

## Use your pens as weapons against radicalisation: LG Sinha urges poets

Security forces doing their job, society cannot remain silent | Many tried to plunder India's wealth but couldn't loot our culture | J&K was known as Sharda Peeth, several Sanskrit texts originated from region

**Yogesh**

Jammu, Nov 28: Asking poets to use their pens as weapons against separatists and the elements trying to radicalize youth, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday highlighted the crucial role of poets, writers and artists in shaping a peaceful, progressive, and culturally enriched Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing a kavi sammelan here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "A huge responsibility lies on intellectuals to contribute towards building J&K and Viksit Bharat."

"Poets and writers must strengthen the unity, counter secessionist attempts to divide and radicalise youth in



Kashmir valley," he added.

The LG said the past five to six years have been decisive for Jammu and Kashmir's

transformation. "We have tried our best to give a peaceful atmosphere to the youth," he said. "But some people are

still attempting to radicalize them and disrupt peace. Our security forces are doing their job, but society—especially

poets—must not remain silent."

He urged poets to use their pens as a powerful tool against anti-peace elements and separatist ideologies. "You have to play a vital role in building a Jammu & Kashmir where our youth can fulfil their dreams. Kavita (poetry) is a reflection of society," he said.

Calling poetry "more valuable than diamonds," LG Sinha said that the verses flowing from a poet's pen carry the strength to influence minds and shape society.

"Despite the challenges poets face in sustaining themselves a poet plays an important role in building the nation," the Lieutenant Governor added.

Emphasizing that both science and arts are crucial for national | [More on P6](#)

## 'New India' responds decisively to terror threats: PM Modi

Says country, world witnessed govt's resolve through 'Op Sindoor'

**Sajid Raina**

New Delhi, Nov 28: Asserting that the "New India" responds decisively to terror threats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reiterated that the nation would neither bow before anyone, nor will it leave any stone unturned to safeguard its citizens.

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The country and the entire world witnessed the government's resolve through Operation Sindoor, the military response involving precision strikes on terror launchpads in Pakistan."

He highlighted that earlier, governments remained passive in the face of such attacks, whereas today, India acts firmly to protect its citizens. "This is a new India that neither bows before anyone nor wavers from its duty to safeguard its people," PM Modi said.



The Prime Minister added that India understands both how to establish peace and how to protect it.

PM Modi also urged citizens to follow nine resolutions inspired by dharmic principles including conserving water, planting trees, uplifting the poor, promoting Swadeshi, advancing natural farming, embracing healthy lifestyles, practicing yoga, preserving manuscripts, and visiting at least 25 heritage sites.

He noted that these efforts reflect both | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir records coldest Nov night in 17 years

Temps plunge across Valley

**Sajid Raina**

Srinagar, Nov 28: Kashmir woke up to an intensified cold wave on Friday as several stations recorded their lowest November temperatures in nearly two decades, with Srinagar, Qazigund and Kupwara all touching historic lows for the second consecutive day.

According to figures compiled by Kashmir Weather and accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.5°C, the lowest for November since 2007, when minus 4.8°C was logged on November 28.

The all-time lowest November minimum for the

city stands at minus 7.8°C, recorded on November 29, 1934.

Qazigund, known as the Gateway of Kashmir, also posted its lowest November temperature since 2007, settling at minus 4.4°C.

It had last recorded minus 5.5°C on November 28, 2007, while its record low remains minus 8.2°C, noted on November 24, 1962.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara dropped to minus 4.8°C, marking the lowest November minimum since November 29, 2007, when minus 5.5°C was reported, still standing as the district's all-time record.

The cold wave extended across the Valley with sub-zero temperatures at almost all stations. Pampore touched minus 6.0°C, while Anantnag and Pulwama both recorded minus 6.2°C. Shopian | [More on P6](#)

## India committed to peace, won't compromise on sovereignty: Rajnath

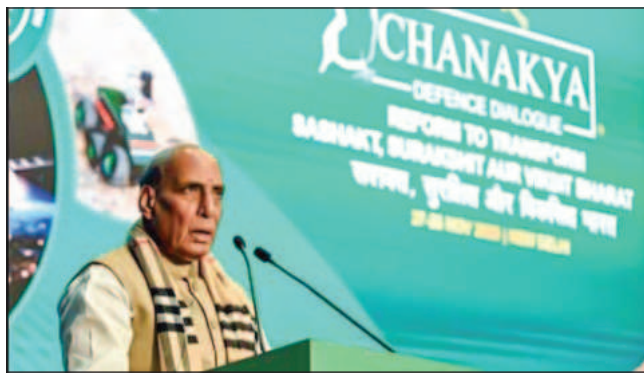
'Developed India not possible without secure India'

**Ahmad Taimur**

Srinagar, Nov 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that India has always believed in peace and dialogue, and it remains committed to that approach, but when it comes to the sovereignty and the security of the people, they won't compromise.

Speaking at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue in New Delhi, Rajnath Singh, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that Armed Forces have shown again and again that they are capable and ready.

He said that it is this blend of restraint and firmness that allows "us to manage our neighbourhood challenges,



while contributing to regional stability".

"In this changing global environment, India's place is also undergoing transformation. Our economic growth, technological capabilities and principled foreign policy have

made us a voice of balance and responsibility," he said.

He added that today, India is not standing on the margins of global discussions, in fact we are shaping them. "And we do so with a sense of responsibility, strategic | [More on P6](#)

## 'Give us law & order, take it back if mishandled': CM Omar to Centre

Says terror attacks like Pahalgam, Delhi didn't occur under NC govts

Defends metering for free electricity

Assures reservation report soon

Slams PDP over BJP alliance

**Sajid Raina**

Srinagar, Nov 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said Jammu and Kashmir did not witness incidents similar to the recent Pahalgam and Delhi



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

terror attacks when the National Conference (NC) was in power as a full-fledged state. He called for the restoration of law and order powers to the elected government.

Addressing a press conference

after the conclusion of the NC Working Committee's two-day meeting, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Union Government cannot expect accountability | [More on P6](#)

## Selective demolitions conspiracy against elected govt: CM Omar

'Bulldozers used without our consultation or approval'

**KNO Special Correspondent**

Srinagar, Nov 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday alleged that officers appointed by Raj Bhavan were carrying out selective demolition drives without consulting the elected government, in an attempt to defame it.

Speaking to the media, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the CM claimed that officers were using bulldozers without the knowledge or approval of the elected government. "Officials appointed by Raj Bhavan are using bulldozers at their own discretion, without the permission of the elected government and without the consent of the concerned minister. It clearly



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

means that a massive conspiracy has been hatched to malign and humiliate the elected government," he said.

He added that the elected government should have the

authority to appoint field staff. "It is fine that you (Raj Bhavan) appoint commissioners, secretaries, principal secretaries, and additional chief secretaries, but CEOs of development

authorities should be appointed by the elected government. Revenue staff should also be appointed with our permission. It is unfortunate that officers are being appointed to these posts without consulting us, and then they take dictation from elsewhere, bring in bulldozers, and initiate action on their own," Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister further alleged that the actions appeared to target a particular community. "Was this the only spot in Jammu where allegations of illegal occupation on JDA land have been made? I have now asked the department for a complete list of all places where people are illegally occupying JDA property. I want to see whether this | [More on P6](#)

## Common cold, upper respiratory infections surge as cold wave grips Kashmir

Doctors call for timely vaccination, preventive care to reduce winter illnesses

**Jahangeer Ganaie**

Srinagar, Nov 28: With temperatures dipping steadily across Kashmir, doctors are reporting a rise in cases of common cold and upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs).

Health experts warn that the trend is likely to intensify in the coming weeks, especially among vulnerable groups, unless timely precautions are taken.

Dr Abdul Hameed Dar, a chest specialist posted in south Kashmir, told the news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the cold season creates ideal conditions for various respiratory viruses—such as

rhinoviruses, influenza viruses, and certain coronaviruses—to spread more easily.

"Cold and dry air allows these viruses to survive longer in the environment. This makes infections more frequent and more difficult to control," he said.

According to him, young children, the elderly, and individuals with chronic illnesses like asthma, diabetes, or COPD are at the highest risk of complications once infected. The doctor emphasised the importance of

influenza vaccination, especially for high-risk groups.

"Flu vaccines significantly reduce the severity of illness and prevent complications. Pneumococcal vaccines are also advised for people prone to bacterial infections that follow viral episodes," he added.

Dr Mumtaz Mir, another doctor, explained that winter-related behavioural changes also play a major role in the seasonal spike.

He said several key factors are behind the | [More on P6](#)

## Forces conduct surprise searches in Lal Chowk's hotels, shops

'Tightening surveillance, ensuring adherence to verification norms'

**Rehan Qayoom Mir**

Srinagar, Nov 28: In a bid to strengthen security and surveillance in the commercial hub of Srinagar, joint teams of police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Friday conducted surprise searches in hotels, lodges and business establishments in and around Lal Chowk Srinagar.

The officials said that the exercise was aimed to verify the credentials of guests to ensure that commercial facilities are not misused for unlawful purposes.



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

The searches were conducted by the personnel from Srinagar Police, CRPF's 132 battalion

and the women's (Mahila) Company of 213 Battalion. As per the | [More on P6](#)



# Chief Secy, NITI Aayog hold high-level talks on J&K's drug abuse response

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: In a significant step towards countering the growing menace of drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday held a high-level consultation with Member NITI Aayog, Dr V.K. Paul, seeking expert guidance to evolve a comprehensive, effective and sustainable strategy to combat substance abuse across the UT.

The consultation session, as per an official statement, brought together leading national-level experts from AIIMS New Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh, besides senior officers and health administrators from J&K.

The meeting was steered by the Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), and attended by the Managing Director, National Health Mission; Director SKIMS; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; and Heads of Departments of Psychiatry from GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary outlined the gravity and dimensions of the drug abuse problem in the UT,



highlighting ongoing initiatives, institutional mechanisms and coordinated efforts being undertaken by various agencies.

He elaborated on the multi-pronged strategy adopted by the administration, which rests on five key pillars of strict enforcement, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation aimed at ensuring both immediate intervention and long-term recovery of victims.

Emphasizing the need for a community-centric approach, the Chief Secretary sought expert inputs from Dr Paul on strengthening the network of counsellors down to the grassroots level, including educational institutions, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and local communities.

He further stressed the importance of developing a more robust rehabilitation framework, supported by an effective monitoring mechanism to prevent relapse and

enable reintegrated individuals to lead dignified and productive lives in society.

Appreciating the proactive approach of the J&K Administration, Dr V.K. Paul commended its vision of looking beyond mere treatment and focusing on holistic rehabilitation and community mobilization. He noted that the proposed model, with strong emphasis on counselling and rehabilitation, brings greater

vigour and sustainability to the overall strategy, making it innovative and comprehensive.

Dr Paul also shared insights from the Himachal Pradesh model of substance abuse management, wherein a structured treatment network supported by national experts has yielded positive results. He suggested studying this model in detail and adapting its framework, with necessary modifications, to suit the specific needs and socio-cultural context of Jammu and Kashmir.

Assuring full support from NITI Aayog, Dr Paul stated that a dedicated team of experts would assist the UT Administration in preparing a comprehensive action plan. He identified the core focus areas of the proposed action-oriented strategy as IEC activities, enhanced patient services, structured treatment protocols and systematic rehabilitation of recovered individuals.

The experts from AIIMS and PGIMER also shared valuable insights on clinical treatment protocols, counselling methodologies and best practices in managing substance use disorders.

