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Modi warns NDA MPs against resting on laurels after poll wins tion. The trade deal will give benefits to small-scale businessmen," he asserted.

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

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

Newly elected BJP president Nitin Nabin was also formally welcomed at the meeting.

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

Those who attended the meeting include Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister J P Nadda, Apna Dal leader and union minister Anupriya Patel, NCP leader Praful Patel, Shiv Sena leader Shrikant Shinde, Rashtriya Lok Morcha leader Upendra Kushwaha among other.

Oppn members raise demand for NLU in Jammu

raised the issue, seeking government intervention. The speaker intervened time and again and requested the members to maintain decorum of the House.

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

He said J&K government had already taken up the

issue of harassment of Kashmiris with various state governments and is thankful to the Utrakhand chief minister for taking immediate action recently in one such case.

Sinha greets people on Shab-e-Baraat

bond with the almighty. Above all, Shab-e-Baraat reminds us to embrace a life grounded in truth, humility, and kindness," the LG added.

"May this holy night shower peace, prosperity, and joy upon everyone," he said.

Committee formed for disaster management projects

consolidation and submission of project proposals submitted by various departments to the finance department against additional allocation earmarked by the Government of India for the department of disaster management, relief, rehabilitation & reconstruction, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir."

Administrative secretary, department of disaster management, relief, rehabilitation & reconstruction, would be the chairman of the committee which would have four members.

Amid objections, govt halts 3 proposed railway projects in Kashmir

highways have already been built. The routes that were proposed for these railway lines were passing through our productive orchards and tourist areas, particularly towards Pahalgam. Elected representatives from those areas, MLAs, and local residents met me and said that this railway line would not benefit them; instead, it would cause them losses. They

asked me to convey this concern to the Centre," the chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of a function here in the evening.

8 Oppn MPs suspended from LS

MM Naravane's memoirs but make comments about Chinese action during the Kaislash Range standoff with China and the government's response.

The government has said that Rahul Gandhi cannot quote from an unpublished memoir or a magazine article based on it.

The Chair asked Rahul Gandhi to resume his speech on the motion of thanks to the President's Address and follow the ruling already given.

As Rahul Gandhi insisted on making his intended remarks, the Chair called other members to speak ion he motion of thanks to the President's Address. Congress and opposition members resorted to sloganeering, which intensified after a TDP member started making his speech.

Amid uproar, some members were seen throwing papers. The House was adjourned till 3 pm.

When the House resumed its proceedings, BJP member Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, named eight opposition members.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju moved the motion for suspension of the eight members for the remainder of the budget session for "violating rules and throwing papers on the chair"

The motion was adopted by the House amid protests from the opposition members.

The opposition MPs who have been suspended for the remainder of the session are Congress members Hibi Eden, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and Dean Kuriakose and CPI-M member S Venkatesan.

The Lok Sabha saw repeated adjournments yesterday also on the stalemate over Rahul Gandhi's attempts to make references to the magazine article.

against US efforts to dictate the energy choices of other major economies and to use punitive economic measures to influence their geopolitical alignments.

The Russian position emphasises that dialogue on energy and trade should respect the commercial decisions of partners like India, whose relationship with Moscow on energy supplies has been longstanding and commercially driven.

Russia has reiterated that its energy cooperation with India remains solid and that discounted Russian crude continues to be in demand, framing bilateral oil trade as mutually beneficial rather than a political liability. In defending the continuation of these ties, Moscow implied that external pressure from Washington, including tariff threats tied to Russia's war with Ukraine, does not alter the fundamentals of energy trade between sovereign states.

The backdrop to the Kremlin's comments includes conflicting narratives from New Delhi itself, which has neither confirmed Trump's claim about a direct commitment from Prime Minister Modi nor signaled an abrupt end to Russian oil purchases.

India has stated that its energy imports are guided by considerations of stable supply and consumer interest, a stance that Moscow's response appears to implicitly support by rejecting pressure aimed at reshaping the global energy market.

Encounter erupts in Udhampur woods

based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, officials said.

While the encounter was said to be of a brief duration, the operation was continuing when reports last came in, the officials added.

Other details were awaited.

Kavinder reiterates UT admin's commitment to welfare of people

quarters instead of Karsha, and internal roads construction in Akshow village.

Stakmo delegation, led by nambardar Thiskey, highlighted water shortage, requesting lift irrigation scheme from Indus River for drinking and agricultural needs.

Korzok delegation, led by BJP president Tashi Gyalson Khachu, requested funds for Korzok monastery completion and residential rooms for monks.

An ex-serviceman, who participated in skiing, demanded fair trials and equal representation from all Ladakh parts for Khelo India Winter Games in ski and snowboarding events.

After giving them a patient hearing, the LG reiterated UT administration's commitment to people's welfare, informing about the funding requests from the central government for heritage sites renovation/restoration including monasteries as testament to Ladakh's ancient rich cultural heritage.

