituency of Shopian district, 17 are operating from rented accommodations.

Responding to a question in the Legislative Assembly by MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie, regarding healthcare infrastructure, Health and Medical Education Department Minister Sakeena Itoo said that Zainapora currently has 40 healthcare institutions, including 1 Community Health Centre (CHC), 2 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 6 New Type Primary Healthcare

Centres (NTPHCs), and 31 Health & Wellness Centres (H&WCs).

Itoo added that, in addition, 9 AYUSH dispensaries and centres are operational in Zainapora to provide treatment through indigenous systems of medicine.

Regarding infrastructure, she said the health facilities at the level of CHCs, PHCs, and NTPHCs are mostly housed in government accommodations, except for NTPHC Alamgunj. The construction of the NTPHC Alamgunj building was initiated in 2018-19 at an estimated cost of Rs 188.12 lakh, with Rs 124.12 lakh spent so far.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

Need To Safeguard Public Discourse

The decision by the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly to dedicate a full discussion to online smear campaigns against its members is a significant and timely acknowledgement of a crisis that extends far beyond political inconvenience. It signals that the digital arena, once hailed as a democratising force, has increasingly become a battleground where reputation, dignity, and even democratic stability are under siege. This move rightly reframes the issue from

mere political rivalry to a matter of institutional integrity and public trust. The concerns raised by legislators cut to the heart of our times. When doctored videos circulate with impunity, and unverified channels target individuals with malicious intent, it is not just the politician who suffers. The very fabric of informed public discourse is eroded. If public representatives can be systematically maligned without consequence, the public's ability to trust any information collapses.

This is a direct threat to the health of our democracy. The solution requires not just stricter laws, but an ethical introspection within the political class. The culture of weaponising misinformation for short-term gain must be collectively renounced. A digital ceasefire from within the ranks is the first step toward restoring decorum. Yet, individual restraint is insufficient without systemic safeguards. The call for an activated enforcement division is vital. The government must

establish a rapid-response mechanism to flag, verify, and counter viral misinformation, particularly content involving deepfakes and doctored media. This must be done with absolute neutrality, ensuring that action is based on the falsity of the content, not the identity of the target. The platforms cannot remain passive conduits. There must be clear accountability for social media companies to promptly remove verified malicious content. Public awareness campaigns

on digital literacy are equally crucial, empowering citizens to question rather than share blindly. The Assembly's decision to debate this is a necessary act of institutional self-defence. By addressing the weaponisation of digital spaces, J&K can set a precedent for safeguarding both the honour of its representatives and the integrity of its democracy. It needs to be ensured that public discourse remains a space for truth, not a hunting ground for character assassination.

Safeguarding Women at Work

An overview of SH Act 2013 and SHe-Box portal

Press Information Bureau

A safe workplace is not merely a legal requirement but a foundational element for ensuring that women can exercise their fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and economic empowerment. Sexual harassment of women at workplace is a serious violation of their fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, the right to practice any profession or occupation under Article 19(1)(g), and the right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. It creates an insecure work environment, hindering women's participation in the workforce and adversely affecting their economic empowerment and the goal of inclusive growth.

The absence of strong safeguards in the past hindered women's workforce entry and retention. Earlier criminal provisions under the Indian Penal Code and the Vishakha guidelines issued by Supreme Court in 1997 had provided a framework for safety and security of women at workplace. However, the Government after taking into account the need for a comprehensive framework, to holistically address every aspect of workplace related harassment of women, enacted 'the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013' (SH Act) on 09th December, 2013.

It provides a clear legal framework to prevent, prohibit, and redress sexual harassment. The Act protects every woman at work, across all sectors and employment types. It promotes a culture of respect, safety and dignity of every woman who are part of the workforce or visit a workplace in connection with any work, while advancing inclusive economic growth. The SHe-Box portal acts as a key digital initiative, and strengthens this framework by offering an easy, secure, and transparent way for women to file and track complaints.

Key Provisions and Obligations under the SH Act

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (SH Act) was enacted on 9th December 2013. The Act seeks to prevent sexual harassment and ensure a safe, secure and inclusive working environment for women. It applies across all sectors – public and private, organised and



unorganised – and protects every woman irrespective of her age, employment status or nature of work. This also includes domestic workers.

Institutional Mechanisms
The Act establishes clear institutional mechanisms for redressal.

Internal Committee (IC): Mandatory for workplaces with 10 or more employees.

Local Committee (LC): Set up by District Officers in every district. It handles cases in workplaces with fewer than 10 employees or complaints against the employer.

The Appropriate Government holds overall responsibility for monitoring implementation.

The Central Government acts as the Appropriate Government for workplaces it establishes, owns, controls or substantially or wholly finances either directly or indirectly.

State Governments perform this role for workplaces they fund either directly or indirectly, and for all other workplaces within their jurisdiction. Both levels of government maintain data on the number of cases filed and disposed of under the Act.

Complaint Process
The complaint process is time-bound to ensure prompt action.

Complaints must be filed within 3 months. This can extend by another 3 months for valid reasons.

Inquiry is to be completed within 90 days.

If proven, action taken as per the service rules or SH Rules, as the case may be.

False complaints may attract penalties after inquiry proves malice.

For women in unorganised sector including domestic workers facing sexual harassment, the LC upon examination, if required, forwards cases to the police for action under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Employer Responsibilities

Employers have clear proactive duties under the Act. Beyond merely reacting to complaints, the law requires them to take active steps to prevent sexual harassment from occurring in the first place. This preventive approach is central to creating a respectful and secure work culture. Employers must ensure that all employees are aware of the provisions of Act and the female employees are aware of their rights and must ensure a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment. Regular engagement and training help build sensitivity and accountability across the organisation.

Monitoring and Compliance

The SH Act places strong emphasis on effective monitoring to ensure proper implementation across the country. The Appropriate Government is responsible for overseeing compliance. This includes maintaining accurate data on the number of cases filed and disposed of under the Act.

In order to support monitoring, Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) prepare annual reports in the prescribed format and submit to their respective employers or District Officers. The District Officer then forwards a brief consolidated report to the State Government.

The Appropriate Government has additional powers to enforce compliance. It can request any relevant information from employers or District Officers. It can also authorise inspections of records and workplaces related to sexual harassment cases. These measures help track progress, identify gaps, and ensure the Act is implemented in both letter and spirit.

Penalties for Non-Compliance

These monitoring and enforcement measures are backed by strict penalties for anyone who fail to comply with the Act.

First violation: Fine of Rs. 50,000.

Repeat violations: Double fine, plus possible license cancellation or non-renewal.

Role of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) is the nodal ministry for the SH Act. It issues advisories to

Central Ministries, States, UTs and private bodies and plays a pivotal role in effective implementation.

Constitution of the Internal Committee (IC) is now a mandatory disclosure under Companies Act, 2013, by amending the Company (Account) Rules, 2014.

MoWCD has also developed a Handbook on the SH Act. It is on the website and SHe-Box portal.

Training module on SH Act has been created with Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), which is available on the portal.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has issued several advisories. These cover annual reports, timely inquiries, no re-victimisation and special leave for complainants.

Direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also monitored the progress of implementation of the SH Act in course of some cases, and issued directions, including to State/UT authorities to ensure nationwide compliance to the Act, expedite constitution of ICs and making the information available on SHe-Box portal. In line with these directions, the MoWCD regularly issues advisories to Central Ministries, State Governments, Union Territories, and private sector bodies. These advisories focus on organising regular workshops and awareness programmes to sensitise employees and build capacity of committee members and also setting up ICs in every district and ICs wherever required.

The SHe-Box Portal

The MoWCD launched the Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHe-Box) on 29th August 2024.

SHe-Box serves as a single-window, centralised digital platform. By creating a central repository – which was previously not available – the SHe-Box portal strengthens monitoring of the Act's implementation. It helps track cases filed and disposed of nationwide. The platform promotes accountability, faster redressal, and long-term cultural change in workplaces. Ultimately, SHe-Box contributes to safer work environments and advances women's empowerment.

