



LG Sinha: India scripting tale of economic progress under PM Modi

Says entire world now acknowledges Bharat as emerging global power

KNO Desk

Jammu, Feb 20: Stating that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is scripting a tale of economic progress, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the entire world now acknowledges Bharat as an emerging global power.

Speaking during a public function at the historic site of Bankatasiv in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, where he joined the devotees for the Mahayaga and Prana-Pratishta ceremony at Shri Lakshminarayan Temple, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “India has firmly established itself as an emerging global power through inclusive growth, technology growth and world-class infrastructure.”

The Lieutenant Governor



stated that the sacred ceremony marks a civilizational revival, revitalizing timeless values and sharing them across society.

“Shri Lakshmi Narayan Temple will inspire the youth to stand proudly resolute in their glorious past and awaken them

to an extraordinary present that bears witness to sweeping transformations across all spheres of development,” he added.

He said, “We have reached an era where fresh energy surges in every direction of progress,

Offers threefold resolution for transforming India into preeminent nation

while a remarkable renaissance of spiritual and cultural consciousness takes shape.

“The India that will stand tall as a developed nation by 2047 will be driven by economic aspirations and it will also be an India that is spiritually enriched, culturally self-assured, and fully awakened to its true identity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

While offering a threefold resolution for the future, LG Sinha said, “We must transform India into the preeminent nation of the world, forge it into the most formidable global power, and establish it as the ultimate sanctuary of knowledge and intellectual wealth on Earth”.

He emphasised that every citizen must honor the glorious heritage with full responsibility. “The devotion that preserved our culture through adversity must now drive the new generation—[More on P6](#)

VP Radhakrishnan to attend 21st KU convocation on Feb 26

■ IGP Kashmir directs officers to beef up security

■ Top officials meet in KU to finalise arrangements

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Feb 20: Ahead of scheduled Kashmir visit of Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan on February 26, Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V K Birdi, chaired a high-level review meeting at Police Control Room (PCR) in Srinagar, while another meeting was held within the campus of University of Kashmir, officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) on Friday.

They said that the Vice-President will attend the 21st convocation ceremony of the KU as chief guest. He will distribute awards and gold medals among the meritorious



students. He will also deliver the convocation address.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Minister of Higher Education, Sakina Ito and others will also attend the convocation slated for next week, officials added.

Earlier in the day IGP Birdi directed officers to maintain heightened alertness and strengthen security measures across Kashmir ahead of Vice-President's upcoming visit.

An official told KNO that while chairing a security review

meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) here, IGP Birdi asked officers to intensify intelligence gathering and ensure effective coordination among all security agencies to counter potential threats.

He stressed the need to reinforce security at vulnerable locations, secure vital installations and critical infrastructure, and carry out effective area domination, including night patrolling.

The IGP directed that round-the-clock patrolling be intensified in both urban and rural areas, with enhanced surveillance at key entry and exit points. He also instructed officers to ensure the strategic deployment of counter-insurgency teams and quick reaction teams to respond promptly to any emerging situation.

Birdi told officers to brief personnel thoroughly on standard operating procedures and keep close watch on sensitive areas to enable immediate action against suspicious activities.

Senior officers from Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, CID, traffic and [More on P6](#)

MAJOR RESHUFFLE
22 IAS, JKAS officers transferred
7 districts get new DCs

KNO Desk

Srinagar, Feb 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Government Friday ordered an administrative reshuffle involving the transfer and posting of 22 IAS and JKAS officers across key departments.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the reshuffle order issued by the government of Jammu and Kashmir reads that the transfers were made in the interest of administration.

The government said that Ashwani Kumar IAS (AGMUT: 1992), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Power Development Department. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS (AGMUT: 1994), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Tourism Department has been ordered to hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shailendra Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department has been transferred and posted as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department.

Raju, IAS (AGMUT: 2005), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department has been asked to hold the charge of the post

SIR of electoral roll in J&K expected to start in April: ECI
Poll body writes to CEO to complete preparatory work at earliest

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Feb 20: The Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to start the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll in Jammu & Kashmir from April 2026.

In a letter, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the ECI has written to Chief Electoral Officers of 17 States and six Union Territories including Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory to complete preparatory work related to the SIR at the earliest.

“Since the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the above States/UTs is expected to start from April, 2026, you are



requested to complete preparatory work related to SIR at the earliest,” reads the letter.

On June 24, 2025, the poll body ordered the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to be undertaken in States and UTs.

The ECI carried out exercise in Bihar first.

After completion of SIR in Bihar, [More on P6](#)

30,000 vacancies to be filled this year: CM Omar

‘No power tariff hike since 2023’

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Feb 20: The Jammu and Kashmir government will fill more than 30,000 vacancies across departments during the current year, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Responding to questions during the Budget Session, Abdullah, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said systems are in place to periodically assess vacant posts and refer them to the appropriate recruiting agencies. The vacancies, he said, have arisen due



to retirements, promotions, resignations and other administrative reasons.

He said the government has taken steps such as advance identification of posts and streamlining of procedures to

ensure that essential services are not disrupted. The reply came in response to a question by Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat.

In a separate response on power tariffs, the Chief Minister said [More on P6](#)

First leg of budget session concludes

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 20: The first leg of the budget session of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly concluded on Friday, with the House scheduled to reassemble on March 27 to pass the Appropriation Bill for the 2026-27 budget.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced that House will reassemble on March 27, when it will reconvene to pass the Appropriation Bill—a step required to formally approve the budget.

During the second leg of the session, the House will consider Appropriation Bill, Private Members Bills and Resolutions alongside other government business. (KNO)

J&K Lok Bhavan celebrates Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram

KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 20: The Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan celebrated the Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha extending his heartiest greetings to the people of the states.

The Lieutenant Governor prayed for the health and prosperity of the people and rapid socio-economic development of the region. He emphasised on upholding the spirit of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”. He said that India’s cultural and spiritual legacy sets it apart worldwide, while promoting ideals of unity and harmony.

“Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram are more than just



geographical entities; they are living symbols of the nation’s cultural heritage and unity. These two states are the shining diamonds of India. Their unique blend of traditional culture and strong community values serve as a blueprint for resilience and harmony for the

entire country,” the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the transformative development journey of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also paid homage to great luminaries and icons of both the states.

IMD plans doppler radars, weather stations for J&K: Omar

‘Ramban, Kishtwar selected for focused intervention’

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Feb 20: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) plans to expand its observational network in Jammu and Kashmir with additional doppler weather radars and automatic weather stations to improve early warning systems.

In a written reply to a question by National Conference MLA Sajad Shaheen, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said: “The National Disaster

Management Authority has identified seven districts across Himalayan states for focused intervention. Ramban and Kishtwar have been selected from Jammu and Kashmir.”

He said the IMD proposes to install four additional Doppler weather radars and 34 automatic weather stations and snow gauges in the Union Territory. At present, three X-band radars are operational at Srinagar, Jammu and Banihal.

The new radars are proposed at Doda, Rajouri, Anantnag and Baramulla. In addition, 26 automatic weather [More on P6](#)

DC Kishtwar's charity order issued at religious leaders' request: CM

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Feb 20: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday told the J&K Legislative Assembly that the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar issued the order regarding charity collections at the insistence of religious leaders and not on his own.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, the CM, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly approves grants of IT, FCS&CA, ARI, Transport, YSS, S&T depts

Collective endeavour, constructive criticism fuel progress, prosperity; Satish Sharma

KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Friday passed the grants for key departments through voice vote, after day-long debate by the members in the House.

The approved grants included Rs 7,462.91 Lakh for Information Technology (IT), Rs 54,389.17 Lakh for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Rs 3,798.68 Lakh for ARI & Training, Rs 12,646.11 Lakh for Transport,



and constructive criticism, and pledged to address departmental issues during his presentation.

He elaborated on the role of the ARI & Training department as a catalyst for administrative reforms and innovation, promoting a “Whole-of-Government” approach. The department has launched digital initiatives like a single-window online portal for Recruitment Rules and an online NDC system, significantly reducing paperwork and increasing transparency. [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt says over ₹487 crore spent on flood management in Kashmir since 2014

‘Major projects under PMDP near completion’

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Feb 20: The Jammu & Kashmir government on Friday said that over ₹487 crore has been spent on flood management works in Kashmir Valley since the devastating 2014 floods, with major projects under the Prime Minister’s Development Package (PMDP) near completion.

Replies to an unstarred question tabled by MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah in the Assembly, the Minister

Incharge, Jal Shakti Department, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that a three-member core group was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), RD&GR on September 18, 2014 to prepare a roadmap for flood management of the Kashmir Valley. The recommendations were categorised into Immediate, Short-term and Long-term measures.