## GMC Anantnag marks AMR Awareness Week with outreach drives

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 28: The Postgraduate Department of Pharmacology, Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, under the guidance of Principal and Dean, Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb, observed Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week from November 18-24, 2025, with a series of community outreach activities.

The theme for this year's awareness week was "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future."

As part of the global initiative to combat the growing threat of drug-resistant infections, the department organised awareness visits, field visits, rallies, and competitions to promote responsible antibiotic use and highlight the importance of collective responsibility in curbing AMR. The activities, as per an official statement issued on Friday, included awareness visits to GMC Anantnag Hospital Janglat Mandi, field visits to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) at Sagam

and Brakapora, and Mater-nity Hospital, Sherbagh. During these visits, faculty members and students interacted with patients, caregivers, and healthcare staff, emphasizing the need for judicious antibiotic use.

Undergraduate MBBS students actively participated in rallies and helped disseminate key messages to the community. A quiz and poster competition was also organized for Phase 2 MBBS students, which saw enthusiastic participation and reflected a strong academic interest in AMR. Through these activities, GMC Anantnag reaffirmed its commitment to promoting awareness about antimicrobial resistance and encouraging responsible practices among healthcare professionals, patients, and the community.

The event was well-received, and the college hopes that it will contribute to a broader understanding of the issue and inspire collective action to address this critical public health concern.

# State Taxes Dept holds GST analytics, fraud-detection workshop



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: State Taxes Department (STD) Friday conducted a day-long capacity-building workshop on newly developed GST Analytics and Fraud Detection Portal, a state-of-the-art technology platform shaped in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).

The workshop was chaired by Commissioner, STD P.K. Bhat. Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement), Jammu, Namrita Dogra; Additional Commissioner, (Administration and Enforcement) Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina; State Tax Officers (STOs) from both divisions and other officers of the department were present, either in person or through video conferencing.

In his inaugural address, the Commissioner, as per an official statement, emphasised the pivotal role of technology-driven analytics in transforming tax administration, detecting fraud proactively, and augmenting revenue collection in a transparent

and efficient manner. He urged all officers to make optimal use of the portal and treat it as an indispensable tool in their day-to-day enforcement and assessment functions.

The Commissioner directed all Divisional and Circle-level officers to use the portal regularly to familiarize themselves with its functionalities and derive maximum benefit for enforcement and compliance management.

During the workshop, a detailed technical overview and live demonstration of the portal was presented by Additional Commissioner (Administration and Enforcement), Jammu, Namrita Dogra. She highlighted advanced features of the portal, including real-time data analytics, risk profiling of taxpayers, automated fraud alerts, geospatial mapping of business activities, mismatch detection, and predictive modelling for potential revenue leakage.

She added that the portal, powered by cutting-edge data science and machine learning algorithms, enables officers to identify suspicious patterns, track input tax credit chains,

detect carousel frauds, and pinpoint high-risk taxpayers with greater precision and speed than traditional manual methods.

During the workshop, the officers were encouraged to actively provide feedback on the existing columns, dashboards, and reports, suggesting additions or deletions wherever required so that the portal can be further refined and customized to meet the specific operational needs of the department. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from State Tax Officers and Enforcement Officials from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The interactive session concluded with a resolve to leverage this technology-driven initiative for strengthening GST compliance, curbing tax evasion, and ensuring higher revenue realization for the Union Territory. The State Taxes Department reiterated its commitment to adopting innovative digital solutions to make tax administration more scientific, transparent, and taxpayer friendly.

# Justice Wani reviews Kulgam judiciary, opens relocated Fast-Track Court

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 28: Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Administrative Judge for District Kulgam), Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, undertook an official visit to the District Court Complex Kulgam on Friday, during which he inaugurated the newly relocated Fast Track/Special Court (NIA) Kulgam-Shopian and also reviewed and inspected the overall functioning of the district judiciary.

Principal District & Sessions Judge Kulgam, Aijaz Ahmad Khan; Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court / Special Judge (NIA) Kulgam-Shopian, Rafia Hassan; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; ASP Aftab Awan; DySP Mohammad Ayoub and President District Bar Association Kulgam, Mohammad Shafi Bhat were present on the occasion.

The Fast-Track Court, as



per an official statement, which had been functioning from a separate temporary location due to ongoing infrastructure development, has now been formally shifted to the District Court Complex. The relocation brings all courts and judicial offices of the district within a

unified campus, significantly improving accessibility and convenience for litigants, lawyers, and staff.

Justice Wani held a review meeting with the Principal District & Sessions Judge, the Presiding Officer of the Fast-Track Court, and other judicial officers and inspected the working of courts.

He assessed case management, court operations, and infra-structural needs. During the interaction, he issued firm directions for priority disposal of long-pending cases, old matters under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, execution petitions, and other categories contributing to pendency.

Justice Wani also met members of the District Bar Association, acknowledging their integral role in the justice delivery system and emphasising the importance of constructive Bench-Bar coordination. The Bar requested him to take measures for expediting the construction and completion of the new Court Complex, to which, he assured that all necessary steps shall be initiated at the earliest.

Justice Wani also interacted with the Prosecution of District Kulgam where PP affirmed him about the execution of warrants.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER BEERWAH

### QUOTATION

Quotations are invited from the Registered Gas Dealers/Suppliers for supply of riffling commercial Gas Cylinders 19 Kg (Commercial) for Health institutions viz Sub District Hospital Chadoora/Primary Health Centre's of Block Beerwah for winter season for the year 2025-2026. The interested Registered Gas supplier/Dealers can submit the discount rate quotations against the Govt fixed rates in the Office of the Block Medical Officer Beerwah during the working hours up to 3.00 p.m till 31-11-2025 from the date of issuance of this quotation. After expiry date, no quotation shall be entertained/accepted.

(Terms & Conditions)

1. The discount should be written in figures as well as in words in neat & clean on quotation with valid Cell No & Mail ID.
2. The successful supplier/ Dealer will have to contract with this office on account of making supplies un-interruptedly during the entire winter season before to issuance of supply order.
3. The successful supplier/Dealer will have to make delivery at SDH Beerwah without transportation charges.
4. The mode of payment against bills/Vouchers shall be subject to the release of budget by the Department.
5. The weight of each riffling cylinder should be appropriate 19 kg. The Cylinder found less in weight or leakage will be return to the Dealer/Supplier on spot.
6. The Supplier/Dealer should attach the copy of Dealership of the Oil Company to whom with he concerned.
7. The Dealer/Supplier shall keep attached the following Scanned copies of the documents with the quotation:-
  - a) Valid GST registration.
  - b) Adhaar Card
  - c) PAN card
  - d) GST Clearance

No: BMOC/697-99  
DATED: 27-11-2024

DIPK-8494/25 DATED: 28-11-2025

Block Medical Officer  
Beerwah

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Uri

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No. 82 of 2025-26/6905-13/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 28-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money (In Rs.)	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
01	Upgradation of lane from National Highway to the House of Muzaffar Bhat Ward No. 06 Mc Uri by Way of Tile work/Channelling Fencing.	14.72	600/-	29450/-	60 days	06.12.2025	BEE CEE DEE	UT Sector

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department North Kashmir Position of AA/TS: Accorded/Sanctioned

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28.11.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28.11.2025 from (11:00 AM) to 06.12.2025 (02:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	28.11.2025 from (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	06.12.2025 (02:00 PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06.12.2025 (03:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

(tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1<sup>st</sup> lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3 (a) Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

3. (c) The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:

I Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

II Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.

III Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

IV If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender receiving authority).

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

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2.

No.: 2025-26/6905-13  
Dated: 28-11-2025

DIPK-8507/25 DATED: 28-11-2025

Sd/-  
(Er. Imran Ali)



# NC CWC reaffirms to restore statehood, special status

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Nov 28: National Conference's top decision-making body, the Central Working Committee, Friday reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood. The top body, which held a two-day session since yesterday here, also condemned Delhi blast that left 15 people dead and many others injured.

It also called for accountability in the Nowgam blast in which at least 9 people were killed and several others were injured after a stockpile of explosives went off accidentally.

Speaking with reporters at the end of two-day session today, NC spokesman and MLA Zaidil Tanvir Sadiq said the Working Committee unanimously reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood.

"The committee reiterated that this issue remains central to the aspirations of the people and must be addressed without delay. The party will continue its principled fight for its full resolution," he said.

He said the Working Committee urged the Government to



immediately restore full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as promised on the floor of the Parliament, repeatedly reaffirmed in the public domain, and noted by Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

He said the top body also expressed deep concern over the recent terror attack in Delhi and extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. The Working Committee passed several resolutions, calling

for immediate statehood restoration, condemning Delhi blast, and seeking protection of Kashmiri outside Jammu and Kashmir.

"In a civilised society, such acts of violence has no place and such heinous acts must be dealt with firmly," reads third resolution of the party. The Party's fourth resolution expressed concern over the Nowgam blast and conveyed its condolences to the affected families.

"The committee stated that the incident must be investigated at the highest level and responsibility fixed for any deviation from standard procedures," it states.

The fifth resolution expressed serious concern over the reports of harassment faced by students, traders, and residents of Jammu and Kashmir in different parts of the country.

"It strongly condemned the selective targeting in the aftermath of recent events. The Committee emphasised that the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be stereotyped and called upon the state governments to ensure the safety, dignity and protection of the lives and property of Kashmiris and other residents of Jammu and Kashmir living or working across India. Not every Kashmiri is a terrorist or a supporter of terror," the resolution states. In its sixth resolution, the NC reiterated the party's commitment to fulfilling all promises made in its manifesto.

In the last resolution, the party unanimously reaffirmed its full support to the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and urged it to continue fulfilling the aspirations of the people and upholding their dignity—(KNO)

## ‘Winter pruning fires choke Kashmir’

JAHANGEEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 28: As winter sets in Kashmir, mounds of pruned branches and leaves are set ablaze in orchards to prepare charcoal for the harsh winter ahead. However, behind the glow of these fires lies an increasingly visible crisis: dense, lingering smoke that seeps into homes and lungs, turning the season into a nightmare for those with fragile respiratory health.

Across towns and villages, heavy grey smoke hangs in the air, forming a blanket that irritates eyes, stings throats, and for many, shuts down their ability to breathe.

What was once a necessity for warmth has now become a major contributor to winter pollution, drawing growing concern from medical experts and residents alike.

The fruit-growing belts of Kashmir are particularly affected, where the widespread burning of orchard waste marks the beginning of respiratory distress for hundreds of patients.

"I feel like my chest is tightening every time the smoke enters my home," Mohammad Akbar Ganaie, a COPD patient from Shopian said. "For the last few weeks, things have become unbearable. I may have to shift to Jammu until the air becomes breathable again."

Ganaie's struggle mirrors the experience of countless others across the Valley who spend the winter months battling

breathlessness, persistent cough, and a constant fear of hospitalisation.

Health professionals say the combination of cold weather and seasonal biomass burning pushes many chronic respiratory patients into emergency rooms.

Dr Ghulam Hassan Khan, a specialist in chest diseases, said COPD cases in Jammu and Kashmir have been rising sharply.

"During winter, a major share of emergency admissions includes COPD and asthma patients," he said.

He further said that smoking remains the number one cause. Quitting smoking is the most effective preventive measure, he added.

The doctor, however, pointed out a worrying trend—people who have never smoked are also developing the disease.

"Poor air quality is becoming a major factor. From biomass fuels and charcoal for kangris to industrial emissions and household pollutants, pollution levels in Kashmir have reached concerning levels. On some days, our air quality has ranked worse than several major metropolitan cities," he added.

