#### Truck loaded with...

Territorial staff of Kathua Forest Division seized a truck bearing Reg. No JK-01AS/7167 while trying to smuggle firewood outside UT.A case has been registered under the provisions of Indian Forest Act and further investigation is on.

Govt sets up... Action Committee, headed by Kashmir's influential cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Shia leader Masroor Abbas Ansari-led Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen were declared outlawed by the government on March 11 for five years for their alleged anti-national activities, supporting terrorism and fuelling secessionist acts.

In a notification, the Union home ministry said exercising the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5 read with subsection (1) of section 4 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), the central government constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Sachin Datta, judge of Delhi High Court, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Awami Action Committee as an unlawful association.

A similar notification was also issued by the ministry for Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen too. This tribunal was also set up consisting of the same judge Sachin Datta.While declaring them as banned group, the home ministry on March 11 had said AAC and JKIM are indulging in unlawful activities that are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country

The ministry said the leaders and members of AAC and JKIM have been involved in mobilising funds for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting secessionist, separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. It said their members by their activities show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional setup of the country and the outfits are involved in promoting and aiding the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India by involving in anti-national and subversive activities, sowing seeds of disaffection among people.AAC and JKIM are exhorting people to destabilise law and order, encouraging the use of arms to separate Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and promoting hatred against the established government, the ministry said.

# With Waqf Bill...

brute majoritarianism, where minority interests have been shown the door. With the passing of Waqf Bill, the RSS-BJP regime has strongly reaffirmed its anti-Muslim, anti-minority intent. A party that does not have a single Muslim MP has no moral or political right to speak for Muslims," Mehdi said in a statement

He said in the "temple of democracy", the "lived realities of Muslims were ignored and humiliated". The Srinagar MP claimed that he was not allowed to speak on the bill in the Parliament."As a Muslim voice from Kashmir in Parliament, I was not even allowed to speak. Time was taken at both the introduction and passage of the bill by the floor leader of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, leaving no space for my intervention. This is structural marginalisation. And it has caused deep anguish among the people I represent," he said.Mehdi said taking away Waqf autonomy, abolishing 'Waqf by user', and allowing "land grabbers to claim Muslim properties is nothing but state-sponsored dispossession"."My fight against this belligerent and bigoted attack on Muslims will continue to grow stronger," he added.

### Rise in incidents...

defaced with anti-India graffiti in the US in recent months. This information was shared by Union Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh in response to a written question in the Lok Sabha about the steps taken by the government to protect the Hindu temples in the US."In recent months, there has been a rise in the number of instances of Hindu temples being defaced with anti-India graffiti in the United States of America," he said.

Singh said the government of India "accords highest priority to the welfare, safety and security of Indian citizens and the Indian community abroad"."All incidents of attack and vandalization of temples and places of worship are immediately taken up with the host government through diplomatic channels," he added. The minister noted that the respective temple management authorities and community associations have also registered complaints with the local law enforcement authorities and have called for proper investigations and stringent action against those responsible for these acts and for providing the places of worship with adequate safety and security arrangements.

"The US law enforcement authorities have conveyed that all such cases of vandalization of temples and places of worship are being investigated as hate crimes," Singh said."Members of the US Congress have also urged the concerned security agencies to come up with a broader strategy to counter hate crimes targeting the Hindus in the United States," he added.

The Finance Bill, Appropriation Bill, Immigration and Foreigners Bill, and Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill.

Opposition parties sought to corner the government over issues ranging from economic distress, delimitation and three-language policy, while the government hammered its achievements like a growing economy, India's stability amid global disruption and used the BJP's political successes in assembly elections to claim popular endorsement. If the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address with Prime Minister Narendra Modi replying in both Houses was the highlight of the Session's first leg besides Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman record-breaking eighth consecutive budget, the government's legislative agenda took over the second leg. With the Waqf (Amendment) Bill's passage, the ruling BJP sent out the message that the setback following failure to win a majority in the national polls last year is history and that its ideological vigour and political determination remain undiminished.It ensured that the contentious bill was passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha with a comfortable majority, silencing the voices that felt it may go slow on the proposed law that united the squabbling opposition and drew murmurs of misgivings from its allies as well before they closed ranks behind the saffron party.