It enables any woman facing sexual harassment at the workplace – irrespective of whether she works in the public or private sector, organised or unorganised sector – to

register her complaint easily and securely. Once a complaint is submitted, the portal automatically forwards it to the relevant Internal Committee (IC) or Local Committee (LC) based on the details provided by the complainant.

The revamped portal includes several user-friendly and secure features:

Real-time tracking of complaint status, allowing women to monitor progress and actions taken.

Multi-lingual support to break language barriers and make the platform accessible across the country.

Strong emphasis on confidentiality to ensure a safe and secure reporting experience.

A resource hub providing training materials, information on rights, and step-by-step guidance on the redressal process.

Nodal Officers appointed for monitoring the portal play a key role. They regularly update and maintain accurate information on the portal, including details of ICs and LCs, and ensure timely handling of complaints and other compliances.

The portal also supports compliance and monitoring by requiring workplaces to upload essential information:

Details of IC members.

Details of LC.

Annual reports submitted under the SH Act. Records of awareness programmes and training sessions conducted for employees and IC members.

Conclusion

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 remains a landmark law. It protects women's right to a safe and dignified workplace. The Act, together with strong institutional mechanisms, time-bound redressal, and employer duties, works to prevent harassment and ensure justice. The Ministry of Women and Child Development continues to lead implementation. It issues regular advisories, builds capacity, and promotes awareness across sectors. The revamped SHe-Box portal, launched in August 2024, marks a major step forward. It provides easy, secure, and transparent access to file and track complaints. It also creates a national database for better monitoring and accountability.

The Government remains committed to effective enforcement of the SH Act and to empowering every woman with a harassment-free work environment.

Why India Must Use AI To Save What It Already Grows

As the Impact Summit approaches, the task before policymakers, technologists and entrepreneurs is not to accelerate AI adoption indiscriminately, but to deepen it thoughtfully

Rubal Chib

India's conversation on artificial intelligence is maturing. The focus is shifting from abstract capability to applied impact; from what AI can do in theory to what it can solve in practice. Few sectors make this distinction clearer than food and agriculture, where inefficiencies are not marginal but systemic, and where technology must work within deeply local realities of climate, logistics, and markets.

Food systems illustrate the problem starkly. India grows more than enough to feed its population, yet an estimated 68 million tonnes of food are lost every year, with 35–40% of fruits and vegetables perishing after harvest due to breakdowns due to irregular delivery, poor quality assessment, and fragmented supply chains. The crisis is not one of production, but of preventable loss. This loss is not the result of scarcity, but of misalignment—between harvest and consumption, between data and decision-making. For years, the absence of reliable, real-time information about quality and timing has posed a challenge for Indian farmers and regulators. Artificial intelligence, when designed for Indian conditions,

offers a way to close this gap.

This gap between biological reality and economic decision-making is where applied AI can deliver disproportionate impact. At qZense Labs, our work began with a simple observation: while India's digital infrastructure has transformed payments, identity and service delivery, the food economy remains largely analogue in how it assesses quality. QScan, the AI-powered sensing system we developed, uses infrared spectroscopy and artificial olfaction to capture internal quality signals in fruits and vegetables and translate them into usable insights at the point of decision. The intent was not to introduce automation for its own sake, but to reduce uncertainty for consumers, farmers, and retailers operating on thin margins.

What this experience has underscored is that AI's effectiveness depends fundamentally on context. Models trained on foreign datasets or standardised supply chains struggle in India's heterogeneous conditions, where crop varieties, climates, storage practices and market structures vary sharply across regions. In food systems especially, accuracy cannot be separated from locality. AI that does not

understand Indian produce, Indian logistics and Indian behavioural norms risks being irrelevant at best, and misleading at worst.

This is why the current policy emphasis on sovereign, domestically grounded AI is both timely and necessary. The IndiaAI Mission signals a clear shift in how the state is approaching artificial intelligence—not as a frontier technology divorced from everyday realities, but as developmental infrastructure. Through targeted funding for indigenous AI applications, investments in national compute capacity, support for Indian datasets, and programmes to incubate sector-specific solutions, the Mission is actively building an ecosystem where innovation is anchored in local needs. By backing home-grown models, startups and public-interest deployments, it is creating space for AI systems designed for Indian conditions rather than retrofitted from other geographies.

Food and agriculture illustrate why this matters. Reducing post-harvest losses has a direct bearing on farmer incomes, food prices and environmental outcomes. Every unit of produce saved reduces pressure on land, water and energy resources, aligning

naturally with India's commitments on climate action and responsible consumption. Unlike yield-enhancing interventions, which often require behavioural change or new inputs, better quality assessment improves outcomes by improving coordination—helping the system act at the right time.

Equally important is the question of inclusion. For AI to serve the public good, it must be usable by small actors, not just large enterprises. In India's agricultural economy, that means tools that work within informal markets, support local languages, and complement human judgement rather than override it. Technologies that impose opaque recommendations will struggle to earn trust. Those that augment decision-making, by making invisible information visible, are more likely to scale organically.

The India AI Impact Summit, which will take place from 16-20th February 2026 in our capital city, arrives at a moment when these distinctions are becoming clearer. Globally, AI discourse is grappling with concentration of power, data asymmetries and environmental costs. India's opportunity lies in demonstrating a different pathway, one

where intelligence is decentralised, context-aware and embedded within real economic systems. Agriculture, food logistics and climate adaptation are not edge cases in this story; they are central to it.

It is worthwhile to consider that AI does not automatically create impact. It demands deep domain understanding, patience with complex policy realities and close alignment with public institutions. When these conditions are met, however, AI can quietly transform sectors that have long resisted reform. Not through disruption, but through better decisions made earlier.

As the Impact Summit approaches, the task before policymakers, technologists and entrepreneurs is not to accelerate AI adoption indiscriminately, but to deepen it thoughtfully. Success should be measured not by model benchmarks, but by whether intelligence helps reduce waste, stabilise incomes and strengthen resilience. In food systems, as in many areas of India's development journey, AI's greatest contribution may simply be helping us act in time.

The author is the Co-Founder of qZense Labs Private Limited

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

J&K Assembly passes grants for Jal Shakti, Forest, Tribal Affairs departments

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Friday passed the grants worth Rs. 3,24,177.48 Lakh for Public Health Engineering, Rs. 1,52,482.05 lakh for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Rs. 1,60,699.61 lakh for Irrigation & Flood Control and Rs. 40,600.72 for Tribal Affairs Department.

The grants, as per an official statement, were passed through voice vote after a daylong debate by the Members in the House.

Winding up the discussion on the Demands for Grants, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, expressed gratitude to all the legislators for their active participation and valuable suggestions. He stated that the feedback and recommendations would form the basis for further strengthening the policy decisions, ensuring effective execution and impactful implementation of projects on the ground.

During his speech, Javed Rana said that the proposed allocations reflect the government's commitment towards balancing development with sustainability, ensuring resilient ecosystems, reliable water resources and targeted socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu & Kashmir.

Elaborating on the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Javed Rana emphasised that forests are the lifeline of Jammu & Kashmir, covering almost half of its geographical area. He extolled that the UT's has unique distinction of hosting the country's most diverse forest types.

The Minister said that for the fiscal 2026-27, an enhanced allocation of Rs 242 crore has been proposed, reflecting strong commitment towards conservation and sustainable development. He underlined that under UT Capex 2025-26, Rs 168.18 crore have been approved, of which Rs 141.14 crore have been released and works worth Rs 56.97 crore have already been executed. He added that against the approved allocations of Rs 175.06 crore under CAMPA, Rs 155.14 crore have been released.



"Under the flagship initiative 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', plantation of 71.77 lakh saplings till January 2026 has been achieved, with a target of one crore saplings to be fully achieved. In 2026-27, one crore additional saplings will be planted with active public participation", he said.

Javed Rana asserted that significant progress has been made in forest demarcation with 1.85 lakh boundary pillars installed. Besides, digitization of forest boundaries using CORS-enabled GNSS technology has positioned J&K as a pioneer in advanced forest governance.

Maintaining that Wetland conservation remains a priority with 260 wetlands mapped using GIS and remote sensing, the Forest Minister said that revival of Wular Lake, a Ramsar site, with 5 sq km dredged and 2,952 hectares afforested, has benefitted over 5,200 fishermen.