According to doctors, once COPD sets in, it cannot be cured—only managed. "Lifestyle changes like avoiding pollutants, keeping warm, maintaining hydration, exercising regularly, and staying away from allergens can slow the disease's progression," Dr Khan said—(KNO)

## Road discipline key to winter traffic management: DIG Mughal



KNO

Jammu, Nov 28: The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Traffic range Jammu, Dr Mohd Haseeb Mughal (IPS) Friday said that the road discipline by commuters and coordination among agencies is the key to better management during winters in the region.

DIG Mughal was on a visit to 4th Tawi Bridge near Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu wherein he conducted an on-ground inspection of the traffic flow, following continuous reports of congestion and slow movement of traffic in the areas like Canal Head, Bakshi Nagar and BC Road-Indira Chowk Jammu. On the occasion, Mughal emphasized that road discipline by commuters and coordination among agencies is the key to better management during winters at Jammu.

DIG Mughal was accompanied by Amit Bhasin-JKPS, SSP Traffic City Jammu, Arvinder Singh Kotwal-JKPS, Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu and Satish Bhardwaj-JKPS, SDPO Bakshi Nagar.

The DTIs of their respective jurisdictions viz Inspector Rakesh Sambyal, DTI Bikram Chowk, SI Ravi Dutt, I/C DTI Talab Tillo, Inspector Anil Jad, DTI Bakshi Nagar

and local territorial Police officers were also present at the inspection spot in their respective jurisdictions.

During the visit, the DIG Traffic reviewed the existing traffic regulation mechanisms, road conditions and peak-hour vehicle load. He interacted with field officers, traffic personnel, and local commuters to assess real-time issues affecting smooth vehicular movement "Several bottlenecks were identified, including improper lane discipline, roadside parking, and heavy traffic pressure at the bridge approach. Taking immediate cognizance, the DIG Traffic issued on-spot directions to streamline traffic flow," reads the statement.

He empathised upon deployment of additional traffic personnel especially during peak hours, removal of unauthorized parking and roadside obstructions near the bridge and strict enforcement of lane discipline for all types of vehicles.

"Ensuring coordination with District Police, JMC, Transporters and Traders-the stakeholders for signage, surface improvement and maintenance of road edges for better manoeuvrability and regulating the movement of heavy vehicles during peak hours to avoid slowdowns," he added.

## ‘A Bulldozer's Wreckage, A Neighbour’s Foundation’

■ Hindu neighbour gifts land to Muslim Jammu journalist after bulldozer action

YOGESH

Jammu, Nov 28: In a rare and heart-warming gesture, a Hindu neighbour of journalist Arfaz Ahmad Daing- whose house was bulldozed by Jammu Development Authority on Wednesday - has gifted 5 Marla (approximately 1,400 Sq ft) land to him.

Kuldeep Raj Sharma, moved by the viral images of Arfaz's elderly parents pleading with authorities and his young children watching helpless, took an extraordinary step that has touched thousands across Jammu and Kashmir. "I saw my brother's family on the road. I couldn't sleep that night," Sharma told reporters with moist eyes.

"Today, I have transferred 5 Marlas of my land to Arfaz's name through proper registered documents. They demolished his home on 3 Marla land, I gifted him 5 Marla land. If they demolish this one to, I will give him 10 Marla land. Even if I have to beg, I will rebuild his home. He is my brother, not a stranger," he said.

In an emotional moment, Sharma declared: "Our communal harmony will never break. Jammu has always



stood together – Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, everyone. We will not let anyone divide us." His daughter Tania Sharma, standing proudly beside her father, said, "I am extremely proud of my father. This is the real Jammu – where humanity comes before everything. I appeal to every citizen of J&K to stand with families losing their homes in such drives."

The demolished house in the Bathindi area belonged to Arfaz Ahmad Daing, who runs a digital news platform 'News Seher India'z Daing alleges the demolition was a retaliatory action for his

fearless reporting on the drug mafia and other sensitive issues.

"I have been highlighting drug trafficking and corruption. This is the punishment for showing the truth," he said, claiming no prior notice was served despite his family living on the land for over 40 years.

The demolition drew sharp political reactions, with Congress working president Raman Bhalla, senior leader and DCC Taranjit Singh Tony and others visiting the spot. Bhalla termed the demolition as selective drive and said that government

owes answer of its action. He said both the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor must clarify their stance.

Former BJP Jammu & Kashmir president Ravindra Raina visited the family and expressed solidarity, stating that Lt Governor Manoj Sinha clarified no order for bulldozers came from his office.

According to KNO, former Councilor Sobit Ali, Ghulam Nabi Azad's close aide Salman Nazmi, Advocate A K Sawhney, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel, NC leader Vikas Sharma, Social activist Safeer Choudhary, also

reached the spot to console the family.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also condemned the action, calling it "selective targeting" and alleged a conspiracy to embarrass the elected government and stoke communal tensions.

"Why only one house in the entire Jammu? Is it because of his religion?" Abdullah questioned, demanding a complete list of encroachments across the city.

"I am not worried now," said Arfaz's elderly father, with his trembling voice. "The people of Jammu are with us. This unity has given us new life."

In an era where division often dominates headlines, the actions of Kuldeep Raj Sharma and the overwhelming support from Jammu's citizens stand as a luminous example of the enduring spirit of communal harmony in Jammu & Kashmir.

As Sharma embraced Arfaz like a brother in front of cheering neighbours, Arfaz said softly, "This is our Jammu. No bulldozer can demolish our love." In the dust of demolition, Jammu has shown the nation what true brotherhood looks like—(KNO)

## KCCI files objections before JERC

■ Opposes proposed 20% ToD surcharge

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 28: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has formally submitted its objections before the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) in response to petition filed by Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) seeking approval for the Proposal to impose a 20 percent Time of Day (ToD) surcharge during peak hours.

KCCI in a statement said that the submission of written objections and feedback follows the open JERC hearing on 20th November, 2025 in which Secretary General KCCI Faiz Bakshi had vehemently opposed the 20 percent surcharge.

In its submission, the chamber has expressed deep concern over KPDCL's proposal to impose a 20 percent Time of Day (ToD) surcharge during peak hours, describing it as an indirect tariff hike that would disproportionately burden

domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers.

KCCI has said, "Although KPDCL claims to have proposed no tariff increase, the imposition of a steep surcharge during the busiest consumption hours effectively translates into a significant financial escalation for consumers already struggling under economic pressures."

The chamber in the response had argued that the proposal is premature and technically infeasible, given that nearly half of Kashmir's consumers are still not equipped with smart meters capable of recording time-based consumption.

"Without universal smart metering, there is no scientific or equitable mechanism to differentiate between peak and off-peak usage. Introducing such a surcharge, the Chamber noted, would lead to widespread billing inaccuracies, consumer disputes, and discriminatory treatment between metered and non-metered households," it reads.

It also highlighted that KPDCL's proposal lacks fairness, as it seeks to penalize consumers during peak hours without offering any corresponding rebate for off-peak usage, an essential feature of ToD tariff systems followed across the country. "A one-sided model focused solely on revenue enhancement, KCCI said, undermines the regulatory principles of balance, equity, and consumer protection."

Expressing concern over KPDCL performance, KCCI noted that the utility continues to report extremely high Aggregate Technical & Commercial losses of around 47 percent, far above the national average.

"The Chamber stressed that honest, bill-paying consumers cannot be made to bear the financial burden of infrastructure leakages, and administrative inefficiencies. It reminded the Commission that established regulatory frameworks prohibit passing the cost of a utility's shortcomings onto consumers," reads the

statement.

The chamber in a response filed before JERC said, "KCCI underscored the poor quality and reliability of power supply in the Valley. Citing data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the Chamber pointed out that Kashmir's interruption indices are among the worst in India, with prolonged and frequent outages severely affecting households, businesses, industries, healthcare facilities, and the education sector."

"A utility struggling to ensure basic reliability, the Chamber submitted, cannot justify charging consumers a premium for peak-hour consumption," it reads.

The statement further said that "Additionally, the Chamber called attention to the stagnation in local power generation capacity, noting that no new power projects have been commissioned since 2015. This shortfall forces the UT to depend heavily on costly power purchases, a consequence of planning gaps that,

the Chamber insisted, should not be compensated through consumer surcharges."

"KCCI also reminded the Commission of the provisions of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, which mandate automatic compensation for outages and service deficiencies—rules that remain unimplemented. Instead of safeguarding consumer rights, the Chamber said, the present proposal seeks to increase costs without ensuring reliable service," reads the statement.

The Chamber urged the Commission to ensure strict implementation of consumer compensation rules.

KCCI said that it reaffirms its commitment to protecting the rights and interests of the business community and the people of Kashmir, and expressed hope that the Hon'ble Commission would consider its submissions in the interest of justice, equity, and public welfare—(KNO)

## Vital bridge declared unsafe in Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Budgam, Nov 28: Authorities on Friday ordered closure of Chadoora bridge in central Kashmir's Budgam district for traffic movement after experts declared it unsafe due to damage by recent floods.

The bridge is a crucial link connecting Chadoora with Charar-i-Sharif, Yousmarg and Pulwama, and also provides vital access to three sub-district hospitals - Chadoora, Nagam and Charar-i-Sharif.

According to an order, the bridge has been shut down in the interest of public safety following an inspection by experts from DIQC, Srinagar.

It said the recent floods have dislocated the base of one of the bridge pillars, making the structure unsafe for vehicular movement and requiring immediate repair.

"All commuters must use alternative routes until further orders. The bridge will be reopened only after the completion of necessary repairs and clearance from competent authorities," it said—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

## Harnessing Technology For Safer Roads In J&K

Chief Secretary's review of electronic road safety enforcement in Jammu & Kashmir is a timely and welcome intervention. This is a significant step towards modernising urban governance. The directive for the full utilisation of the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) and Intelligent Traffic Light System (ITLS) underscores a critical shift needed from infrastructure creation to its effective operation. This tech-driven vision promises not only smoother traffic flow

but also a fundamental enhancement of public safety and convenience. The Chief Secretary's concern over the underutilisation of these sophisticated systems hits the nail on the head. It is a common pitfall in public administration to invest heavily in technology only to let it languish due to poor maintenance, expired licenses, or a lack of sustained focus. The revelation that Srinagar's ITMS was hobbled by an expired license is a stark reminder that a one-time installation is not enough. For the crores

of public money invested, a proactive and continuous maintenance regime is non-negotiable. The plan to extend Rural ITMS to key district junctions is particularly praiseworthy. Traffic congestion and safety are no longer exclusive to metropolitan centres. As development permeates all regions, pre-emptively deploying technology in districts like Anantnag, Baramulla, and Kathua will prevent future gridlock and save lives. This forward-thinking approach ensures that road safety infrastructure

keeps pace with J&K's overall infrastructural growth. The proposed enforcement framework of emphasising evidence-based digital enforcement and real-time data is the cornerstone of a modern, transparent system. It minimises subjective, on-the-spot penalties and replaces them with objective, technology-driven accountability. This not only deters traffic violations more effectively but also enhances public trust in the process. The commitment to make all systems fully functional by December 2025

sets a clear deadline. However, the true test lies in the interim execution - the swift repair of hardware, the renewal of licenses, and the seamless inter-departmental coordination. The people of J&K deserve a traffic management system that is as dynamic and forward-moving as their aspirations. The administration's success in translating this directive from the meeting room to the streets will be the ultimate measure of its commitment to tech-driven, citizen-centric governance.