He called Ladakh a treasure trove of medicinal plants, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioning its Sanjeevani-Sea Buckthorn-and tremendous medicinal potential.

He highlighted stepped up efforts for reliable telecommunication and road networks across Ladakh, plus potable drinking water via Jal Jeevan Mission and KUSUM scheme for lift irrigation using solar energy.

SC pulls up J&K prosecution over delay in murder trial

the "gross and inordinate delay" in concluding the trial.

During the hearing, counsel for the Union Territory attributed part of the delay to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent legal proceedings initiated by the victim's wife, including a protest petition and a direction by the high court for a fresh investigation and a supplementary chargesheet in 2022.

However, the bench rejected the explanation, observing that trials across the country had not come to a complete halt during the pandemic. The court further noted that there had been no significant progress in the case even after 2022.

Taking serious note of the prolonged incarceration of the accused, the Supreme Court ordered that Anoop Singh be released on bail, subject to conditions to be fixed by the trial court.

Kremlin dismisses Trump claim on India halting Russian oil purchases

The Kremlin's stance reflects a broader pushback

2 BJP MLAs walkout of assembly

Jammu, Feb 03

Two opposition BJP MLAs on Tuesday walked out of the assembly over the issue of allocation of funds for flood relief works, alleging discrimination against Jammu region.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary denied the charges levelled by BJP MLAs - Rajiv Jasrotia and Pawan Gupta - and also exchanged heated words with them leading to an uproar in the House.

Responding to the question of Jasrotia about details of funds released by the Centre for flood restoration works and district-wise distribution and utilisation, the minister said no funds till date had been released by the Centre for flood restoration works during the current financial year 2025-26.

"Further, an amount of Rs 289.39 cr was released during the current financial year 2025-26, under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Besides, an amount of Rs 100 cr (Rs 5 crore for each district) has been released under the UT Capex Budget (2025-26) of DM-RRR under the activity 'Flood Relief Measures' to

undertake urgent flood restoration works," the deputy chief minister said.

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

"The released funds are mainly for Flood Management Work, amounting to Rs 164.35 lakhs and for Comprehensive Flood Management of River Jhelum, Phase-II amounting to Rs 6041.25 lakh," he said Besides this, based on the report of inter-ministerial central team (IMCT), the GoI under SASCI (Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) has allocated Rs 1431 cr for J-K. This will be further released to implementing departments once the detailed proposals for flood restoration works are received from the departments," Choudhary said.

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

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

"We love central government as you do...But we say, whether the flood comes to Kashmir or Jammu, whether the damage is in Jammu or Kashmir, they are equally painful for us, but this is not the case with the BJP because their conscious is not clear. We have pain for both regions which is evident when our government restored Darbar move to provide relief to the local traders. This shows we do not discriminate," he said.

Continuing his tirade against the BJP, Choudhary said they are now demanding National Law University for Jammu after ensuring closure of Mata Vaishno Devi Medical college.

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

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

Talking to news agency in assembly premises later,

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

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

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

"Funds should have been released to worst hit Jammu but instead, the government gave Rs 62 crore to Kashmir. This is clear discrimination," he said. Gupta said he walked out in support of his party colleague as "we are not satisfied with the government response".

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

DC Jammu reviews JSY, JSSK, NTEP progress

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS**  
**JAMMU, FEB 03**

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today chaired a review meeting to take stock of the implementation and progress of health sector schemes in the district.

The meeting, held at the District Administrative Complex, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vidhu Shekhar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Ajaypal Singh, Block Medical Officers and other concerned officers.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on strengthening coordination, monitoring and outreach to ensure improved healthcare services across all blocks.

Reviewing the Janani Suraksha Yojana, Dr. Minhas emphasised on effective implementation of the scheme, particularly in rural areas. He underscored the pivotal role of ASHA workers in promoting institutional deliveries and ensuring



ing antenatal and postnatal care.

Emphasizing close monitoring at all levels, the DC directed furnishing of monthly progress reports of each health institution.

Inquiring about the status of Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, the Deputy Commissioner called for proactive engagement of health staff to ensure availability of free drugs, diagnostics and transport facilities. He directed ensuring availability of adequate ambulance services and round-the-clock functioning of Emergency Helpline 102.

The National TB Elimination Programme was also reviewed in detail. Dr. Minhas emphasised timely distribution of nutritional support to TB patients through Nikshay Mitras and directed for effective monitoring, early case identification and compassionate rehabilitation of patients.

Seeking block-wise reports on Non-Communicable Diseases screening, the

SCARD Bank liquidation approved, govt tells assembly

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS**  
**JAMMU, FEB 03**

The government today told the legislative assembly that it had approved the liquidation of Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank.

The decision in this regard was taken by the council of ministers on December 3, 2025, minister in-charge for cooperatives Javed Ahmed Dar said in a written reply while responding to a question by PDP MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi.

"As of now, the department has not formulated any proposal for the rehabilitation, absorption or provision of compensation to the employees working in the J&K SCARD Bank," he said.