#### Widely abused neurological...

In a written response to a question, the Minister also said that licenses of 12 firms were cancelled while licenses of 46 firms suspended and 11 complaints filed in the courts

"As informed by the Food and Drugs Administration (Drugs Wing, Punjab), the Government of Punjab is aware about the increasing misuse and trafficking of pharmaceutical drug pregabalin," he said. In a letter on February 28, the Food and Drug Administration had issued instructions to drugs manufacturer, clearing and forwarding agents, wholesale chemists and retail sale chemists of the state to mandatorily submit information, report regarding the sale and purchase of pregabalin and other six types of drugs over and above sale and purchase of fixed limit in a single invoice to the drugs control officers of the area concerned.

Regulatory control over the sale and distribution of drugs is exercised through a system of licensing and inspection by State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by the State Government.SLAs are empowered to take action in case of violation of regulatory provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945. Isolated complaints are received from time to time on the sale of prescription drugs without prescription and the same are forwarded to the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) concerned for appropriate action, Nadda said.

The Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) under Section 7 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is the advisory committee to advise the Centre, state government and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) on any matter tending to secure uniformity throughout India in the administration of the Act. The DCC in its 65th meeting held on December 20, 2024 deliberated the matter related to misuse of pregabalin and its preparation and its inclusion in Schedule H1 of Drugs Rules, 1945 to monitor the sale of drugs only on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner, Nadda said.

## **Congress, AIMIM leaders...**

The petition, filed through advocate Anas Tanwir, said the proposed law discriminated against the Muslim community by "imposing restrictions that are not present in the governance of other religious endowments".

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early April 3 with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.Jawed, a Lok Sabha MP from Kishanganj in Bihar, was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the bill and has alleged in his plea that the bill "introduces restrictions on the creation of Waqfs based on the duration of one's religious practice"."Such a limitation is unfounded in Islamic law, custom or precedent and infringes upon the fundamental right to profess and practice religion under Article 25," it said.

In his separate plea, Owaisi said the bill takes away from Waqfs various protections which were accorded to Waqfs and Hindu, Jain, and Sikh religious and charitable endowments alike.Owaisi's plea, filed by advocate Lzafeer Ahmad, said, "This diminishing of the protection given to Waqfs while retaining them for religious and charitable endowments of other religions constitutes hostile discrimination against Muslims and is violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion."

The plea argued the amendments "irreversibly dilute" the statutory protections afforded to Waqfs and their regulatory framework while giving undue advantage to other stakeholders and interest groups, undermining years of progress and pushing back Waqf management by several decades." Appointing non-Muslims on the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards disturbs this delicate constitutional balance and tilts it to the detriment of the right of Muslims as a religious group to remain in control of their Waqf properties," Owaisi said. Jawed's plea said the restriction discriminated against persons who converted to Islam recently and wished to dedicate property for religious or charitable purposes, violating Article 15 of the Constitution.Article 15 deals with prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.Jawed's plea similarly argued the amendment to include non-Muslims in the administrative composition of the Waqf Board and the Central Waqf Council was an "unwarranted interference" in religious governance unlike Hindu religious endowments, which were exclusively managed by Hindus under various state enactments. "This selective intervention, without imposing similar conditions on other religious institutions, is an arbitrary classification and violates Articles 14 and 15," it said. The plea said the enhanced role of state authorities in Waqf administration impinged on the rights of the community and the bill shifted the key administrative functions, such as the power to determine the nature of Waqf properties, from the Waqf Board to the district collector."This transfer of control from religious institutions to government officials dilutes the autonomy of Waqf management and contravenes Article 26(d)," it said. The proposed law, the plea said, also modified the process of dispute resolution by altering the composition and powers of the Waqf tribunals."It reduces representation of individuals with expertise in Islamic law, influencing the adjudication of Waqfrelated disputes," it said. The plea said the change disproportionately affected willingness to resort to legal recourse through specialised tribunals, in contrast to the robust protections provided to other religious institutions under their respective endowment laws. "These amendments undermine property rights protected under Article 300A," it alleged.By expanding state control over Waqf assets, the plea said, it limited the ability of persons to dedicate property for religious purposes. Subjecting Waqf properties to heightened scrutiny, the bill goes against the apex court's 1954 decision which held that transferring control of religious property to secular authorities was an infringement of rights of religion and property, it added. Jawed's plea further said the bill omitted the concept of "Waqfby-user". The doctrine of "Waqf-by-user" was duly affirmed in the apex court's verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute case of Ayodhya, as it held that a property may attain status of Waqf through long-standing religious use, it said.By removing this provision, the bill disregards established legal principles and limits the ability of the Waqf Tribunal to recognise properties as Waqf based on historical usage, violating Article 26 which guarantees religious denominations the right to manage their own affairs, the plea added.