He highlighted that wildlife conservation measures have covered 11.5 percent of the UT's area, with over 3,002 animals rescued and 214 crore+ compensation disbursed for human-wildlife conflict.

The Minister said that J&K continues to remain carbon positive, with air quality improvement measures resulting in

PM10 reduction of 18.5 percent in Jammu and 41.3 percent in Srinagar.

Rana informed that the local communities have been empowered and 171 sale depots established under Sustainable Collection and Utilization of NTFP Policy, notified in 2022. He added that with this 7100 families had been benefitted thereby generating an income of 792.32 lakh.

He informed that Firewood and timber supply mechanisms have been strengthened with transparent e-auctions and digital systems with 8.69 lakh quintal of free fodder distributed in the past five years.

He said that Pollution Control Committee has integrated all services into a single-window system and auto-renewal for green category industries. He added that third-party certification frameworks have reduced procedural delays while maintaining environmental safeguards.

Regarding recruitment and promotion processes, he said that the same has been fast-tracked, with multiple Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) meetings convened and significant number of promotions finalized.

He maintained that in the coming year, the government will intensify efforts to further

strengthen the forest conservation, biodiversity protection and eco-tourism across Jammu and Kashmir. Key initiatives like plantation of one crore saplings with the community participation, completion of survey and demarcation of forest areas, identification and development of new forest trek routes and eco-huts, promotion of eco-tourism in identified locations through local involvement would be taken up, he added.

The Forest Minister said that the year will also witness completion of SASCI projects, installation of sensor-based air quality monitoring systems, upgradation of Jambu Zoo, establishment of conservation breeding centres for endangered species and creation of wildlife protection infrastructure to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

Rana said that vision of the government is to ensure ecological security, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and community prosperity. Forests are not just about trees; they are about water security, livelihoods, disaster mitigation and the future of our children, he said.

He said that with the support of this august House, we shall continue to protect, preserve and enhance the natural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir for our future generations.

Speaking on grants for Public Health Engineering Department, Javed Rana said that government is committed to provide drinking water to every rural household in Jammu & Kashmir through convergence of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), NABARD, and UT Capex resources.

He asserted that under JJM, the government is committed towards ensuring universal Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), adding that 15.64 lakh households have already been provided tap water supply and remaining will be covered through completion of ongoing schemes and upgradation of existing connections.

He said that for 2026-27, a Capex Budget of Rs. 1561.9 crore has been proposed, reflecting a 10.4 percent increase over the revised estimate of Rs. 1399.5 crore.

Highlighting the progress made in the last year, he said that 69

projects, costing 302 crore were commissioned, benefiting nearly 29,000 households. He mentioned that Union Finance Minister has announced the extension of JJM till December 2028 with enhanced outlay and the Omar government is committed to complete the mission within the extended timeline.

Asserting that water quality monitoring is a core element of JJM, he said that 98 water testing laboratories are functional and over 2.64 lakh water quality tests were conducted this financial year, while third-party inspections and surprise checks are being regularly conducted.

He also laid down targets for next financial year like completion of 850 ongoing JJM schemes, full operationalization of completed schemes through rationalization of existing departmental manpower and 100 percent Har Ghar Jal certification for all villages.

The Minister stated that under NABARD RIDF, 57 schemes costing 740.49 crore are under execution, of which, seven have been completed while the remaining schemes have been targeted for completion during 2026-27. He said that under UT Capex, 1,136 drinking water works are under execution with 419 already completed and 550 schemes targeted for completion in 2026-27.

He informed that two major water supply projects are underway to ensure uninterrupted supply to AIIMS Awantipora and AIIMS Vijaypur. The 54 crore water supply scheme for AIIMS Awantipora is being implemented in two phases, with Phase-I completed and Phase-II slated for completion in 2026-27. The scheme for AIIMS Vijaypur has achieved 95 percent physical progress, he added.

To address the water shortages, Jal Shakti Minister said that the tanker fleet has been strengthened with addition of 20 new tankers, supplementing 123 departmental and 85 private tankers.

The Minister further said that under SASCI, 42 projects worth 163 crore have been approved, 155.38 crore released and 47 crore spent so far, while flood damage works worth 430 crore for the year 2025 have also been identified for restoration.

J&K Legislative Assembly mourns demise of former Minister Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Shah

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 13: The Legislative Assembly mourned the demise of former Minister and Legislator Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Shah who passed away Friday.

Informing the house, the Chairman Mubarak Gul paid rich tributes to the departed leader. The House, as per an official statement, also observed two minute silence in respect of the former Minister.

Dr Farooq, Omar Abdullah condole demise of Qamar Ali Akhooon

KT News Desk

Srinagar, 13 Feb: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed profound grief over the demise of senior party leader, Additional General Secretary and former Cabinet Minister for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and Transport, as well as former Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and a towering political figure from Kargil, Qamar Ali Akhooon.

In his condolence message, Dr. Farooq, as per a party statement said, "The news of Akhooon Sahib's passing has filled me with deep sorrow. I remember him as a devoted party colleague and cabinet member who remained steadfastly committed to the welfare of the people of Kargil."

In his message, CM Omar Abdullah said, "Akhooon Sahib belonged to that rare breed of politicians who never compromised on their principles. He stood resolutely with the National Conference through its most challenging and triumphant phases alike."

Several senior party leaders also expressed deep anguish and extended their condolences to the bereaved family.

Social Welfare Dept hosts workshop on sexual harassment law

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 13: A two-day training programme on Organisational Behaviour and Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act was held under the joint banner of Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department.

The workshop centres on the POSH Act, 2013, a landmark Indian law designed to prevent, prohibit, and redress sexual harassment in workplaces.

The programme, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by Mission Director, Nazim Zai Khan, who emphasised the importance of embedding gender sensitivity and accountability into institutional practice.

Officials, administrators, and professionals from various departments attended the workshop and discussed on how workplace environments can be made safer, more responsive, and more inclusive.

The technical sessions on organisational behaviour were led by CEO, ELFA International, Nawab Mehran Khan and Specialist Gender, Sameena Mir. Their sessions combined legal awareness with practical discussions on communication, workplace ethics, grievance redressal systems, and conflict resolution. Participants were sensitized that not only procedures but also attitudes and everyday interactions shape professional culture. By integrating behavioral insights with statutory provisions, the programme aims to build internal capacity so that complaints are handled fairly, sensitively, and effectively.

Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, initiatives focused on protection and empowerment of women and children, have increasingly emphasised capacity building as a cornerstone of reform.

DTF Bandipora launches inspection drive under Pan-India child protection campaign

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 13: Under the ongoing Pan India Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign, the District Task Force (DTF) Bandipora conducted a comprehensive inspection drive in the Ajas and Hajin areas of the district to curb child labour and ensure strict enforcement of child protection laws.

During the drive, as per an official statement,



several shops, bakery establishments, and automobile garages were inspected to verify compliance with labour regulations and to identify any minors engaged

in work. The initiative was aimed at safeguarding the rights of children and ensuring that they are not deprived of education and a safe childhood.

During the inspection, three minors were identified working in different establishments. The concerned owners were immediately directed to report before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Bandipora for further necessary action as per the

legal provisions.

The identified children were counseled on the spot by officials. They were informed that the Department of Mission Vatsalya would provide financial assistance to them. The children were also assured that the department would facilitate their readmission into schools to help them continue their education.

The drive witnessed the active participation of officials

from Mission Vatsalya, the Labour Department, District Legal Services Authority, and Bandipora Police, reflecting a coordinated multi-departmental effort to eliminate child labour from the district.

The District Task Force reiterated its commitment to continue such inspection drives in other areas of Bandipora to ensure the protection, rehabilitation, and overall welfare of children.

DC Doda chairs preparatory meeting for Maha Shivratri, holy month of Ramzan

KT News Desk

DODA, FEBRUARY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh Friday chaired a preparatory meeting to review arrangements for the smooth observance of the upcoming Shivratri festival and the holy month of Ramzan across the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional Superintendent of Police Mohd Aslam, Programme Officer ICDS Akhtar Qazi, Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohd Afaqi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Pervaz, the Chief Medical Officer and other concerned district officers attended the meeting.