Under Immediate Measures, the department [More on P6](#)

Deputy CM calls for simplifying welfare rules for workers

'Ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes for workers and their families'

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Friday called for simplifying rules to ensure timely and hassle-free disbursement of benefits under various welfare schemes for workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting with representatives of different workers' unions under the banner of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), at Civil Secretariat here Friday.

MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami; CEO/Secretary, Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Munir Ul Islam; Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh and other officers also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official



statement, emphasized on the need to enhance outreach, ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes for

workers and their families. He directed the concerned officers to expedite cases related to death compensation claims, marriage

assistance, resolution of wage disputes and other welfare assistance to safeguard the interests of workers.

DC Budgam reviews infrastructure, safety issues at NIFT campus

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-din Bhat, Friday chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the operational and safety-related infrastructure issues of NIFT Budgam at DC office complex Budgam to ensure time-bound completion of all pending works.

The DC, as per an official statement, took stock of the overall physical progress of the campus, which is spread over 132 kanals of land provided by the Government, and comprises 22 planned buildings, of which 19 buildings are substantially complete. He observed that despite significant progress, several critical components remain pending, hindering the full operationalization of the campus.

The DC reviewed agenda-wise issues in detail and issued various directions.

While reviewing HVAC Systems, the chair was informed that HVAC



systems are malfunctioning in the Administrative Block, Academic Block, Girls' Hostel, Guest House, Director's Residence, and Residential Quarters, while installation and commissioning in the Boys' Hostel

remain pending. The DC directed immediate technical inspection of all HVAC installations, rectification of faults, and time-bound commissioning to ensure proper heating and ventilation facilities across all

buildings. He emphasized that given the prevailing climatic conditions, functional HVAC systems are essential for academic functioning and residential comfort.

Regarding the Electrical Sub-Station, the DC was apprised that substation works, including panels, DG sets, and transformers under Packages 2 and 3, are incomplete. The DC directed JK SIDCO and the concerned executing agency to expedite completion of all substation components and ensure reliable and uninterrupted power supply to the campus. He instructed that necessary measures, including utilization of the contractor's security deposits where required, be taken to avoid further delay.

Regarding the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), the meeting was informed that key components such as the main control panel, sludge drying beds, pumps, and recycled water pipelines are yet to be installed and commissioned.

DDMA Kupwara reviews disaster response preparedness

KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 20: Deputy Commissioner/Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Incident Response System (IRS).

Detailed discussions held regarding role and responsibilities of different components of IRS including Planning, Logistics, Operation sections, resources mapping as well as functioning of Emergency Operation Centre and Incident Response Teams (IRT).

The IRS, developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), provides a standardized disaster response framework. It designates Responsible Officers

and Incident Commanders, supported by Incident Response Teams (IRTs) with specialized operations, planning, and logistics sections, ensuring structured and accountable emergency management.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, it was informed that Incident Response Teams have been notified at District, Sub-Division and Tehsil/Block levels by DDMA.

Stressing the need for preparedness, the Chairman called for the conduct of regular mock drills across the district to strengthen coordination among departments and ensure a robust disaster response mechanism.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, SE R&B, ASP Kupwara, ACR, Dy. SP DAR Handwara, CPO, CMO, BDO Hq. AO and other concerned officers.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

Dated: 19/02/2026

E-NIT No: 157 /EEP/RNB/2025-26/11519-29

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Stage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work : -

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Middle school Aditrag GT sno.1435	3.50	200/-	2% of ADV. cost	30 working days	DEE	Samagra Shiksha	423-Chirag of 2026 Dt: 13-2-2026	Ist call
2	Middle school Banderpora GT sno.1411	3.50	200/-	2% of ADV. cost	30 working days	DEE	Samagra Shiksha	423 -CHIRAG of 2026 Dt: 13-02-2026	Ist call
3	Middle school Drussu GT sno.1425	3.50	200/-	2% of ADV. cost	30 working days	DEE	Samagra Shiksha	423 -CHIRAG of 2026 Dt: 13-02-2026	Ist call
4	Middle school Wanpora GT sno.1416	3.50	200/-	2% of ADV. cost	30 working days	DEE	Samagra Shiksha	423 -CHIRAG of 2026 Dt: 13-02-2026	Ist call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.nov.inas per schedule of date given below:-

- Date of Issue of Tender Notice 19 - 02 -2026
- Bid downloading Start Date 19 - 02 -2026 from 10:00 A.M
- Bid submission Start Date 19 - 02 -2026 from 10:00 A.M
- Bid Submission End Date 26 - 02 -2026 upto 04:00 P.M
- Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) 27 - 02 -2026 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan /Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP

Head Draftsman

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer
R&B Division
Pulwama

Kashmir Thunder



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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for Changing my bank account name From JIBRAN AHMAD KHAN To JIBRAN IFTIKHAR. Branch Name : LAL BAZAR SRINAGAR Bank Name: Jammu and Kashmir Bank In this regard if anybody having any objection may please contact Concerned department within seven days from the publication of this notice afterwards no objection will be entertained

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR

(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospgr@jk.gov.in,

Sub: Supply and installation of Fire Extinguishers of various types and capacities for Civil secretariat , Building, Srinagar

Ref: - This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/138/e-tendering, Dated: -04.02.2026

EXTENSION

In view of representation(s) received from various bidder(s), the critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	26.02.2026 (18:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	26.02.2026 (15:00 hrs)

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&H, Srinagar

DIPK-11183/25

No: M&HDS/TS/8857-60 DATED: 20-02-2026

Date: -20.02.2026

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Movies Watch List

Saturday, 21st February

TICKETS AT:
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www.inoxmovies.com
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CALL 95416 13868
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DIPK-11153/25

DATED: 20-02-2026

Blessings Abound: Kashmir's First Ramadan Friday

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 20: The first Friday of the holy month of Ramadan witnessed thousands of devotees flocking to mosques, shrines and Khanqahs across Kashmir, expressing deep spiritual devotion and communal solidarity.

From the bustling streets of Srinagar to smaller towns in districts such as Budgam, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama and Kupwara, believers offered Jumma prayers, sought divine blessings and prayed for peace and harmony in the Valley.

In Srinagar, the Hazratbal Shrine attracted a massive congregation.

Devotees filled prayer halls and open courtyards, with many standing in streets and walkways around the shrine. The air was filled with the recitation of 'Takbir and Durood-e-Ibrahim,' as people offered prayers for forgiveness, wellbeing and harmony.

National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah, who was among those present at Hazratbal, spoke after the prayers: "May this Ramadan bring blessings, remove hatred that exists in our homeland and fill it with peace and harmony."

He urged the people of Kashmir to embrace unity, tolerance and compassion, stressing that Ramadan is not only a time for individual reflection but also for strengthening community bonds. Meanwhile,

historic spiritual centres such as Khanqah-e-Moula and Jamia Masjid also witnessed large congregations. At Khanqah-e-Moula, devotees stood shoulder to shoulder, listening to sermons stressing the importance of charity, patience and reconciliation.

A worshipper said, "Ramadan reminds us that faith grows stronger when shared with others, and it teaches us kindness and generosity."

At Jamia Masjid, Mirwaiz-led congregations drew thousands who offered prayers while listening to guidance from religious leaders.

Beyond Srinagar, districts across Kashmir observed similar devotion. In Budgam, mosques were packed as worshippers offered early morning prayers and community Iftar arrangements were organised for local residents.

In Baramulla, volunteers distributed dates, water and refreshments to fasting pedestrians, reflecting the spirit of compassion and solidarity. Similar scenes were reported in Anantnag, Pulwama and Kupwara, where people gathered in large numbers for prayers, maintaining social harmony and spiritual focus.

Authorities also coordinated crowd management, health support and sanitation arrangements at key religious sites to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the prayers—(KNO)

Thousands gather at Jamia Masjid

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 20 (KNO): The air at Jamia Masjid Srinagar was fresh, charged with devotion and reverence, as thousands of worshippers poured into the centuries-old mosque on the first Friday of Ramadan, transforming its courtyard into a sea of faith.

Amid soft whispers of prayer, the glow of mobile screens flickered as many followed Quranic recitations digitally, blending tradition with modernity.

Kashmir's chief religious cleric, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, led the prayers, his voice rising and falling with intensity, calling for reflection, compassion and unity during these sacred days.

"Ramadan is not just a ritual, but it is the purification of the soul, a call to kindness, and a time to reconnect with Allah. Let every prayer, whether read from paper or screen, awaken the heart," Mirwaiz, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said.

Among the crowd, emotions ran high. Tears rolled down from cheeks, hands pressed in prayer and a whisper of hope blended with the solemn rhythm of the azaan.