# From Growth Engine To Global Edge: Supercharging India's Logistics

Press Information Bureau

### A New Chapter in India's Logistics Story

India's logistics is entering a new phase and converting itself into a faster, smarter, and globally competitive sector. From integrated digital platforms that streamline freight movement to modern infrastructure connecting every part of the country, a next-generation logistics ecosystem is steadily taking shape. Backed by targeted policy reforms, institutional realignment, and technology-driven solutions, the government is transforming logistics into a key driver of India's economic growth and global trade positioning.

A wave of structural changes is reshaping how logistics is planned, executed, and scaled across the country. Platforms like ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform) are integrating data across departments, while LDB (Logistics Data Bank) 2.0 enables real-time visibility of millions of containers. Every HSN (Harmonized System of Nomenclature) code is mapped to its line ministry, improving accountability and policy design. Logistics plans at the city and state levels under the SMILE (Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem) programme are being aligned with national priorities. Inland waterways transported a record 145.84 million tonnes of cargo last year, while rail congestion is being addressed through dedicated freight corridors. In industrial zones, plug-and-play parks under NICDC (National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation) offer ready infrastructure for investors. On the ground, reforms such as GST and the e-Way Bill have removed long-standing frictions in interstate transport. These interventions are driving a clear objective: reducing logistics costs, improving efficiency, and strengthening India's position in global supply chains.

### Multimodal Logistics along the Gangetic Plain

India is transforming its logistics network along the Gangetic Plain through an integrated multimodal approach that combines road, rail, and inland waterways, making transport faster, cheaper, and greener. The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), a high-speed rail freight line, has reduced wagon turnaround times from 15-16 days to 2-3 days and cut transit times from over 60 hours to around 35-38 hours. Freight operations are now managed via a central control centre in Prayagraj, easing congestion on existing rail networks. The revival of the Ganga Waterway, linked to the EDFC at Varanasi, allows manufacturers to move cargo efficiently to eastern ports like Haldia. Rapid development of warehousing and logistics facilities near the corridor has boosted employment, improved inventory management, and enabled timely production and export. These projects involve significant investments from the World Bank, including \$1.96 billion for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor and Rail Logistics initiatives and \$375 million for the Ganga Waterway development. Together, these efforts are creating an efficient, integrated logistics system that reduces costs, lowers carbon emissions, and strengthens India's connectivity to domestic and international markets.

### Why Logistics Matter More Than Ever

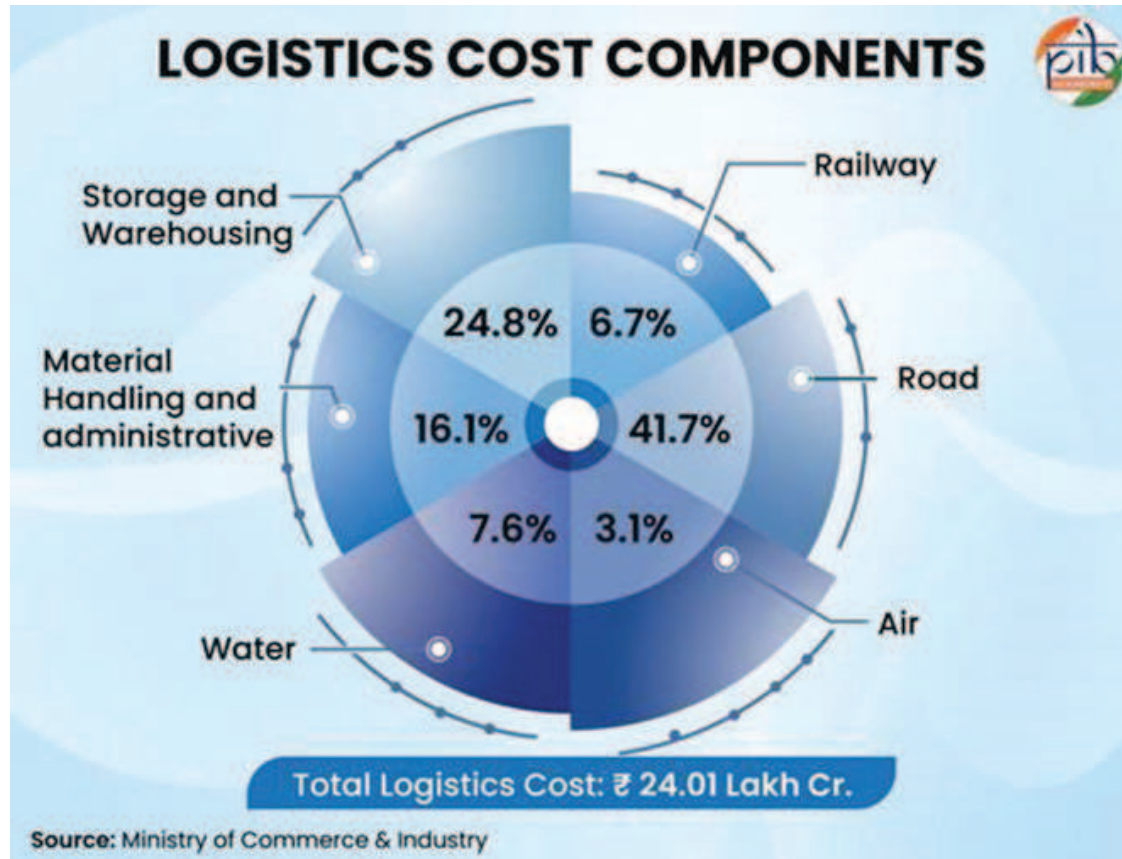
India's path to economic growth increasingly relies on efficient logistics, which are key to enhancing competitiveness and global connectivity.

The National Logistics Policy and PM GatiShakti have injected new momentum into this transformation, laying the foundation for a more integrated and data-driven logistics ecosystem. But strategy needs precision, and that starts with knowing the true cost of logistics.

Until recently, India's logistics costs were often overestimated. Commonly cited figures of 13 to 14 percent of GDP were based on partial or external data. This led to confusion in policymaking and misperceptions globally. That has now changed.

A new, first-of-its-kind study titled Assessment of Logistics Cost in India by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in collaboration with National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), provides a scientifically grounded estimate. Using a hybrid methodology that combines primary data from over 3,500 industry stakeholders with secondary data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), the report places India's logistics cost at 7.97 percent of GDP and 9.09 percent of non-services output for 2023 to 2024. In absolute terms, the total cost is estimated at ₹ 24.01 lakh crore.

This is more than just a headline number. The report offers a detailed breakdown by cost components, firm size, and product type. It highlights a critical insight: smaller firms face significantly higher logistics costs, which affect their ability to scale and compete. The study also introduces benchmark freight costs per tonne-kilometre across various transport modes and



distances. This data is essential for better supply chain planning and pricing.

Multimodal transport is emerging as a key lever for efficiency. For example, the report shows that for journeys of around 600 kilometres, improving the first and last 50 kilometres can significantly lower the total logistics cost. This underscores the importance of last-mile infrastructure and multimodal logistics integration.

All findings are available through a new interactive dashboard designed to support real-time analysis and informed decision-making. With this data-backed clarity, both the government and industry can make smarter investments, design sharper policies, and upgrade infrastructure faster. This brings India closer to its goal of becoming a global logistics hub.

In short, logistics is no longer a black box. With accurate cost estimates, actionable insights, and targeted interventions, India is transforming its supply chains from a hidden burden into a source of strength.

### 2025: Supercharging India's Supply Chains

Several initiatives launched in 2025 showcase the government's push to refresh logistics across measurement, local planning, infrastructure, and data integration. These new-generation logistics programs were unveiled to break bottlenecks, accelerate movement, and supercharge supply chains.

### 1. PM GatiShakti: Driving Integrated Planning

During the commemoration of four years of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the transformative impact of this path-breaking initiative was highlighted, and several key initiatives were unveiled. Key launches included:

PM GatiShakti District Master Plans in all 112 Aspirational Districts to guide social and economic infrastructure projects.

PM GatiShakti – Offshore, consolidating geospatial data from multiple ministries to guide offshore projects like wind farms, marine resource exploration, and coastal infrastructure, while minimizing regulatory and environmental risks.

PM GatiShakti Public, a web-based platform providing access to 230 non-sensitive datasets for private entities, researchers, and citizens, promoting transparency, data-driven decision-making, and cross-sector collaboration.

Knowledge Management System, NMP (National Master Plan) Dashboard, and Decentralized Data Uploading System, improving coordination, transparency, and cross-learning across government departments.

Compendium Volume-3, showcasing best practices and successful on-ground use cases across social, economic, and infrastructure sectors.

LEAPS 2025 is a DPIIT initiative to benchmark logistics performance and promote innovation and sustainability in the sector.

### 2. SMILE: City-Level Logistics Planning

The Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program, developed by DPIIT in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, focuses on streamlining logistics at both state

and city levels. As part of this initiative, plans have been launched across eight pilot cities in eight states, each selected to demonstrate how local logistics systems can align effectively with national priorities.

SMILE operates on two synchronized fronts:

State Level: It connects growth hubs to trunk routes, economic corridors, and logistics gateways.

City level: It aligns urban freight with city mobility frameworks, master plans, and land use policies. This two-tiered approach makes logistics not an afterthought, but a built-in layer of economic and spatial planning.

Each of the eight pilot cities under SMILE will be building integrated logistics plans that span both urban and peri-urban zones. These plans map and optimize freight-intensive activity such as local retailers, e-commerce delivery routes, warehousing clusters, truck terminals, and last-mile corridors. The aim is to combine data-driven decisions with clear urban policies and institutional coordination. The plans focus on noise reduction, city decongestion, low- and zero-emission vehicles, process automation, and stronger alignment between freight and passenger flows.

The outcome is a national model where central, state, and city agencies, along with private players and start-ups, act in coordination. This supports sustainable urban freight, faster and more affordable movement of goods, cleaner and less congested cities, and millions of new jobs across the logistics value chain.

### 3. LEADS 2025: Scoring States on Logistics

The Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 initiative sets a new benchmark for measuring the logistics performance of States and Union Territories. Evolving into a more comprehensive framework, LEADS now incorporates both perception-based inputs and objective data, with the latter making up 32.5% of the framework and expected to increase further. The assessment covers regulatory and institutional support, logistics enablers, infrastructure, services, the operating environment, and sustainability.

The initiative also monitors five to seven key transport corridors, capturing real-time data on journey times, average truck speeds, and waiting periods. API-enabled tools allow for section-wise monitoring of road speeds, enabling the identification of delay points and performance gaps. By offering detailed insights and tracking the improvement trajectory of logistics systems, LEADS serves as a key mechanism to enhance logistics efficiency and supply chain robustness across States and Union Territories, supporting India's progress toward its long-term development goals.

### 4. LDB 2.0: Visibility that Moves Markets

The upgraded Logistics Data Bank 2.0 now syncs with Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) APIs, offering exporters and MSMEs real-time visibility across road, rail, sea, and even high seas. A live container heatmap highlights where containers are delayed, enabling swift corrective action before minor issues escalate. Now users will be able to track shipments using container number, vehicle number, and railway FNR (Freight Name Record) numbers.

What once required days of coordination and guesswork now appears instantly on a single platform.

### Key Takeaways

- India's logistics cost has dropped to 7.97% of GDP.
- IPRS 3.0, developed with the Asian Development Bank, rates industrial parks on sustainability, green infrastructure, connectivity, digital readiness, and skills.
- The SMILE program launched logistics plans in 8 pilot cities across 8 states to assess existing logistics infrastructure and improve efficiency and reduce costs.