Sub-Divisional Magistrates, police officers and concerned Executive Engineers participated through online mode.



security, sanitation and uninterrupted essential services during the festivals. He directed all departments to remain vigilant and responsive to public needs.

For Shivratri, he directed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue to inspect temples with a focus on sanitation and cleanliness. He instructed the Police Department to make comprehensive security arrangements for devotees. He directed the PHE Department to ensure an uninterrupted water supply and the PDD to maintain a reliable power supply during the festival days.

He instructed Block Development Officers to ensure

cleanliness in and around temple premises within their jurisdictions. He directed Executive Engineers of concerned sub-divisions to ensure adequate water availability.

Regarding Ramzan, he directed Sub-Divisional Magistrates to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, particularly during Sehri and Iftar hours. He instructed the Food Safety and allied departments to conduct strict inspections to check the quality of food items including dates, fruits and meat and to ensure that shopkeepers sell only stamped and approved items.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed strict action against

the sale of expired food items.

He directed the Municipality to maintain cleanliness and hygiene around slaughterhouses. He laid special emphasis on proper street lighting, particularly near mosques. He directed the Police Department to ensure the safety of individuals and maintain public order throughout the festive period.

Civil society members from Doda also participated in the meeting and raised issues related to festival arrangements. The Deputy Commissioner assured them that the administration would address all grievances promptly to ensure hassle-free celebrations.

DLSA Budgam celebrates National Girl Child Day

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 13: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), organized an Awareness Programme in collaboration with an NGO, Bal Raksha Bharat (Save Children), Srinagar, celebrated National Girl Child Day on the theme "Challenges and Opportunities for Girls."

The workshop, as per an official statement, brought together government officials, members of the judiciary, educators, health professionals, media representatives, and civil society members, who actively interacted with students from government-run schools.

Speaking on the occasion Tabassum Qadir Parry, Secretary, DLSA Budgam emphasized that there are no shortcuts in life and that success requires dedication, perseverance, and goal-oriented focus. Sharing her personal experiences, she encouraged

students to work hard and remain committed to their aspirations.

Dr. Naila Neelofar, Assistant Director, BOSE, advised students to balance digital engagement with real-world experiences. She encouraged them to explore opportunities beyond conventional academic subjects and focus on skill-based education.

Asma Dhar, Manager, Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB), J&K and Ladakh, highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration between government agencies, civil society, and the private sector in advancing the rights and development of the girl child. She stated that meaningful partnerships have enabled BRB to reach children effectively and demonstrate the power of collective efforts.

Shazia Manzoor, Head of Department of Social Work, spoke about the crucial role of parental support in shaping the progress and success of girls. She stressed the importance of focus, determination, and working consistently towards one's goals.

She appreciated the efforts of Bal Raksha Bharat in grooming students as future leaders.

Dr. Samiya Khan, Consultant Pediatrician, JLNH Hospital, emphasized that girls possess the power to transform society. She encouraged students to face challenges courageously and work towards economic independence to achieve success in life.

The primary objective of the programme was to empower girls, promote gender equality, and ensure their rights to education, health, and safety. The initiative aimed to change societal attitudes, create a secure and supportive environment, and enhance opportunities for girls to lead, thrive, and live free from discrimination.

The workshop concluded with a collective commitment to further strengthen inter-departmental coordination. Participants acknowledged and appreciated the significant contribution of Bal Raksha Bharat, in working towards the welfare and empowerment of children in the Union Territory.

CS reviews progress of outreach-based 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan'

Lakhs mobilized across Panchayats, ULBs, educational institutions

KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 13: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday reviewed the progress and impact of the outreach-based Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan spearheaded by the Information Department in close collaboration with key departments across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Information & GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD); IGP Crime; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC); Director, Information & Public Relations; DG, YS&S and senior officers from the School Education, Health and Youth Services & Sports Departments.

Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated through video conferencing.

While reviewing the initiative, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to link the

Nasha Mukt J&K portal with the National Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) portal to enhance visibility, ensure seamless data sharing and enable effective monitoring of activities across platforms.

He underscored the importance of mapping trained counsellors to their respective educational institutions, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Panchayats and health institutions on the portal. He directed that their qualifications, training capacities and upcoming training schedules should also be prominently reflected to facilitate easy public access and efficient coordination.

The Chief Secretary stressed upon the Health Department to identify and design certified courses on 'De-addiction and Counselling' for professional manpower across departments so that trained human resources are effectively utilized in combating substance abuse.

He directed the Head of Department, IMHANS Srinagar, to introduce diversified and certified courses in de-addiction



and counselling and to take concrete steps for expanding training facilities in Jammu Division as well. He called for the formulation of a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen the counsellor base by introducing structured and certified training programmes to build robust human resources capable of addressing drug addiction as a public health challenge.

He further urged the concerned departments to develop high-quality, age-specific and profession-specific content tailored for ASHA workers, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, youth, elderly citizens, government employees, police personnel and those associated with prosecution.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a live demonstration of the Nasha Mukt J&K portal and appreciated its rich and diverse content. Describing it as an immensely significant

public platform, he directed that the portal be hosted on the State Data Centre to ensure reliability, security and enhanced accessibility.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, M. Raju took this occasion to inform the meeting that eight key departments including Health, Education, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Urban Development, Youth Services, Police and Excise are actively contributing to the

campaign. He highlighted their role in mobilising grassroots-level workers to disseminate the message of making Jammu & Kashmir drug-free.

He disclosed that over 9,000 awareness and outreach events have been conducted across Panchayats, ULBs and educational institutions, witnessing participation of 4,51,520 individuals. As part of rehabilitation efforts, 218 individuals were successfully rehabilitated. Additionally, 1.83 lakh bulk SMS messages were sent to participants acknowledging their involvement in the campaign.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, highlighted the department's coordinated efforts with other agencies, including hundreds of joint inspections of chemist and drug shops with Police, special drives against illicit cultivation, and large-scale awareness programmes such as rallies, nukkad natak and community outreach campaigns across districts of the Union Territory in collaboration with concerned departments.

Director, Information & Public Relations, Nitish Rajora, apprised the meeting of extensive activities undertaken by the department's cultural units in both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions. He also presented a detailed demonstration of the portal, showcasing department-wise and district-wise activities conducted under the theme of 'Nasha Mukt J&K' in Panchayats, ULBs and educational institutions.

He further informed that the details of trained and mapped counsellors have been uploaded on the portal and assured that comprehensive mapping with full credentials will be completed to ensure ease of public access and effective service delivery.

Reiterating the government's firm commitment to eradicating drug abuse from the Union Territory, the Chief Secretary called for sustained inter-departmental coordination, professional capacity building and technology-driven monitoring to make the Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan a transformative public movement across the length and breadth of J&K.

India-France Business Dialogue sets stage for AI Impact Summit in Delhi

PTI

London, Feb 13: An India-France Business Dialogue in London set the stage for the upcoming AI Impact Summit in New Delhi next week, the first international artificial intelligence gathering of its kind to be held in the Global South anchored on the principles of people, planet and progress.

The dialogue at the High Commission of India in London on Thursday symbolised a passing of the baton from France, as the host of the AI Action Summit in Paris last year.

It also highlighted the close cooperation in the tech sector between India and France, set against the wider context of the signing of the free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) last month.

"We do need to understand how you make AI relevant to everybody, and that usage piece is what is going to anchor the AI summit in India," said Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

"The second big thing that we're looking at is inclusion, because AI will be meaningless if it isn't truly democratic in terms of access, countries



and societies need to be able to ensure that we're not building two-tier societies or a multi-tier world based on how you can access AI and whether you're going to be left behind or taken forward," he said.

Dr Pushmeet Kohli, at the cutting edge of Google Deep Mind's scientific initiatives, delivered a keynote on the immense benefits to humanity that AI offers.

This was followed by a panel discussion on the topic of 'AI as a Growth Multiplier', moderated by Professor of AI at Southampton University Gopal Ramchurn and addressed by Dr Hema Prem Raina

of Infosys and Atul Sodhi of French banking group Credit Agricole.

The Ambassador of France to the UK, H el ene Tr euh-Duch ene, reflected upon the Paris summit bringing together more than 100 countries and 40,000 stakeholders from across civil society, research, academia and business to explore AI for the benefit of all.