"I felt a wave of peace wash over me as I recited the Quran from my phone, yet felt surrounded by the collective heartbeat of thousands of believers," said Arsalan Rather, a



young worshipper.

Families, elders and children moved through the mosque's expansive courtyard, some holding rosaries, others quietly absorbed in prayer.

"Being here at Jamia Masjid today, surrounded by so many people praying, I felt a deep sense of peace and connection to Allah," said

Sahil, another devotee.

Security personnel and volunteers worked tirelessly to maintain order, but the overwhelming sense of devotion was palpable.

For many, this first Friday was not just the start of Ramadan, but a reminder that spirituality, in all its forms, can flourish even in a modern world—(KNO)

Kashmir parts record highest February temperatures



ACCORDING TO INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD), Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 11.6 degrees Celsius, surpassing its previous February record of 11.4 C set on February 11, 1993. The same previous high of 11.4 degrees Celsius was also recorded on February 19 this year.

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Feb 20: Several Kashmir parts recorded unusually high maximum temperatures on Friday, with Gulmarg and Qazigund breaking their all-time February records.

According to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 11.6 degrees Celsius, surpassing its previous February record of 11.4 C set on February 11, 1993. The same previous high of 11.4 degrees Celsius was also recorded on February 19 this year, officials said.

Qazigund registered 21.0 degrees Celsius, breaking its earlier all-time February record of 20.7 degrees Celsius set on February 28, 2020.

Kokernag recorded 18.4 degrees Celsius, equalling its highest-ever February maximum logged on February 29, 2016.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the maximum temperature settled at 20.2 degrees Celsius—9.2 degrees above normal—making it the fifth warmest February day in the city's recorded history.

The previous fifth-highest was 20.1 degrees Celsius, recorded on February 26, 2016, and matched on February 19

this year.

Palhalgam recorded 16.5 degrees Celsius, 9 degrees above normal, ranking as its fifth warmest February day. The earlier fifth-highest for the south Kashmir resort town was 16.3 degrees Celsius, recorded on February 26, 2016.

Kupwara in North Kashmir registered 19.8 degrees Celsius, 9.7 degrees above normal, placing it among the top ten warmest February days, officials said. The earlier ninth-highest was 19.5 degrees Celsius, recorded on February 20, 2021.

Other stations in the Valley also reported above-normal temperatures. Kokernag was 9.6 degrees above normal, while Qazigund was 10.9 degrees above the seasonal average.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 26.2 degrees Celsius, 3.9 degrees above normal. Banihal, Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah also reported temperatures several degrees above the seasonal average.

The IMD data indicates a significant positive departure from normal temperatures across most stations in the Union Territory, with some areas witnessing deviations of up to 10 degrees Celsius above average—(KNO)

From Legislative Assembly

2025 floods claim 152 lives, damages 12,200 houses: Govt

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 20: The Jammu & Kashmir government on Friday said that 152 persons lost their lives and 12,219 houses were damaged in the previous year's floods and heavy rains across the Union Territory, while Rs 289.39 crore has been released under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) during the current financial year 2025-26.

Replying to an unstarred question tabled by MLA Shakти Raj Parihar in the Assembly regarding damage assessment, the Minister Incharge, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department, said that extensive losses were reported across J&K and compensation as per SDRF norms has already been provided to affected families.

The minister informed the



House that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) from September 3 to 7, 2025, to assess damages in various affected districts. A Memorandum of Loss and Damages was submitted to MHA on November 6, 2025. He further said that on the

request of the UT Government, NDMA deputed a team for Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA), and a detailed exercise was conducted from November 17 to 25, 2025. The report has been submitted to MHA.

As per official data, Jammu Division reported 151 deaths and 178 injuries, 3,304 fully damaged houses, 1,818 severely

J&K logs steady tourist footfall for over 3 years'

RAJA SYED RATHER/ YOGESH

Srinagar, Feb 20: The government on Friday said that Kashmir Valley has recorded sustained tourist inflow over the past three years, with 96,33,972 visitors in 2023, 98,19,841 in 2024 and 47,78,822 tourists in 2025 so far.

Replying to a starred question tabled by MLA Javid Hassan Baig in the Assembly, the Minister Incharge, Tourism Department said destination-wise data for the last three years and comparison with pre-2019 figures have been placed as Annexure-A.

As per official data, in Baramulla district, Gulmarg received 16,25,732 tourists in 2023, 13,64,821 in 2024 and 11,07,728 in 2025 (till date).

In Anantnag district, Pahalgam recorded 14,54,269 visitors in 2023, 12,60,909 in 2024 and 10,04,236 in 2025, while Verinag saw 4,73,710 in 2023, 8,56,168 in 2024 and 3,52,984 in 2025.

In Ganderbal district, Sonamarg witnessed 5,55,226 tourists in 2023, 8,89,277 in 2024 and 4,87,638 in 2025.

In Budgam district, Doodhpatheri

Rs 2,106 crore for J&K ring roads



WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Feb 20: The Government on Friday informed the House that Rs 2106.7 crore have been awarded as compensation for land acquired for Ring Road projects in Jammu and Kashmir, of which Rs 1695.37 crore stand disbursed to landowners till date.

In response to a query by MLA Devyani Rana, minister I/C said the compensation for Ring Road projects is shared between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the UT government

Out of this, Rs 1514.34 crore has been released and Rs 1450.94 crore disbursed. An amount of Rs 63.40 crore is yet to be disbursed and Rs 270.15 crore is pending to be received.

The government said litigations, court references and title disputes have stalled part of the payout. It informed the House that Rs 28.20 crore has been deposited before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in cases involving title disputes between landowners and the custodian department.

District wise data shows that 38 landowners in Samba and 112 in Jammu district are awaiting settlement of their cases. In Kashmir division, 57 cases are pending in Srinagar, seven in Baramulla, none in Pulwama, 247 in Budgam, 905 in Ganderbal and 32 in Bandipora.

The Revenue Department said compensation in dispute free cases is being disbursed through the Bhoomi Rashi portal, while cases under litigation will be settled after court

No World Bank funds for tourism development: Govt



WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Feb 20: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said that no World Bank-assisted funds have been allocated or received specifically for tourism development in the Union Territory.

Replying to the starred question tabled by MLA Mian Mehar Ali in the Assembly regarding tourism promotion initiatives, the Minister Incharge, Tourism Department stated that no World Bank-assisted funds have been earmarked exclusively for tourism development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The query had sought clarification on whether World Bank funds allocated for tourism development could be utilised for promoting trekking and eco-tourism projects, including the development of the Seven Lakes Trek, and if so, the timeline and prospective benefits of such a project.

In response, the government categorically stated that no such funds have been allocated or received specifically for tourism development in J&K—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Time For A Coordinated War On Drugs

The revelation that nearly 70,000 persons, predominantly youth, are trapped in substance abuse in Kashmir, with 50,000 using heroin intravenously, is a chilling portrait of a generation in peril. This is a public health emergency of the highest order, a social catastrophe unfolding silently in our communities, destroying families, and stealing futures. The fact that the majority are intravenous drug users amplifies the horror, exponentially increasing risks of HIV, hepatitis, and fatal overdoses. The government's response, as

outlined in the Assembly, acknowledges the multi-pronged strategy required—awareness, enforcement, treatment, and rehabilitation. The establishment of de-addiction centres and the treatment of nearly 69,000 patients are commendable efforts. Yet, the sheer scale of the problem, with active users far exceeding treatment capacity, reveals a critical gap between intent and impact. We are, at best, containing a wildfire with garden hoses. This crisis demands a war-footing response on multiple fronts simultaneously. First, prevention

must begin in schools and homes. The 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan' must be intensified into a permanent, high-visibility campaign, integrating drug education into school curricula and empowering parents with knowledge to recognise early warning signs. The battle begins before the first dose. Second, enforcement must be ruthless and intelligence-driven. The supply chain, from peddlers to kingpins, must be systematically dismantled. Porous borders and local networks require constant, coordinated surveillance by police, narcotics agencies,

and border security forces. Impunity must end. Third, treatment infrastructure must be radically expanded and de-stigmatised. The sanctioned Rs 5 crore for a dedicated de-addiction building at GMC Baramulla is a step, but every district needs accessible, well-equipped, and adequately staffed facilities. Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) centres must proliferate, and rehabilitation must extend beyond detox to include skill training and livelihood support, ensuring recovered individuals can re-integrate with dignity. Fourth, the community must

be mobilised. Mosques, schools, and civil society organisations must become active partners in creating a social environment where drug use is anathema, not aspirational. Families must be supported, not shamed, in seeking help. The 70,000 number is a warning siren. Behind it are 70,000 human beings—sons, daughters, breadwinners. Their rescue is not just a government responsibility; it is a collective societal imperative. We must act with the urgency this emergency demands, for every day lost is a life lost.