transfer of 48 officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). The Abdullah government regards the LG's move as a violation of the legal and administrative framework under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

Briefing reporters after the nearly two-hour-long emergency meeting of the ruling MLAs here, NC spokesperson Sadiq said "The elections in Jammu and Kashmir were praised by the top leadership of this country for enthusiastic voting. And, now if anyone stands in a denial mode or tries to undermine it, is showing disrespect to the people's mandate."He said the ruling alliance is of firm opinion that the mandate of the people needs to be respected and "our coordination, whether it is with Delhi or with the LG administration, is only aimed at solving the problems of the people".

"Our coordination or our silence should not be taken as our weakness," he said.Meanwhile, LG Sinha defended the transfer orders, telling a media event in Delhi he has acted within his "limits"."I would like to make it clear that the J&K Reorganisation Act was passed by the Parliament in 2019. And I am saying with great responsibility that I have not done anything outside this Act. I am well within my domain and I will never do anything outside of that. I know my limits and I will never cross those limits," he says in the clip recorded at the News18 event. There have been differences between the Abdullah government and the Raj Bhavan over several administrative issues, but Sinha's order escalated the disquiet.Expressing his strong disapproval of the transfer order, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, LG Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, asserting these orders were issued without any "lawful authority" and undermine the authority of the elected government. According to sources, Abdullah has said the transfer of JKAS officers to cadre posts falls squarely within the elected government's purview. The chief minister has been also pressing for the finalisation of the Transaction of Business Rules, which were approved by the cabinet on March 6, and wrote the delay in issuing these rules is contributing to the current administrative friction.In his letter to Sinha, Abdullah asked him to review the "unilateral" decision, saying such orders undermine the functioning and authority of the elected government.Abdullah asked the chief secretary to ensure no transfer or posting orders for non-All India Services officers were issued without the CM's prior approval. In his letter to Shah, Abdullah said a series of actions by the LG, including the contested transfers, have eroded the authority of the elected government, highlighting a growing tension between the elected administration and the LG's office. The unscheduled legislature party meeting, chaired by Abdullah and attended by NC president Farooq Abdullah, was held at Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary's residence at the Gupkar Road here. The meeting was also attended by cabinet ministers, all NC MLAs, four Congress legislators, led by chief whip Nizamuddin Bhat, and Independents supporting the Abdullah government.

The meeting also assumes significance in view of scheduled three-day visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah."The meeting held a threadbare discussion on various issues and passed two important resolutions - one condemning the passing of Waqf (Amendment) Bill (in both houses of parliament) which we consider anti-minority," Tanvir Sadiq said.He said the National Conference-led government wants a cordial relation with New Delhi and the Raj Bhavan here, but it should not be considered "our weakness". "We want to run this government with love and respect and work smoothly. It should not be construed as our weakness. We are repeatedly saying this and this is our final request that do not push us to the wall. We want coordination among the Centre, the LG administration and our government. Do not consider our silence as weakness," he said.Nizamuddin Bhat of the Congress said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the prevailing political situation and the Constitutional and administrative affairs. "Both long term and short-term issues of immediate consideration came up for discussion during the meeting... everyone should understand that all the MLAs in the alliance are fully behind the leader of the house -- Omar Abdullah," he said.Bhat said the party's J-K president Tariq Hamid Karra and legislature party leader G A Mir could not attend the meeting due to an important party meeting in Delhi. "I was given the mandate to accompany the three other MLAs in the meeting," he said. BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also the party's incharge for Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday accused J-K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of "deliberately creating a situation of confrontation with the office of the lieutenant governor to divert public attention from his failure to fulfil election promises". Chugh also claimed that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was constitutionally within his administrative rights to transfer J-K government officials. "The Union Home Ministry will address the differences between the LG and the chief minister. However, the Abdullah government must focus on fulfilling the promises made to the youth, women and the unemployed,