However, he assured that the interests of employees would be safeguarded in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, and the rules framed thereunder, subject to future policy decisions or instructions of the government.

Dar said that measures had been initiated to safeguard the interests of depositors and borrowers of the SCARD Bank.

"The issues affecting the bank have been examined in detail by the department in consultation with NABARD, and a structured, closely monitored and legally compliant course of action has been advised to ensure an orderly and transparent process," the minister added.

As part of these measures, a special

Know Your Customer (KYC) verification exercise covering all depositors and loanees across branches, including the head office and regional offices, had been completed to verify the authenticity of accounts and protect the interests of genuine depositors.

The minister said that the council of ministers had approved the proposal relating to the bank with specific directions to safeguard depositor interests.

"A phased and legally compliant course of action, in line with the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, has been formulated to ensure minimal inconvenience to depositors".

"The department is presently awaiting the requisite prior sanction from NABARD to proceed further," he said.

MLA Vijaypur Inaugurates Manak Stambh, SIDCO Park at BIS Bari Brahmana

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS**  
**JAMMU, FEB 03**

Hon'ble MLA Vijaypur, Chander Parkash Ganga, today inaugurated the Manak Stambh and the newly beautified SIDCO Park developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative at the BIS Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), SIDCO Industrial Complex, Bari Brahmana. The event was held in the presence of Shri Tilak Raj, Director & Head, BIS-JKBO.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA lauded BIS for its efforts in promoting standardization, quality consciousness and public welfare through impactful CSR initiatives. He said such projects not only enhance the aesthetics of public spaces but also create awareness about quality, safety and standards in everyday life.

Later, Shri Chander Parkash Ganga

interacted with teachers attending a one-day Refresher Training Programme for Mentors of Standards Clubs, organised by BIS at Avinay Hall, BIS-JKBO. The programme saw participation of over 45 mentors from government and private schools of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Reasi and Udhampur districts. The MLA emphasized the crucial role of mentors in instilling values of quality and safety among students, describing youth awareness as the foundation of a responsible society.

The programme began with a welcome address by Shri Tilak Raj, who highlighted the role of Standards Clubs in fostering quality consciousness, scientific temper and responsible consumer behaviour among students. Shri Pankaj Atri, Joint Director, BIS-JKBO, gave a detailed presentation on BIS activities, with special focus on the Standards Club Programme and the upcoming National-Level Online Quiz under the Learning Science via Standards (LSVS) initiative.

Shri Niraj Mishra, Deputy Director, delivered an informative session on gold and silver jewellery hallmarking, including the HUID process. Technical sessions were conducted by Shri Rajeev Pandita and Smt. Monika Sharma, covering quiz-related standards on refrigerators and thermometers, besides elaborating on the LSVS methodology.

Mentors with outstanding student participation and national-level achievements were felicitated with mementos. Representatives from SIDCO and BBIA were also honoured. The programme concluded with an interactive session, reaffirming BIS's commitment to promoting quality awareness and standardization among students.

Among others present were Shri Ravinder Singh, Estate Manager, SIDCO Bari Brahmana; Shri Agninder Bakshi, XEN, SIDCO; Shri Lalit Mahajan, President, BBIA; Shri Anil Suri, Ex-President, BBIA; BIS officials and teachers from various institutions.

NC MLAs protest seeking restoration of statehood

**JAMMU, FEB 03:** National Conference MLAs today staged a dharna in front of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, demanding restoration of statehood.

Ahead of the start of the assembly session, NC MLAs were seen carrying placards reading "Restore statehood and constitutional guarantees" and "Stop harassing Kashmiris outside J&K".

They raised slogans demanding the restoration of statehood and the protection of Kashmiris outside the Union Territory.

"We are sitting on a dharna in support of the demand for restoration of statehood," minister Satish

Sharma told reporters at the dharna site. NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq said all NC members were participating in the protest. "This was promised to us. It is now time to restore it," he told reporters.

Sadiq also raised the issue of alleged harassment of Kashmiris outside Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to direct states to ensure their protection.

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

EOW books 2 for forging documents to secure MBBS admission

Jammu, Feb 03

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Jammu and Kashmir Crime Branch has registered a case against two people for their alleged involvement in securing admission into a medical college here using a forged physical disability certificate.

The EOW received information that a student from Ajas in Bandipora district got an MBBS seat at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, in 2023 by producing fake certificates showing the student as a 'person with disability' and belonging to the economically weaker section, despite

not being physically disabled, a spokesperson of the agency said on Tuesday.

"Acting upon the information, the Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar, initiated a preliminary verification into the matter.

"During the course of verification, it surfaced that the accused beneficiary, in connivance with another individual resident of Asham, Sumbal, Bandipora, procured a fake and forged PWD certificate," the spokesperson said.

Based on the forged document, the beneficiary allegedly secured selection for admission to the MBBS course, he added.