It followed on from the inaugural AI Safety Summit in the UK three years ago, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to host global leaders, policymakers, innovators and experts from across the world to deliberate on the way forward

for transformational technology.

"There is a narrative about India and AI that needs updating. The world still thinks of us as a talent pool or a cost centre, but that chapter is over. Today, Indian companies are building AI models and solutions that compete globally and win," said Sreeram MG, Co-founder of Fynd - a leading Indian AI commerce platform expanding operations in the UK market.

"India is not just participating in the AI race; it is shaping a model of AI that is inclusive, interoperable, and economically transformative. What truly differentiates India is the scale and complexity at which technology must operate.

"The AI products being stressed in India's scale and diversity today are helping define what practical, scalable AI will look like worldwide tomorrow," he said.

Earlier this week, the Indian Tech Society (UK) - a London-based professional community - organised a high-level Commonwealth Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Digital Assets at the UK Parliament complex geared towards the Delhi

summit.

Among the attendees included the UK's Minister for AI and Online Safety in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), Kanishka Narayan, who will be representing Britain at the Indian summit next week.

The roundtable, also addressed by British Indian peer Lord Krish Raval, highlighted the strategic importance of the India-UK partnership in advancing responsible and climate-aligned AI deployment.

It concluded that the UK's leadership in finance, regulation and climate governance combined with India's scale, digital public infrastructure and innovation ecosystem made it a "powerful corridor for deploying climate-critical digital systems across developing economies".

Participants at the event, co-organised by data infrastructure firm Astralane, stressed that such collaboration could accelerate practical cooperation across the Commonwealth, aligning technology deployment with climate resilience, sustainable finance and inclusive economic development.

J&K Govt links Doodpathri, Yousmarg reopening to security clearance

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Jammu, Feb 13: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the reopening of tourist destinations Doodpathri and Yousmarg is subject to security considerations beyond the mandate of the Tourism Department, adding that the issue has been taken up with the Deputy Commissioner Budgam for appropriate action.

In response to a question tabled by MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, the government as per news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the matter has already been taken up with the Deputy Commissioner Budgam for appropriate action.

In response to another query, the government said recent incidents in the tourism sector have adversely affected tourist flow in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby impacting the livelihood of stakeholders associated with the sector.

The government further said that to revive tourism in the Union Territory, the department has undertaken promotional campaigns, infrastructure upgradation and confidence-building measures. It added that a series of promotional events and thematic festivals have been organized across the country and within the UT, and the current winter tourist season is witnessing heightened activity. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

10,000 cancer cases

care centre in Jammu & Kashmir, continues to manage a large volume of referral cases for advanced cancer diagnosis and surgery from peripheral institutions.

Regarding diagnostic services at other facilities, routine biochemistry and pathology tests at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu are conducted without delay, Itoo said, adding that the existing PET scan services typically deliver reports within 3-4 days.

"For investigations not currently available, a standard referral protocol to associated hospitals is followed, with ongoing efforts to strengthen these facilities in a phased manner. Similarly, GMC Srinagar is actively providing comprehensive cancer treatments, including therapies and surgeries, and conducts essential tests such as MRI, CT, and USG," she said.

To further enhance cancer care, a significant development is the recent administrative approval by the Health and Medical Education Department for the procurement of a new PET scan machine for GMC Srinagar, at an estimated cost of Rs 16 crore, through JKMSCL, the minister said.

"This strategic investment will substantially boost diagnostic and treatment services available at the institution," she added. (KNO)

87% claims rejected

accepted against 3884 rejected, while Bandipora had 50 accepted and 169 rejected. Ganderbal saw only 5 approvals compared to 500 rejections, and Kupwara recorded 15 accepted against a massive 5903 rejected. Baramulla reported just 2 accepted claims against 742 rejected. Anantnag and Shopian fared relatively better, with 246 and 223 approvals respectively, though both still faced thousands of rejections. Kulgam registered seven accepted claims against 1398 rejected. In Pulwama district, 21 claims were accepted while 3022 were rejected.

In Srinagar, neither any claim was accepted nor rejected.

Enacted in 2006, the Forest Rights Act (FRA) recognizes the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and resources they have traditionally used. (KNO)

CM extends Herath

promote the spirit of Kashmiriyat and communal harmony across Jammu and Kashmir. Govt should review

cause of the colon and gastro cancer in

Kashmir Valley is the rotten food

He said the Food Control Organisation is a toothless body. "They don't have powers. The adjudicating authorities are the additional deputy commissioners, but they are busy with their own work. No one is paying attention to this issue," he said, adding that there should be deterrence to curb food adulteration.

He said that food safety organisation was also grappling with shortage of manpower

"They have officers only in 60 medical blocks and those officers don't have subordinate staff. When will they post officers in other medical blocks?" he asked.

MLA Pampore Justice(retd.) Hasnain Masoodi expressed concern over acquittals in food adulteration cases.

"No conviction has been recorded. It means there is problem either with sampling or prosecution," he said. (KNO)

61% seats vacant

of 1,16,767 seats," the government said.

It also informed that house that "The admissions achieved, despite the upward trend, remain well below the available capacity of the existing institutions."

The government accordingly ruled out establishing any new Degree College in Jammu and Kashmir for now.

"In view of the matter, it is submitted that there is, at present, no immediate or compelling requirement for opening new Degree Colleges in the Union Territory," the government said.

It also informed the house that the present focus remains on optimal utilization of existing infrastructure, enhancement of academic facilities, further improvement in enrolment levels, and the provision of provision of quality, globally competitive education to our students. (KNO)

BJP MLA's allegations

his statement, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo slammed him, accusing him of attempting to divide people.

"Whenever there is encroachment, it is illegal-whether by Kashmiris or Jammuities. Why do you keep talking about 'Jammu, Jammu' and 'Kashmir, Kashmir'?" This is not appropriate. Why do you want to divide Jammu and Kashmir?" she asked.

The Minister termed the allegations levelled by the legislator as untrue.

"Kashmiris have not encroached on land. You should not speak in this manner. What was

said is totally wrong," she said. (KNO)

Former ministers

General Secretary, cabinet minister and was a former Advisor to Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah was a seasoned political leader from the Devsar constituency in south Kashmir. He was the uncle of the sitting MLA Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah. As Forest Minister, G A Shah was associated with initiatives related to forest conservation, environmental safeguards and administrative functioning of the department.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Speaker J&K Assembly and NC expressed condolences on the demise of the leaders.

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, condoled the passing away of former Minister Qamar Ali Akhooon. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

The CM recalled the contributions of both leaders to public life and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the family. He remembered Qamar Ali Akhooon as a committed leader who served with dedication and humility.

The J&K Legislative Assembly also mourned the demise of former ministers. The Speaker informed the House of Akhooon's contributions and highlighted his grassroots beginnings, then being elected unopposed as a councillor, and subsequent roles as MLA and minister in Omar Abdullah's government, where he represented Ladakh's aspirations.

Members across party lines paid tribute and recalled Akhooon's efforts to voice public concerns and develop remote, high-altitude areas of Kargil.

The Assembly observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect and extended condolences to the bereaved family members. (KNO)

NIA Court sentences

under Section 18 and Section 19 of the UA(P) Act, and another nine years under Section 39 of the same legislation. The sentences will run concurrently, upto the maximum of 15 years. The two men have also been fined Rs. 50,000 under each of these sections, totalling a fine of Rs. 1,50,000 for each accused," the NIA spokesperson said. "The case RC-11/2016/NIA/DLI relates to a larger LeT conspiracy, under which one Bahadur Ali @ Saifullah, a Pakistani national and trained terrorist, had infiltrated into the Indian territory in District Kupwara, Jammu &

Kashmir, along with other terrorists. The heavily armed group of terrorists was equipped with sophisticated arms and ammunition, explosives, navigation devices, night vision devices, and communication equipment," he said.