### 5. IPRS 3.0: Ranking Industrial Parks

The Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0, co-developed by DPIIT and the Asian Development Bank, adds transparency and accountability to India's industrial infrastructure. It evaluates industrial parks across a broad set of performance indicators, helping identify where excellence thrives and where improvement is needed.

Each park is assessed and categorized as a Leader, Challenger, or Aspirer, based on factors such as infrastructure quality, logistics connectivity, digital readiness, sustainability features, and tenant satisfaction. This clear and consistent grading gives investors reliable information to guide decisions, while motivating States and Union Territories to upgrade their facilities and attract more investments.

Under NICDC, 20 plug-and-play industrial parks are in development. 4 are completed, the other 4 are under construction, and several are on the drawing board. These ready-to-use parks reduce entry barriers for industries and send a strong signal to global and domestic investors that India is serious about ease of doing business and industrial growth. With IPRS 3.0, India is not just building more parks. It is building better ones: more competitive, more inclusive, and more geared towards the goals of national development.

### 6. Guidebook on HSN Codes: Clarity that Counts

A comprehensive guidebook has mapped 12,167 HSN codes across 31 ministries. Mapping each HSN code with the respective line ministry will help the industry understand processes related to their sectors. For businesses, it simplifies coordination. For policymakers, it sharpens accountability, and for trade negotiators, it strengthens India's hand on the global stage.

### Conclusion

Logistics has long operated behind the scenes and is gradually receiving more attention. The past decades have laid the tracks and built the systems, with the current developments propelling these efforts to roar: faster, greener, and fully connected.

If Make in India builds the factories, logistics builds the highways, waterways, and data flows that carry their output to the world. With initiatives like PM Gatishakti Public/Offshore, SMILE, LEAPS 2025, LEADS 2025, IPRS 3.0, LDB 2.0, etc., and green corridors on the move, India is transforming its logistics from a cost centre into a powerful competitive advantage system. The journey from growth engine to global edge has begun.

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# CS reviews school education initiatives Calls for tech-driven learning push

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the School Education Department to assess the progress and implementation of various initiatives aimed at improving teaching-learning outcomes in schools across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Secretary, School Education; Project Director, Samagra Shiksha; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, along with other senior officers of the department. The review focused on both academic and administrative reforms, technological interventions, infrastructure development and human resource management issues concerning the school education system in the UT.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status of the Five-Year Plan submitted to the Ministry of Education, Government of India, progress of Aadhaar enrolment of students, human resource management (HRM) related matters, establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), residential schools and the progress of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

Expressing concern over the comparative enrollment trends,



the Chief Secretary took note of the disparity between student enrollment in government and private schools.

He observed that despite the availability of free meals, uniforms, textbooks and other facilities in government institutions, enrollment particularly at the primary level remains relatively low. He directed the department to undertake a detailed assessment to identify gaps and devise a targeted strategy to enhance educational quality and strengthen parental confidence in government schools.

Emphasising the role of technology in transforming education, the Chief Secretary called for making existing technological interventions more focused, inclusive and student-centric. He stressed the need for enriching the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) platform with diverse and comprehensive learning

materials and increasing the number of high-quality learning videos for students across all classes to ensure ease of access and effective learning.

Encouraging innovative funding approaches, the Chief Secretary urged the department to explore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding opportunities from major Central PSUs and local businesses to support educational interventions. He assured his full support in facilitating such collaborations.

He instructed the department to ensure that all students receive their prescribed textbooks in a timely manner and called for the formulation of a robust mechanism to curb the illegal charging of admission fees by private schools. He directed for the adoption of an effective enforcement strategy to address this issue across J&K.

While reviewing the progress

of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra, the Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and analytics into the education ecosystem. He provided strategic guidance to the VSK team to leverage these technologies for making learning content and digital tools more accessible, efficient and user-friendly for both students and teachers across J&K.

Addressing human resource concerns, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status of seniority lists, conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and other cadre-related matters. He impressed upon the department to accord priority to resolving these issues to enable teachers to focus entirely on their primary responsibility of imparting quality education.

On the occasion, Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, informed the meeting

that the department has formulated a comprehensive Five-Year Action Plan amounting to Rs. 1,678.91 Cr aimed at achieving saturation under various interventions. These include the establishment of ICT/CAL labs, smart classrooms, vocational labs, virtual reality labs, astrophysics labs (Aaghaaz), STEM labs and other infrastructure and academic components.

He also highlighted the introduction of pre-board examinations for Class 10th and 12th students for the first time to improve their preparedness and academic performance in board examinations. Additionally, the department plans to introduce transport facilities for students in remote and far-flung areas to mitigate dropout rates and improve attendance.

Providing key statistics, the Secretary stated that the current enrollment in government schools stands at 13,56,838 students compared to 12,60,979 in private and other institutions. He further informed that at present, 36 Kendriya Vidyalayas, 21 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, 89 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), 06 Girls' Hostels and 06 Eklaya Model Residential Schools are operational across J&K. Additional institutions in the pipeline include 15 KVs, 79 Girls' Hostels and 07 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose institutions across various districts.

## DSEK conducts surprise inspection at JKBOSE

### Reviews textbook distribution across Kashmir

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 28: Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani, Friday paid a surprise visit to the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Bemina, to review the ongoing process of textbook distribution for students across the Kashmir division.

During the inspection, the Director assessed the administrative arrangements and distribution mechanism and expressed satisfaction over the smooth and well-organized process.

DSEK, was informed that textbooks have already been dispatched to 61 zones across the Valley, and the remaining distribution is expected to be completed in all districts by December 2, 2025.

The Director directed all Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) to ensure that the

books reach students at the earliest. He further instructed that a detailed distribution report must be submitted to the Directorate of School Education Kashmir within three days of receiving the books from the Board, through the respective Chief Education Officers (CEOs).

The Director also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the concerned staff for ensuring the timely execution of the textbook distribution process this academic year.

It was further informed that since the launch of the distribution drive on November 17, textbooks have been dispatched to 8 Zones of Srinagar, 6 zones of Kulgam, 5 zones of Bandipora, 12 zones of Anantnag, 4 zones of Shopian, 8 zones of Pulwama, 13 zones of Budgam, 4 zones of Ganderbal and two zones of Baramulla district.

The Directorate remains committed to ensuring that every student receives textbooks well in time to avoid any academic disruption.

## J&K IT Department hosts workshop on 5G network, RoW

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: The J&K Information Technology Department Friday organised a one-day workshop on 5G Network and Right of Way (RoW), aimed at accelerating the digital infrastructure expansion in the Union Territory.

Dr. Piyush Singla, Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department, was the chief guest at the event. He, as per an official statement, emphasised the importance of strengthening coordination mechanisms for seamless 5G rollout in the region. He highlighted the significance of the Call Before You Dig (CBUD) initiative in preventing damage to underground utilities and ensuring safe excavation practices.

The workshop focused on inter-departmental coordination, streamlining RoW

procedures and preparing the ecosystem for rapid 5G infrastructure deployment. Experts from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Information Technology Department delivered presentations on national policies, procedural challenges and best practices.

The Information Technology Department extended its gratitude to the officials from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and its own team for their contributions to the 5G Network and RoW workshop. These included Kushwant Rai, Neeraj Kumar, Rahul Kumar Sachan, Abhay Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar Sehrawat, Dwarika Karol, Ram Babu and Maneesh Jain.

The Department also acknowledged Rachna Sharma, Nodal Officer (Capacity Building), for her pivotal role in organizing the workshop.

## Pulwama Admin intensifies crackdown on illegal mining, seizes 53 vehicles



KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 28: In a joint action by the Department of Geology & Mining, in coordination with Police, Revenue and Flood Control, a crackdown has been launched against illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals across the district.

Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, as per an official statement issued on Friday, multi-departmental enforcement teams have maintained strict surveillance at vulnerable locations, resulting in the seizure of 53 vehicles involved

in illegal extraction and transportation during the current month. Penalties amounting to Rs. 11.40 lakhs have been imposed on the violators.

Further intensifying the enforcement drive, six more vehicles were seized during night checking on 28th November, with fines amounting to Rs. 73,000 imposed on the offenders.

Reiterating the administration's zero-tolerance approach, authorities have emphasised that mineral transportation shall be permitted only through valid e-challans and authorised permits. Any violation, they cautioned, will invite strict legal action under the relevant mining laws.

## Satish Sharma calls for broadband expansion, stronger digital infrastructure in J&K

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Youth Services & Sports and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, on Friday called for expansion of broad band network and giving push to the digital infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was speaking at a meeting with the Deputy Director General (DDG), National Broadband Mission (NBM), Department of Telecommunications, held to review and accelerate the digital connectivity roadmap across Jammu & Kashmir.

Senior officers from the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India and J&K Information Technology Department also participated in the meeting.

During the detailed deliberations, Satish Sharma underscored the government's strong commitment towards expanding high-speed internet access, strengthening the digital governance structures and ensuring equitable digital opportunities for all communities across J&K.

The Minister emphasized the need to expedite the rollout of broadband infrastructure across both urban centres and remote



rural locations, enabling the citizens to benefit from digital services, e-learning, telemedicine and digital skilling.

Satish Sharma highlighted that improving last-mile access is essential for delivering the seamless digital services, especially in geographically challenging regions. He called for joint efforts between the IT Department and DoT to remove bottlenecks and fast-track implementation.

Reiterating the Government's focus on ease of doing business, the Minister directed officers to further streamline the RoW facilitation mechanism, ensuring timely permissions for telecom infrastructure providers and smooth execution of projects under the National Broadband Mission.

Satish Sharma stated that developing a resilient, secure,

and future-ready digital infrastructure is at the heart of the Government's transformative vision for Jammu & Kashmir. He added that robust digital connectivity is fundamental for empowering youth, supporting educational institutions, improving public service delivery, and enabling economic growth.

Minister assured full support of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to all initiatives under the National Broadband Mission and stressed coordinated efforts between departments to achieve universal digital access.

The meeting also reviewed existing initiatives and identified areas where collaboration with NBM could significantly enhance digital literacy, digital service delivery, and connectivity in underserved pockets of Jammu and Kashmir.

## DC Kathua chairs NCORD meet, reviews drug control measures

KT News Desk

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma Friday chaired a meeting of the District level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting to review the implementation and enforcement measures aimed at curbing the drug menace in the district.

The DC emphasised on identifying hotspots and directed the ADCs and SDMs to map areas with noticeable activities related to drugs and narcotic substances. He called for a coordinated approach to strengthen ground-level surveillance.

The School Education Department was instructed to enforce CCTV coverage in coaching centres and to take up installation of CCTVs in government schools in a phased manner with the support of CSR initiatives. Schools and colleges were also asked to conduct regular counselling sessions for early identification of vulnerable students.

The Youth Services and Sports Department was directed to increase youth engagement by



organising sports activities and providing sports equipment to encourage constructive participation and healthy lifestyle.

The Excise Department was asked to undertake detailed mapping of the district to detect illegal activities, along with intensifying enforcement across all vulnerable pockets.

To strengthen IEC activities in rural areas, the DC directed the District Panchayat Officer to co-ordinate with all stakeholders to consolidate awareness efforts at the grassroots level.

Police, BSF and other law enforcement agencies were instructed to enhance information sharing and adopt a coordinated strategy to check the source and syndicates involved in illegal

trade. The DC also called for regular night patrolling, especially in border belts, highways and other sensitive areas.

The Transport Department was directed to conduct medical examinations of drivers involved in rash driving and take strict action including cancellation of licences in cases of drunk driving.

The Assistant Drug Controller was asked to intensify random checking of pharmaceutical outlets and ensure 100% CCTV and CBS coverage.

ADC Kathua, Vishvajet Singh, CAO, DSWO, Principal GDCW, DySP Headquarters, Tehsildar Headquarters, ETO, DYSSO and officers from BSF and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

## Textiles Committee holds workshop on Jute Mark India Scheme

KT News Desk

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: An awareness workshop under the Jute Mark India Scheme was held here Friday. The programme was organised by the Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India in association with the National Jute Board.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal was the Chief Guest.

Deputy Director National Jute Board BN Bhansali delivered the opening address and gave an overview of the National Jute Board's functioning. He briefed the participants about the Board's initiatives for jute farming, production, processing, technology upgradation and capacity building. He also explained that the schemes support artisans and manufacturers through training, supply chain facilitation and subsidies for raw materials, machinery, marketing and participation in national and international exhibitions.

He encouraged stakeholders to organise more training and awareness programmes in the



region and advised participants to visit the official National Jute Board and Jute Mark India websites for detailed information on schemes, registration and support mechanisms.

In her address, ADC, Ansuya Jamwal appreciated the programme and said that the workshop provided an effective platform to spread awareness about Government of India's initiatives in the jute sector. "It is encouraging to see the National Jute Board providing handholding and facilitation to entrepreneurs and prospective jute processing and trading units," she added. She also assured full support from the district administration for future awareness programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting jute cultivation, processing and enterprise development in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Textiles Committee Kartikay Dhanda highlighted that the Jute Mark India scheme has been launched to give a unique collective identity and authenticity to jute and jute diversified products. He said that the Jute Mark serves as an assurance of quality and origin, helping buyers identify genuine jute products and promoting trust in jute-based goods both in domestic and global markets.

The Secretary informed that Jammu has hosted one of the first such workshops in the country and similar events are planned across India to boost awareness and participation under the scheme. He also informed that the Jute Mark label is currently available free of cost and any eligible manufacturer or business adhering to the

quality and content standards prescribed by the National Jute Board can register to use the mark on their products.

Director Handloom & Handicraft, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Mohammad Nazeer Sheikh, extended full support from the Handicrafts & Handloom Department for all efforts aimed at promoting jute products, skill development and trade opportunities in the Union Territory.

Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Handloom & Handicraft Corporation, Atul Sharma, stressed upon the need to establish jute-based production units on ground and to strengthen the training and capacity building of artisans and Self Help Groups engaged in jute crafts and manufacturing.

The workshop was attended by artisans, entrepreneurs, SHGs besides other participants. The programme aimed to enhance awareness about the Jute Mark India Scheme, promote registration from the Jammu and Kashmir region and strengthen the branding of Indian jute products in domestic and international markets.



# Mahant Rohit Shastri calls on LG Sinha, thanks for popularising Sanskrit

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 28: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday. He was accompanied by Sunil Sharma, Vice President of the Trust.

Mahant Rohit Shastri expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his intervention in popularising Sanskrit language among the students of SKUAST Jammu. The Agriculture University has introduced Sanskrit into its curriculum as a non-credit



subject for Post-graduate (PG) students.

Mahant Shastri also briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the upcoming "Kailakh Sanskrit

Ratna Award – 2025" and other ongoing initiatives of the Trust including Sanskrit Nameplate Campaign and Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul. Meanwhile, Bharat

Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Suraj Singh, Vice Chairman, DDC Jammu.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, eminent theatre personality and former Cultural Diplomat of India to South Africa and Mauritius also called on the Lieutenant Governor. A delegation of Federation of Trade & Industry of India (FTII) led by its National President Dr Sanjay Bansal also called on the Lieutenant Governor and put forth various important matters pertaining to the industrial sector in J&K UT.

# India re-elected to IMO Council for 2026-27 with highest vote tally

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 28: India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, in Category B, comprising 10 countries with the most significant interest in international seaborne trade, an official statement said on Friday.

The statement further said that India secured the highest number of votes in this category, receiving 154 out of 169 valid votes cast during the election.

The Council elections were held during the 34th session of the IMO Assembly in London on Friday by secret ballot.



The term of Council will be for the 2026-27 biennium.

"India secured the large-scale support of the international community at the International Maritime Organisation for India to continue to serve the

global maritime domain," the statement said.

IMO Council is a body composed of three categories, with 40 elected members out of 176 IMO member countries. The Council performs functions between

sessions of the Assembly. On the sidelines of the 34th Assembly of the IMO, the Indian delegation held meetings with country delegations, international organisations, and IMO officials on areas of mutual interest.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Use your pens

development, the LG said, "For Viksit Bharat, science and sahitya (literature) are important. Science, sahitya and kavita together make the nation stronger."

Highlighting India's enduring civilizational heritage, LG Sinha noted that while many tried to plunder India's wealth historically, "they could not loot our culture." He said Bharat has always maintained a balance between scientific progress and literary excellence.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the key initiatives taken by the UT administration, under the guidance of PM Modi, to revive the ancient literary tradition and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

He recalled that Jammu and Kashmir was once known as Sharda Peeth, a historic seat of learning, and that several Sanskrit texts originated from the region. "Five languages, Dogri, Kashmiri, Urdu, Hindi and English have been accorded official status in J&K, reflecting a renewed respect for linguistic and cultural diversity," LG Sinha said.

Reiterating his call, the LG appealed to the artistic community to stand firm against forces that threaten peace and harmony, and to contribute actively to nurturing a vibrant, confident and progressive Jammu & Kashmir.

While highlighting the role of literature in nation-building, LG Sinha said, "Poets have to create stronger national identity and social cohesion through their expression."

"We should also focus on promoting regional literature to fully capitalize on its potential for social harmony and national strength," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised that, for a self-reliant and developed India, both art and artificial intelligence, Science and Sanskar are crucial.

He said literature, music, and poetry strengthen democratic values and provide society much needed cultural and spiritual nourishment.

"Poetry serves not just as a foundation of social consciousness, but also as a pinnacle of society's resolve. Poetry acts as a bridge between dreams and its actualization. Poetry is also a catalyst for individual growth and inspires social transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"The last five years have been decisive for the Union Territory of J&K. We have diligently strived to provide a safe and culturally-rich environment for the new generation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The enthralling poem recital by eminent poet Dr Kumar Vishwas remained the main highlights of the literary evening.

The program also featured captivating poetry from the renowned poets: Sudeep Bhola, Ramesh Muskan, Padmini Sharma, and Kushal Kushlendra. Tarun Bajaj, Executive Director, Northern Region Transmission System-II, Power Grid; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; SK Chowan, Chief General Manager (Projects), Power Grid; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu, senior officials, prominent citizens, literary personalities and youth in large number were present. (KNO)

### 'New India' responds

spiritual discipline and practical measures for sustainable development, public welfare, and heritage preservation.

PM Modi also called on citizens to fulfill their duties toward society and the nation,

underlining that combining spiritual wisdom with civic responsibility ensures collective progress.

He described this alignment of devotion, knowledge, and service as central to building a developed India and strengthening the role of communities in achieving sustainable growth by 2047. (KNO)

### JKBOSE proposes

the future endemic interest for the students desirous to pursue mathematics at higher secondary level," it reads.

The proposed roadmap for implementation of the scheme states that there shall be a single examination comprising two levels of mathematics that is 'Mathematics Basic and Mathematics Standard'.

"The students shall have an option to choose any one level. The difficulty level of the Mathematics-Standard exam shall be the same as the existing exam and the Mathematics-Basic Question paper will be easier in comparison," it reads.

It also said that the standard level will be meant for students, who wish to opt for Mathematics at Senior Secondary Level and the Basic Level would be for students not keen to pursue Mathematics at Higher Secondary level.

"The syllabus, classroom teaching and internal assessment methods for both the levels will remain the same to allow students to study a range of topics and then decide upon the level for which they wish to appear during the board examination," it reads.

JKBOSE notification further said that the students, who opt for Mathematics-standard and fail in the exam will be allowed to appear in the Bi-Annual Exam for Mathematics-Basic or Mathematics Standard.

"In case a student opts for Mathematics-Basic and passes in the exam but changes their mind later and wishes to pursue Mathematics at Higher Level, they will be allowed to appear for Mathematics-Standard Compartment Exam," it reads.

JKBOSE said that in order to generate informed opinion regarding the implementation of the scheme, all stakeholders including civil society, academicians, parents, scholars, students are requested to send their views within ten days from the issue of this notification. (KNO)

### India committed

autonomy and confidence rooted in our civilisational values".

The Defense Minister said that these days, countries across the Indo-Pacific and the Global South look to India as a reliable partner. "This trust has not come to us automatically. It has been earned through our consistent stand for respect of sovereignty of nations and rules-based international order".

He further said that India lives in a region where challenges emerge in many forms – terrorism, cross-border support to extremist elements, attempts to alter the status quo, maritime pressures and even information warfare. "These are complex situations that require constant vigilance and clarity of purpose".

"When we look at the global environment and the realities of our neighbourhood, one message becomes very clear, we cannot rely on past structures to deal with future challenges. The world is changing too fast and the nature of threats is becoming too complex. This is why reforms are not a choice anymore, they are a strategic necessity," he said.

He also said that reforms strengthen the adaptability of institutions, enhance the agility of Armed Forces and give the nation the confidence to shape its own destiny.

"When we speak of 'Reform to Transform', we are not merely talking about procedures or policies. We are not talking about mere tweaking the status quo. We are talking about preparing India for a new era which will transform it into Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat," he said

He said; "We cannot have a Viksit Bharat without a Surakshit Bharat. We cannot have a Surakshit Bharat without a Sashakt Bharat. This is the chain that holds our national aspirations together. But for this chain to hold firm in a changing world, we must build something even deeper within our national character – resilience".

He said that in today's world, he must advocate that resilience has become as important as capability. "I believe that a resilient India is one that can absorb shocks, adapt quickly and continue moving forward, no matter what the circumstances are".

The Defence Minister also said that the government is taking steady steps to keep Armed Forces future-ready and India is moving forward with confidence. "Stronger borders, modern systems and faster reforms are shaping a resilient defence ecosystem," he said. (KNO)

### Kashmir records

remained the coldest in the Valley at minus 6.7°C, followed by Baramulla at minus 5.9°C. Zojila Pass recorded the lowest overall temperature at minus 16.0°C.

Gulmarg, a major winter sports destination, recorded a minimum of minus 1.4°C, while Srinagar Airport settled at minus 6.4°C.

In the Jammu region, temperatures also fell though with less intensity. Jammu recorded 9.4°C, while Banihal touched minus 1.5°C.

Bhaderwah district stood at minus 0.5°C, Rajouri at 1.4°C and Udhampur at 3.6°C.

Ladakh continued to reel under severe cold conditions. Kargil recorded the lowest in the region at minus 9.6°C, followed by Leh at minus 8.6°C and Nubra Valley at minus 8.3°C.

Meanwhile, the weatherman said that J&K is expected to experience generally dry weather till December 1.

On December 2, skies are likely to be generally cloudy in the afternoon. The weather will remain mostly dry on December 3 and 4, while December 5 is again expected to see generally cloudy conditions in the afternoon.

From December 6 to 10, the region is forecasted to have predominantly dry weather. (KNO)

### Selective demolitions

individual was targeted because of his religion. It cannot be that this is the only allegation of encroachment on all JDA land," he said.

Abdullah described the demolition drives as direct interference in the functioning of the elected government. "We are being told that there is no interference in our functioning. This is direct interference. Show me any file that proves the minister was informed or that bulldozers were used after consulting us. These officers, who use bulldozers selectively to humiliate the elected government, should refrain from such acts," he said.

He added that if an officer appointed by the elected government had taken similar action, disciplinary measures would have followed. "How can such an action be taken without

# CJI Surya Kant lauds his predecessors, says benchmark set by their vision, leadership

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 28: Chief Justice Surya Kant on Friday lauded the contributions of the past Chief Justices of India and said, going forward, their vision and leadership would set the benchmark for him.

Speaking at a function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to felicitate him, CJI Kant called for cooperation from bar bodies and lawyers, and said their issues, pending for years, will be resolved amicably.

On November 24, Justice Kant, coming from a middle-class family in Haryana's Hisar district, took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India and will remain in the post for nearly 15 months.

He will demit office on February 9, 2027, on attaining the age of 65 years.

Kant disclosed that he had meetings with SCBA president Vikas Singh and Supreme Court Advocate On Record Association (SCORA) chief Vipin Nair on streamlining the mentioning and case listing process.

From December 1, a new system will be in place for listing of fresh cases before different benches, he said.

"I can foresee that there might be certain difficulties at the initial level. Whenever you introduce a new thing, certain issues do arise, but with your cooperation, support, timely advice, and your ideas and suggestions, which I always look forward to, we will be able to resolve those issues," Kant said.

With the office of the CJI, he said, he will have the responsibility of the "entire judiciary in the country", but the pending



demands of the bar bodies like space crunch, listing of cases, and other urgent issues will "definitely be resolved".

"So, I'm thankful to all the CJIs in the past, who, with their best of abilities, their commitment to the cause, experience, ability, their jurisprudential principles – judicial and administrative – did a commendable job and whatever leadership they have provided in the past... that will be the benchmark for me to move ahead," the CJI said.

He said an introspection would be done about the previous CJIs' steps, to see how much of the journey was left to achieve their vision.

"With your help, you being on both sides, we will achieve that journey," the CJI told the lawyers amid loud applause.

Kant, who was present here, along with all the apex court judges, said, "In this entire endeavour, I must very candidly acknowledge the contribution of my sister and brother judges. For

each and every reform and positive action we plan to take, they are far ahead of me. Their vision, commitment, and support are going to be my real wealth, which I intend to invest in the system and in the institution," he said.

Kant further said he discussed with the SCBA and SCAORA chiefs the streamlining of the cause list.

"Not only the listing of the matters in terms of the days, (but) that unpredictability, that element of uncertainty... How can it be effectively addressed so that your valuable time is not wasted, and we can utilise it for some constructive purposes," he said. He further recalled his relationship with the bar bodies, while serving as a judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and said, "So, we will have certain challenges in the district courts, high courts, or before the Supreme Court. It is our duty that we find some viable solutions with collaborative efforts, and we will effectively address those issues to take the Indian judiciary to the highest position it always deserves."

The CJI said it is not a case where one Chief Justice of India will come and "do some miracle or wield a magical wand to resolve the issues".

"This institution has grown, and it has gained its strength from different leaders over time, who have really done invaluable service to the system," he said.

"I assure you that I am not going to disappoint the bench, bar, litigants for whom, actually, we are in existence. The system will definitely work; it will come out with a glorified future," he promised.

ministerial permission? This is done solely to humiliate and defame the elected government because they cannot digest the election results," he said. (KNO)

### 'Give us law & order

from elected representatives while keeping control of policing and security.

"When we governed as a state, no Pahalgam attack happened, no Delhi attack happened. Give us law and order. If we cannot handle it, take it back," he said.

On the electricity issue, the Chief Minister said the government aims to ensure access to reliable power at affordable rates.

According to him, poor households end up paying less under metered consumption than under flat-rate billing.

The CM said the government's promise of 200 free electricity units for consumers can only be implemented through wider metering. "Metering stands below 50%. Without increased metering, most households cannot receive the benefit of 200 free units," he said.

On the reservation matter, Omar said the cabinet subcommittee report has been completed and will be placed in the next cabinet meeting. He said the process was paused during the election period to avoid procedural complications.

"Elections are over, and the code of conduct is no longer in force. The minister concerned will bring the memo in the next cabinet meeting," Omar said.

Responding to criticism regarding the daily wagers' issue, CM Abdullah said no previous administration has taken sustained measures for their demands. He added that the government has started consultations with them.

Targeting the Peoples Democratic Party, Omar said those questioning NC's manifesto commitments should recall the political developments of 2014. He said PDP sought votes against the BJP and later formed a government with the same party.

"They asked for votes against the BJP and then joined the BJP. We kept our word and kept the BJP out. We brought related resolutions to the Assembly and the Cabinet and are addressing public commitments stepwise," he said.

Omar said the government should be assessed on its performance over the full duration of its term. (KNO)

### Common cold, upper

surge as viruses remain stable and infectious for longer durations in cold conditions. "Winter air dries the nasal passages, weakening the mucus barrier that protects against infection," he said. "People spend more time indoors with limited ventilation, increasing the chances of transmission. Devices like kangris create enclosed warm spaces that favour viral spread."

The reduced sunlight leads to Vitamin D deficiency, while cold stress lowers immune response and the use of wood, coal and traditional bukhari releases smoke and irritants that damage the respiratory tract, the doctor added.

Dr Mumtaz said allergens like dust, smoke and soot become more common in winter homes, aggravating pre-existing respiratory issues and making people more susceptible to infections.

Health experts have advised the public to follow a combination of lifestyle measures, hygiene practices, and medical precautions to control the surge. These measures include influenza vaccine for high-risk groups: elderly, children, pregnant women, and patients with chronic diseases, pneumococcal vaccine for those

vulnerable to secondary bacterial infections, exposure to sunlight whenever possible to boost Vitamin D levels, and a balanced diet rich in seasonal vegetables, fruits, nuts, and warm fluids.

The doctors advised adequate sleep and hydration, improving indoor air quality, ensuring proper ventilation in homes, even during cold weather, avoiding excessive use of smoke-producing heaters; using chimneys and exhausts where possible, keeping indoor spaces clean and dust-free, frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding touching the face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth, use masks in crowded indoor places.

They called for seeking timely treatment at the onset of symptoms to prevent complications, avoiding self-medication, especially with antibiotics, keeping children and the elderly warm and away from smoke-filled rooms and monitoring chronic disease patients closely during the winter months.

Doctors reiterated that winter infections, though common, can be controlled significantly through awareness and preventive health practices.

Precautions taken today can prevent severe illness tomorrow. The community must stay alert and adopt a proactive approach throughout the winter season, they said. (KNO)

### Forces conduct

details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the teams inspected a number of hotels, guest houses and shops. Besides, they also checked the registers and identification records maintained by the management.

The exercise was carried out as part of a broader preventive strategy to strengthen security measures in view of heightened movement and upcoming winter activities in the capital city.

Officials further informed KNO, that checking was jointly conducted systematically with due coordination between various security components.

"The objective is to ensure that verification protocols are being followed properly by hotel and business owners and to prevent any attempt by anti-social or anti-national elements to exploit commercial spaces," an officer part of the operation said.

The searches also involved a detailed review of the guest lists, CCTV surveillance footage and record-keeping practices at several establishments.

The women's contingent was specifically tasked with conducting verification of female guests and staff members, while police and CRPF personnel secured peripheries and entry points during the drive.

Eyewitnesses and officials present during the exercise said that the surprise checks form a crucial part of preventive policing and are essential to maintain law and order in crowded and commercially active zones.

The officials also advised hotel and business owners to maintain proper guest registers, verify identity documents and immediately alert police about any suspicious activity or unfamiliar presence. "Public cooperation always remains a key to ensure a safe environment for all," he said.

Meanwhile, the searches that lasted several hours concluded peacefully without any untoward incident. Security officials maintained that such coordinated drives will continue periodically as part of a city-wide security review plan designed to strengthen vigilance during the winter season and festive period. (KNO)



# India records six-quarter high GDP growth of 8.2 pc in Q2

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Indian economy grew by a higher-than-expected 8.2 per cent -- a six-quarter high -- as increased factory production in anticipation of a consumption boost from the GST rate cut helped offset deceleration in farm output.

The growth in the second quarter, which compared to 7.8 per cent in the preceding three months and 5.6 per cent in the year-ago period, was also aided by a good showing by the services sector, which clocked double-digit growth.

The previous high at 8.4 per cent was posted in the fourth quarter (January-March) of fiscal 2023-24.

The expansion helped India retain its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. During the July-September quarter, the Chinese economy grew by 4.8 per cent.

As per data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first half of 2025-26 worked out to be at 8 per cent, up from 6.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

With an 8 per cent growth rate in the first half, India may exceed the annual growth target of 6.3-6.8 per cent for FY26 as projected in the Economic Survey in January this year.

During the quarter, the manufacturing sector recorded a robust growth of 9.1 per cent compared to 2.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

Following the GST rate cut announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address, factories stepped up their output to meet the festival season demand. The GST rate cut came into effect on September 22.

The performance of the services sector, including banking and real estate, also witnessed an impressive growth of 10.2 per cent from 7.2 per cent in the same



period a year ago.

However, the agriculture sector growth decelerated to 3.5 per cent from 4.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the growth numbers, Ica Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said India's GDP growth significantly surpassed expectations, printing at a six-quarter high of 8.2 per cent in Q2 FY2026, and displaying an acceleration over the 7.8 per cent growth seen in Q1 FY2026, in contrast to the widespread market expectation of some moderation.

While the government's final consumption expenditure expectedly contracted, led by weak revenue spending, the growth in gross capital formation moderated between these quarters, she said, adding that discrepancies played an important role in bumping up the GDP growth in Q2 FY2026 compared to the preceding quarter.

"An adverse base, the potential negative impact of US tariffs and limited headroom for capital spending by the Government

of India (vis-a-vis the Budget Estimates) may dampen the pace of growth from the robust 8 per cent seen in H1 FY2026. Nevertheless, the FY2026 real GDP expansion now appears set to materially exceed 7 per cent," she noted. With the Q2 FY2026 GDP growth exceeding 8 per cent, she said, the probability of a rate cut in the December 2025 MPC review has certainly eased, notwithstanding the series-low CPI inflation print for October 2025.

Earlier in October, the Reserve Bank of India had upped the GDP forecast to 6.8 per cent from the earlier projection of 6.5 per cent for the current financial year.

The statement further said the Real Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) has reported a 7.9 per cent growth rate during Q2 of FY2025-26 against the 6.4 per cent growth rate in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in Q2 of FY 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 48.63

lakh crore against Rs 44.94 lakh crore in Q2 of FY 2024-25, registering a growth rate of 8.2 per cent," the NSO said in the statement.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q2 of FY 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 85.25 lakh crore compared to Rs 78.40 lakh crore in Q2 of FY 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.7 per cent.

As regards the first half of the current fiscal, the real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated at Rs 96.52 lakh crore against Rs 89.35 lakh crore in H1 of 2024-25, registering a growth rate of 8 per cent.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in H1 of 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 171.30 lakh crore compared to Rs 157.48 lakh crore in H1 of 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.8 per cent, the statement said.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) has recorded a 7.3 per cent growth rate at Constant Prices against the growth rate of 6.7 per cent in Q2 of FY25.

The discrepancies (differences in values calculated using different methods of GDP estimation) jumped to Rs 1.62 lakh crore during the second quarter of this fiscal.