Budget 2026-27 Series

India's Strengthened Sports Ecosystem

Press Information Bureau

Sports has emerged as a critical pillar of youth development, employment generation and national aspiration in India's journey towards a Viksit Bharat. Recognising the transformative potential of sports in shaping disciplined, healthy and skilled citizens, the Government of India has consistently strengthened policy and institutional support for the sector.

The Union Budget 2026-27 reinforces this commitment by placing sports firmly within the framework of long-term national capacity building.

The Union Budget is guided by three fundamental kartavyas (duties):

To accelerate and sustain economic growth, by enhancing productivity and competitiveness, and building resilience to volatile global dynamics.

To fulfil the aspirations of our people and build their capacity as strong partners in India's path to prosperity.

To ensure that every family, community, region and sector has access to resources, amenities and opportunities for meaningful participation.

In her Union Budget Speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated:

"The Sports Sector provides multiple means of employment, skilling and job opportunities. Taking forward the systematic nurturing of sports talent which is set in motion through the Khelo India programme, I propose to launch a Khelo India Mission to transform the Sports sector over the next decade."

This step aligns with the second kartavya outlined in the budget. Inspired by innovative ideas from the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026, this unique Yuva Shakti-driven Budget channels youth energy and vision into building a world-class sporting ecosystem.

Union Budget 2026-27: Focus on Khelo India Mission

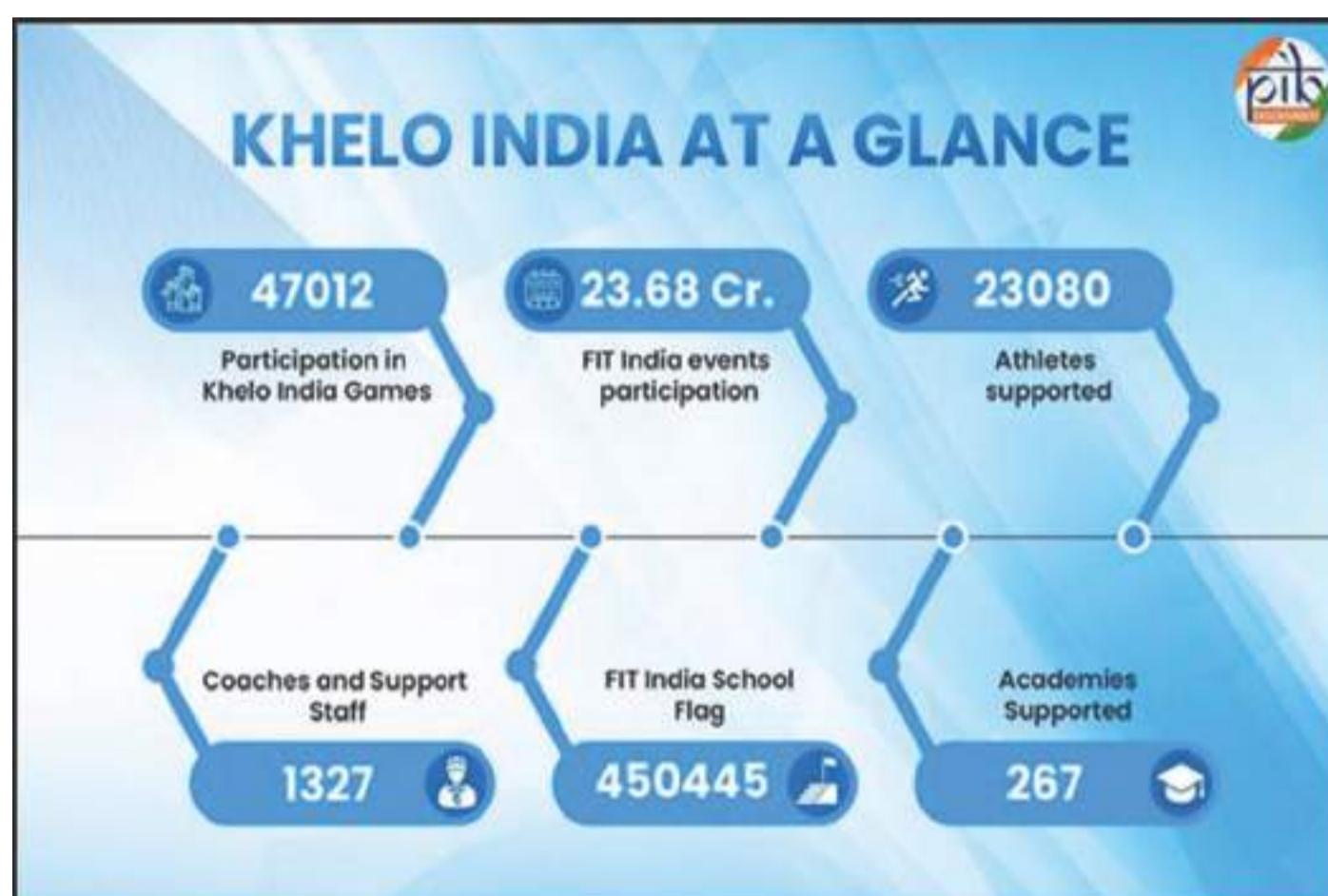
In the Union Budget 2026-27, the Government announced the launch of a Khelo India Mission to transform the sports sector over the next decade. Taking forward the systematic nurturing of sports talent already initiated under the Khelo India Scheme, the mission marks a shift towards a long-term, mission-mode approach for sports development in the country.

Five Pillars of the Khelo India Mission

As outlined in the Budget Speech, the Khelo India Mission will focus on the following key areas:

Together, these focus areas aim to create a seamless pipeline from grassroots participation to elite performance, while ensuring sustainability and scale across disciplines.

Unprecedented Financial Outlay: Fuelling



the Sporting Dream

The Khelo India Scheme, launched in 2016-17, has seen significant financial growth over the years, reflecting the government's commitment to promoting mass participation and excellence in sports across India. The scheme aims to foster sports culture and achieve sporting excellence nationwide.

It encourages sports participation throughout the country, leveraging sports' holistic influence for the development of children and youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, a healthy lifestyle, national pride, and economic opportunities related to sports development.

2017-18 to 2019-20: Financial outlay of Rs. 1756 crore approved for three years to revamp the scheme.

2020-21: Budget of Rs. 328.77 crore allocated for one year.

2021-22 to 2025-26: Financial outlay increased to Rs. 3790.50 crore for five more years, marking a significant boost in funding to support a broader range of activities and enhance sports infrastructure.

2026-27: The Budget for 2026-27 provides an allocation of 924.35 crore for

Khelo India, underscoring continued financial commitment as the scheme enters a new phase of long-term, outcome-oriented implementation.

Sports Goods Manufacturing: Building Domestic Capability

Alongside the Khelo India Mission, the Union Budget 2026-27 has announced a dedicated initiative for sports goods manufacturing, with an allocation of 500 crore. This initiative recognises India's potential to emerge as a global hub for high-quality, affordable sports goods.

Strategic Objectives:

Promote domestic manufacturing capacity
Advance research and innovation in equipment design

Drive innovation in material sciences for sports equipment

Strengthen India's presence in global sports supply chains

Generate employment opportunities in manufacturing and allied sectors

A Yuva Shakti-Driven Approach

A distinctive feature of Union Budget 2026-27 is its youth-centric genesis. Emphasising the youth-centric nature of the Budget, the

Finance Minister underscored that the proposals reflect ideas and aspirations emerging from youth engagement initiatives.

This ensures that sports policies reflect the aspirations, innovative thinking and lived experiences of young Indians—those who will both benefit from and build the sporting ecosystem. By involving youth in policy conceptualisation, the Budget ensures relevance, dynamism and alignment with generational aspirations.

MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026: Engaging Youth in Budget Understanding

Reinforcing the youth-centric approach, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026, a nationwide initiative aimed at enhancing youth understanding of the Union Budget and making budgetary provisions more accessible, relatable and citizen-centric.

The initiative seeks to connect the Union Budget 2026 with the everyday lives of citizens by engaging youth from colleges, institutions and coaching centres across the country through a structured and participatory framework.

The Budget Quest is a national-level

Key Takeaways

- Union Budget 2026-27 announced the Khelo India Mission, marking a major shift to a long-term, outcome-driven framework to transform India's sports ecosystem.
- With an allocation of ₹4,479.88 crore, the Budget announced the highest-ever funding for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, reflecting sustained priority to youth and sports development.
- A ₹500 crore sports goods manufacturing initiative strengthens domestic capacity, promotes innovation and positions sports as a driver of jobs, skilling and economic growth.

competition conducted in two rounds on the MY Bharat platform, open to youth registered on the portal:

Round 1 (3-17 February 2026): An online quiz on the Union Budget 2026, testing participants' understanding of budgetary provisions and their implications. Top performers from each State and Union Territory will qualify for the next round.