"While they were in the Indian territory, the group of terrorists had remained in constant contact with their LeT handlers based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan. The terrorists were continuously receiving instructions and directions for carrying out terrorist activities within India. They had planned to carry out a series of terror attacks J&K and other parts of India, including Delhi. Their plans were, however, foiled as Bahadur Ali was arrested on 25th July 2016, while two other infiltrating terrorists, namely Abu Saad and Abu Darda, were killed in an encounter by security forces later," the spokesperson added.

He said, "The NIA had filed chargesheet against accused Bahadur Ali in January 2017. After he pleaded guilty, Bahadur Ali was convicted in March 2021, and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment under various provisions of IPC, UA (P) Act, Explosives Act, Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act, and Foreigners Act." "It was during the course of further investigation that the role of Zahoor Ahmed Peer and Nazir Ahmad Peer emerged, and NIA found that they had provided safe shelter, food, and other logistics support to the Pakistani terrorist. The duo had even facilitated Bahadur Ali by arranging his meetings with other Pakistani terrorists in Kashmir Valley.

These two men were identified and arrested in September 2017 and were chargesheeted by NIA in March 2018. The court convicted them on 18th December 2025, and passed the sentence against them today, causing a massive setback to the OGW network of harbourers of Pakistani terrorists in Kashmir," the spokesperson said. (KNO)

Seva Teerth, Kartavya

phrase but the working culture, which must be embraced as officials enter these new buildings.

The prime minister said India was advancing rapidly towards new heights and a new era, and the nation's identity in the coming years will not be defined just by its economy but by the quality of governance, clarity of policies and dedication of karmayogis.

He said that every decision taken in Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhawan will not be just a file's approval but will shape the direction of Developed India 2047.

The prime minister said the historic

structures such as the South Block and North Block, which till now house important ministries like defence, home and finance besides the PMO, were built to embody the ideals of the British Empire but the Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhawan have been constructed to realise the aspirations of the people of the nation.

"The decisions made here will serve as the foundation for advancing the ambitions of 140 crore citizens, rather than reflecting the will of a monarch. With this spirit, I dedicate Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhawan to the people of the country," he said.

The prime minister said India was riding the 'Reform Express', writing a new chapter in international relations and opening new doors through trade agreements.

He said the nation was moving rapidly towards saturation targets, and the new pace of work and renewed confidence in Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhawans will play a major role in achieving national goals.

Modi said that after Independence, many important decisions shaping the nation's future were made and key policies were developed within buildings such as the South Block and North Block. However, it is important to remember that these structures were originally built as symbols of the British, he said.

He said India's capital moved from Kolkata to buildings on Raisina Hill that were built according to the wishes of the British royalty.

As the nation moves towards a Viksit Bharat, it is vital that India sheds every trace of colonial mindset, he said.

The prime minister said that on the journey towards a developed India, it is absolutely essential that India moves forward, liberated from the mentality of slavery.

"It is unfortunate that even after Independence, symbols of slavery have continued to be carried here," he said.

PM Modi said that the Race Course Road, where the prime minister's residence is located, was renamed Lok Kalyan Marg and this was not only a change of name but it was also an effort to transform the mindset of power into a spirit of service.

"The initiative to rename is not merely a change of words; behind all these efforts lies the same ideological thread -- the independent identity of independent India. A mark free from the shackles of slavery," he said. On the occasion, the prime minister also released a commemorative postage stamp and a coin on which the new building, Seva Teerth, is inscribed.

PM Modi shifts to new office at Seva Teerth, takes decisions for welfare of farmers, women

PTI
New Delhi, Feb 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday shifted to his new office Seva Teerth from the colonial-era South Block building near Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill. The shift came on a day -- February 13 -- that marked 95 years since the formal inauguration of New Delhi as India's modern capital in 1931.

On Friday, the prime minister reached Seva Teerth Complex in a motorcade along with Union ministers Manohar Lal and Jitendra Singh and top PMO officials, and inaugurated the complex housing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat.

Modi garlanded a statue of Lord Ganesha in the PMO and took important decisions targeted at welfare of women, farmers, youth and vulnerable citizens.

In the presence of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh and top officials including principal secretaries P K Mishra and Shaktikanta Das, the prime minister signed files approving the launch of PM RAHAT Scheme for extending life-saving protection for every citizen and doubling the number of lakhpati didis to six crore.

Under the PM Rahat initiative, accident victims will get cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5



lakh, ensuring that no life is lost due to lack of immediate medical help, officials said.

The government has crossed the landmark of three crore lakhpati didis, more than a year ahead of the original March 2027 timeline.

The prime minister has now set a new, ambitious target of six crore lakhpati didis by March 2029, doubling both scale and aspiration.

In a major boost to farmers, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh crore.

The move is aimed at strengthening India's entire agriculture value chain.

Modi also approved the Start-up India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore. "To power India's innovation

ecosystem, especially in deep tech, early-stage ideas, advanced manufacturing and breakthrough technologies, the Prime Minister has approved the Start-up India FoF 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore," an official said.

Earlier, Modi unveiled the plaque of Seva Teerth at the new complex -- the name inscribed in Devanagari script on the wall of the complex. Below it is the motto 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' (citizen is akin to God).

The PMO will shift from the South Block on Raisina Hill to Seva Teerth, bringing together the offices of the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council Secretariat that were located at different places.

Since 2014, the Modi government has taken steady steps to move away from symbols of India's colonial past and to usher a shift in mindset, officials said. They pointed out that the PMO will now be called Seva Teerth, the Central Secretariat buildings have been named as Kartavya Bhawan, and Rajpath has been renamed as Kartavya Path.

In the same spirit, Race Course Road, where the prime minister's official residence is located, has been renamed as Lok Kalyan Marg and Raj Bhawans and Raj Niwas have been renamed as Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas, respectively.

"The inauguration marks a transformative milestone in India's administrative governance architecture and reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to building a modern, efficient, accessible and citizen-centric governance ecosystem, a statement from the PMO said on Thursday.

For decades, several key government offices and ministries functioned from fragmented and ageing infrastructure spread across multiple locations in the Central Vista area.

This dispersion led to operational inefficiencies, coordination challenges, escalating maintenance costs and sub-optimal working environments. The new building complexes address these issues by consolidating administrative functions within modern, future-ready facilities, it said.

532 Naxals killed in Chhattisgarh since Jan 2024: Dy CM

Asserts Maoist menace to end by Mar 31

PTI

Raipur, Feb 13: Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma on Friday said 532 Naxalites have been killed, 2004 arrested and 2,700 have surrendered since January 2024 in the state, adding that the government was committed to ending the Maoist menace by March 31.

Addressing a press conference to highlight achievements of the Home department, a portfolio he holds, Sharma also asserted that sustained security operations and rehabilitation efforts are yielding significant results in the fight against Naxalism.

"The government's resolve against Naxalism is clear. We are working with full force to ensure that Naxalism is completely eradicated from Chhattisgarh by March 31, 2026," he said.

Sharma said security forces recovered around 1,100 weapons, including AK-47 rifles, INSAS rifles, self loading rifles, light machine guns, mortars and pistols, since January 2024.

"Six Politburo and Central Committee members of the Maoist outfit have been killed, while two have surrendered. A total of 17 Special Zonal Committee members were killed, seven surrendered and one was arrested during this period," he said.

Sharma said he had long awaited the day when the number of surrenders would surpass arrests, calling the current trend "a matter of satisfaction."

"Seven rehabilitation centres are operational in the state. So



far, around 1,700 former Naxalites, including 410 women, have completed training in various skill in these facilities, while 232 are currently undergoing training. All surrendered Naxalites are provided welcome kits including mobile phones to help them reconnect with society," he said.

Aadhaar, ration and Ayushman cards are being prepared for them (surrendered ultras) and exposure visits to Raipur are being organised, Sharma added.

Appeals for surrender are being broadcast through radio stations in Jagdalpur, Saraipali and neighbouring states, the deputy CM pointed out.

He added that the government aims to extend development to every village in Bastar, including access to schools, electricity, drinking water, hospitals and anganwadis, and ensure that the Constitution is implemented in every corner of the region.

On the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), Sharma said the Centre has developed a unified digital platform linking police, prosecution, forensic units, courts and prisons.

Chhattisgarh was among the

first states to implement the system, which has been fully rolled out in Bilaspur and Durg districts and will be expanded across the state within six months, he said.