present at the press conference, said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be in Jammu and Kashmir for a three-day visit starting April 6. "He will review the security situation and chair official meetings," he said. He also lauded the BJP government for the passage of the Waqf Bill in Parliament.

#### Shah hails Parliament's...

came hours after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the bill. The Lok Sabha approved the bill on Thursday."Today is a historic day, when Parliament has approved the 'Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025', ending the era of years of injustice and corruption and ushering in an era of justice and equality," he wrote on 'X' in Hindi.

The home minister said through the bill, the Waqf Board and Waqf properties are going to be more accountable, transparent and equitable and this will benefit the poor, women and children of the Muslim community."I congratulate the Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi and the Minister of Minority Affairs Shri @KirenRijiju for this important bill that gives justice to crores of people. Also, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the parties and MPs who supported it," he said. The bill seeks to strengthen Waqf tribunals and reduce to 5 per cent from 7 per cent the mandatory contribution of Waqf institutions to Waqf boards. Waqf institutions earning over Rs 1 lakh will undergo audits by state-sponsored auditors.

# Six injured in road...

Mirbazar on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and hit the divider.Six people were injured in the incident and were immediately shifted to GMC Anantnag for treatment."The injured have been identified as Nusrat (40), wife of Mohammad Jabar Kasina; Sirat Jan (9), daughter of Mohammad Jabir Kasina; Sajjad Ahmad 19), son of Manzoor Ahmad; Azraar (14), son of Mohammad Khalid; and Abrar (13), son of Mohammad Jabir - all residents of Bakerwal Chack, Qazigund," they said.

## PM Modi raised...

(BIMSTEC) grouping. It was their first meeting since the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August last year.

Briefing reporters on Modi's meeting with Yunus, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Modi underlined India's concerns related to the safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh including Hindus.PM Modi expressed his expectation that the government of Bangladesh would ensure their security, including by thoroughly investigating all cases of atrocities against the minorities, Misri said at the media briefing.During the meeting, PM Modi also urged that any rhetoric that vitiates the environment is best avoided, the foreign secretary said.

Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh."He underlined that India believed in a people-centric approach to the relationship and highlighted the cooperation between the two countries over a long period of time that has delivered tangible benefits to the people of both countries. In this spirit, he underlined to Professor Yunus India's desire to forge a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh based on a spirit of pragmatism," Misri said on the meeting.

During the meeting, the PM also talked about the border and the strict enforcement of the law and curbing illegal border crossings, especially at night for maintaining border security and stability.Asked if Yunus raised the issue of the extradition of Hasina, Misri did not give a direct reply. He said it is not proper to talk about this issue at the moment and the ministry in the past has already said that it has received a request from Bangladesh.

#### Dr Jitendra launches...

(CPL) at the National Media Centre, New Delhi. The licensing of the HANSA-3(NG) two-seater trainer aircraft has been granted to M/s Pioneer Clean Amps Pvt. Ltd.

Dr. Jitendra Singh lauded the efforts of CSIR scientists for the successful demonstration and commercialization of the indigenous HANSA-3(NG), noting that the aircraft will fulfill the requirements of flying clubs in providing PPL (Private Pilot License) and CPL (Commercial Pilot License) training to the young generation. The Minister emphasized the need to develop a large and world-class flying training ecosystem in India to meet the rapidly growing demand of the Indian aviation sector. The availability of CSIR's indigenous HANSA-3(NG) aircraft will strengthen India's aviation industry and help realize Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of India becoming a leading aviation hub by the end of the decade and achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the huge opportunity for

## **Parliament's nod to...**

and the political heat it generated inside and outside the legislature defined the second half of the Budget session which ended on Friday.Punches and counterpunches between the ruling BJP-led NDA and opposition INDIA bloc, which showed signs of common purpose during as the session drew to a close, ran through the sitting that saw more than 100 per cent productivity in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Debates scored over disruption in this session during which 16 bills were approved by the two Houses and the President's rule in Manipur received Parliament's nod during post-mid night discussions in both chambers.Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the productivity of Lok Sabha during the session, which began with an address by President Droupadi Murmu on January 31 and ended on Friday with a recess from February 14 to March 9, was 118 per cent and that of the Upper House 119 per cent.

He said history was created and old records broken in Rajya Sabha when it sat without a break for 17:02 hrs from 11 AM on Thursday to the early hours on Friday to debate and pass the Waqf bill besides endorsing President's rule in Manipur.He noted that a live discussion on the bill was seen in both Houses without any disruption and occasional exchanges of sarcasm and banter. After both the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the opposition INDIA bloc voted along the party lines on the bill, Rijiju said a similar pattern in polling was witnessed in Rajya Sabha save for "conscience" voting by some members, which boosted the strength of the treasury benches.

However, if the BJD's decision to allow its members to vote according to their conscience was a shot in the arm for the BJP, Tamil Nadu's AIADMK went with the INDIA bloc in opposing the bill at a time when the regional party is in talks with the ruling party for an alliance in Tamil Nadu.Rijiju claimed that the bill would have got many more votes if opposition parties had not issued whips and allowed their members to vote according to their choice as many such MPs expressed "support" to him privately.

In Rajya Sabha, the Bill got 128 votes in favour and 95 against, while the score was 288-232 in its favour in the Lok Sabha.With Congress slamming Speaker Om Birla's criticism of former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, a Rajya Sabha member, for her claim that the Bill was bulldozed through Parliament after Rijiju raised the issue in the House, the minister defended the move saying her charge was totally unfounded when the two Houses debated extensively and allowed voting on opposition-sponsored amendments as well.

Asked about several opposition parties' assertion that they will challenge the law in court, he said people are free to do so in democracy. He also defended that the decision to take up the statutory resolution endorsing the President's rule in Manipur in the early hours in both Houses, saying the business advisory committee had decided to discuss it after the debate on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.Besides the proposed law on reforming Waqf bodies, slammed as intrusion in the religious affairs of Muslims by the opposition, other important pieces of draft legislations to have received the approval of Parliament in the Session included

#### 'I know my...

spokesperson and MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq told. The meeting passed two resolutions: one condemning the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by parliament, and the other calling for respecting people's mandate. The meeting comes in the backdrop of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday ordering the

Chugh said in a statement. There have been differences between the Abdullah-led J-K government and the LG's office on several administrative issues, and Sinha's recent order to transfer/post 48 middle-rung Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officials only escalated the disquiet.

Chugh also accused Abdullah of following "the same confrontational path as Arvind Kejriwal (earlier) in Delhi by attempting to spread a misleading narrative"."It will serve no purpose. Abdullah must present his performance report, as the people of J-K are waiting for him to deliver on his promises," Chugh said.Expressing his disapproval over the transfer order, Abdullah wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, LG Sinha and the chief secretary of J-K, claiming that the order issued without any "lawful authority" undermined the authority of the elected government

Abdullah also asked Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to ensure that no transfer/posting orders for non-All India Services officers are issued without the chief minister's prior approval. In his letter to Shah, Abdullah said a series of actions by the LG, including the contested transfers, have eroded the authority of the elected government, highlighting a growing discord between the elected administration and the LG's office in the union territory.

Defending the transfer of 48 middle-rung officers in the bureaucracy by Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha in Jammu and Kashmir, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday criticised the National Conference (NC) government for questioning the move and said that these transfers were conducted within his jurisdiction. The transfer of bureaucrats four days ago has triggered the latest flashpoint between the Raj Bhavan and the J&K government, which views the LG's move as a violation of the legal and administrative framework under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

Under the Act, which came into effect in October 2019, all transfers related to law and order fall under the LG's purview, the BJP leader said at a press conference here."He has acted within his jurisdiction. These transfers are routine and in accordance with the law," he said while replying to a question on a meeting being called by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the issue.

Accusing NC of treating J&K as its "personal property" for decades, Sharma said the ruling party has failed to acknowledge that that "era is over" and J&K is now a Union Territory, like Puducherry and Delhi, and governed accordingly.He also pointed out that the chief minister and other ministers also make transfers within their respective departments, including appointments of principals, lecturers, and other officials.

He further criticised the party for failing to deliver on its promises to the people during elections. "They have not provided 200 units of free electricity as promised. Their ration scheme is only for two years, yet they claim it will last five years," Sharma said.He also questioned NC's intention behind demanding statehood for J&K. "Those who are demanding statehood are doing so to gain control over transfers and industries. The people should understand whether this demand is for the welfare of the state or for personal power and influence," he said.

During the presser, Sharma also condemned the alleged manhandling of former minister Harsh Dev Singh at Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary's residence and added that such incidents reflect the "frustration" of the ruling party.Meanwhile, J&K BJP chief Sat Pal Sharma, who was also

StartUps and MSMEs, along with significant employment generation potential through the indigenization of aviation technologies. He emphasized that indigenous small aircraft manufacturing under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative would support the development of infrastructure and promote small & medium-scale private entrepreneurs in the production of airworthy components, including assembly and integration of aircraft in India.He also pointed out the socio-economic potential of this initiative, which will create employment opportunities through on-the-job training for ITI & Diploma holders in various disciplines of aircraft building and Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) training.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed the government's focus on democratization and decentralization of pilot training, which will reduce the cost of pilot training and give wings to the aspirations of youth, many of whom give up on their dream of becoming pilots due to affordability issues. He stated, "Success in Space Economy by collaborating with the private sector will now be replicated in the aviation sector to meet the growing demand."

India will need 30,000 pilots over the next 15-20 years, up from the current 6,000-7,000 pilots, as Indian airlines collectively have over 1,700 aircraft on order. Currently, India's commercial aircraft fleet stands at over 800 aircraft. Typically, each aircraft requires 15-20 pilots for narrow-body aircraft and 25-30 pilots for longrange wide-body jets. Hence, there is an urgent need to create a world-class flying training ecosystem in the country. Dr. Singh also credited Union Minister for Civil Aviation Shri K. Ram Mohan Naidu for enabling growth in the sector.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Shri K. Ram Mohan Naidu, complimented CSIR and CSIR-NAL scientists for their commitment towards the commercialization of the HANSA-3(NG) aircraft, following his recent visit to CSIR-NAL in October 2024. The HANSA-3(NG) aircraft comes equipped with a digital display (glass cockpit) system and is powered by an advanced fuel-efficient Rotax 912 iSc3 Sports engine. The aircraft features a bubble canopy with a cabin width of 43 inches and electrically operated flaps, meeting modern user requirements. It offers excellent performance with a range of 620 nautical miles, 7 hours of endurance, and a maximum cruise speed of 98 Knots Calibrated Airspeed (KCAS).

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR & Director General, CSIR, while congratulating the scientists, said that the successful flying demonstration of HANSA-3(NG) at Aero India 2025 reflects CSIR's unwavering commitment to developing indigenous technologies to meet the national need. These efforts aim to serve end customers like Flying Training Organizations (FTOs), ensuring a complete ecosystem for commercialization of CSIR technologies.CSIR-NAL has received Letters of Intent (LOI) for 110+ HANSA-3(NG) aircraft from FTOs across the country. To meet the domestic demand and export potential, CSIR-NAL has partnered with M/s Pioneer Clean Amps Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, who will set up a manufacturing facility aiming to build 36 aircraft per year, with plans to scale up to 72 aircraft annually, in alignment with the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