Round 2 (17 February - 3 March 2026): An essay-writing round where qualified participants will respond to 8 topics related to the Union Budget aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat, sharing their views and ideas on how budgetary provisions impact national development.

Essays will be evaluated between 3-10 March 2026, with State/UT-wise merit lists announced on 10 March 2026. Winners will receive an opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the vision of a Viksit Bharat Budget.

From Aspiration to Achievement

The Union Budget 2026-27 is more than just a financial statement; it is a Yuva Shakti-driven roadmap for a sporting revolution. By placing sports at the heart of youth empowerment and announcing the Khelo India Mission, the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to building a future-ready, inclusive and high-performing sports ecosystem.

The vision is clear and time-bound: India among the Top 10 sporting nations by 2036 and Top 5 by 2047.

With sustained financial support, mission-mode implementation and a holistic ecosystem approach, the sports sector is poised to contribute meaningfully to employment generation, national pride and India's emergence as a competitive sporting nation, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

When Kashmir's Mountains Grow Quiet, Its Music Begins

A tribute to the Santoor, Rabaab, Sarangi, Tumbaknari, and Nai – Instruments that are not performed, but lived. They carry joy and sorrow together, just like life in the valley.

Afreen Jan

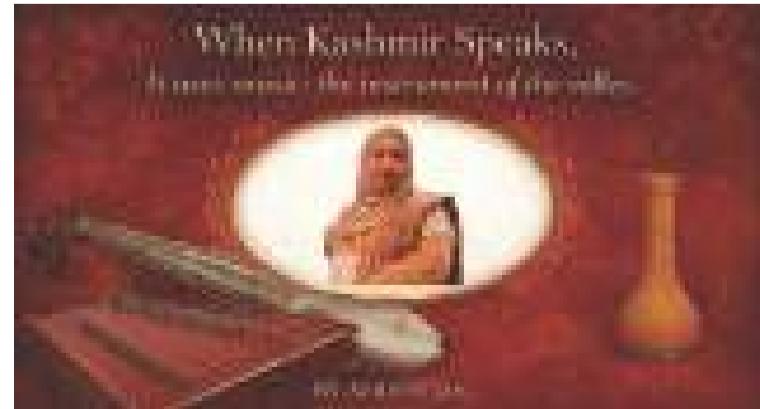
I am Kashmir, and when my mountains grow quiet, my music begins. My stories are not only written in words or woven into shawls. They flow through strings, skins, and reeds shaped by human hands.

The Santoor is my heartbeat. With its hundred strings stretched across walnut wood, it sings like ripples on Dal Lake. When wooden mallets strike it gently, joy and sorrow travel

together, just like life in the valley. Through the Santoor, I remember my seasons.

The Rabaab is my storyteller. Carved from wood and covered with skin, it carries the echoes of Sufi gatherings and folk tales. Its deep, soulful sound once accompanied wandering poets and mystics, turning ordinary evenings into moments of reflection.

The Sarangi, small yet powerful, cries and comforts at the same time.



In folk music, it follows the human voice so closely that it feels alive. It knows how to mourn, how to celebrate, and how to wait patiently during long winters.

The Tumbaknari, my humble drum, keeps time in village songs and traditional celebrations. Its rhythm binds people together. Feet move, hands clap, and hearts listen. Alongside it, the Dhol announces weddings and festivals, making even the mountains pause.

The Nai flute breathes softly through my fields and shrines. Its sound is light, almost shy, yet it carries deep emotion, especially in pastoral and Sufi traditions.

These instruments are not objects to me. They are companions. They have survived change, conflict, and silence. As long as one musician lifts an instrument with care, Kashmir will never be mute.

Because here, music is not performed.

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

BUDGET SESSION 2026 QUESTION HOUR

Rs 9.84 Cr restoration works taken up in Marh after floods: Deputy CM

Says Rs 8.87 lakh disbursed among affected families

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20: Nearly 92 restoration works worth Rs. 9.84 crore were taken up post 2025 floods across Marh Constituency in Jammu.

This was informed by the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, while replying to a question raised by Surinder Kumar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, apprised the House that an amount of Rs. 8,87,000 under SDRF norms was also disbursed among 90 affected families in the Constituency.

He acknowledged the significant losses incurred by Marh Constituency's inhabitants due to last year's floods. He commended the district administration's swift response, undertaking prompt assessment and relief measures as per State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

He said that relief under the SDRF norms was provided to the affected families on priority.



The Deputy Chief Minister said besides SDRF assistance, the affected families were also provided with ration and other essential items during the flood period under Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS).

He informed the House that about 92 works including roads, bridges, WSS, power and other vital public infrastructure damaged during floods were taken

up for restoration under PWD, PMGSY, JPDCL, PHE, JMC, BDO offices, Mandal Phillian and Marh in the Constituency.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that most of the works taken up for temporary restoration have been completed and various works are under different stages of completion, while few are set to be completed by July and August, 2026.

Rs 2,106 Cr compensation awarded for Ring Road land: Javed Rana

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20: The compensation for land acquired under the Ring Road projects in Jammu and Kashmir is being disbursed as per the prescribed norms, with a sharing ratio of 90:10 between the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) and the UT government.

Replying to a question, raised by MLA Devyani Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana stated that the Ring Road in Jammu passes through the districts of Jammu and Samba the project covers six districts namely Srinagar, Baramulla, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora in Kashmir Division. He was replying on behalf of Chief



The Minister clarified that compensation in certain

balance funds by the indenting department, court litigations, title disputes between land owners and custodians besides other land-related issues.

It was further informed that Rs 3.73 crore in respect of district Jammu has been uploaded on the Bhoomi Rashi portal. He added that Rs 28.20 crore have been deposited before the High Court of J&K due to title disputes involving 57 landowners.

The Minister assured that compensation in dispute-free cases is being regularly disbursed through the Bhoomi Rashi Portal and the government is committed to clear the pending liabilities in a time-bound manner.

SWD Srinagar holds event to promote senior citizens' welfare

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20: A heart-warming inter-generational bonding gathering was organized by Social Welfare Department (SWD) at Shalimar, Srinagar, with a special focus on celebrating and empowering senior citizens in the community. The three-day event, as per an official statement, was designed to honour the invaluable contributions of senior citizens while creating meaningful opportunities for interaction with children. It served as a vibrant platform where elderly participants shared their life experiences, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and lifelong wisdom with the younger generation. Their stories of resilience, values, and lived history offered children a deeper understanding of their roots and strengthened the bond between

generations.

The initiative highlighted the importance of senior citizens as custodians of culture, moral guidance, and community memory. By encouraging dialogue, storytelling, and collaborative activities, the programme promoted dignity, respect, and active ageing. It reinforced the message that senior citizens are not only recipients of care but also active contributors to society whose experiences and insights enrich younger minds.

The event unfolded into a spectacular celebration filled with colourful performances, laughter, and heartfelt interactions between senior citizens and children.

The programme featured knowledge-sharing sessions, skill and art exchanges, storytelling, and cultural performances. Senior citizens demonstrated traditional crafts, shared life



IGP Jammu inaugurates 3-day course on "Cyber Investigation, Mobile Forensics" at DPL Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU FEBRUARY 20: A three-day training programme on "Cyber Investigation and Mobile Forensics" commenced on Friday at the Conference Hall, District Police Lines (DPL), Jammu. The course, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti in the presence of Staff Officer to IGP Jammu, Shamsheer Hussain and trainees drawn from all the districts of Jammu Zone.

While inaugurating the programme, the IGP underscored

the growing importance of cyber investigation in the evolving landscape of crime. He highlighted the rapid rise in cyber-enabled offences and emphasized the necessity of equipping investigating officers with updated technical knowledge and legal expertise to effectively handle digital evidence and ensure successful prosecution.

During the course of the next three days, the programme will focus on critical aspects of cyber investigation, including handling and preservation of

digital evidence, maintaining the chain of custody, adherence to proper legal

Sakeena Itoo calls for collective fight against drug abuse

32517 patients registered in ATFs in J&K, 16759 in Kashmir & 15758 in Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20: Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo Friday emphasized the crucial and collective role of legislators, senior citizens, intellectuals, community members and religious leaders in combatting the menace of drug abuse across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister, as per an official statement, said this while replying in the House Friday to a clubbed question of Legislators Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Surjeet Singh Slatia, Ali Mohammad Sagar (raised by Legislator Mubarak Gul on his behalf) and Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir on the issues relating to drug abuse.

She added that the department has taken various steps like mandatory CCTV installation and computerized billing of medical shops training counsellors at village level as well as CCTV installation in and around schools and colleges. She also said that teachers are being trained in schools to counsel students showing some early signs of drug addiction.

The Minister informed the House that Drug De-addiction services are being strengthened across the Union Territory under



the Health and Medical Education Department and the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. She added that Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) are functional in all the districts of Kashmir Division and nine districts of Jammu Division, with dedicated IPD beds and OPD services available to ensure comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation.

The Health Minister said that in Kashmir Division ATFs are functional in SKIMS, GMC Bemina Srinagar, GMC Anantnag, GMC Baramulla, GMC Handwara, District Hospital Kulgam, District Hospital Shopian, District Hospital Pulwama, District Hospital Budgam, District Hospital Ganderbal and District Hospital Bandipora. In Jammu division, ATFs are functional in GMC Doda,

GMC Jammu, GMC Kathua, GMC AH Rajouri, GMC AH Udhampur, District Hospital Kishtwar, District Hospital Poonch, District Hospital Ramtan, District Hospital Reasi and DH Samba (functional on OPD Basis), she added.

The Minister said that OPD services are being ensured in all the districts, IPD services in all the GMCs besides the psychiatrists are also available. Efforts are underway to bolster de-addiction counselling and treatment services, particularly in rural and vulnerable areas, by strengthening OPD-based counselling, improving access to essential medicines, and enhancing follow-up and outreach programmes, she added.

Health and Medical Education Department is regularly organizing awareness campaigns through

field functionaries as well as via print media, encouraging the drug abuse victims to seek treatment and counselling to get rid of this evil addiction", she said.

The Minister said that 32517 patients have been registered in ATFs in J&K, with 16759 in Kashmir division and 15758 in Jammu division. She added that there is no proposal to establish Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centre in Pulwama district of Kashmir division and Samba district of Jammu division, saying that a Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centre at Village Bajwani, Tral district Pulwama is functional and catering to patients from across the district.

The Health Minister said that an addiction treatment facility has been established at District Hospital Samba since February 2024 sponsored by NDDTC (AIIMS New Delhi) under MoSJE. "The centre is staffed with a psychiatrist and other trained staff to provide treatment and rehabilitation services", she said. She added that the centre is presently working on OPD basis and providing services like OPD by Psychiatric, counseling, Addiction Treatment Facility and de-addiction medicines are also provided free of cost to the patients.

Around 3,000 CPWs regularized in J&K: Education Minister

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo

Friday informed the House that the government has taken a historic decision to regularize around 3000 CPWs across Jammu and Kashmir, fulfilling their long pending demand.

The Minister, as per an official statement, stated this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

She also informed that the claim projected by 246 CPWs for grant of notional benefits w.e.f 16.10.2008 was examined by the Department and the Director School Education, Kashmir rejected the same being devoid of merit, unsustainable in law and not covered under the provisions of SRO-308 of 2008.

as a one-time measure, pending review petition and contempt proceedings in the High Court.

Regarding the pensionary benefits to the petitioners, the Minister said that the matter has been referred to the General Administration Department for placing the same before the competent authority for approval which is awaited.

She also informed that the claim projected by 246 CPWs for grant of notional benefits w.e.f 16.10.2008 was examined by the Department and the Director School Education, Kashmir rejected the same being devoid of merit, unsustainable in law and not covered under the provisions of SRO-308 of 2008.

NC MPs urge CM Omar to continue focus on price stability, essential services

Calls for strengthening market inspection mechanisms, real-time grievance redressal systems

KT News Desk

Srinagar, 20 Feb: The Members of Parliament from Jammu & Kashmir National Conference Friday expressed deep appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the elected government led by Omar Abdullah in ensuring smooth and well-coordinated arrangements during the holy month of Ramzan across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint statement issued on Friday, the NC MPs commended the proactive measures taken by the administration to facilitate uninterrupted power and water supply, availability of essential commodities, sanitation drives, and

enhanced market monitoring throughout the month. They said that the government's responsiveness to public needs during this spiritually significant period has brought much-needed relief and reassurance to the people.

The MPs particularly appreciated the coordination among various departments to ensure that markets remained well-stocked, transport services functioned efficiently and special attention was given to maintaining cleanliness around mosques and major congregational sites.

They stated that such people-centric governance reflects sensitivity to the cultural and religious

sentiments of the masses.

While acknowledging the positive impact of these initiatives, the MPs urged the government to maintain the same momentum in the coming weeks. They emphasized the need for sustained vigilance to ensure price stability of essential commodities, strict action against hoarding and black marketing, and continued availability of basic utility services, especially electricity and drinking water.

The MPs further called for strengthening market inspection mechanisms and real-time grievance redressal systems so that any disruption in essential services can be promptly addressed. They underlined that

economic relief and service stability during Ramzan must translate into long-term administrative efficiency benefiting all sections of society.

Reiterating their party's commitment to the welfare of the people, the MPs assured full cooperation in supporting measures that promote public convenience, economic stability, and inclusive governance across J&K.

They expressed hope that the administration will continue to prioritize the needs of the common people and build upon the positive steps taken during Ramzan to ensure sustained development and public satisfaction.

and procedural safeguards.

Special emphasis will be laid on the preparation of digital seizure memos and the correct method of conducting digital seizures to withstand judicial scrutiny.

Dedicated sessions will also cover the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, particularly those relating to admissibility and evidentiary value of electronic records. Legal and procedural prospects concerning cybercrime investigations will be discussed in detail to enhance the competence of

Investigating Officers.

Expert speakers including experienced officers in the field of cyber investigation and mobile forensics will deliver technical and practical sessions during the programme. The course is structured to include interactive discussions, case studies, and practical demonstrations to ensure effective knowledge transfer. It is expected to strengthen cyber policing capabilities and building institutional capacity to tackle emerging digital threats in a professional and legally sound manner.

Netanyahu says Israel 'tightening alliances' with allies, calls India 'gigantic power'

PTI

Jerusalem, Feb 20: Describing India as a "gigantic power", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel is "tightening alliances" with its allies, as he mentioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jerusalem next week.

Prime Minister Modi is expected to arrive in Israel on February 25 on a two-day visit during which he is likely to address the Knesset (parliament) and meet Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog.

Netanyahu made the comments while addressing the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Cadets' Graduation Ceremony in Bahad 1 (IDF Officers School), about 190 kms south of Jerusalem, on Thursday.

After describing valiant efforts by the Israeli army over the years, Netanyahu said how the country goes out and takes "pre-emptive measures" against the evil, and, therefore, will act time and again "to neutralise the risks in the area, as necessary."

"We will also act to tighten



alliances with our allies. Next week, the Prime Minister of India will visit the country – a gigantic power," Netanyahu said.

"And of course, you know that a few days ago I returned from another diplomatic visit, the seventh in number since the election of President (Donald) Trump to a second term, where I met with the greatest friend of the State of Israel – US President Trump," he added.

"In the American security doctrine published recently, Israel is the only country in the world that the US defines as 'the model ally,'" he asserted.

On Sunday, Netanyahu broke

the news of Modi's visit while addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations.

"Parliament address on the anvil. Who's coming here next week? Narendra Modi," Netanyahu told the gathering.

"Tremendous alliance between Israel and India, and we are going to discuss all sorts of cooperation. Now, you know, India is not a small country. It has 1.4 billion people. India is enormously powerful, enormously popular," he said.

This would be Modi's second visit to Israel, the first being in July 2017, which was also the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to the Jewish state.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Sinha: India

the wisdom of the past into the strength of the present, lighting the way forward," LG Sinha added. (KNO)

VP Radhakrishnan to

Railway units attended the meeting and presented security plans for the visit.

The IGP said all agencies must work in coordination to maintain a secure environment and ensure safety during the visit.

TOP OFFICIALS MEET IN KU

The officials informed that another meeting was held in the convocation hall of the University of Kashmir wherein the officials from the varsity, police and civil administration took part.

They said that the agenda of the meeting was to review the security measures and the arrangements for the Vice-President's Kashmir visit.

"They reviewed the measures to be taken for the security of the chief guest C P Radhakrishnan who is scheduled to arrive here on 26th February for the 21st convocation of KU," the official said. (KNO)

30,000 vacancies

There has been no revision in electricity rates since December 2023. He informed the House that billing in metered areas is based on actual consumption, while consumers in non-metered areas are charged on a flat-rate basis linked to the sanctioned load.

Abdullah said tariff determination falls within the jurisdiction of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission and is fixed as per its parameters. He added that Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses are not being passed on to consumers. The clarification came while replying to a supplementary question from Dr Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri.

On tourism infrastructure, CM Omar said three projects have been completed in the Ramgarh constituency, and another is in progress under the Capex Budget at a total cost of Rs 307.12 lakh. He was responding to a query from Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, raised on his behalf by Surjeet Singh Slatia. He said new proposals for the constituency would be considered in 2026-27, subject to feasibility and availability of funds.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the tourism portfolio, informed the House that works worth Rs 123.41 lakh at Sidh Goria Temple, including beautification, parking and pond development, have been completed. A separate project worth Rs 100 lakh at Baba Chamlyal Shrine has also been finished.

On power infrastructure, Omar said a 6.3 MVA receiving station at Qamar (Dudwaganj) is under execution to improve supply in the Upper Kapran belt, with commissioning targeted for June 2026, subject to saturation of smart metering. He said Rs 293.44 lakh has been spent so far against a revised cost of Rs 427.63 lakh, adding that delays were caused mainly due to right-of-way issues in laying transmission lines. (KNO)

SIR of electoral roll

ECI announced SIR exercise for nine states and three Union Territories.

The Commission on October 27, 2025 announced the SIR exercise in 12 State/UTs, which is underway. (KNO)

IMD plans doppler

stations and eight snow gauges are planned in districts including Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Rajouri, Udhampur, Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla and Shopian.

Abdullah said data on cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides over the past 15 years has been used to classify districts into high, medium and low vulnerability categories based on casualties and damage to infrastructure and agriculture.

In the Jammu division, Kishtwar, Doda,

Many nations have lauded India's move to mandate AI labelling, says Vaishnaw, as new IT rules take effect

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 20: Several countries have lauded India's decision to mandate clear labelling of AI-generated content and are considering similar measures, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday, as amended IT rules governing synthetic content came into force.

The new IT rules that took effect on Friday come amid growing misuse of Artificial Intelligence to create and circulate obscene, deceptive and fake content on social media platforms. The new rules require embedding permanent metadata or an identifier with AI content, ban content considered illegal under the law, and shorten user grievance redressal timelines.

Addressing a briefing at the India AI Summit, Vaishnaw said there had been no pushback against the move.

"New regulations on synthetic content have been accepted by everyone. In fact, everyone I met has said this is required. Many nations are also talking



of bringing regulations similar to ours. Many nations congratulated India for taking this initiative, and have indicated that going forward, they may also go for watermarking," the IT Minister said.

The objective, the minister added, is to empower users to determine whether a piece of content is real or synthetically generated. He stressed that any content illegal in the physical world under constitutional and legal frameworks remains illegal in the online domain as well.

"...so users can decide for themselves whether or not to

trust it. The other thing we all need to bear in mind is that whatever is illegal in the physical world and violates the constitutional framework and laws is also illegal in the online universe. It is logical," he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the run-up to the rules, authorities had flagged a rise in AI-generated deepfakes, non-consensual intimate imagery and misleading videos that impersonate individuals or fabricate real-world events, often spreading rapidly online.

The amended IT rules aim to curb such abuse by requiring

faster takedowns, mandatory labelling of AI-generated content and stronger accountability from platforms to prevent the promotion and amplification of unlawful synthetic material. It places the onus on both social media platforms and AI tools.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued a gazette notification, amending the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The tweaked IT rules came into force on Friday.

the Institute of Driving Training & Research (IDTR) in Jammu. The department is adopting technology-driven vehicle fitness testing, planning vehicle scrapping centers, and installing electronic enforcement devices for traffic safety.

Transport infrastructure is also expanding, with new buses being added, including 200 more for RTC services, and procurement of 50 trucks to modernize the fleet. The department is working on a comprehensive green mobility plan, replacing diesel vehicles with zero-emission alternatives and promoting electric mobility.

The Science and Technology Department, through JAKEDA and JKSTIC, is focusing on renewable energy, research, and innovation. Significant progress includes solarizing over 7,500 government buildings with a cumulative capacity of 76 MW, and developing solar villages and agricultural pumps under government schemes. Hydropower projects are progressing, with seven projects completed and several under development.

In the field of science and innovation, the department is establishing biotech parks at Kathua and Handwara, with ongoing projects in Srinagar and Jammu, including scholarships and research programs. The department also promotes sports, organizing national and international events, strengthening infrastructure, and nurturing youth talent through initiatives like Khelo India Centers, sports academies, and development of playfields and sports facilities across the UT.

Major sports infrastructure projects include the completion of 216 playfields, the construction of indoor sports complexes, and the establishment of sports academies for cricket, kabaddi, badminton, and other disciplines. The department organized the "Rustum-e-J&K" international wrestling event to promote rural sports and aims to make Jammu & Kashmir a "Sports Capital of the Country" with upcoming projects like indoor halls, sports complexes, and talent identification centers.

The assembly also discussed demands for regularization of sports personnel and welfare schemes. The department is working on regularization processes, and the selection of outstanding sports persons is nearing completion.

The Minister reaffirmed that all issues and demands raised will be examined objectively, and departments will continue working with commitment, innovation, and accountability. He extended gratitude to officers and officials for their efforts.

Following the Minister's assurances, MLAs withdrew their cut motions, concluding the session on a note of consensus and shared commitment to the development agenda of Jammu and Kashmir.

22 IAS, JKAS

of Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Alike Vaz, IAS (AGMUT: 2005), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department.

She shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Information Department, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Ms. Yasha Mudgal, IAS (AGMUT: 2007), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, is transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS (AGMUT: 2009), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Science and Technology Department, is transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department.

Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS (AGMUT: 2012),

Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department, shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Public Grievances Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders, relieving Sh. Naveen S L, IAS (AGMUT: 2012) of the additional charge.

Ms. Babila Rakwal, JKAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department, is transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Science and Technology Department.

Ms. Anjali Sehrawat, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission vice Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS, who shall await further orders of posting in the General Administration Department.

Ms. Nidhi Malik, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, is transferred and posted as Inspector General of Registration, J&K vice Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, IRS (2014), who shall await further orders in the General Administration Department.

Sh. Owais Ahmed, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, holding additional charge of the post of Special Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, is transferred and posted as Director, Skill Development, J&K. He shall continue to hold the additional charge of the post of Special Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Dr. Sagar D Dattatray, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir.

Athar Aamir Ul Shafii Khan, IAS (R): 2016, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Budgam.

Kumar Abhishek, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Deputy Commissioner, Reasi.

Ms. Akriti Sagar, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K. She shall also hold the charge of the post of Special Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, IAS (AGMUT: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag.

Minga Sherpa, IAS (AGMUT: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), has been appointed to the post of General Administration Department.

Syed Fakhrudin Hamid, IAS (AM: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla.

Harvinder Singh, IAS (AGMUT: 2019), Deputy Commissioner, Doda, is transferred and posted as Director, Employment, J&K. He shall also hold the charge of the posts of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth and Mission Director, Mission YUVA, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shahzad Alam, IAS (AGMUT: 2019), Director, Employment, J&K, holding additional charge of the posts of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth and Mission Director, Mission YUVA and Director, Skill Development, J&K, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam.

Krishan Lal, JKAS, Special Secretary in the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Doda. By order of the Lieutenant Governor. (KNO)

India joins US-led strategic alliance 'Pax Silica'



PTI

New Delhi, Feb 20: India on Friday joined a US-led strategic alliance -- 'Pax Silica' -- that is aimed at building a resilient supply chain for critical minerals and artificial intelligence.

India signed a pact joining the coalition at a ceremony at the AI Impact Summit here.

The signing ceremony was attended by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and US envoy to India Sergio Gor among others.

Gor said Pax Silica is a coalition of capabilities.

"Pax Silica is a declaration that future belongs to those who build and when free people join forces," US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob

Helberg said.

The move comes amid efforts by the two sides to finalise the proposed trade deal and move forward on several other initiatives to solidify bilateral ties after a spell of severe strain in relations. The Pax Silica initiative was launched in December last year to build a secure, resilient, and innovation-driven supply chain for critical minerals and artificial intelligence (AI).

The Pax Silica Summit was held in Washington on December 12 last year where partner nations signed the Pax Silica declaration.

The declaration lays out a shared vision of deep economic and technology cooperation across supply chains -- from raw

materials through semiconductors and AI infrastructure -- and commitment to mutual prosperity and security.

The member nations of the Pax Silica included Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Gor last month announced an invitation to New Delhi to join the strategic alliance. One of the key pillars of Pax Silica was to establish a durable economic order to drive AI-powered prosperity across partner nations.

"We recognise that a reliable supply chain is indispensable to our mutual economic security," according to the Pax Silica declaration.

India-US interim trade pact likely to be operationalised in April: Goyal

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 20: An interim trade agreement between India and the US is likely to be signed in March and operationalised in April, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

Earlier this month, India and the US released a joint statement announcing a framework for an interim trade agreement.