Sharma said 38 cases related to religious conversion were lodged between 2001 and 2023, while the figure rose to 67 in 2024 and 2025 combined.

The increase reflects the government's seriousness in addressing the issue to maintain social harmony and stability, he added.

The state's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), set up in 2016-17, registered its first FIR in 2025 in a case related to alleged links with terror outfits such as ISIS, he said, adding the squad is being strengthened.

On illegal immigration, Sharma said a Special Task Force (STF) has been formed in all districts and a toll-free number has been launched to lodge complaints in this regard, and holding centres have been notified for the first time.

So far, 34 illegal immigrants have been deported, while action against others is underway, he said.

Over 8,600 complaint against sitting judges since 2016: Govt tells LS



PTI

New Delhi, Feb 13: Over 8,600 complaints against sitting judges have been received by the office of the chief justice of India (CJI) since 2016, the Lok Sabha was informed on Friday.

In a written reply, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said 8,639 complaints have been received against sitting judges between 2016 and 2025. The highest number of complaints (1,170) was received in 2024 by the office of the CJI against sitting judges.

Complaints received against judges and chief justices of the high courts are handled by the judiciary through an "in-house mechanism".

He recalled that in May 1997, the Supreme Court adopted two resolutions -- "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life", which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to

be observed and followed by SC and HC judges; and "In-house Procedure", which takes suitable remedial measure against judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those in the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life".

According to the established in-house procedure for the higher judiciary, the CJI is competent to receive complaints against SC judges and chief justices of the high courts.

Similarly, chief justices of high courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of the high court judges.

Complaints against members of the higher judiciary received on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) or in any other form are forwarded to the CJI or chief justices of high courts competent to receive such complaints, he explained.

Paradigm shift in healthcare; AI-enabled tools streamlining diagnosis, consultations: Health ministry

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 13: Over the last four years, India has fundamentally restructured its public health delivery by integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into a unified strategy that bridges specialist shortages and scales proactive care, the government said on Friday. AI-powered tools, adopted by various national programmes introduced by the Union health ministry, are democratising healthcare expertise across India, an official statement said.

By deploying AI-enabled tools within the National TB

Elimination Programme, the National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme, and the Media Disease Surveillance System, the government has empowered non-specialists to perform high-level screenings, resulting in a 27 per cent decline in adverse TB (tuberculosis) outcomes and over 4,500 outbreak alerts, it said.

This transformation is further solidified through the e-Sanjeevani, which has supported 282 million consultations with AI-assisted diagnosis, and the UdyogYantra AI System for malnutrition monitoring.

Govt approves 25 lakh tons of wheat exports

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 13: The government on Friday allowed export of 25 lakh tonnes of wheat, along with an additional 5 lakh tonnes of wheat products and sugar each, to stabilise domestic markets and ensure remunerative returns to farmers amid a comfortable stock position.

The decision was taken after a comprehensive assessment of the current availability and price scenario, reaffirming the government's commitment to protecting farmers' interests, the Food Ministry said in a statement.

Wheat stock availability with private entities during 2025-26 stands at approximately 75 lakh tonnes, which is nearly 32 lakh tonnes higher compared to the corresponding period last year, indicating a comfortable supply position in the country, it added.

As of April 1, 2026, the total wheat availability in the central pool with Food Corporation of



India (FCI) is projected at around 182 lakh tonne, ensuring that export permissions will not impact domestic food security

requirements, the ministry said. Wheat acreage in Rabi 2026 has also increased to about 334.17 lakh hectares compared

to 328.04 lakh hectares last year, reflecting strong farmer confidence in wheat cultivation supported by assured MSP and procurement mechanisms, and signalling the likelihood of another robust harvest.

In view of higher stock availability, softening prices, expected higher production, and the need to prevent distress sales during peak arrivals, the government's decision will help stabilise domestic prices, improve market liquidity, ensure efficient stock rotation, and strengthen farmers' income while safeguarding national food security, the ministry said.

To facilitate sugar exports, the government has decided to allow export of an additional 5 lakh tonnes of sugar by willing sugar mills during the current sugar season 2025-26.

Earlier, the government had permitted the export of 15 lakh tonne of sugar during the current sugar season vide order dated November 14, 2025. According to

information furnished by sugar mills, only about 1.97 lakh tonnes of sugar have been exported up to January 31, 2026. In addition, approximately 2.72 lakh tonnes of sugar have been contracted for export by sugar mills as of date.

The additional export quantity of 5 lakh tonne will be made available to willing sugar mills, subject to the condition that at least 70 per cent of their allocated quantity is exported by June 30, 2026.

The export quota will be allocated on a pro-rata basis among willing sugar mills, and mills will submit their willingness within 15 days from the date of issuance of the order.

The export quota so allocated will not be swapped or exchanged with any other sugar mill, the ministry said, adding this decision is expected to facilitate higher sugar exports and help in managing surplus sugar availability in the country.

2,300 coaches, 460 locomotives equipped with CCTV cameras: Railway Minister



PTI

New Delhi, Feb 13: Approximately 12,300 coaches, including all operational Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains and 460 locomotives, are equipped with CCTV cameras, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a written statement in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Congress MP Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi wanted to know whether the government had issued any instructions to all Zonal Railways to provide CCTV cameras in the coaches and locomotives.

"Indian Railways has taken up the work of installing CCTV cameras in coaches and locomotives

with the purpose of improving the safety and security of the passengers. The provision of CCTV cameras is expected to deter miscreant activities, vandalism, thefts and also assist in the investigation of the incidents," Vaishnaw said.

He added, "Accordingly, Zonal Railways and Production Units have initiated action for procurement and installation of CCTV cameras in coaches and locomotives. Till date, approximately 12,300 coaches (including all operational rakes of Vande Bharat & Amrit Bharat trains) & 460 locomotives, plying over IR's network, are equipped with CCTV cameras."

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
SOLINA, SRINAGARIRESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU
WEBSITE <http://dkpsc.nic.in> JAMMU 2566541, 2566710 (F)
SRINAGAR 2310523, 2310369(F)

Subject: Filling up of posts of Professor in Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences(SKIMS), Srinagar, in Health & Medical Education Department-Extension thereof.

NOTICE

Dated:12-02-2026

It is notified for information of all the concerned aspirants that the last date for filling up of the online application forms for the posts in Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences(SKIMS), Srinagar in Health & Medical Education Department, notified vide Notification No. 21-PSC(DR-P) of 2025 dated 31.12.2025, is extended upto 28.02.2026.

However, the cutoff date for determination of the eligibility shall remain as 04.02.2026.

**(Mushtaq Ahmad)JKAS
Additional Secretary,**

**DIPK-10913/25
DATED: 13-02-2026
PSC/DR/Gazetted/SKIMS/2025**

**J&K Public Service Commission
Dated: 12.02.2026**

BNP heading towards major victory; set to return to power after two decades

PTI

Dhaka, Feb 13: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Friday was cruising towards a sweeping victory with more than two-thirds majority in the landmark parliamentary polls and is all set to return to power after a gap of two decades.

The elections assumed significance as they were held after a period of tumultuous political vacuum, instability and fragile security situation, including widespread attacks on minorities after the student-led protests brought down the 15-year rule of Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

It is becoming increasingly clear that BNP's top leader Tarique Rahman is set to become the prime minister to replace the interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, under whose tenure Dhaka's relations with New Delhi witnessed a significant downturn.

According to media reports, the BNP has bagged more than 200 seats out of 300 while Jamaat-e-Islami, a hardline party known to be close to Islamabad, was heading or winning in around 75 seats. The Awami League party of Hasina has been barred from contesting the polls.

The Election Commission (EC) is yet to make a formal announcement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Rahman and congratulated him on BNP's spectacular victory.



"Delighted to speak with Mr. Tarique Rahman. I congratulated him on the remarkable victory in the Bangladesh elections," Modi said on social media.

"I conveyed my best wishes and support in his endeavour to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. As two close neighbours with deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, I reaffirmed India's continued commitment to the peace, progress, and prosperity of both our peoples," he said.

In an earlier social media post, Modi said India will continue to stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.

"I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and advance our common

development goals," he said.

