



Amit Shah blames Congress for Kashmir's turmoil for 3 decades

Says PM Modi-led dispensation crushed terror, its roots

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 06: Blaming former Congress regimes for Kashmir remaining in a mess for three decades, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that PM Modi led dispensation crushed terrorists and their masters with an iron fist.

Addressing a public rally at Madhubani, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Erstwhile Congress governments were responsible for the rise of terrorism in Kashmir. They didn't take the issue seriously but the present regime has crushed terrorism and its roots."

He said, "During the tenure of former Prime Minister



Manmohan Singh no action was taken against terrorists who infiltrated into India and previous governments treated such elements leniently."

"During the Congress regime, under Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, Pakistani

terrorists would enter the country, plant bombs and escape. No action was taken against them. They were offered Biryani," Shah said, adding, "In PM Modi's rule, terrorism has been crushed and the government has ensured national security." | More on P6



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji Shrine on Thursday. He prayed for the well-being of all and peace and prosperity of J&K UT.

Govt launches CM's Scheme for introduction of heritage courses

Revival of 7 heritage craft courses proposed in 15 ITIs, polytechnics

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 06: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the "Chief Minister's Scheme for Introduction of Heritage Courses" aimed at preserving and promoting the rich traditional crafts of J&K through structured vocational education.

As per the Government Order issued by the Department of Skill Development, sanction has been accorded for the continuation and revival of seven

heritage craft courses across 25 units with a total intake capacity of 500 students—20 students per unit—across 15 Government ITIs and Polytechnics in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the scheme, students enrolled in these courses will receive a monthly stipend of ₹1,000, while instructors conducting theory and practical classes will be paid a monthly remuneration of ₹15,000 and ₹12,000, respectively.

The initiative, approved by the Council of Ministers in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was held on October 15, 2025. The decision underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding traditional skills, encouraging youth | More on P6

Power demand increases by nearly 400 MWs

Kashmir witnesses peak load of season with 1698 MWs

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Nov 06: With the onset of winter, the power demand in Kashmir division has increased by nearly 400 megawatts (MW) in the past month.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that over the past month, power demand has risen by nearly 400 MW in addition to the regular supply.

He said that in October, there was a requirement of 1,300–1,400 MW of power in Kashmir division. "However, as of now, there is a peak load of 1,698 MW and an average load of 1,264 MW in Kashmir division," he added.

The official further said that, in the Jammu division, the peak load as of 6 November is 1,117 MW.

Pertinently, KNO reported last month that, with the



present and other planned Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA), Jammu and Kashmir are likely to be unable to meet and cater to the power demands of consumers over the next nine years.

A study in this regard by the Government of India (GoI) states, "The study has analysed the daily and monthly pattern of unserved energy in the year 2034–35. It can be seen that the contracted capacity (present and planned) is | More on P6

Strengthen Srinagar's security grid: DGP Prabhat tells officers

» Chairs security review meeting at PCR Kashmir » Calls for enhancing coordination, field readiness

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 06: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday directed the officers to strengthen Srinagar's security grid.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting at PCR Kashmir, the DGP, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "The security grid needs to be strengthened through advanced surveillance, effective inter-agency coordination, and proactive field engagement."

The DGP called for strategizing measures for further



strengthening the security and intelligence grid. He reviewed the existing arrangements and issued directions aimed at

enhancing overall coordination, efficiency, and field readiness.

DGP Prabhat directed officers to establish | More on P6

Digital Safety Push

Bla Police roll out J&K's first emergency response app

'Over 6,000 registrations so far; transit category tops with 1,617 enrolments'

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Nov 06: Baramulla Police on Thursday launched Jammu and Kashmir's first-of-its-kind digital safety application to ensure quick emergency response and strengthen citizen security.

The "Baramulla Safety App" allows residents to send SOS alerts that reach police within five seconds, enabling real-time monitoring and immediate action by duty officers.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, while addressing a joint press conference with SSP Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the initiative bridges the communication gap between citizens and authorities.

"In critical situations, calls to officials often go unanswered. This app ensures that the moment an SOS button is pressed, within five seconds a dashboard opens with user details, and the concerned officer is bound to respond," he said.

DC Sherpa urged residents to register in large numbers, stating that the | More on P6

By-poll results won't affect govt stability: CM Omar

Makes maiden appearance in Nagrota, campaigns for NC candidate

Raja Syed Rather

Nagrota, Nov 06: Asserting that results of by-polls in Nagrota and Budgam assembly constituencies won't have any impact on the government's stability in J&K, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called on the people to actively participate in the democratic process.

Making his maiden appearance in Nagrota to campaign for the National Conference candidate, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The election would have no effect on the present dispensation. This election is not aimed at choosing the government. It is already there and will remain there even after the polls are over."

He said that the people would get a chance to elect their representative either from the government to serve the people here or the other,



who would serve them from outside the government.

However, a sudden power cut disrupted the Chief Minister's speech, which forced him to continue his address without using the microphone.

Meanwhile, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, speaking to reporters, said that every election holds significance for any political party. "Whether it's a by-election or a general election, both Nagrota and Budgam have been our strongholds." | More on P6

CM approves ₹19.99 cr 'Used Water Management Project' for Ganderbal

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved the 'Used Water Management Project' with a dedicated outlay of 19.99 crore, which includes the establishment of a modern Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for Ganderbal town.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Housing

and Urban Development Department, said the project aims to ensure the scientific treatment of used water to safeguard rivers, protect the environment, and significantly improve public health and sanitation in the area.

Part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0, the initiative has been designed in line with the | More on P6

7-yr-old girl dies after hit by motorcycle

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 06: A seven old girl died after being hit by a motorcycle in Kakapora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday, officials said.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the girl was hit by the motorcycle while crossing the road outside her home in Pahoo locality of Kakapora.

He said that girl, identified as Areeba daughter of Nazir Ahmad Bhat was taken to PHC Kakapora in critical condition, where from she was referred to SMHS Srinagar.

"She was declared dead on arrival at SMHS. Police have taken cognisance and a probe had been launched in this regard," he said. (KNO)

Majority of J&K's E-buses grounded due to maintenance costs, staff shortage

Over half of Jammu's electric fleet out of service for months Officials in talks with Tata Motors to replace costly compressors

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 06: A significant portion of Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation's electric bus fleet has gone off the roads, with officials confirming that more than half of the e-buses operating in Jammu city have been grounded for months due to high maintenance costs and a lack of mechanical staff.

As per the reports obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), JKSRRTC operates 20 electric buses in Jammu.

Over ten have been lying

idle in the yard for almost a year. Most have faulty compressors. Some have flat tyres.

According to employees, many of these faults were not attended to on time, which pushed the buses out of service and turned them into scrap.

JKSRRTC had purchased 40 e-buses from Tata Motors in 2019, with 20 allocated to Jammu and 20 to Srinagar. Six years later, as per the official sources, the fleet in Jammu is facing serious operational problems.

Officials said the compressors needed for these buses



must be supplied by Tata Motors. Each compressor costs between five and six lakh rupees.

The corporation is now in talks with Tata Motors to

install the newer compressors that are used in the company's latest electric buses. These new compressors cost less than the older models. Officials believe the buses can

return to service once the replacements arrive.

A JKRTC employee said the number of running buses has dropped sharply. "Only eight to ten buses are currently operating," he said. "Earlier, these buses covered regular city routes. Now, with many grounded, the frequency has reduced."

Rural routes are also affected. The buses that serve villages are making only one trip a day due to the shortage.

The grounding of these buses contrasts sharply with the government's new plan to expand electric mobility in Jammu and

Kashmir. In September, the administration announced that Jammu and Srinagar would each receive one hundred additional electric buses under a new batch.

At present, the Union Territory runs a fleet of two hundred electric buses, split equally between the two cities. These were introduced in January 2024, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the fleet.

The Jammu administration has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for two hundred more electric | More on P6

Achieve farm sustainability in J&K: CS Reviews progress of JKCIP, KKG

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 6: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project in Jammu & Kashmir (JKCIP) and the Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) programme aimed at strengthening the agriculture sector across all districts of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Managing Director HADP; Heads of Departments of the Agriculture Production Department and other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for effective on-ground implementation and continuous monitoring of these flagship programmes to ensure that their intended benefits reach the farmers in a time-bound manner.

He directed the Deputy Commissioners to actively engage with farmers and beneficiaries, identify any bottlenecks in delivery, and ensure timely resolution of issues to maximize public benefit.

The Chief Secretary also highlighted the importance of field visits by senior officers to independently assess progress and gather first hand



feedback from the general public. He underscored the significance of inclusive participation, urging all stakeholders to ensure that women, youth, and vulnerable communities receive their due share as envisaged under the schemes.

He advised the officers to collaborate closely with women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under JKRLM to achieve programme targets and to utilize Mission YUVA data for reaching out to youth and vulnerable groups through focused awareness campaigns.

He further called for streamlining approval processes to enhance public convenience and motivate greater participation. The Chief Secretary directed Deputy Commissioners to review approval rates at District Level Committees (DLCs) and identify areas for improvement.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS, APD, Shailendra Kumar informed that the programme targets 90 identified blocks across J&K, focusing on women (47%), youth (30%), and vulnerable communities (10%).

He stated that the initiative aims to promote climate-smart and market-led production,

develop a robust agri-business ecosystem, and extend targeted support to vulnerable groups to substantially improve their incomes.

He added that since the launch of the programme portal in June this year, significant progress has been made. Applications worth Rs 47 Cr have been approved through DLCs during the previous month, reflecting growing credit-worthiness and beneficiary participation. The Annual Work Plan for the current financial year stands at Rs150 Cr.

Providing an update on implementation, MD HADP, Sandeep Kumar, informed that the programme covers approximately 90,000 women households, 1.29 lakh youth, and 30,000 vulnerable households.

So far, 20,873 registrations have been received with 20,006 applications submitted and 9,823 approvals granted. These include 13,907 applications under the Climate Smart & Market-led Production component, 989 under the Agribusiness Ecosystem Development, and 5,110 from vulnerable community members.

He further reported that

436 functional units have been established covering 7,156 kanals of land, with an overall approval rate of 54% in Jammu and 47% in Kashmir divisions.

To enhance awareness and build capacity among target groups, 264 rural credit workshops have been organized across 90 blocks, engaging over 22,000 participants including 3,100 women. These outreach activities were conducted under the themes of 'MAATI', 'Yuva Vani', and 'Karvaan' for women, youth, and vulnerable communities respectively.

Reviewing the progress of JKCIP, it was informed that the project has recorded varying degrees of success across its components. While Area Expansion has achieved 43% of its 16,459 kanal target, other components such as hiring of FPO Development Officers (100%) and Exposure Visits (87%) have performed strongly.

The meeting also noted progress in Water Management Systems, Protected Cultivation, Sheep and Mushroom Units, Buyer-Seller Meets, and Bootcamps, with achievement rates ranging between 32% and 81%.

The Chief Secretary directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination, ensure effective ground-level implementation, and expedite activities under both programmes to achieve the intended outcomes of enhanced farmer income, climate resilience, and agricultural sustainability in Jammu and Kashmir.

e-SAM Inventory Management Portal

Ensure smooth operational rollout: Singla

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Secretary, Information Technology Department (ITD), Dr. Piyush Singla Thursday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the progress on implementation of e-SAM (e-Security Assessment and Management) Inventory Management Portal across Jammu & Kashmir. During the meeting, detailed discussion was held on various issues related to smooth implementation of e-SAM Inventory Management Portal.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the Secretary highlighted that the core vision of e-SAM Portal is to establish a unified, real-time, and end-to-end inventory management system for all IT infrastructure across Government departments, extending up to the grassroots level. He added that in later stages, the complete IT inventory of the UT of J&K will be integrated with EDR and other cyber security systems to enhance asset visibility and strengthen overall cyber security posture.