To finalise the text of the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement, the chief negotiators of the two countries will meet in Washington next week.

The three-day meeting between the two teams will begin on February 23.

Goyal told reporters here that the pact is expected to be signed next month and may be implemented in April.

US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieon Greer is likely to visit India in March to sign the agreement.

In an event at the AI Impact Summit here, US Ambassador Sergio Gor said that the India-US trade deal is set to be inked soon.

India on Friday joined the US-led strategic alliance Pax Silica aimed at building a resilient supply chain for critical minerals.

"From the trade deal to Pax Silica to defence cooperation, the potential for our two nations to work together is truly limitless," Gor said in his remarks.

The joint statement, released separately by the two nations earlier this month, lays down the contours of the deal. These now



need to be translated into a legal agreement, for which the two sides will meet next week.

The Indian team will be headed by chief negotiator Darpan Jain, who is a joint secretary in the Commerce Ministry.

Under the pact, both sides would extend duty concessions to each other on a number of goods traded between them.

The US has announced that it will reduce the reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. It has already eliminated the 25 per cent punitive tariffs on India for buying Russian crude oil. The move is a big relief to the domestic industry as they were facing steep 50 per cent tariffs by the US.

Goyal expressed hope that an executive order to cut the tariffs to 18 per cent would be issued by the Trump administration this month.

While speaking at the launch of seven components of the Rs 25,060-crore export promotion mission (EPM), Goyal said the India-US trade agreement has opened huge business opportunities for Indian exporters.

He said that India has protected all the sensitive sectors, including agriculture.

"Now once that rate (50 per cent tariff) comes out to lower than any of our competitors, we are lower than anybody else who is an emerging market or a developing economy, and plus having safeguarded all the sensitive sectors, it's a great win-win solution for both countries," he said.

The minister said that labour-intensive sectors like apparel, leather and marine were suffering from high tariffs.

He also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for raising concerns about the deal.

Stepping up his attack on the government over the interim US trade deal, Gandhi on Friday said the answer to why Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to a deal, where India gives so much and appears to get so little, and makes an "abject surrender" lies

in the "grips" and "chokes" placed on him.

Gandhi questioned that why the government has agreed to increase US imports by USD 100 billion a year without a reciprocal promise.

"I think he (Gandhi) lives in a world very detached from reality. All of you here are exporters. Were you happy with the 50 per cent tariff? Was your business prospering? Were your jobs safe? Was Tirupur able to export apparel? What was happening to your leather industry where lakhs of workers are working? What had happened to our marine seafood exports? All labour-intensive sectors were suffering," he said.

He added that businesses will prosper at the 18 per cent rate that India negotiated under the trade pact with the US.

It will help boost exports of gems and jewellery, and spices also, he said. On imports from the US, Goyal said India needs high-tech devices like GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), coking coal and aircrafts.

"We need airplanes in India. As our steel production doubles and is slated to double from 140 million to 300 million tonnes in the next 5-6 years, huge investments, almost Rs 10 lakh crores investments are in the pipeline in the steel industry. That steel will need coking coal.

"You are all businessmen in this room. Is it better to have two sources of a product or six sources of a product?" he asked.

Amit Shah launches 2nd phase of Vibrant Villages Programme

PTI

Nathapur (Assam), Feb 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched the second phase of the Vibrant Villages Programme, which will cover 1,954 border villages in 15 states and two Union territories, from Assam's Cachar district.

The programme is a part of the Centre's efforts to strengthen border villages and promote inclusive development in these areas, an official statement said.

The Vibrant Villages Programme-II is a central sector scheme with an outlay of Rs 6,839 crore up to the 2028-29 financial year and will be implemented across 15 states and 2 Union Territories (UTs), it said.

The programme is designed to ensure the comprehensive and sustainable development of border villages through a saturation-based and convergence-driven approach.

It focuses on improving essential



infrastructure, enhancing access to basic services, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, thereby fostering secure, resilient and prosperous border communities in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, according to the release.

By strengthening these villages, the programme also enables residents to act as the eyes and ears of the nation, thereby contributing significantly to border security, the prevention of cross-border crimes and the strengthening of internal security. Under

the VVP-I, 2,558 projects and works with an outlay of Rs 3,431 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and over 8,500 activities, including awareness drives, health and veterinary camps, fairs and festivals and promotion of tourism, have been undertaken.

On April 2, 2025, the government gave its nod to the second phase of the programme, identifying 1,954 villages abutting the international land borders of 15 states and two Union territories and for comprehensive development.

US-India partnership has critical role to play to make AI benefits available to everyone: Pichai

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 20: The US-India partnership has a critical role to play in making the benefits of AI available to everyone and everywhere, said Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and its parent company Alphabet Inc Sundar Pichai on Friday.

Speaking here at the AI Impact Summit ahead of India and US signing of Pax Silica declaration, he said alongside the recent interim trade agreement, this will lay a strong foundation for a robust US-India tech partnership for many years to come. Pichai said Google is proud to serve as a connection point between the two countries "both figuratively and literally".

The US-led strategic alliance Pax Silica, is aimed at building a resilient supply chain for critical minerals and artificial intelligence.

"Yesterday, at the opening session, I shared some thoughts on this profound moment of AI. I said we are on the cusp of an era of hyper progress and new discoveries, but the best outcomes are not guaranteed," Pichai said.

He further said, "We must work together to ensure the benefits of AI are available to everyone and everywhere. The US-India partnership has a critical role to play."

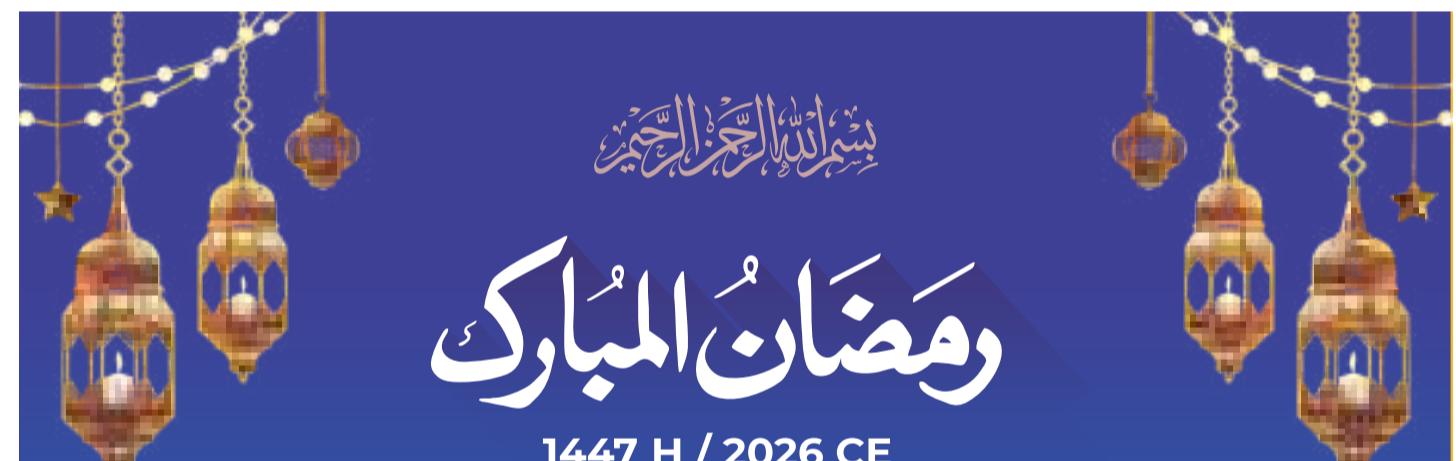
Pichai said, "Pax Silica focuses on making sure that the supply chains are safe and secure and encourages greater commercial partnerships



across key technologies... Alongside the recent trade agreement, this will lay a strong foundation for a robust US-India tech partnership for many years to come."

Google is proud to serve as a connection point between them, both figuratively and literally, he added.

Elaborating, he said, "We have teams across both countries working seamlessly together on some of our most important initiatives, innovations that start in India, like Google Pay are making products better for people all over the world."



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06:32 PM	05:36 AM	13	03
06:33 PM	05:34 AM	14	04
06:33 PM	05:33 AM	15	05

وَبِصَوْمَ غِدِّ نَوْيَتْ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ

I intend to keep the fast for tomorrow in the month of Ramadan

DUA FOR SEHRI

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَصْمَتْ وَبِكَ أَمْتَ [وَعَلَيْكَ تَوْكِثْ] وَعَلَيْ رِزْقِكَ أَفْتَرَثْ

O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You and I put my trust in You and I break my fast with Your sustenance

Kashmir Thunder

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A Moment Of Faith And Unity: First Friday Of Ramadan At Jamia Masjid, Srinagar

Pics: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