On its part, the BNP thanked Modi for recognising the verdict of the elections and hoped that the relations between the two countries would be strengthened under the new government.

"We thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for congratulating our leader, Tarique Rahman. It is great that a democratic country is supposed to recognise the verdict of the people, and Mr Narendra Modi has done this. We thank him," senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan said.

India-Bangladesh relations witnessed a severe strain after the collapse of the Hasina-led government.

The US Embassy in Dhaka has congratulated the people of Bangladesh in advance on what it described as a

successful national election, extending special recognition to BNP and Rahman for their "historic victory."

"Congratulations to the people of Bangladesh on a successful election and to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Tarique Rahman on your historic victory. The United States looks forward to working with you to realise shared goals of prosperity and security for both our countries," its social media post read.

The election was seen as a direct contest between the BNP and its former ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

BNP was in power earlier between 2001 and 2006 when Jamaat was its crucial partner, with two of its leaders serving as ministers.

The voting for the 13th parliamentary elections was held on Thursday along with a referendum on the implementation of a complex 84-point reform package, known as the July National Charter.

Meanwhile, Jamaat has raised allegations of "abnormal delays" and "result tampering," warning that it would launch a tough movement if the public mandate were "snatched away".

Speaking to reporters at the Election Commission building early morning, Jamaat's assistant secretary general Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair alleged that returning officers were intentionally delaying results to favour a "particular party."

Trump warns Iran of 'very traumatic' outcome if no nuclear deal



AFP

Washington, Feb 13: US President Donald Trump threatened Iran Thursday with "very traumatic" consequences if it fails to make a nuclear deal — but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was skeptical about the quality of any such agreement.

Speaking a day after he hosted Netanyahu at the White House, Trump said he hoped for a result "over the next month" from Washington's negotiations with Tehran over its nuclear program.

"We have to make a deal, otherwise it's going to be very traumatic, very traumatic. I don't want that to happen, but we have to make a deal," Trump told reporters.

"This will be very traumatic for Iran if they don't make a deal," Trump — who is considering sending a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East to pressure Iran — recalled the US military strikes he ordered on Tehran's nuclear facilities during Israel's 12-day war with Iran in July last year.

"We'll see if we can get a deal with them, and if we can't, we'll have to go to phase two. Phase two will be very tough for them," Trump said.

Netanyahu had traveled to Washington to push Trump to take a harder line in the Iran nuclear talks, particularly on including the Islamic Republic's arsenal of ballistic missiles.

But the Israeli and US leaders apparently remained at odds, with Trump saying after their meeting at the White House on Wednesday that he had insisted the negotiations should continue.

"General skepticism" Netanyahu said in Washington on Thursday before departing for Israel that Trump believed he was laying the ground for a deal. "He believes

that the conditions he is creating, combined with the fact that they surely understand they made a mistake last time when they didn't reach an agreement, may create the conditions for achieving a good deal," Netanyahu said, according to a video statement from his office.

But the Israeli premier added: "I will not hide from you that I expressed general skepticism regarding the quality of any agreement with Iran."

Any deal "must include the elements that are very important from our perspective," Netanyahu continued, listing Iran's ballistic missile program and its support for armed groups such as the Palestinian movement Hamas, Yemen's Houthi rebels and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"It's not just the nuclear issue," he said.

Despite their differences on Iran, Trump signaled his strong personal support for Netanyahu as he criticized Israeli President Isaac Herzog for rejecting his request to pardon the prime minister on corruption charges.

"You have a president that refuses to give him a pardon. I think that man should be ashamed of himself," Trump said on Thursday.

Trump has repeatedly hinted at potential US military action against Iran following its deadly crackdown on protests last month, even as Washington and Tehran restarted talks last week with a meeting in Oman.

The last round of talks between the two foes was cut short by Israel's war with Iran and the US strikes.

So far, Iran has rejected expanding the new talks beyond the issue of its nuclear program. Tehran denies seeking a nuclear weapon, and has said it will not give in to "excessive demands" on the subject.

PM Modi speaks to Tarique Rahman; congratulates on BNP's poll victory

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Tarique Rahman on his party's victory in the neighbouring country's parliamentary elections and extended India's continued commitment to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of both countries.

The BNP on Friday is cruising towards a sweeping victory in the landmark parliamentary polls in the

country and is all set to return to power after a gap of two decades.

"Delighted to speak with Mr. Tarique Rahman. I congratulated him on the remarkable victory in the Bangladesh elections.

"I conveyed my best wishes and support in his endeavour to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. As two close neighbours with deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, I reaffirmed India's continued commitment to the peace, progress, and prosperity of both our peoples."



Modi wrote on X. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi warmly greeted Rahman on his "decisive victory"

in another post on X and said he looked forward to working with him to advance common development goals.

"I convey my warm congratulations to Mr. Tarique Rahman on leading BNP to a decisive victory in the Parliamentary elections in Bangladesh," Modi said.

Modi said Rahman's victory showed the trust of the people of Bangladesh in his leadership.

"India will continue to stand in support of a democratic, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our multifaceted relations and advance our common development goals," he said.

Zimbabwe script 23-run win over Australia



PTI

Colombo, Feb 13: Zimbabwe rode on collective brilliance to pull off the first big upset of the ongoing T20 World Cup, stunning injury-ravaged former champions Australia by 23 runs here on Friday.

This was only the second time that the African nation defeated the traditional heavyweights in the format, having last beaten them back in the 2007 edition of the showpiece.

Riding on opener Brian Bennett's unbeaten 64 and useful contributions from other top-order batters, Zimbabwe posted a challenging 169 for 2 after Australia, who were without some of their front-line bowlers, invited them to bat.

The lower-ranked side then bowled Australia out for 146 in 19.3 overs on a sluggish pitch to register a famous win.

In the 2007 edition of the same tournament, Zimbabwe, then led by Prosper Utseya, had beaten Australia by five wickets with one ball to spare in a low-scoring match in Cape Town.

Pacer Blessing Muzarabani returned figures of 4/17, while Brad Evans (3/23), Wellington Masakadza (1/36) and Ryan Burl (1/9) also delivered with the ball for Zimbabwe.

It was a disaster for Australia in their pursuit of 170 as they suffered a top-order collapse and were reduced to 29 for 4 in 4.3 overs with Josh Inglis (8), Travis Head (17), Cameron Green (0) and Tim David (0) dismissed cheaply.

Matt Renshaw played a lone hand for Australia with a 44-ball 65 while Glenn Maxwell made 31.

From 38 for 4 at the end of

Powerplay, Australia reached 67 for 4 at the halfway mark with 103 runs needed for a win.

Maxwell and Renshaw then stitched a fifth-wicket stand of 77 runs off 9.5 overs to bring Australia back.

But Ryan Burl broke the partnership as Maxwell inside-edged one onto the stumps.

Australia needed 56 runs from the final five overs but Marcus Stoinis, who earlier left the field after being hit during the Zimbabwe innings, got out soon for 6.

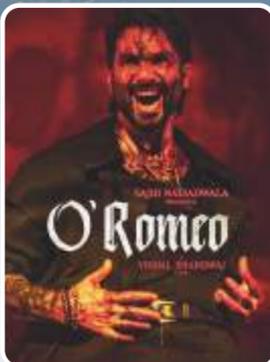
Bennett took a stunning catch near the boundary to dismiss Ben Dwarshuis (7) for Brad Evan's third wicket of the day.

The target became 34 from 12 balls but Australia lost Renshaw and Adam Zampa (2) in the 19th over, and Matthew Kuhnemann (0) was run out in the final over.

INOX SRINAGAR

INOX CINEMA
SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

Movies Schedule
Saturday, 14th February



O'ROMEO (A)
HINDI - 03:30 PM
HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 07:05 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 11:00 AM, 02:30 PM, 06:00 PM



CRIME 101 (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
04:45 PM



BORDER 2 (U/A 13+)
HINDI - 11:30 AM



WUTHERING HEIGHTS (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
01:45 PM



TU YAA MAIN (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 10:45 AM, 07:40 PM

TICKETS AT
www.bookmyshow.com
www.inoxmovies.com
Paytm, Inox App or
Directly from the booking
counter at the cinema.

CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS