

AIIMS Delhi First In Country To Announce Launch Of Face Transplant Programme

NEW DELHI, FEB 13: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has become the first in the country to announce the introduction of face transplantation, a highly advanced and complex reconstructive procedure.

The Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Burns Surgery at AIIMS has initiated the process of setting up a registry of patients having severe facial deformity along with the loss of vital functions of the face like breathing, mouth opening and blinking and have not benefited despite multiple surgical procedures.

The department is also organising an intensive cadaveric workshop and academic training programme from February 11 to 15 at the Burns and Plastic Surgery Block. As part of the workshop, facial skin was harvested from a brain-dead patient on Thursday.

To lead this advanced training initiative, AIIMS hosted Dr Indranil Sinha, Associate Chief of Plastic Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital (Harvard Medical School), Boston, an internationally recognised expert in composite tissue allotransplantation and face transplant surgery.

Dr Maneesh Singhal from the Department of Plastic Surgery will lead the programme with other faculty members, Dr Shashank Chauhan, Dr Raja Tiwari, Dr Rajkumar Manas, Dr Shiv-



angi Saha and Dr Aparna Sinha.

The programme included hands-on cadaveric workshops, focused academic lectures, interdisciplinary discussions with the ENT, Maxillofacial Surgery, Nephrology, Immunology, Pathology, Psychiatry, Critical Care, Anatomy and Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO).

Dr Singhal, Head of the Department, Plastic, Reconstructive and Burns Surgery, AIIMS, said that there are a large number of patients suffering from devastating facial deformities due to acid burns, gunshot injuries and trauma even after 10 to 12 surgeries.

"Identifying the right candidate and counselling becomes essential before considering them for face transplantation. Unmotivated, unstable patients, patients with active infection and cancers are not the right candidates for the procedure. Face transplantation is no longer experimental; it is the need of the hour.

"Developing this capability at AIIMS is essential to provide holistic functional and aesthetic rehabilitation to patients who currently have very limited options," Dr Singhal said.

Dr Indranil Sinha acknowledged that the skill set and infrastructure at AIIMS are at par with international standards, and he committed his full support to the programme.

Dr Singhal also said that AIIMS is planning to collaborate with Harvard Medical School for the programme.

Face transplantation is a medical procedure in which all or part of a person's face is reconstructed using tissue from a deceased donor aimed at restoring function and aesthetics.

So far, around 80 face transplants have been reported worldwide with the latest one being done in Spain two weeks ago, Dr Singhal said.

Dr Dipankar Bhowmick, Head of Department of Nephrology, mentioned that immunosuppression plays a

critical role for which there is all the infrastructure and facilities in place at AIIMS. The recipients of face transplants require lifelong immunosuppressive therapy to prevent rejection of the transplanted tissue by the immune system.

"Nephrologists' role is to protect the graft from any immunological reaction both short-term and long-term after the surgery. I am excited and will provide the best possible support for this initiative," he stated.

Dr Chauhan, Additional Professor, and Dr Saha, Assistant Professor, mentioned that the department has the experience of complex facial reconstructions and aesthetic surgeries, which will be helpful to initiate face transplants at AIIMS, Delhi.

Dr Preethy K, Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, emphasised the importance of rehabilitation and counselling throughout the course of treatment.

She also mentioned that the department offers an in situ super-speciality course dedicated to transplant patients and expressed her enthusiasm to collaborate on this initiative.

Dr Singhal further emphasised that structured training, ethical preparedness and multidisciplinary collaboration are crucial before embarking on such complex procedures and initiatives like this workshop are foundational to that goal. (PTI)

Motivational Lecture held for newly appointed Enforcement Officers at PDUNASS

UJJAIN, FEBRUARY 13: A motivational and knowledge-enriching lecture was organised at the Ujjain Campus of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS) for newly appointed Enforcement Officers and Account Officers undergoing induction training.

The session was delivered by Shri Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I and Chief Learning Officer, PDUNASS, New Delhi. He spoke in detail on key themes such as Team Building, Goal Setting and Citizen-Centric Service Delivery, highlighting their relevance in effective public administration.

The lecture formed part of the ongoing Induction Training Programme being conducted at the Zonal Training Institute, PDUNASS, Ujjain Campus from February 9 to March 6, 2026. The programme aims to empower 35



newly inducted officers with strong organisational values, professional ethics and a responsive service orientation towards members and citizens.

In his address, Shri Rizwan Uddin emphasised the importance of cohesive teamwork, setting clear and measurable goals and keeping citizens at the centre of all official actions. Citing practical examples, he underscored how a positive mind-

set and collaborative approach can significantly enhance organisational performance while ensuring citizen satisfaction.

The training adopted an experiential learning methodology, wherein participants engaged in group activities from planning to execution. As part of team-building exercises, trainees collaboratively prepared quality dishes, demonstrating coordination, planning

and execution skills. The active participation and enthusiasm of the trainee officers were appreciated by the trainer.

Participants described the session as highly motivating and insightful, stating that it would serve as a guiding force in discharging their future responsibilities effectively.

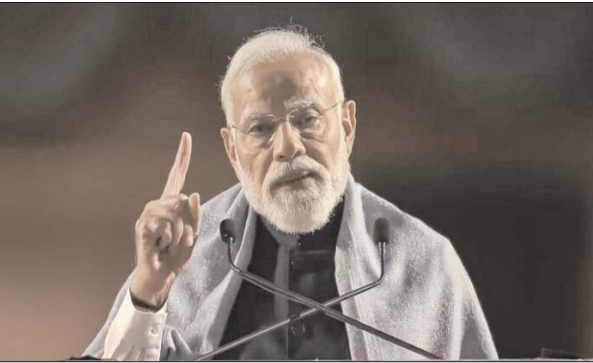
Shri Kundan Choudhary, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-II and Course Coordinator of the Induction Training Programme, noted that such sessions play a crucial role in developing behavioural competencies among officers and help them achieve both personal and professional excellence.

The Institute continues its sustained efforts toward the holistic development of newly appointed officers through structured training and capacity-building initiatives.

Seva Teerth, Kartavya Bhawan Are Important Milestone In India's Journey Towards Viksit Bharat: PM

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

Inaugurating the new PMO, named Seva Teerth, and two buildings of the central secretariat, called Kartavya Bhawan 1 and 2, Modi also said that the towers have been built to fulfil the aspirations of the people of India.



"Seva Teerth, Kartavya Bhawan 1 and 2 mark an important milestone in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat.

These reflect our commitment to citizen-centric governance and national

progress," he said at an event attended by central ministers, senior bureaucrats and other officials of the central government.

The prime minister said the historic structures such as the South Block and North

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

"The decisions made here will serve as the foundation for advancing the ambitions of 140 crore citizens, rather than reflecting the will of a monarch.

With this spirit, I dedicate Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhawan to the people of the country," he said. (Agencies)

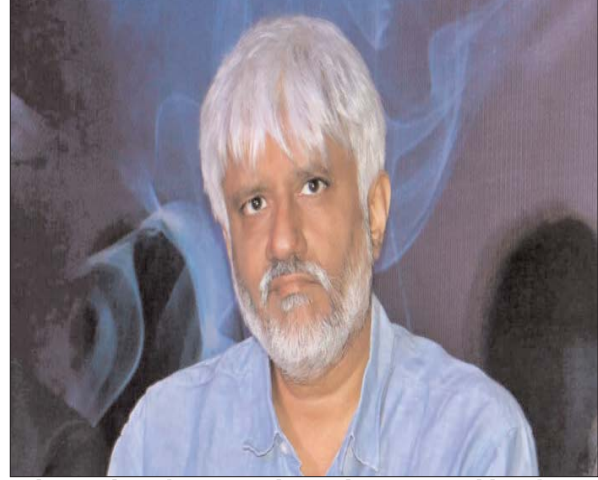
SC grants bail to film maker Vikram Bhatt, wife in cheating case

NEW DELHI, FEB 13: The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his wife Shwetambari Bhatt in a cheating case.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joyimalya Bagchi ordered their forthwith release from Udaipur jail and asked the Chief Judicial Magistrate to pass the bail order delineating the terms and conditions.

The top court also issued notices to complainant Ajay Murdia, the founder of Indira IVF and Fertility Centre and a resident of Udaipur, and the Rajasthan government for February 19.

On January 31, the Rajasthan High Court rejected their bail applications in the cheating case.



The two have been in jail since December 7, 2025, when they were arrested in Mumbai and brought to Udaipur.

While rejecting their bail, the high court observed that granting bail to the accused

at this stage would not be appropriate.

Vikram Bhatt was arrested after Murdia filed a complaint of cheating and criminal breach of trust against the filmmaker, his wife Shwetambari Bhatt and

others, alleging that funds taken in the name of a film project were misappropriated.

The complaint has alleged that funds to the tune of Rs 30 crore were misappropriated. The complaint alleged that the Bhatt family prepared fake bills under various names and got money transferred from the complainant.

The money was supposed to be for making films for the complainant, but was allegedly deposited into the accused's own accounts and used by them.

Apart from Vikram and his wife, Udaipur-based Dinesh Kataria and Bhatt's manager, Mehboob Ansari, were also arrested by the Rajasthan Police on December 7, 2025. (PTI)

UNSC panel notes Pak-based terror group JeM's reported link to Red Fort attack

UNITED NATIONS, FEB 13: A report by the UN Security Council sanctions monitoring team has noted that Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed was reported to be linked to a terror attack on the Red Fort in New Delhi last November that killed 15 people. "One Member State noted that Jaish-i-Mohammed had claimed responsibility for a series of attacks. It was also reported to be linked to an attack on the Red Fort in New Delhi on November 9 that killed 15 people," the 37th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted to the Security Council's 1267 Sanctions Committee concerning ISIL and Al-Qaida said.

The report, issued here, added that on October 8, JeM leader Mohammed Masood Azhar Alvi "formally announced the establishment of a women-only wing, Jamaat ul-Muminat, which was aimed at supporting terrorist attacks."



Even as another member state reported that Jaish-e-Mohammed was defunct, the report added that "Separately, it was reported that on July 28, three individuals allegedly involved in the attack perpetrated in Pahalgam, in Jammu and Kashmir, were killed." A deadly and high-intensity explosion had rocked the Red Fort area in New Delhi, killing about 15 people and injuring many more. The explosion had ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station.

At his weekly briefing in New Delhi on Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked for a comment on the UNSC report.

"This particular report that you refer to, it is available in the public domain. It is online. This was the 37th Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. This was published on February 4, 2026," he said.

"And, we have seen that they have taken on board our inputs. India's inputs in regard to our concern on cross-border terrorism, and also as to how we can strengthen the global fight against terrorism," the MEA spokesperson

said.

The UNSC report further said that Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) remained active in south-eastern Afghanistan, where the Haqqani Network exerts considerable influence. Osama Mahmood, the "emir" of AQIS, and Yahya Ghauri, his deputy, were reported to be in Kabul, with the media cell of AQIS based in Herat.

"There were concerns that AQIS was increasingly focused on external operations. Such operations would likely be unclaimed or deniable operations, perhaps as part of the umbrella group Ittihad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan," so as not to create difficulties for the Taliban as hosts of AQIS," it said.

The report added that ISIL-K was active mainly in northern Afghanistan, particularly Badakhshan, and areas close to the Pakistani border. It continued to develop its network of cells to project a threat regionally and beyond.

B'desh polls: BNP's Hindu leader wins from Dhaka constituency

DHAKA, FEB 13: Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, a senior BNP leader from the minority Hindu community, won a Dhaka constituency on Friday in Bangladesh's 13th national parliamentary election.

Roy won the Dhaka-3 seat with 99,163 votes, defeating his nearest rival, Jamaat-e-Islami candidate Md Shahinur Islam, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

The former state minister's win from the Dhaka seat comes in the backdrop of alleged harassment of the minority Hindu community members in the country.

The community has faced a series of attacks, some fatal, after the killing of radical youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi in December.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.

Separately, the lone Hindu candidate fielded by the rad-



ical Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party was defeated in the Khulna-1 constituency.

Krishna Nandi received 70,346 votes in the electoral contest, where BNP contender Amir Ejaz Khan secured 1,21,352 votes.

The 13th parliamentary

elections in Bangladesh will elect a government that will replace the interim administration headed by Muhammad Yunus.

The relations between India and Bangladesh were strained after the interim government assumed charge

following the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024.

The BNP is moving towards a sweeping victory in the landmark parliamentary polls, set to return to power after a gap of two decades. (PTI)

Hindu tea worker killed in Bangladesh

DHAKA, FEB 13: A young tea garden worker's bloodied body was found with his hands and legs tied with ropes in the Moulvibazar area in northeast Bangladesh, a media report said.

Ahead of the voting for the 13th parliamentary elections being held on Thursday, this is the second murder of a Hindu person in as many days.

Police recovered the body of 28-year-old Ratan Shuvo Kar from a tea garden in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, about 200 kms northeast of Dhaka, on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Ratan Shuvo Kar, a worker

of Champara Tea Garden under Islampur union, The Daily Star reported, quoting Kamalganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Awal. Sunday Magazine Access

Locals spotted the body in the garden around 10:00 am and informed authorities, the report said.

According to locals, the body bore visible injury marks and was found in a bloodied condition.

Ratan's elder brother, Laxman Kar, said the family had been searching for him since night. "This morning (Wednesday), we were informed that his body was lying in the garden. We went there

and identified him. We do not know why he was killed," he said.

The body was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for an autopsy, said the OC, adding that an investigation is underway to identify those involved.

Some locals speculated about possible links to tomorrow's election, though no evidence was found in this regard, The Daily Star said.

The Hindu population in Bangladesh has faced a series of attacks, some fatal, after the killing of radical youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi in December.

On Monday, 62-year-old Hindu trader Susen Chandra

Sarkar was hacked to death by unidentified men inside his shop at the Bogar Bazar intersection in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh.

Sarkar, the owner of 'Bhai Bhai Enterprise,' was a resident of Southkanda village, police said, adding, the attackers hacked him with a sharp weapon, left him inside the shop, and closed the shutters.

According to monitoring by independent groups, there have been at least 15 targeted murders of Hindu minority individuals in a 45-day period, the South Asia Forum for Freedom of Religion Belief said in a statement on Tuesday.