He asked the officers to organise regular training and on boarding sessions for Administrative Departments and Sub-DDOs to ensure smooth operational rollout across all levels.

DC Sgr inspects functioning of “Palaash” & “Pareesha”

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar Akshay Labroo Thursday visited “Palash” and “Pareesha” (Children Home for Boys & Girls) at Gupt Ganga Nishat to take stock of the functioning of the Centres and facilities being provided to the enrolled students.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tahir Sajad; District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad; Tehsildar North, Syed Shahid; Block Medical Officer Hazratbal, Deputy CEO, and other concerned accompanied the DC during the visit.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the functioning of “Palash” (Children Home for Boys) and “Pareesha” (Children Home for Girls). He went around various sections of both the facilities and inspected reading rooms, classrooms, dormitories, dining and cooking areas, etc.

The DC also enquired about the Lodging, Boarding, Education, Sports, Medicare and other facilities being provided to the enrolled

children at the Centres by the Department.

During the visit, the DC also interacted with the children and staff members and took stock of the available facilities including accommodation, education, health-care and recreational arrangements at both the centres. He emphasized the importance of providing a nurturing and supportive environment for the children's overall development.

Assuring all possible support from the District Administration, the DC directed the concerned Officers to ensure that every requirement of the enrolled children is met promptly and that welfare initiatives are implemented effectively.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department, as well as the management and staff of both homes, for their dedication towards the care and well-being of the children.

Responding to the demands of the enrolled inmates, the DC directed the Officers to provide sports kits/equipment for both the centres and to establish a Volleyball Court at the Pareesha.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

E-NIT No. Fresh- 111/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/6254-64

Dated: 04/11/2025

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K** Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from approved and eligible Bidders as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) and Terms of Reference at Annexure-I. The Bidder (Firm/Consultant/Agency/Company) should have the eligibility as per Annexure-II under Eligibility Criteria for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of the Project (Rs in Lacs) for which Consultancy is Required as Adv. cost	Estimated Cost for the Architectural Engg. & Consultancy (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Type of Consultancy
1.	Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings (Digital Layout Plan, /BOQ,Structural , Architectural Design,) inclcd. technical vetting of drawings from DIQC/NIT/IT and Conducting of all required soil investigations for Construction of 1st floor over existing ground floor at Saffron Shopping Complex at Tanchilbagh Pampore.	266.58	1.333	300	10 Days	Architectural / Structural Consultancy with Soil Testing

Position of AAA = Accorded vide No: MCP/W/004 of 2025 Dated: 08.02.2025.

Position of Funds = Committed

Major Head = Normal Resources---(MC_Pampore)

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-11-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	04-11-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	05-11-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	14-11-2025 (04:00PM) 15-11-2025 (12.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Awantipora

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- B of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora** (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and the bidders residing Outside UT of J&K can submit DD of any nationalized bank in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora** the cost of tender document fee is non refundable.

• If MSE firm is registered with NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) agencies for tendered item then they are exempted for submission of EMD & Tender Cost. If MSE's who are interested in availing these benefits will have to enclosed with their offer the proof of their beings MSE's registered with any of the above mentioned agencies.

3. All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST.

4. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

5. The ^{1st} lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

6. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through 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 PWD(R&B) Division Awantipora**.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get „Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)“ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

10. Scanned copy of Bid Security Declaration Form and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt/DD for outsider UT of J&K bidders in favour of **Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Awantipora**

(The Date of Treasury Challan/DD should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents including Bid Security Declaration Form shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

12. Price escalation and taxes: The rate quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the Bidder on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

14. In case of CRF and other specified project, the relevant guideline/ standard bidding document shall be followed.

15. Instruction to bidder (ITB)

All Bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualifying criteria/qualification information with the bids.

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of Original Documents defining constitution/Legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence Address.

b. All Bidders shall upload Treasury Challan.

c. All Bidders shall upload completely filled Bid Security Declaration Form.

d. All Bidders shall upload Valid Registration with renewal Side (Latest), Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

e. The bidder should have extensive experience in preparation of DPR, Master plan/ site plan, architectural details and drawings, structural design and drawings, services details and drawings, cost estimates and all other related services for different categories of buildings under Government/ Public Sector Undertaking/ other reputed organizations for at least 3 years. The consultant must have completed at least one of the following projects.

i. At least one projects of similar nature costing not less than 50% of Project Cost.

OR

ii. At least two projects of similar nature costing not less than 30% of Project Cost

16. All Bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clear ance certificate FORM GSTR-3B" Latest Quarter/Latest Month, to the issuance of this NIT,SEPTEMBER - 2025,Quarter July-September2025.

DIPK-7790/25

DATED: 06-11-2025

Sd/-

Draftsman

Sd/-

Technical officer

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Awantipora

No:- Fresh- 111 /EEA/RNB/ 2025-26/6254-64

DATED: 04-11-2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION KRALPORA

Short Term E tendering NIT No 50/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26Dated:-04-11-2025

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir(UT), e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of completion	Date and time of opening	Class of Contractor	Major Head
1.	Repair/ Renovation of Boundary wall Development of Lawn and Installation of Main Gate at AEE Quarter Kralpora	12.01	600/-	24030	20 days	11-11-2025 (Noon)	Bee/ Cee/ Dee	M&R
2.	Repair of AEE Office Building Ramhall including Repair of Boundary Wall Drain and Path	7.80	300/-	15600	18 days		Cee/Dee	M&R
3.	Repair/ Renovation of Additional Accommodation at Rest House Keran	6.01	300/-	12020	15days		Cee/Dee	M&R

Position of AAA/ TS : Accorded

Position of funds:- Available

No: Div-KRLP/3221-35

Date:04-11-2025

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/ drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates tabulated below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.11.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.11.2025(9:00 AM) to 10.11.2025 (6:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	04.11.2025 (9:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	10.11.2025 (6:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11.11.2025 (12:00Noon) In the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

Upload/Disclose the bank account number which is linked with the GSTIN along with proof. No payments shall be released by the department to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.

2. Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be writtenboldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT(if any).

11 All other Conditions shall remain same as per the DETAILED TENDER NOTICE No 01/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26E-tendering Dated: 16-04-2025Issued under No. Div-KRLP/ 123-37 dated 16-04-2025 and PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

12 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/ submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

DIPK-7799/25

DATED: 06-11-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Kralpora

CS condoles demise of father of PCCF, J&K

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has expressed profound grief over the sad demise of Madan Lal Gupta, father of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Jammu and Kashmir, Suresh Kumar Gupta.

In his condolence message, the Chief Secretary, on behalf of the entire Jammu and Kashmir administration, extended heartfelt sympathies to Suresh Kumar Gupta and the bereaved family.

While expressing solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief, the Chief Secretary prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family members to bear this irreplaceable loss with courage and fortitude.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT) OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SERICULTURE OFFICER SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PULWAMA

AUCTION NOTICE

Sericulture Development Department has to put on auction seven numbers of Mulberry trees weighing approximately 50 Quantals at village Pirpora. The auction will be conducted on 08-11-2025 at 11:00 AM. The initial bid will start from Rs 20000/, The participants in the bid shall have to deposit Rs 1000/= as security deposit in the form of cash. The successful bidder has to pay the whole amount immediately after the conclusion of bid and has to remove/lift the mulberry wood within three days from the date of auction.

No: DSOP/TS/Auction/2025-26/935-36
Dated: 31/10/2025

DIPK-7803/25
DATED: 06-11-2025

District Sericulture Officer
Pulwama

Kashmir wetlands welcome over a million migratory birds

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Nov 06: With the arrival of winter, Kashmir's wetlands are once again witnessing a breathtaking transformation, turning into vibrant sanctuaries for thousands of migratory birds escaping the freezing landscapes of Europe, Central Asia, and parts of East Asia.

Every year, as temperatures drop across the northern hemisphere, winged visitors take flight toward the valley's water bodies, which serve as resting and feeding grounds through the colder months.

From Hokersar to Wular, Haigam, and Shalbugh, these wetlands have begun echoing with the calls of species that travel thousands of miles to find temporary refuge in Kashmir.

Officials from the Wildlife Department said that the current migratory season began in late October and will continue till March.



They said the valley's lakes and marshes, still holding sufficient water after autumn rains, have become ideal habitats for these birds. This year's early arrivals include the Black-headed Gull, Tufted Duck, Brahminy Duck, and Northern Pintail — species that signal the full return of the migratory cycle.

According to official records, more than a million birds visited Kashmir's wetlands last year. Initial field assessments suggest similar numbers this season, with bird movements reported from all major conservation zones. "The diversity is promising this year, as both local conditions and water levels are favourable," an official said.

"The visiting flocks, some travelling from as far as Siberia, the Philippines, and Japan, enrich the wetlands' ecosystem by maintaining the food chain balance and aiding natural regeneration processes," he said. "Their arrival, however, also brings renewed challenges — particularly the risk of poaching

and habitat degradation."

Wildlife authorities have increased ground surveillance to prevent hunting, a recurring threat to migratory species. Patrol teams have been stationed around vulnerable wetland belts, and awareness drives are being held in nearby villages to discourage illegal trapping.

"We are keeping strict watch through night patrols and coordination with local police units," another official said.

Beyond their ecological importance, the migratory influx is also a draw for photographers, bird watchers, and environmental students. Many enthusiasts have begun visiting Hokersar and Shalbugh to document rare sightings and behaviour patterns.

The wetlands are expected to host new arrivals in the coming weeks. The final bird census, officials said, will be completed by the end of next week, giving a clearer picture of this year's population trend—(KNO)

LA By-Polls

MP Ruhullah won't endorse any candidate

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 06: As the electoral contest in the Budgam Assembly constituency intensifies, Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi has decided against endorsing any particular candidate and has left it to the people to make their own decision, sources disclosed.

Sources said that Ruhullah, who holds considerable influence in the segment, has chosen not to endorse or support any candidate.

"He has placed faith in the people to make their own choice(s). He wouldn't ask them to vote for any particular candidate," they said.

Three-time MLA Ruhullah, who has emerged as the most vocal voice for the restoration of Article 370, is at odds with the National Conference over a range of issues and did not campaign for the party.

His latest disagreement with the National Conference centers on the rationalization of



reservation. On October 18, Ruhullah demanded that the cabinet sub-committee's report on reservation be made public, stating that his future decision regarding the Budgam by-polls would be guided by the contents of the report.

The Budgam seat, vacated following Omar Abdullah's resignation, is set to go to polls on November 11. The constituency is witnessing a direct contest between National Conference's Aga Mehmood and Peoples

Democratic Party candidate Aga Muntazir Mehdi, while independent candidate Nazir Ahmad Khan, supported by the Awami Ittehad Party, is gaining ground-adding complexity to the race.

Other contenders in the fray include Aga Syed Mohsin (BJP), Jibran Dar (Independent), Muntazir Mohiuddin (Independent), Deeba Khan (Aam Aadmi Party), Mukhtar Dar (Apni Party), and Sameer Ahmad (Independent)—(KNO)

Police foil terror plot; three accused arrested

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 06: In a major success against anti-national activities, Srinagar Police foiled a terror attempt by arresting three individuals and recovering arms and ammunition from their possession, thereby averting a potential attack.

During routine vehicle checking near Mamta Chowk, Konakhan, Dalgate, a Police team from Police Station Khanyar intercepted a black Royal Enfield motorcycle without a registration number. On being signalled to stop, the rider and two pillion passengers attempted to flee but were tactfully apprehended by alert personnel on duty.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Shah Mutayib, S/o Manzoor Ahmad Shah, R/o Koolipora Khanyar, Kamran Hassan Shah, S/o Ghulam Hassan Shah, R/o Koolipora Khanyar and Mohammad Nadeem, S/o Mohammad Yaseen Salmani, R/o Meerut (U.P.), presently residing at Kawa Mohalla, Khanyar. A search of their possession led to the recovery of one country-made pistol (Desi Katta) and nine live rounds.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the accused were planning to carry out a terror-related act in the locality using the recovered weapon and ammunition.

Accordingly, FIR No. 51/2025 has been registered at Police Station Khanyar under sections 3, 7, 25 Arms Act, 20, 23 UAPA, and relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Further investigation is in progress to identify their associates, network, and possible links with other subversive elements.

The swift and professional action of Srinagar Police once again demonstrates its commitment to maintaining peace and public safety in the city.

GMC Handwara students demand hostel facilities

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Nov 06: Students of Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara staged a sit-in protest on Thursday, demanding immediate hostel accommodation, accusing the administration of ignoring repeated appeals.

The protesting students, mostly from the second-year batch said they have been forced to live in costly private rentals with poor living conditions.

Terming hostel accommodation a basic necessity, the protesting students carried placards reading "Accommodation for all" and "A room for every dream".

The students said they are living six to a room, facing constant issues with water and electricity. "It was understandable not to have hostels in the initial phase, but we are in the second year now and still without accommodation," a student said. They said repeated pleas to the college administration have gone unheard. "We have been facing these issues for a year. It's winter now and it's difficult to survive without proper facilities," another protester said.



Students also cited an order dated May 21, 2025, which directed officials to arrange a building for hostel purposes. "The order was issued months ago, yet the hostel was allotted to the junior batch while we were left out," the students alleged.

They said the lack of hostels has hit students from economically weaker sections the most. "How can a student from a poor family afford Rs

10,000 per month on rent?" they added.

Meanwhile, MLA Handwara Sajad Lone visited the protesting students and assured them of a solution within two months. "If the administration fails to provide the facility within the time frame, you can come and stay at my home," he told the students.

"It's my promise, if authorities do not act, come straight to my home and reside there,"

Human neglect killing Bandipora springs

Sajid Raina

Bandipora, Nov 06: Once known for its abundant natural water sources, north Kashmir's Bandipora district is witnessing a steady decline in its springs and streams, with many of them now converted into garbage dumping sites or encroached upon by residents.

Bandipora, traditionally associated with Ilm (knowledge), Adab (literature), and Aab (water), is losing one of its defining elements as several freshwater bodies that once sustained communities have dried up or become polluted.

Locals of Arin-Dardpora, Gundpora, Aragam, Kehnusa, Kaloosa, Gamroo, Nadihal, and Guroora said

that water channels have been reduced to waste disposal sites.

They said household garbage, plastic bottles, and other non-biodegradable waste are being dumped directly into these streams, choking their flow and contaminating water that once supplied nearby villages.

In Gundpora village, residents said a two-century-old stream has turned into a stagnant drain. "We used to drink from it years ago, but now people throw garbage and old items into it," said Mohammad Shafi, a resident.

He added that the plastic waste floats on the surface, blocking the water at several points and leaving it unusable for any purpose.

Locals in several areas said the disappearance of natural springs has made access to clean water difficult. "A spring that existed in our village for over a hundred years has dried up completely. People now walk long distances to fetch water," said Bashir Ahmad from Gundpora.

Javid Ahmad Lone, another resident from Dardpora village, said their spring too has vanished over the past few years. "Earlier, its water was used for drinking and household work. Now it has completely dried, forcing villagers to depend on water supplied through tankers," he said.

Residents blame the situation on poor waste management and official

inaction. They said promises made by the authorities to restore water bodies have not been implemented on the ground.

"No proper steps have been taken to clean the streams or stop the dumping of garbage. The situation worsens with each passing year," said Irfan Ahmad from Rampora.

Reports from Hajin, Sumbal, Shahgund, and Madwan also reveal similar conditions, with water bodies in these suburban areas facing the same neglect.

Locals across these areas have urged the administration to initiate immediate measures to restore and protect the remaining water sources before they disappear completely—(KNO)

Garg chairs MDC traffic management meeting

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Nov 06: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management to review and strengthen ongoing measures aimed at streamlining traffic movement and decongesting city roads. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, RTO Kashmir, Chief Engineer R&B, and officers from Traffic Police and SSCL.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed review of the improvements witnessed in downtown areas following the implementation of one-way traffic plans on several routes. It was informed that the



initiative has yielded positive results by significantly reducing traffic congestion.

The committee also discussed the introduction of colour-coded passes for mini-buses to restrict them from operating beyond their designated zones.

Further, the meeting proposed declaring MA Road as a "No E-Rickshaw Zone" from Jahangir Chowk to Dalgate, while allowing their movement only through Residency Road. It was also decided to impose a cap on the number of

E-Rickshaws operating on saturated routes to prevent further congestion.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the progress on the Smart Parking Management System, being developed at three key locations in the city, as well as the establishment of E-Rickshaw charging stations at Hazratbal, Zoonimar, and Batamalo.

Discussions were also held on the development of surface parking facilities at JVC, Children's Hospital, Karan Nagar, Sanatnagar, Batamalo, and Harwan.

Several other issues including HLC matters, SSCL projects, and concerns related to the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) were also deliberated upon. The Divisional Commissioner issued specific directions to concerned departments for timely action and resolution.

Red potato cultivation vanishing in Shopian

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Shopian, Nov 06: The famous Hirpora Red Potato—locally known as 'Katt-e-Maaz Aalu' because of its unique nut-like flavour—is now being cultivated by only a handful of households in Hirpora Shopian, even as farmers this year earned good returns from other potato varieties.

Locals from Hirpora and its adjoining areas said that despite being a crop with a legacy value and high market demand, the red Hirpora potato is today limited to barely 2-4 households out of nearly 800 families in the village.

"This potato once represented Hirpora's identity. Traders from different parts of the Valley used to travel to Hirpora only for this red potato. But today it is nearly extinct," said Mohammad Yousuf, a grower from Hirpora.

Farmers said that this year other potato varieties—especially the improved white varieties—gave good



production and good returns due to favourable weather. However, on the red variety, they said the population has been shrinking mainly due to diseases, low yields and the increasing shift towards apple cultivation.

Locals also alleged that the agriculture department this year supplied them with potato seed at Rs 3,500 per quintal with the promise that later the department would procure the produce at the same rate. "We were assured

'whatever rate we sell to you at the beginning, same rate we will buy back'. But later they paid us only Rs 2,500 per quintal. This is cheating," said another farmer, Abdul Rehman.

Farmers said this caused distress among many households who had trusted the department's commitment. "We demand a proper inquiry into this. If there was a subsidy or any scheme component, we should have been told clearly. But changing the rate after its cultivation is totally unjust," they said.

An official told KNO that there was no cheating involved and that farmers were paid Rs 2,500 per quintal + Rs 1,000 subsidy under HADP, making it equivalent to Rs 3,500 per quintal.

"Farmers got Rs 2,500 cash rate and Rs 1,000 subsidy component under HADP (Holistic Agriculture Development Programme). So the total comes to Rs 3,500 per quintal," the official clarified. He said that last year potatoes were procured at

Rs 2500 only and farmers got Rs 3700 per quintal plus 1000 for registered farmers and rates are fixed by higher ups. He said that chief agriculture officer Shopian has already written to higher ups in this regard so that growers can get better rates. The official also said that red Hirpora potato is indeed on decline, but multiple revival steps have already been initiated. "Two revival project proposals have been submitted to higher authorities. SKAUST and KVK Belpora are already involved. One farmer has even volunteered his land for a trial plantation. We are procuring seed directly from households still preserving the red potato strain," the official said.

According to experts, uncontrolled use of chemical fertilizers and continuous shift of agricultural land towards orchards are among the biggest reasons for the decline of this indigenous variety. Farmers also said that during earlier times, the crop used to grow well with natural manure only. "When we used cow dung, we used to get better

quality and better quantity. Fertilizer ruined this delicate breed," said an elderly grower. Hirpora—the last inhabited village before the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary on Mughal Road—primarily depended on potato cultivation for decades. Locals say losing this heritage potato will also be a cultural loss.

"This potato is not just a crop, it is our identity. Government should conserve it like they conserve heritage monuments," locals said.

The agriculture department maintained confidence that with cooperation of local growers and scientific intervention in seed purity, disease control and soil assessment, the red potato can still be revived. "We hope to achieve success in bringing Hirpora Red Potato back in production again," the official added.

He added that this year on one canal on trial basis, red potatoes were sown again and it has shown good results and we are hopeful it will be extended to more land in coming year—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: ‘Pay The Worker Before His Sweat Dries’

In Islam, the rights of labourers and employees are not merely legal considerations but fundamental moral and religious obligations rooted in divine justice. The Quran and Hadith provide a comprehensive ethical framework that elevates the status of workers and mandates their fair treatment, establishing principles that remain profoundly relevant in today's global economy. The Quran repeatedly emphasises justice and fairness in all transactions: “Give full measure and weight in justice” (6:152) and “Do not withhold from the people the things that are their due” (7:85). These verses form the foundation of Islamic labour ethics,

establishing that timely payment of wages is not merely an economic transaction but a test of faith and righteousness. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was perhaps history's most powerful advocate for workers' rights, declaring: “Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries” (Ibn Majah). This powerful instruction makes timely compensation a religious imperative, recognising the human dignity embedded in labour. The Prophet (PBUH) further emphasised that mistreating workers constitutes grounds for divine opposition, stating that God would be an adversary to three persons on Judgment Day, including “one who employs a

worker and takes full work from him but does not pay him his wages” (Bukhari). Islamic teachings specifically address working conditions, mandating that tasks must be within reasonable capacity and that workers cannot be burdened beyond their strength. The Prophetic tradition establishes that “Your brothers are your responsibility. God has made them under your hands. So whoever has a brother under his hand, let him feed him of what he eats and clothe him of what he wears” (Bukhari), extending employer responsibility beyond mere wages to holistic welfare. Islam prohibits discrimination in employment, recognising that

“God does not look at your appearances or wealth, but at your hearts and deeds” (Muslim). In the contemporary context, these teachings translate to living wages, safe working conditions, reasonable hours, and protection from exploitation. They remind us that economic systems must serve human dignity rather than sacrifice it for profit. By implementing these divine guidelines, we create not just equitable workplaces but societies that truly reflect Islamic justice, where every worker's labour is honoured, their rights protected, and their contribution valued as an act of worship in itself.

Towards Dignified Work: Why India Must Implement Its Labour Codes Now

In era of shifting global supply chains, labour reforms could be India's competitive advantage

S.P. Tiwari

India's world of work stands at an inflection point. India's workforce must increasingly find place in formal employment, supported by written contracts, adequate wages, and comprehensive social protection, so that the gains of growth translate into secure and dignified livelihoods for all. The persistence of older regulatory frameworks has, in part, limited the pace of formalisation and the ability of enterprises to generate secure and quality jobs. The four labour codes enacted by Parliament between 2019 and 2020, on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, represent the long-pending reform envisioned by the Second National Commission on Labour chaired by Ravindra Varma in 2002 with a mission to codify, simplify & modify then existing labour frame work. The Codes offer a comprehensive framework to modernise India's labour landscape and correct structural imbalances. Their uniform implementation across all States has now become an urgent national priority.

The new codes simplify and modernise 29 central labour laws, many dating back to the mid-twentieth century. They seek not merely to merge statutes but to make multiple definitions of workers/workmen employee into simple definition. Each code strengthens the rights and welfare of workers while providing clarity and predictability for employers.

Fair wages and dignity of labour

The Code on Wages, 2019 marks a historic step towards ensuring that every worker receives a wage that respects the dignity of labour. By introducing universal minimum wages and a national floor wage, it guarantees that no worker, regardless of occupation or location, is left without a basic standard of income. Elimination of schedule of industry pave the road for universal wages.

Timely payment provisions have been strengthened, eliminating delays that once pushed families into debt. Workers can now

claim unpaid wages or bonuses more easily, and the burden of proof in such disputes rests with the employer, creating greater accountability.

At the same time, the Code streamlines compliance for enterprises. Electronic record-keeping, a single registration, and unified returns reduce paperwork, rationalise chances of manipulation.

Extending the social security net

The Code on Social Security, 2020 represents one of the most inclusive expansions of welfare in independent India. By consolidating nine major laws, including the Employees' Provident Fund Act, Employees' State Insurance Act, and Maternity Benefit Act, it establishes a unified system that covers both traditional and future of work.

For the first time, gig workers, platform workers, and those in the unorganised sector are explicitly recognised as part of the national workforce. Every worker is to be registered and issued a unique social security number through the e-Shram portal, enabling direct delivery of benefits such as health insurance, pensions, and maternity

support. Central and State Social Security Funds will be created to ensure that workers like app-based delivery partners or construction labourers are no longer left outside the safety net and funds are managed in holistic manner.

The Code also introduces career centres, digital and physical platforms that will provide vocational guidance, counselling, and employment services. This institutional support links welfare with multiple employability, helping workers transition from insecurity to opportunity.

Safety, dignity, and equality at work

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code) is a statement of care and responsibility towards those who build the nation. By broadening the definition of “establishment,” the Code extends protection to millions previously uncovered by safety legislation.

It mandates free annual health check-ups for workers and requires employers to maintain safe, hygienic workplaces without any financial burden on employees. The formation of a National Occupational Safety and

Health Advisory Board ensures that safety standards evolve with changing industrial conditions.

The OSH Code makes important strides in gender equality. Women workers are permitted to work in all establishments and night shifts, provided adequate facilities and security arrangements exist, empowering more women to join and remain in the labour force. Migrant workers, too, gain recognition through a national registration system, enabling access to welfare schemes and mobility benefits and monitoring legal framework to ensure recent live and livelihood.

Facilities such as canteens and restrooms are now mandatory at lower thresholds, and contract workers are counted for determining such provisions. These measures reflect a shift from minimal compliance to genuine concern for worker welfare.

Dialogue and industrial harmony

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 brings clarity to the relationship between employers and employees, replacing three earlier Acts with a unified framework. It requires establishments with twenty or more workers to set up Grievance Redressal Committees, ensuring that disputes are resolved promptly at the enterprise level rather than festering into strikes or litigation.

Trade unions gain recognition through the concept of a negotiating union or council, strengthening collective bargaining and giving workers an effective voice in shaping their workplace. Workers facing retrenchment are now entitled to 30 days' notice and adequate compensation, a humane reform that respects livelihood security. The establishment of a re-skilling fund for retrenched workers signals a forward-looking approach that values learning and adaptability in a changing economy. The provisions related to strike rights need to be revisited. Upgradation of workers limit for the industry upto 300 to get easier clearance for closure or lock outs should also be reconsidered.

Fixed-term employment, formally recognised by the Code, offers flexibility to industry while guaranteeing parity in wages and other

social security provisions including gratuity in tandem with regular employees. It balances the needs of a modern economy with fairness and security for those who work within it.

Why implementation matters now

Evidence from several developing nations shows that labour reforms have played a key role in driving economic growth. In the face of a shifting global economy marked by rising tariffs and changing trade patterns, India must urgently implement its new labour codes. Simplified and transparent laws will attract investment, promote formal employment, and uphold worker dignity. Timely notification will pave the way towards India reaching developed nations tag.

In a time when automation and digitalisation threaten to displace traditional jobs, the codes provide a framework for balanced growth, one that preserves human dignity even as technology advances. Implementation across all States would create uniform standards, reduce ambiguity, and easy access to jobs.

The way forward

The four codes form the backbone of India's ambition for a Viksit Bharat, a developed, self-reliant nation that combines economic dynamism with social justice. They transform inspectors into facilitators, replace outdated and overlapping laws with clear, consistent ones, and place worker welfare at the centre of economic policy.

The spirit of these reforms with some riders lies not merely in consolidation but in compassion, ensuring that every worker, from the factory floor to the digital platform, enjoys dignity, safety, and security. For workers, they promise fairness and opportunity. Implementing these codes swiftly and uniformly is therefore not only a matter of administrative urgency but of national commitment, to build an economy where growth is shared, work is respected, and every hand that contributes to India's progress is protected and avail ease of living.

The author is the National General Secretary, Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC)

Rivers Of Revival: How India's Ancient Waterways Are Powering A Green Logistics Revolution

With ₹1.20 per tonne-km versus ₹2.28 by road, the economic case for waterways is overwhelming

Vijay Kumar

Imagine a future India where goods glide on barges instead of trucks, logistics corridors slide along rivers instead of highways, and the carbon footprint shrinks even as trade expands. That future is not fantasy—it is within reach. For India to be Viksit Bharat and truly Atmanirbhar, Inland Water Transport (IWT) has to be the backbone of a sustainable logistics revolution.

Rivers have carried India's trade for 4,000 years. They connected Lothal to Rome, Bengal to Burma, and Assam to the rest of Southeast Asia. However, roads and railways, with their glitter of speed and steel, pushed rivers into the background. Today, in an age of climate warnings and economic pressures, the tide is turning. Not out of romance, but out of necessity.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, inland waterways have received unprecedented policy focus. Cargo movement on National Waterways has climbed from 18.1 million metric tonnes in 2013-14 to 145.84 million metric tonnes in 2024-25. Operating costs confirm the logic: 1.20 per tonne-km by water, compared to 1.40 by rail & 2.28 by road. Waterways are economical and fuel-efficient. Waterways consume just 0.0048

litres per tonne-km, against 0.0313 litres by road, & 0.0089 litres by rail. This is an eye opener for any supply chain management.

And here's the real clincher: greenhouse gas emissions per tonne-km on rivers are just a fifth of what roads produce. Every barge sailing down the Ganga or Brahmaputra is not only carrying goods but also cleaning up India's carbon conscience.

The Jal Marg Vikas Project on NW-1 approved by Government of India in 2016, is shifting cargo flows in the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. Multimodal logistics hubs like Varanasi and Sahibganj are being developed in partnership with National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), while rail linkages via Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd. (IPRCL) and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL) are being built to integrate river, rail and road seamlessly. On NW-2 (the river Brahmaputra), the Joghghopa IWT terminal is being tied to the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP), which connects via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route to Kolkata and Haldia ports.

The potential of IWT is already visible in action. Take the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) expansion project in Assam,

recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Heavy equipment for the refinery—including Over Dimensional Cargo (ODC) and Over Weight Cargo (OWC)—was transported via the Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route & Brahmaputra river under IWT's supervision. This included 24 consignments moving efficiently and safely to the NRL jetty, bypassing congested highways and avoiding the complications of road transport for oversized cargo. The operation showcased how river logistics is not just environmentally prudent but fully capable of handling India's most challenging industrial shipments, combining cost-effectiveness, safety, and sustainability.

Of course, for industry, this is not about nostalgia or national pride. It's about margins and markets. Moving freight on water is cheaper, cleaner and increasingly faster as multimodal hubs come online. In a world where global investors assess supply chains not just for efficiency but also for their environmental impact, shifting to river transport offers a strategic advantage. Carbon compliance has become a key factor, making inland waterways a smarter and more sustainable choice for modern logistics. Move freight on water, and you reap the dual dividends of lower costs and better Environment, Social

and Governance (ESG) credentials.

The social dividend is real. Fewer trucks means fewer accidents, lower road maintenance pressure, cleaner air, and more resilient rural economies. Many riverine communities once reliant on ferry transport or small-scale trade can find renewed purpose in logistics support, handling, warehousing, and inland port services. This is not charity. This is commerce rediscovering common sense.

Yes, challenges remain. Seasonality affects navigability. Some stretches require constant dredging. Vessel fleets are limited. Institutional coordination across States, Ports, and Ministries is a puzzle. But the Government is tackling these head-on—through end-to-end dredging, expanding multi-modal hubs, putting in place policy instruments like the Inland Vessels Act, enabling private jetties on National Waterways, & more compliant with environmental norms under 'Harit Nauka' to nudge the sector towards cleaner, greener practices. Digital tools like CAR-D (Cargo Data Portal), Jalyan & Navic, Jamiriddhi, PANI, Naudarshika (National River Traffic and Navigation System) portals and vessel tracking systems streamline operations and reduce friction.

Globally, the template is clear. The Danube and Rhine carry Europe's freight. India, with

its rich network of more navigable rivers, is uniquely positioned. As India seriously contemplates to become net-zero by 2070, waterways are not optional. They are central. They tick every box: efficiency, economy, and ecology. The numbers add up, the climate case is unassailable, and the cultural logic is undeniable.

At India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai in October, 2025, the Policymakers — both global & local, Logistics majors — bigwigs to aspiring ones, Governments, Investors, Maritime experts, Environmentalists and Enthusiasts would present their ideas to give shape to next logical steps towards this direction. It would showcase the future of cargo-centric river transport—how the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and other waterways can be the skeleton of a greener, more efficient India. Rivers built our civilization. By embracing our rich legacy and integrating global best practices, India is poised to build a sustainable economy through a revitalized and modernized inland water transport system. With momentum on our side, the current is finally flowing in our favour—powering the future of green logistics.

The author is Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

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Govt committed to initiatives promoting empowerment: Rana

Meets delegations; assures timely redressal of issues

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 06: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Thursday met scores of delegations who raised various concerns and submitted representations for their redressal.

During the interactions, the Minister reiterated Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to ensure prompt resolution of public grievances, strengthen developmental and welfare initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation from the Gujar & Bakerwal Post-Graduate Boys Hostel met the Minister and presented a detailed charter of demands focusing on skill development, exposure tours, and digital learning opportunities for students.

The delegation urged that an educational tour be organized at the earliest to broaden students' exposure and enhance their learning experience.

They also requested the distribution of digital tablets to improve access to e-learning resources and align educational facilities with modern academic



standards.

Rana assured the delegation that the government remains deeply committed to advancing the educational and infrastructural needs of students, particularly those belonging to tribal and marginalized sections.

He emphasized that every possible step will be taken to ensure better academic resources

and facilities in hostels under the department's purview.

Later, a delegation of Seasonal Educational Volunteers (SEVs) also called on the Minister and submitted a memorandum seeking an extension of their service period.

The SEVs underlined the crucial importance of continuity in educational services for

migratory and nomadic communities spread across Jammu and Kashmir.

They informed the Minister that SEVs play an indispensable role in imparting education to migratory children enrolled in Seasonal Centers, ensuring that their studies are not disrupted during migration.

They further highlighted that

through Baseline and End Line Surveys, a marked improvement in learning outcomes had been observed among over 4,300 migratory students benefiting from these educational interventions.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and acknowledged the vital role SEVs play in bridging educational gaps and ensuring inclusive learning opportunities for children from migratory communities.

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting such initiatives that foster empowerment and upliftment across all sections of society.

Recognizing the importance of SEVs in sustaining the educational progress of nomadic populations, the Minister assured that their grievances would be examined on priority and merit basis.

He reiterated that the Government remains steadfast in its resolve to strengthen the educational ecosystem, empower tribal, migratory communities and promote equitable development throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

Unity March organised at Anantnag



KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 06: As part of the Sardar@150 celebrations, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) in collaboration with the District Administration Anantnag along with NSS Wings of various Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, organized a Padyatra (Unity March) from Shaheed Humayun Muzammil Memorial, Government Degree College (GDC) to Khanabal Bridge Thursday.

The march was held to honour the legacy and contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, in commemoration of his 150th Birth Anniversary.

Flagged off by the Member of Parliament (RS), Ghulam Ali Khatana, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, the march witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior officers of civil and police administration, officials of various departments, students, NYK, NSS, and BSG volunteers besides members from civil society and

the general public.

The march passed through the main road before culminating at Khanabal Bridge; the participants carrying Tricolour high and aloft reflecting a sense of collective pride and resilience.

During the march, local artists presented musical performances on patriotic themes creating a cheerful and vibrant atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, the MP paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his pivotal role in unification of the country and highlighted his glorious efforts in strengthening national unity and integrity. He urged the youth to imbibe Sardar Patel's vision and work for unity and harmony.

The Unity March concluded with the resolve to uphold the values of national unity, integrity, and harmony embodied by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

ADC, ASP, ACR, CEO, Dy Director MY Bharat and other senior officers also marked their presence and joined the march in unison.

150 years of "Vande Mataram"

Budgam gears up, DC finalizes activity plan

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 06: The District Administration Budgam is all set to commemorate 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram" with grandeur and patriotic fervour.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting of officers from all line departments in the VC room of the DC Office Complex to finalize the activity plan for the first phase of the year-long celebration.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah briefed the meeting about the objectives, framework, and schedule of events planned for the celebration. He informed that the commemorative campaign will unfold in four phases, commencing with a mega inaugural event on November 7, which will feature live streaming of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's speech and the inaugural session.

The first phase includes flag hoisting, invocation of "Vande Mataram," cultural performances, screening of short films, felicitation of artists, and a handicraft and handloom exhibition.



The week-long celebration will further include essay and quiz competitions, exhibitions on the freedom struggle and "Vande Mataram," police band performances, mural and wall paintings, cleanliness drives, youth rallies, mini-marathons, and documentary screenings to be organized by various departments.

The DC said that the celebration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" would serve as a tribute to India's rich cultural heritage and the spirit of patriotism that binds the nation together.

He said that the celebrations are envisioned as a platform to rekindle national pride and to remind the younger generation of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in shaping the nation.

The DC further said that the celebrations should

reflect the diversity, unity, and cultural vibrancy of Budgam district, ensuring that every citizen feels connected to the spirit of the event. He stressed that departments must work in close coordination to guarantee widespread public involvement, particularly from students, youth, and community groups.

The DC emphasised that all activities should be executed in an inclusive, innovative, and people-centric manner, making the celebrations a district-wide movement of patriotic expression and cultural pride.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, CPO Budgam, all SDMs, ACD Budgam, CEO Budgam, DIO Information, DIO Informatics, principals of all colleges, and other senior officers of the district administration.

Budgam Bye-Election

1st randomisation of counting staff held

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 06: The District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat Thursday conducted the first randomization of counting staff ahead of the counting of votes for bye-Elections to 27- Assembly Constituency Budgam.

The process is designed to ensure transparency and fairness in the upcoming counting of votes, scheduled to be held on 14th of November 2025 at Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam, for the 27-AC Budgam.

The randomization involved selecting 66 personnel which

includes, Counting Supervisors, Counting Assistants and Micro Observers, including 80% reserve personnel, who will oversee the counting process.

The randomization process was conducted through dedicated software in accordance with the prescribed guidelines of the Election Commission of India, ensuring fairness and impartiality in the selection of polling staff.

The event held at DC Office Budgam was attended by senior district officials, including RO to 27-AC Budgam Afroza Bano; Deputy DEO, Hilal Ahmad; DIO NIC Budgam and other senior officials.

CS condoles demise of former Chief Secy

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 6: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has expressed his profound grief over the demise of Ashok Kumar, who served as the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir from 17th October 1994 to 9th October 1996.

In his condolence message, Dulloo remembered Ashok Kumar as an able administrator and a distinguished civil servant who rendered dedicated service to the people of Jammu and Kashmir during his illustrious career.

He said that Kumar was known for his integrity, commitment, and administrative excellence, which earned him wide respect among his colleagues and the public alike. The Chief Secretary further observed that the former Chief Secretary's contribution to public administration in J&K would be remembered with admiration and gratitude.

While expressing solidarity with the bereaved family, he prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Awareness prog on women empowerment held



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 06: Mission Shakti-Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Shopian Thursday organized an awareness-cum-interactive programme at AWC, Alooowpora, Shopian, aimed at sensitizing the local community about various government welfare schemes and initiatives designed for the upliftment of underprivileged women in the district.

During the programme, the team from Mission Shakti briefed participants about the active schemes and services available for women's welfare, their rights, entitlements and ways to access these benefits. Women were also encouraged

to become self-employed by taking advantage of different government-supported livelihood programmes.

The participants were informed about important helpline numbers and support mechanisms available for them. The team also listened to the grievances and concerns of women from the area and assured them of necessary follow-up through the concerned authorities.

The event received an enthusiastic response from the local women, who appreciated the efforts of Mission Shakti for reaching out to rural communities and guiding them towards self-reliance and empowerment.

Vande Mataram celebration Admin finalizes preparations in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 06: The District Administration Bandipora on Thursday finalized preparations for the commemoration of 150 years of national pride "Vande Mataram", to be observed from 7th to 14th November 2025 during a review meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. During the meeting, all arrangements for district-level event were thoroughly reviewed.

On the occasion, the ADC directed officers to ensure the smooth conduct of the mass singing of "Vande Mataram" at 10:00 AM on November 7, in alignment with the national event to be led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister from IG Stadium, New Delhi.

The meeting emphasized the need for extensive participation from schools, colleges, and public institutions to



mark the occasion with public participation.

During the meeting, the ADC stressed that arrangements should be made to facilitate live streaming of the Prime Minister's address and the national-level celebration across all educational and public venues in the district. It was also decided that printouts of song lyrics would be distributed among participants to encourage collective singing.

The meeting discussed related activities such as patriotic song concerts, exhibitions, and

awareness programmes to celebrate the rich historical significance of "Vande Mataram."

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; ACD Bandipora, ACP Bandipora, CAO Bandipora, CHO Bandipora, DIO Bandipora, officers from the Education Department, Social Forestry, Rural Development, Youth Services & Sports, PDD, and other concerned departments, besides SDM Sumbal and SDM Gurez, principals of degree colleges joined virtually.

DLSA Budgam observes Legal Services Day

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 06: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam under the Aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority organized series of events to commemorate National Legal Services Day, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to the delivery of justice, free legal aid, and legal awareness to the citizens of Budgam.

While observing the Legal Services week, the celebration of Legal Services Day took place at the ADR Center of the District Court Complex, Budgam, under the supervision of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The event was attended by the Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman DLSA Budgam, O.P Bhagat, Legal Aid defense Counsels, Para Legal Volunteers and staff members of DLSA Budgam were also present.

During the event, Chairman DLSA Budgam delivered a special address, emphasizing the significance of Legal Services Day. He also lauded the remarkable work accomplished



by DLSA, Budgam in the year 2025. He stated that during the year 2025, the DLSA, Budgam organized three National Lok Adalats in which around 3513 cases were settled and an amount of Rs. 37,153,917 was settled and realized from the concerned parties, and eight special Lok Adalats were also conducted during the year in which around 1530 cases were amicably settled and settlement amount of Rs 39,188,340 was realized.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, said that a series of awareness programs were organized throughout the year for creating a socially aware society. These programs have reached to the hearts and minds of our citizens, educating them on crucial legal and social issues such as child rights, women empowerment, and welfare schemes of the Government, the rights of senior citizens, combating drug abuse, preventing

domestic violence, addressing child labor and upholding the principles of Juvenile Justice, at various locations in district Budgam, She added. She further said DLSA, Budgam in collaboration with Doordarshan has also conducted a number of awareness programs for the benefit of common masses and also saw the compassionate implementation of the Victim Compensation Scheme, offering much-needed support to victims of legal injustices.

On the occasion certificates of appreciation were awarded to the Staff members, Legal Aid Defense Counsels and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) for their tireless efforts in advancing the cause of justice.

These accolades underscores DLSA, Budgam's commitment to excellence and its spirit in enhancing access to justice for all. The series of events on National Legal Services Day stands as a testament to the tireless efforts of the entire DLSA team and their commitment to promoting the cause of justice and legal awareness.

52 tons of paper shipped from Kathua Railway Station to Azara

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 06: Following the establishment of Jammu Division in Northern Railway, various initiatives are being implemented under the Freight Policy by Divisional Railway Manager Mr. Vivek Kumar and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mr. Uchit Singhal. These efforts aim to reduce logistics costs and make freight transportation more accessible to small businesses.

On November 5, 2025, a BCN wagon loaded with 952 bundles of paper and paper rolls, weighing a total of 52 tons, departed from Kathua Railway Station of Jammu Division for Azara Railway Station in Rangiya Division, Guwahati, Assam, on the Northeast Frontier Railway. The freight was transported at a rate of 1.28 lakh, marking a significant milestone in freight logistics.

The Jammu Division is actively encouraging local businesses to promote rail freight transportation, which is expected to enhance freight movement, increase railway revenue, and generate new employment opportunities for the community.



Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mr. Uchit Singhal stated that under the freight policy, the division's freight handling capacity will be expanded to ensure the smooth movement of goods across the country and strengthen railway infrastructure. He also highlighted that earlier, on July 23, 2025, a BCN weighing approximately 46 tons

was successfully transported from Kathua Railway Station to Azara Railway Station in Rangiya Division.

The Jammu Division is urging all business communities to utilize railways for cost-effective and efficient transportation of goods, thereby supporting their growth and regional economic development.

SC makes written communication of arrest grounds mandatory for all offences

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that every arrested person must be furnished with the grounds of arrest in writing and in a language they understand irrespective of the nature of the offence or statute involved.

In the verdict that strengthens constitutional protection for personal liberty, the top court held that non supply of grounds of arrest in writing to the arrestee prior to or immediately after arrest would not vitiate such arrest if the same is "supplied in writing within a reasonable time and in any case two hours prior to the production of the arrestee before the magistrate for remand proceedings".

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih delivered the judgment in the Mihir Rajesh Shah vs State of Maharashtra case that arose from the high-profile Mumbai BMW hit-and-run incident of July 2024.

Justice Masih, writing a 52-page judgment for the bench, ruled that the constitutional mandate under Article 22 of

the Constitution, which guarantees that an arrested person must be informed "as soon as may be" of the grounds of arrest, is not a procedural formality but a fundamental safeguard of personal liberty.

"This court is of the opinion that to achieve the intended objective of the constitutional mandate of Article 22 of the Constitution of India, the grounds of arrest must be informed to the arrested person in each and every case without exception and the mode of the communication of such grounds must be in writing in the language he understands," the verdict said.

"The constitutional mandate of informing the arrestee the grounds of arrest is mandatory in all offences under all statutes including offences under IPC 1860," it held.

"The grounds of arrest must be communicated in writing to the arrestee in the language he/she understands and in case where, the arresting officer/person is unable to communicate the grounds of arrest in writing on or soon after arrest, it be so done orally. The said grounds be communicated in writing within a reasonable

time and in any case at least two hours prior to production of the arrestee for remand proceedings before the magistrate," it directed.

In case of non-compliance, the arrest and subsequent remand would be rendered illegal and the person will be at liberty to be set free, it said.

The top court directed its registry to send a copy of the judgment to all the registrars general of the high courts and the chief secretaries of all the states and Union territories.

The verdict dealt with two issues and the first one was "whether in each and every case, even arising out of an offence under IPC now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 would it be necessary to furnish grounds of arrest to an accused either before arrest or forthwith after arrest".

The second issue was whether, even in exceptional cases, where on account of certain exigencies it will not be possible to furnish the grounds of arrest either before arrest or immediately after, the arrest would be vitiated.

Referring to earlier verdicts, it said, "Mere communication

of the grounds in a language not understood by the person arrested does not fulfil the constitutional mandate under Article 22 of the Constitution of India. The failure to supply such grounds in a language understood by the arrestee renders the constitutional safeguards illusory and infringes the personal liberty of the person as guaranteed under Article 21 and 22 of the Constitution."

The objective of the constitutional mandate is to place the person in a position to comprehend the basis of the allegations levelled against him and it can only be realised when the grounds are furnished in a language understood by the person, it added.

The ruling stems from appeals filed by Mihir Rajesh Shah, the accused in the 2024 Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case, who challenged the legality of his arrest on the ground that he was not furnished written reasons for arrest as required by law.

Although the Bombay High Court had acknowledged a procedural lapse, it upheld the arrest citing the gravity of the offence. PTI

Pope Leo receives Palestinian president Abbas at Vatican



AFP

Vatican City, Nov 06: Pope Leo XIV held his first meeting with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Thursday, where the Vatican said they discussed the "urgent need" to help the civilian population in Gaza.

The visit comes almost a month into a fragile ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, following two years of war triggered by the Palestinian group's October 7, 2023, attack.

Abbas is the longtime head of the Palestinian Authority, which exerts limited control over parts of the West Bank. His Fatah movement is the rival to Hamas, which took control of Gaza in 2007.

Abbas and Leo spoke by telephone in July but Thursday was their first in-person meeting since the American took over as head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics in May.

"During the cordial talks, it was recognized that there is an urgent need to provide assistance to the civilian population in Gaza and to end the conflict by pursuing a two-state solution," the Vatican said in a

statement afterwards.

It noted that the meeting came 10 years after the Holy See formally recognized the state of Palestine through an agreement signed in 2015.

Abbas met several times with Leo's predecessor, Pope Francis, who died in April.

In the final months of his pontificate, Francis hardened his rhetoric against Israel's assault on Gaza, but his successor has so far adopted a more measured tone.

Leo has expressed his solidarity with Gaza and denounced the forced displacement of Palestinians, but said the Holy See could not describe what was happening as a "genocide."

On Wednesday afternoon, Abbas laid flowers at Francis's tomb at the Rome basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

"I cannot forget what he did for Palestine and the Palestinian people," Abbas told reporters.

In 2014, then-Israeli president Shimon Peres and Abbas joined a prayer for peace with Pope Francis at the Vatican, planting an olive tree together. Abbas will on Friday meet with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

School children in England to learn about fake news in curriculum

PTI

London, Nov 06: In what is being dubbed as the biggest curriculum shake-up in a decade, pupils in England will be taught about identifying fake news and learn more about artificial intelligence as part of a UK government revitalisation drive for schools.

Responding to the recommendations of a 'Curriculum and Assessment Review' by an academic on Wednesday, the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed steps to ensure every young person is equipped with the knowledge and skills required over the next decades.

The review also recommends cutting the overall volume of exams faced by teenagers by 10 per cent, with the current examination levels seen as "excessive".

"From the fundamentals of reading to the present danger of spotting fake news, as part of our Plan for Change, these landmark reforms will help young people step boldly into the future, with the knowledge to achieve and the skills to thrive as the world around us continues to rapidly evolve," said Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson.

"It has been over a decade since the national curriculum was updated, and it's more crucial than ever that young people are equipped to face



the challenges of today, so they can seize the exciting opportunities that life has to offer.

"The path to our country's renewal runs through our schools: they must be an epicentre of the strongest possible foundations of knowledge, and the skills to excel in the modern world," she said.

According to the DfE, primary school-aged children will be taught how to identify misinformation and disinformation, helping them develop the critical thinking needed to challenge what they see and protect them from online harms. They will also learn more about the fundamentals of money, such as mortgages and debt, and also bring in important changes to strengthen children's reading.

"It is essential that every young person finishes their education with the knowledge

and skills to move successfully into working life," said Jane Gratton, Deputy Director of Public Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce.

"Business will welcome curriculum changes that improve employability – such as team working, oracy, literacy, digital and financial skills. It's crucial that every student can access an appropriate qualification pathway to help keep them engaged – and in education or work," she said.

The new curriculum will be implemented from September 2028, with the government aiming to publish the final revised version by early 2027 to give schools four terms to prepare for the changes.

Other key reforms will include a compulsory citizenship module, including climate education, a new language qualification, and injecting more outdoor and sporting aspects.

World can still return below 1.5 deg C by 2100 with urgent action: Study

PTI

NEW DELHI: The world can still bring long-term average global temperature rise back to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius this century but only if countries immediately pursue the "highest possible ambition" in climate action, according to a new analysis published on Thursday.

The study, titled "Rescuing 1.5 degree C: New Evidence on Highest Possible Ambition to Deliver the Paris Agreement", by Berlin-headquartered

climate science and policy institute Climate Analytics updates earlier UN climate models to reflect today's higher emissions and finds that transformative action led by rapid electrification, renewable expansion and a fossil fuel phase-out could halt global warming before mid-century.

The report's "Highest Possible Ambition" (HPA) scenario shows global warming peaking around 1.7 degrees Celsius around 2040 before falling to about 1.2 degrees Celsius by 2100.

Experts warn of rising obesity, heart attacks among youth, urge 'Blue Zone' lifestyle

PTI

NEW DELHI: A new health crisis is silently gripping India's youth, with leading medical experts warning that sedentary lifestyles are rapidly escalating instances of hypertension among teenagers and triggering heart attacks in individuals as young as 25.

With 50 per cent of heart attacks now striking people below the age of 50, and 60 per cent of Delhi schoolchildren obese, the alarming figures have prompted experts to declare that an

urgent return to 'Blue Zone' principles is the way to reverse this urban health crisis and save the next generation.

'Blue Zones' refer to five regions around the world – Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Icaria, Greece; and Loma Linda, California – where people live much longer, healthier lives, often up to 100 years, with remarkable vitality, primarily due to their unique lifestyles based on natural movement, strong community bonds, purpose, and plant-rich diets.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Amit Shah blames

Referring to the April 22 Pahalgaon terror attack, Shah said, "After terrorists killed civilians, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered Operation Sindoor within 20 days. We entered Pakistan's territory and eliminated the terrorists."

He said that under the present government, any attack or provocation from across the border would be met with a strong response. "If terrorists fire bullets, they will be answered with shells," Shah said.

Announcing a new development initiative for the region, the Home Minister said that a defence corridor would be set up in Mithila. "Now every shell that hits Pakistan will be made in my Mithila region," he said.

Targeting the Congress and its allies, Shah accused them of "protecting infiltrators" and claimed that if leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav and his partners return to power, "the door for infiltrators will open again."

He said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has taken "firm steps" to identify and remove infiltrators across the country.

Shah said the previous governments had tolerated unrest and failed to act against illegal arms networks. "If you want a government that allows illegal weapons or one that acts firmly against enemies, you have to decide. Vote for the NDA if you want peace and security," he added.

Reacting to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks, Shah said it was inappropriate to discuss the caste or religion of soldiers serving in the Indian Army. "Rahul Gandhi has spoken about how many people from a certain caste or religion are in our Army. Shame on you, Rahul Gandhi. The Army belongs to all

Indians. We honour every soldier who wears the uniform," he said. (KNO)

Govt launches CM's

participation in heritage-linked livelihoods, and integrating local crafts into modern skill development frameworks.

Commenting on the contours of the scheme, the Chief Minister said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to preserving Jammu and Kashmir's centuries-old craftsmanship while creating new avenues of employment for the youth. "Our heritage crafts are not only a reflection of our cultural identity but also a source of dignified livelihood. This initiative will serve as a bridge between tradition and opportunity," the Chief Minister observed.

Power demand increases

unable to meet the demand."

"It can be observed that during the high-demand winter months, the proportion of unserved energy is high," the study mentions.

The report also reveals that surplus capacity is available with states due to renewable energy availability, demand variation, etc.

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) informed that it was imposing a curtailment of four hours in areas with the highest technical and commercial losses on local feeders.

The department said there were no power outages and no unscheduled cuts in the Kashmir valley during the last winter.

PDD Minister, in a recently concluded Legislative Assembly session, informed the House that "no unscheduled cuts were imposed in the Kashmir valley during the last winter, despite a substantial increase in power

demand owing to heating loads, at a time when power availability from own generation sources remains limited" (KNO)

By-poll results

The people here have always supported the National Conference," he said.

Wani expressed confidence in the party's candidate, saying, "Our candidate, Madam Shamim, has a proven record of service and development during her tenure as BDC chairperson. We appeal to the people of Nagrota to elect her again and strengthen our mission of development."

Responding to questions on dynasty politics, Wani said, "Those who talk about nepotism should look within. The BJP itself is unclear about its next leadership. There's a huge difference between what they say and what they do."

About the 'Vande Mataram' issue, Wani refrained from making a direct comment, saying, "You should ask those who raised it. We will discuss our stand when it comes to us." (KNO)

Strengthen Srinagar's

dynamic and surprise nakas at strategic and vulnerable points to enhance area domination and deterrence.

He instructed officers to maintain seamless communication between adjoining districts for inter-district security coordination and real-time information sharing.

Stressing on operational agility, the DGP directed districts to reinforce their Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) with improved mobility, training, and equipment. He also called for modernization and upgradation of the communication network to ensure uninterrupted and secure connectivity across all levels.

Non-Migrant Christians, 130 Protected Persons, 216 Terror Victim Persons and 1,617 Transit Category.

SSP Gurinderpal Singh, while speaking to reporters said the app dynamically adapts to evolving threat perceptions. "Security challenges change constantly and this platform will expand its scope accordingly. Journalists, political workers or any vulnerable person can enroll and seek support when needed," he said.

Officials described the initiative as a one-stop safety solution designed to strengthen trust between the police and the public, ensuring timely protection, especially for terror victim families, migrants and other vulnerable groups. (KNO)

CM approves ₹19.99 cr

latest technical standards to promote sustainable infrastructure and improve disposal of grey water in urban areas in the shape of reusing it or ensuring its safe disposal.

Majority of J&K's E-buses

buses, following a request from the Union government to assess the region's transport needs.

Officials said the next batch will be procured through a tendering process. Tata Motors or another manufacturer may supply the vehicles depending on the outcome.

The upcoming fleet aims to cover routes that are not served at present. Officials say these buses will improve connectivity, reduce pollution and make public transport more reliable. Once operational, the new buses are expected to strengthen the region's shift toward sustainable mobility and ease pressure on the existing fleet. (KNO)

India needs world-class banks; in talks with RBI, lenders: FM Sitharaman

PTI

Mumbai, Nov 06: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the country needs big and world-class banks, and discussions are on with the Reserve Bank and lenders in this regard.

Addressing the 12th SBI Banking and Economics Conclave 2025, Sitharaman asked lenders to deepen and widen credit flow to the industry, exuding confidence that GST rate cut-driven demand would unleash a virtuous investment cycle.

She advised that access to finance is absolutely critical and that a system-driven, transparent lending process is essential.

Stressing that India needs a lot of big and world-class banks, she said the "government is looking at this and work has already commenced. We are discussing with the RBI. We are discussing with banks". Before the government takes a call on this, she said, a lot of the work has to be done, including taking inputs from the RBI as to how they want to build larger banks.

"It is not by creating from those which exist today...just by amalgamation that can also be one of the routes, but you need an ecosystem and an environment in which more banks can operate and operate to grow. So, that environment is actually well established in India, but I needed to be more dynamic. So, some work is happening on it," she said.

In a bid to create bigger banks, the government in the past had done two rounds of consolidation. In the biggest consolidation exercise in the banking space, the government, in August 2019, had announced four major mergers of public sector banks, bringing down their total number to



12 from 27 in 2017. Effective April 1, 2020, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce were merged with Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank; Allahabad Bank was amalgamated with Indian Bank; and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank were consolidated with Union Bank of India.

In 2019, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank were merged with Bank of Baroda. Prior to this, the government had merged five associate banks of SBI and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with the State Bank of India. This was done in April 2017 with the intent to make SBI much bigger.

Besides, as part of the privatisation exercise, the government in January 2019 sold its controlling 51 per cent stake in IDBI Bank to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

Subsequently, the government and LIC announced plans for the strategic sale of their stake in IDBI Bank. In October 2022, both shareholders had invited EoI (Expression of Interest) from investors for privatising IDBI Bank by selling a total of 60.72 per cent stake. This

includes a 30.48 per cent stake of the government and 30.24 per cent of LIC.

In January 2023, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) received multiple EoIs for IDBI Bank.

Paving the way for the sale of IDBI Bank, Sebi in August 2025 has approved the reclassification of Life Insurance Corporation as a public shareholder from promoter of the bank on completion of strategic divestment in the lender. She emphasised that infrastructure creation is the government's main focus, and capital expenditure has increased fivefold in the last decade. Speaking about fiscal prudence, she said the government is maintaining a sustained self-reliance principle in making sure that the fiscal discipline is never threatened.

"Balancing growth spending with fiscal stability ensures macroeconomic resilience, keeps inflation in check, and preserves investor confidence," she said.

Sitharaman also said the government's goods and services tax reforms, which took effect on September 22, kick-started private capital

expenditure, with companies seeing confidence in consumption demand.

"From September 22, you are seeing the consumption horizon glaring...So, there is demand. I am also seeing a good number of private sector capacity building, and equity credit is also going up. So, it is actually kick-starting, I would think, vicious virtuous cycle," she said.

If the virtuous cycle of investment kicks in, it will actually speed up growth momentum, she added. Talking about economic self-reliance or Arthik Atmanirbharta, she said it means a nation's ability to generate its own prosperity through diversified production, internal value creation, and sustainable wealth.

"India is a vast and uniquely diverse nation - there is no single model before us to copy or replicate. Economic Atmanirbharta should be shaped by our own realities, needs, and aspirations.

"It will mean food security, energy security, giving full steam to MSMEs, textiles, and tourism. Economic Atmanirbharta means nurturing both traditional

sectors and modern technology & innovation-based sectors," the minister said.

Financial inclusion, a robust financial and banking ecosystem and fiscal prudence would be needed for achieving Economic Atmanirbharta, she pointed out.

'Atmanirbhar Bharat' envisions an India that designs, produces, and innovates for itself and for the world - an economy rooted in self-confidence, powered by enterprise, and guided by compassion, she said, adding that it is the coming together of economic strength, technological capability, social empowerment and environmental responsibility - all aligned with the larger goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Speaking at the event, SBI Chairman CS Setty said that India's largest lender will feature in the top 10 global banks by 2030.

SBI also touched USD 100 billion market capitalisation on Thursday, he said.

The country's biggest lender had reported a net profit of Rs 20,160 crore for the September quarter, including an exceptional gain of Rs 4,593 crore from its 13.18 per cent stake sale in Yes Bank.

Talking about banking sector reforms, Setty said the government should look at raising the foreign direct investment limit in PSU banks to 49 per cent from the current 20 per cent.

The hike in FDI limit will help bring more parity between public and private sector banks. Private banks can have up to 74 per cent of their equity capital from foreign investors.

With a 51 per cent stake, the government can continue to retain the public sector entity identity of PSU banks. Foreign capital will also help in building larger and globally competitive lenders.

RJD, Cong have soft corner for infiltrators, dislike for Lord Ram because of vote bank, alleges PM

PTI

Araria, Nov 06: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday charged the opposition RJD-Congress combine in Bihar with having a soft corner for infiltrators, but "dislike" for Lord Ram and 'Chhathi Maiya' because of vote bank politics.

Addressing a rally in Araria district, Modi also alleged that the reluctance of opposition leaders to visit Ayodhya to have 'darshan' of shrines dedicated to Nishad Raj, Mata Shabri and Maharshi Valmiki was indicative of their "hatred" for Dalits and backward classes.

"Bihar saw zero development during the 15 years of 'jungle raj'. No highways and bridges were built, nor any centres of higher learning were set up. The NDA under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has worked very hard to bring the state out of that era," he said.

"Today, Bihar has so many expressways, bridges over rivers, as many as four central universities and other centres of higher learning. Only the NDA can ensure that this journey towards growth continues uninterrupted," he added.



Modi said the NDA faces a big challenge on this journey of growth, which is the menace of infiltration.

"The NDA is committed to driving out each and every infiltrator from the country. But the Congress-RJD offer them protection, take out political yatras in their favour and come up with misleading narratives," alleged the PM in an indirect reference to Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' and allegations of "vote theft".

"Whenever the RJD-Congress achieve power, they try to give back-door entry to infiltrators. They do so because of vote bank politics. But this takes a toll on the people of this country. The infiltrators claim a share in all that belongs to the citizens," he added.

Modi also said vote bank politics has filled the

opposition leaders with contempt for traditions.

"The naamdaar of Congress (Gandhi) called the devotion to Chhathi Maiya a drama. They never visit Ayodhya to have a darshan of Lord Sri Ram," he said.

"I understand their dislike for Lord Ram. But they can at least pay obeisance at the shrines dedicated to Nishad Raj, Shabri Mata and Maharshi Valmiki. Their reluctance to do so only indicates their hatred for Dalits and backward classes," he alleged.

The PM also claimed that infighting was on between the Congress and the RJD, and "after elections, all these INDI Alliance partners will be seen breaking each other's heads".

"The fight between the RJD and Congress has reached such a level that now their deputy CM candidate is speaking up against 'jungle raj'," he said.

ED summons Anil Ambani to depose on Nov 14

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani has been summoned again by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning next week in an alleged bank fraud-cum-money laundering case, according to sources.

The 66-year-old businessman was questioned by the federal probe agency

in August. ED attaches assets worth over ₹3,000 crore in money laundering probe against Anil Ambani and his firms

Anil Ambani has been asked to depose on November 14 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to an alleged bank loan fraud at the State Bank of India (SBI), the sources said.

The agency recently attached assets worth ₹7,500 crore as part of its investigation against Ambani's group companies.

On poll day, Bihar Dy CM alleges his convoy attacked by RJD supporters

EC asks DGP to take action



PTI

Lakhisarai (Bihar), Nov 06: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha caused a flutter on Thursday, alleging that his convoy had been attacked by workers of the main opposition party, RJD, who were trying to "intimidate" voters in the area.

The senior BJP leader, who is seeking re-election for a fourth consecutive term, expressed dissatisfaction with the response of the local administration, saying he would take up the matter with the Election Commission (EC).

Reacting to the alleged incident, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar directed the state DGP to take "immediate action". "No one will be allowed to take the law into their own hands. Strict action will be taken against the miscreants," an official said, quoting Kumar.

Lakhisarai SP Ajay Kumar said polling was continuing in the area where Sinha alleged that his convoy was attacked by RJD supporters.

"I have received reports

of some protests over broken roads, but I will be able to confirm what actually happened only after visiting the site," the SP said.

Talking to reporters, the Deputy CM said, "Since morning, RJD supporters have been intimidating voters belonging to extremely backward classes. The local SP is a coward. He says there is peace all around, when the fact is that people are not being allowed to vote".

"You can see one of the cars in my cavalcade, which has been damaged by the opposition party goons who hurled stones, slippers and cow dung when our men tried to stop them. One of my workers, Vibhishan Kevat, was beaten up badly. He has been admitted to a hospital, and there has not been a single arrest", Sinha said.

Accusing the RJD of resorting to violence, the deputy chief minister said, "The party has shown what it stands for. When this is their behaviour while out of power, if they win the polls even by fluke, what will ensue will be nothing short of the law of the jungle."

Expressing serious dissatisfaction with the response of the local administration, the Deputy CM said, "The matter will be raised before the Election Commission. The questionable conduct of the official concerned with be reviewed and action will follow".

RJD spokesperson Shakti Yadav said, "He (Sinha) is a liar. He gets Z+ Security; it's his party that is in power in the state and controls the administration. Still, you are levelling these false allegations? Locals raised questions on a broken drain, and that is what happened".

Meanwhile, a similar incident was reported from Manjhi assembly constituency of Saran district, where the convoy of Satyendra Yadav, the sitting CPI(M) Liberation MLA, was attacked by unidentified persons.

According to a statement issued by the Saran police, occupants of the car, including the MLA, had escaped unhurt attack and a search was on for "antisocial elements" in the attack.

How much water is enough for healthy kidneys & uric acid levels

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 06: Uric acid is a natural substance our bodies make when they break down purines, which are found in everyday food items as well, such as meat, seafood, and vegetables, and is naturally made by the body's own cells as well. Usually, uric acid dissolves in the blood system and leaves the body through the kidneys, but sometimes it builds up as well. This condition is medically termed as hyperuricemia, which can quietly lead to an increase in gout, kidney stones and even heart-related issues (over time).

One of the simplest and most effective solutions when it comes to uric acid is keeping the body well-hydrated. Water is not merely a neutral drink, it actively works to keep the uric acid levels in check, thereby supporting kidney health.

10 benefits of having water on empty stomach

Water works as the body's natural detoxifier. It dilutes uric acid, thereby making it easy to pass through the kidneys. When the body has less fluid available, this increases the level of uric acid in the blood, heightening the tendency toward crystallization in joints and kidneys.

The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention says gout patients and hyperuricemia patients are advised to drink 2000-3000 ml of water everyday.

In fact, The Journal of Nephrology says that drinking more water can help prevent uric acid nephrolithiasis or uric acid kidney stones, by diluting



the urine so that less crystallisation takes place, and by flushing out small uric acid crystals before they have a chance to stick together and grow into larger stones.

Even a mild dehydration slows the activity of the kidneys to such an extent that the body cannot effectively eliminate waste products. That's one reason why people who consume excess protein, alcohol, or live sedentary lifestyles often show higher uric acid levels-their kidneys are simply overworked and under-hydrated.

The National Kidney Foundation advises that: Staying hydrated is one of the best and easiest ways to help manage gout. It helps kidneys flush out excess uric acid, lowering the chances of crystal buildup in the joints.

How much water is enough While there is no one-size-fits-all approach for when it comes to water intake, most people need 4-6 cups of water daily but total water requirement is 15.5 cups for men and 11.5 for women, as per Harvard Health.

How you drink is as important as how much. Sipping water throughout the day is better than gulping down large amounts at once. A glass of warm water before breakfast starts your day by waking up your kidneys and jumpstarting

detoxification. Adding a few drops of lemon can make it mildly alkaline, supporting internal balance.

Hydration habits that can help to some extent If plain water is not that appealing, try making it more interesting and beneficial:

Infuse with cucumber, mint, or lemon for a mild alkalizing effect and refreshing taste.

Drink coconut water to replace lost fluids and maintain electrolyte balance.

Drink herbal teas like nettle, green tea, or dandelion, which promote the kidneys' excretion of toxins and provide antioxidant effects.

Add fresh ginger slices to water or tea for a warming, metabolism-boosting effect.

Avoid drinks containing sugar, including packaged juices and soft drinks. These raise the intake of fructose, which is known to trigger high uric acid. Alcohol, especially beer, can worsen the situation since it contains purines and contributes to dehydration.

Diet and lifestyle go hand in hand

Hydration alone won't fix the problem if your diet continues to increase uric acid levels. Limiting foods that are heavy in purines, such as shellfish, and red meat, and increasing fruits and

vegetables, with higher water content such as watermelon, cucumbers, tomatoes, oranges, and spinach will help.

This includes foods high in vitamin C, which, like amla, guava, and citrus fruits, help the body excrete uric acid more efficiently. Cherries have been found to specifically decrease gout flares due to their content of anti-inflammatory and antioxidant compounds.

Support kidney health naturally

Healthy kidneys are in charge of maintaining uric acid balance through the filtering of about 180 liters of blood per day, cleaning it from waste and toxins. Dehydration slows this process, allowing uric acid to build up. Staying hydrated keeps filtration efficient and the kidneys functioning properly.

Accordingly, this effect can be enhanced by good hydration with light physical activity: light walking, yoga, or stretching will improve the circulation and metabolic rate, allowing the body to detoxify better.

Water might just be the most neglected but effective tools at keeping uric acid levels in check. It is free, natural, and scientifically proven to protect the kidneys and the joints. How much one needs varies according to body weight, climate, and lifestyle; nonetheless, the objective remains exactly alike: consistent hydration.

Let this very simple habit work for your kidneys and their health, along with limited consumption of alcohol, sugary drinks and getting daily movement, make sure to keep your water intake adequate

Sustainable aviation fuel policy soon: Naidu

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: The government will very soon come out with a policy on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which can help reduce crude oil imports, increase farmers' income and create more green jobs, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu said on Thursday.

Addressing a summit in the national capital, the minister stressed that adoption of SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) demands more innovation, investment and a collective international collaboration.

India aims to have 1 per cent blending of SAF in jet fuel by 2027, 2 per cent blending by 2028 and 5 per cent blending by 2030. SAF can be used as a drop-in fuel in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), which powers aircraft.

The minister said that private players should also be part of SAF production besides the oil companies.

Globally, the requirement for SAF is estimated at 183 million tonnes by 2040. "From feedstock to fuel, from farmers to flyers, and from flying to flying, who would have actually imagined that (those) frying samosas also can participate in this whole global aviation movement (on SAF)," Naidu said.

India has more than 750 million tonnes of available biomass and nearly 213 million tonnes of surplus agricultural residue.

Naidu said the government will very soon come out with a SAF policy.

Apart from reducing carbon emissions, the minister said SAF can empower farmers by increasing their incomes by 10-15 per cent.

Along with reducing our crude oil import bill by USD 5-7 billion every year, SAF production can also help create over 1 million green jobs across the SAF value chain, Naidu said.

At present, global SAF is very less. Naidu said that the country can produce SAF at highly competitive rates and the fuel can also help address challenge of growth versus sustainability.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets and domestic carriers have placed orders for more than 1,700 planes.

‘World can still return below 1.5 deg C by 2100 with urgent action’

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: The world can still bring long-term average global temperature rise back to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius this century but only if countries immediately pursue the "highest possible ambition" in climate action, according to a new analysis published on Thursday.

The study, titled "Rescuing 1.5 degree C: New Evidence on Highest Possible Ambition to Deliver the Paris Agreement", by Berlin-headquartered climate science and policy institute Climate Analytics updates earlier UN climate models to reflect today's higher emissions and finds that transformative action led by rapid electrification, renewable expansion and a fossil fuel phaseout could halt global warming before mid-century.

The report's "Highest Possible Ambition" (HPA) scenario shows global warming peaking around 1.7 degrees Celsius around 2040 before falling to about 1.2 degrees Celsius

by 2100. It projects global carbon dioxide emissions reaching net zero by 2045 and all greenhouse gases by the 2060s -- roughly a decade earlier than in the latest IPCC pathways.

Under the HPA scenario, renewable electricity would supply nearly two-thirds of all energy demand by 2050, with wind and solar meeting over 90 per cent of electricity needs.

Fossil fuel use peaks immediately and declines sharply; coal is effectively phased out by the 2040s, gas in the 2050s and oil in the 2060s. Advanced economies would reach a fossil-free energy system by 2050, with the rest of the world following by 2070. Methane emissions would fall 20 per cent by 2030 and 30 per cent by 2035 compared to 2020 levels, driven mainly by cuts in the energy sector.

Carbon dioxide removal technologies, including direct air capture and engineered removals, would need to scale up rapidly, capturing over 5 billion tonnes of CO2 annually by 2050. The Paris Agreement, adopted



by nearly 200 countries in 2015, aims to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Warming has already crossed 1.3 degrees Celsius and global emissions

continue to rise.

According to the World Meteorological Department, 2024 was the hottest year on record and the first with a global average temperature 1.5 degrees Celsius above

pre-industrial levels.

However, a permanent breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius limit specified in the Paris Agreement refers to long-term warming over a 20- or 30-year period.

The Climate Analytics report said the world will very likely reach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming by the early 2030s.

The global average concentration of carbon dioxide surged by 3.5 parts per million from 2023 to 2024, the largest increase since modern measurements started in 1957.

"Overshoot of 1.5 degrees Celsius is a woeful political failure and will bring increased damages and risk of tipping points that otherwise could have been avoided. But this roadmap shows it is still within our power to bring warming back well below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100," said Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics.

"We must do all we can to limit any time we spend above this safety threshold to minimise the risk of

irreversible climate damages and the devastation that could be caused by crossing tipping points."

The analysis warned that a temporary overshoot of 1.5 degrees Celsius, expected to last about four decades, will have significant consequences for vulnerable countries, ecosystems and global inequality.

But it also finds that swift emissions cuts, combined with a revolution in renewables and batteries, could help reverse that trend before the end of the century.

Grant, Senior Expert at Climate Analytics and lead author, said, "The last five years have cost us precious time in the critical decade of climate action. "However, they have also seen a revolution in renewables and batteries, which have shattered records across the globe. Riding these tailwinds can help turbocharge our clean energy future and catch up on lost time. The window to minimise overshoot is still open, but narrowing fast."

President Murmu lauds India women’s team; presented with signed jersey

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 06: President Droupadi Murmu lauded the World Cup-winning Indian women's cricket team for its exemplary performance during a meeting with the players at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. She was also presented with a jersey signed by the entire squad.

India clinched its first global title in women's cricket, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the ODI World Cup final in Navi Mumbai on Sunday.

President Murmu congratulated the team on its historic achievement, saying the players had not only scripted history but also become role models for the younger generation.

"Members of the Indian Women Cricket team, winner of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President congratulated the team and said that they have created history and have become role models for younger generation.

"She said that this team reflects India. They represent



different regions, different social backgrounds, different circumstances but they are one Team -- India," the official handle of the President posted on social media with pictures of the meeting.

The Indian captain also presented the World Cup trophy to the President. The Indian captain also presented the World Cup trophy to the President. The Indian captain also presented the World Cup trophy to the President.

During the interaction, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur also presented the World Cup trophy to the President besides the signed jersey.

In a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the President said that this team reflects India.

"They represent different

regions, different social backgrounds, different circumstances. But they are one Team India. This team shows India at its best," read the PIB release quoting Murmu.

The President said that the team strengthened the belief of all Indians in its capability by defeating seven-time world champion and then-undefeated Australian team in the semifinal.

"The younger generation, especially girls, will be inspired to move ahead in life. She expressed confidence that with the same qualities with which they have written history, they will keep Indian cricket at the top in future as well."

Musk’s Starlink to start services in India



AFP

New Delhi, Nov 06: India's Maharashtra state, home to financial hub Mumbai, will be the first to roll out Elon Musk's Starlink Internet service in the world's most populous country, the chief minister said.

The launch of Starlink, which provides high-speed Internet to remote locations using low-orbit satellites, has sparked fierce debate in India over issues ranging from predatory pricing to spectrum allocation.

India -- projected to have more than 900 million Internet users by year's end -- granted Starlink a license in June.

Maharashtra was "poised to become the first Indian state to formally collaborate with Starlink," the state's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on the Musk-owned platform X late Wednesday.

"This collaboration... will ensure the state leads India in satellite-enabled digital infrastructure."

B'desh approves law prescribing death penalty for perpetrators of enforced disappearance

PTI

Dhaka, Nov 06: Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday approved a draft ordinance prescribing the death penalty for perpetrators of "enforced disappearance", amid the ongoing trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 15 serving military officers over crimes against humanity.

"This is a landmark law. It will ensure that enforced disappearances never occur again in the country," press secretary of Chief Adviser Yunus, Shafiqul Alam, said at a press conference after the advisory council, effectively the cabinet, approved the draft.

He said the law criminalises the establishment of secret detention centres such as "so-called Aynagar" and obligates courts to conduct trials under the proposed law within 120 days of the filing of charges.

After President Mohammad Shahabuddin's assent, the ordinance will likely be enforced in the case of 15 army officers, Hasina and several of her colleagues in the ousted government, including the former police chief.

Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor on October 16 sought the death penalty for deposed



premier Sheikh Hasina, alleging that she was the "mastermind and principal architect" behind the crimes against humanity committed during the mass protests last year.

Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following the mass student-led agitation in the country.

According to a UN rights office report, up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year as Hasina's government ordered a security crackdown on protesters.

Hasina is facing the trial in absentia at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) along with several ministers of her government, while 15 serving military officers also appeared on the

dock from the cantonment, complying with the tribunal's arrest warrant. The military officers' court appearance on October 22 came amid widespread speculations and unease over their trial in a civil court under a newly amended ICT-BD law instead of a military court under the Army Act.

The ICT-BD prosecutor earlier warned the army of declaring 15 of their officers "fugitives" unless they were produced on the dock on the due date.

The third amendment to the ICT-BD law, originally enacted to try hardened collaborators of Pakistani troops during the 1971 Liberation War, suggested that people charged under the law would be immediately disqualified to hold public offices and government services.

Sheetal Devi breaks new ground, qualifies for India’s able-bodied archery team for Asia Cup

PTI

Jeddah, Nov 06: New Delhi, Nov 6: Para-archer Sheetal Devi, the world compound champion born without arms, shattered another barrier on Thursday by being picked in the Indian able-bodied junior team for the upcoming Asia Cup Stage 3 in Jeddah.

Her selection marks another historic first for Sheetal -- the inclusion of a para-athlete in an Indian team for an able-bodied international competition.

"When I started competing, I had a small dream -- to one day compete alongside the able-bodied. I didn't make it at first, but I kept going, learning from every setback. Today, that dream is one step closer," Sheetal wrote on social media after the announcement.

Winner of a bronze medal in the mixed team compound event at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, Sheetal drew inspiration from Turkey's Paralympic champion Ozgur



Cure Girdi, who also competes in able-bodied events at the world level. Competing among more than 60 able-bodied archers from across the country under identical conditions, the 18-year-old from Jammu and Kashmir finished third overall in the rigorous four-day national selection trials held in Sonapat.

Sheetal scored 703 points in the qualification rounds -- 352 in the first and 351 in the

second -- matching top qualifier Tejal Salve's total.

In the final rankings, Tejal (15.75 points) and Vaidehi Jadhav (15 points) took the top two spots, while Sheetal secured third place with 11.75 points, narrowly edging out Maharashtra's Dnyaneshwari Gadadhe by 0.25 points.

Trained at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex in Katra,

Sheetal has already carved her name in history by becoming the first female armless world champion in para archery this year.

Teams

Recurve: Men's: Rampal Choudhary (AAI), Rohit Kumar (Uttar Pradesh), Mayank Kumar (Haryana); Women: Kondapavuluri Yuktha Sri (Andhra Pradesh), Vaishnavi Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Kratika Bichpuriya (Madhya Pradesh).

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