India's Q2 FY 2025-26 GDP growth came in stronger than expected at 8.2 per cent year-on-year, Rumki Majumdar, Economist, Deloitte India, said.

"With festive season spending and the momentum from GST 2.0 likely to support activity in Q3, we anticipate a significant upward revision to full-year growth estimates," she said.

India's GDP deflator has fallen to its lowest level since 2019, pulling down nominal GDP growth, she said, adding that this poses challenges for key ratios tied to nominal GDP, such as fiscal deficit, debt, and current account.

She expressed apprehension that it will be harder for the government to meet its fiscal deficit targets, which are measured as a percentage of GDP.

## Nitish disburses Rs 1,000 cr among 10 lakh women beneficiaries of entrepreneurship scheme



PTI

Patna, Nov 28: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday disbursed Rs 1,000 crore among 10 lakh beneficiaries of the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, which is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among the state's women.

Kumar, who was recently voted back to power for a record fifth consecutive term, gave away Rs 10,000 to each beneficiary, through the DBT system, from his official residence, in the presence of cabinet colleagues and top officials. Speaking to reporters

after the function, Rural Development Minister Shrawan Kumar said, "A total of 1.56 crore women have received the money so far." "The beneficiaries are being encouraged to use the sum for self-employment. Those who do so demonstrably will in due course get further assistance of Rs 2 lakh each," he added.

Notably, the scheme was launched in September, about a month before assembly polls were announced, at a function which was attended, in the virtual mode, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Money was disbursed among beneficiaries in batches and the process continued after the elections were announced, evoking allegations from the opposition that votes were being "purchased".

The scheme is said to have paid rich electoral dividends as women turned up to vote in unprecedented numbers and the ruling NDA retained power with a brute majority.

## Encouraging, will continue to advance reforms: PM

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Indian economy recorded a six-quarter high growth of 8.2 per cent in July-September on the back of increased manufacturing and double-digit growth in the services sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the 8.2

per cent GDP growth in Q2 of 2025-26 reflects the hard work and enterprise of the people and vowed to continue to advance reforms.

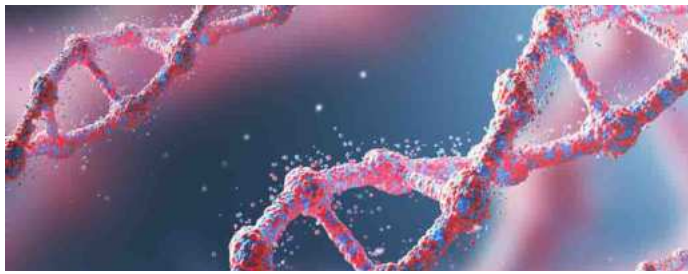
The Indian economy recorded a six-quarter high growth of 8.2 per cent in July-September on the back of increased manufacturing and double-digit growth in the services sector. "The 8.2

per cent GDP growth in Q2 of 2025-26 is very encouraging. It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people," Modi said in a post on X.

"Our government will continue to advance reforms and strengthen Ease of Living for every citizen," the prime minister said.



## Study details independent role of Alzheimer's gene in causing delirium



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 28: Risk of delirium, a state of confusion commonly experienced by hospitalised patients, has been independently, directly linked to a gene well-known to contribute towards Alzheimer's disease, according to an analysis of more than a million people from across the UK, Finland and the US.

Gene "APOE" is known to make a protein that helps carry cholesterol and other fats in the blood. Having the gene variant "APOE e4" is said to increase one's risk of developing the ageing-related Alzheimer's disease, in which thought processes and decision-making are steadily impacted over time.

However, the gene has a distinct, direct role to play in causing delirium, and one's risk of experiencing delirium cannot be solely explained by the gene's link to Alzheimer's disease, researchers from the University of Edinburgh said. Findings published in the journal Nature Ageing show that the effects of the APOE gene on risk of delirium held despite adjusting for dementia, thereby providing strong evidence that the gene contributes to the risk in people without dementia.

The overlap between genetic risks of delirium and Alzheimer's disease may help explain why

delirium so often precedes or accelerates cognitive decline, the researchers said.

"The study provides the strongest evidence to date that delirium has a genetic component. Our next step is to understand how DNA modifications and changes in gene expression in brain cells can lead to delirium," said co-author of the study, Vasilis Raptis from the University of Edinburgh.

The researchers "conducted a genetic meta-analysis on delirium using multi-ancestry data from the UK Biobank, FinnGen, All of Us Research Program and Michigan Genomics Initiative cohorts, yielding the Apolipoprotein E (APOE) gene as a strong delirium risk factor independently of dementia." Blood samples from 32,000 individuals in the UK Biobank who developed delirium, collected up to 16 years before a diagnosis, were also analysed.

They identified proteins that can help predict delirium risk years before developing symptoms, which included markers of brain injury and inflammation.

"The findings shed new light on the biological foundations of delirium, suggesting that brain vulnerability, systemic and nervous system inflammation may all play important roles," co-author Albert Tenesa, professor of quantitative genetics at the University of Edinburgh, said.

## PM offers tribute to 15th century philosopher Kanakadasa



PTI

Udupi (Karnataka), Nov 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday visited the historic Kanaka Mantap, here and offered floral tributes to Kirthanakar Kanakadasa, the revered 14th-15th century AD saint-philosopher.

Kanakadasa is credited with the legendary episode of Lord Krishna's idol turning westward at the Udupi Sri Krishna Temple. Later, the Prime Minister participated in the "Laksha Geeta Pathana", a mass recitation in which more than one lakh devotees chanted verses from the Bhagavad Gita. Accompanied by Paryaya Puthige Math seer, Sugunendra Thirtha, Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot and others, the PM joined the mass recital and read out the hymns.

Earlier, after paying homage at the Mantap, Modi proceeded to the Sri Krishna Temple complex, where he was received with traditional honours by Sugunendra Thirtha, along with the Diwan of the Math and senior temple officials.

Modi spent time inside the sanctum precincts, acknowledging the significance of Kanakadasa's devotion and the enduring cultural legacy associated with the temple. Modi was given a Poorna Kumbh swagatham (welcome with traditional honours) as he entered the Krishna Math precincts. He was presented with a silver clad Tulasi Japa mala and Mudras containing Shankha, Chakra, Gada, and Padma, which the Madhwas and most of the Brahmin communities use for their daily Pooja rituals in South India.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IST (KPDCL), BEMINA, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT NO. STD I / 19 OF 2025-26 DATED: 19 / 11 / 20225

For and on behalf of the Managing Director KPDCL, e-tender (In Single Cover system) are invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of Funds
1.	Augmentation of Takenwari Receiving Station (Civil Works)	1000/-	32700/-	90 Days	B & C	CAPEX	Available.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20 / 11 / 2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21 / 11 / 2025 09.00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	22 / 11 / 2025 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	11 / 12 / 2025 up to 3.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12 / 12 / 2025 at 2.00P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar.
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Non-Refundable Demand Draft and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar The Date of Demand Draft and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of the Executive Engineer STD-I, Bemina Srinagar.
- The normal deposits (deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after total completion of the work.
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-I, Bemina, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e- Bids/ the e- Bid process without assigning any reason thereof .The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/ closed day for Department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working Day at the same time and place.

No:- STD-1/ 4479-82  
Dated:- 19/11/2025.

DIPK-NB-2596/25  
DATED: 28-11-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Sub-Transmission Division-I,  
Bemina Srinagar.



## Death toll from floods, landslides rises to 56 in Sri Lanka

PTI

Colombo, Nov 28: The death toll due to floods and landslides has risen to 56 and 21 remain missing in Sri Lanka as it announced a public holiday on Friday other than for those involved in essential services.

At least 46 deaths have been recorded within the past 72 hours as adverse weather conditions continue to affect the island, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

In view of the emergency situation, the Government declared Friday as a public holiday other than for those involved in essential services.

Disaster management officials said that 43,991 people from 12,313 families have been affected by the extreme weather conditions.

Meanwhile, cyclonic storm Ditwah is located near Sri Lanka's eastern district of Trincomalee, the meteorology department announced on Friday morning. Ditwah was centred about 50 km south of Trincomalee and was seen



to be moving north and northwestwards.

Heavy showers, thunderstorms and strong winds will continue island-wide, with very heavy rainfall above 200 mm expected in several provinces, and up to 150 mm in areas, including Trincomalee in the east, Badulla in central Galle and Matara in the southern province, the weather bureau said.

Winds of 60-70 kmph, gusting up to 80-90 kmph, are likely across much of the country.

Srilankan Airlines said several inbound planes had been diverted to Kochi and Trivandrum in India and the Mattala airport in the

southern province.

The Government is considering making an international appeal for help at a meeting to be convened by Prime Minister Hariri Amarasuriya later in the day, sources said.

The railway department said all services have been suspended until further notice from 6 am today.

In the central province town of Gampola, the railway station was completely submerged with several carriages trapped underwater, officials said.

The risk of floods has increased further due to the opening of spill gates at all of the reservoirs throughout the island.

## China's top diplomat to visit Russia for security talks



AFP

Beijing, Nov 28: China's top diplomat Wang Yi will visit Russia next week to attend security talks, Beijing's foreign ministry announced Friday, as the United States renews its push to end the war in Ukraine. Wang will travel to Russia for a routine China-Russia strategic security consultation from Monday to Tuesday, Beijing's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters at a regular briefing. Wang, who was invited by Russian security chief Sergei Shoigu, will "thoroughly exchange views on international and regional issues of mutual concern, and...strengthen communication and coordination on key issues involving the strategic security interests of both countries," Mao said.

Washington stunned Kyiv and Europe last week with a surprise plan to end the nearly four-year war in Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that he would end his Ukraine offensive if Kyiv withdrew from territory claimed by Moscow — otherwise his army would take it by force. The Russian army has been slowly but steadily grinding through eastern Ukraine in costly battles against outnumbered and outgunned Ukrainian forces. China is not a party to the conflict, but Kyiv has long complained that Beijing has supplied items to Moscow that can be used in its war against Ukraine, and continues to purchase Russian energy. Beijing strongly denies that it supplies Russia with material for use in its military campaign in Ukraine and has sought to portray itself as an impartial broker ready to help resolve the conflict.

## Anti-corruption units raid home, offices of Zelensky's chief of staff



AP

Kyiv, Nov 28: corruption units have raided the home and office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's chief of staff, Andrii Yermak, in an unwelcome distraction for Kyiv officials as they battle to defeat Russia's invasion and persuade US officials to accommodate their demands in peace proposals. Two national agencies fighting entrenched corrup-

tion in Ukraine said they searched Yermak's office. Yermak, a powerful figure in Ukraine and a key participant in talks with the United States, confirmed they also searched his apartment.

"The investigators are facing no obstacles," Yermak wrote on the messaging app Telegram. He added that he was cooperating fully with them and his lawyers were present. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and

the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office are Ukrainian anti-corruption watchdogs. They are behind a major investigation into a \$100 million energy sector corruption scandal involving top Ukrainian officials.

The scandal has heaped more problems on Zelensky as he seeks continued support from Western countries for Ukraine's war effort and tries to ensure continued foreign funding.

## Human washing machine goes on sale in Japan

AFP

Tokyo, Nov 28: After wowing World Expo visitors, a human washing machine is now on sale in Japan, a company spokeswoman said Friday.

Users lie down in the pod, close the lid and get cleaned like clothes in a washing machine — but without the spin — while music plays.

A prototype of the device, called the human washer of the future, attracted long queues at the six-month Expo that wrapped up in Osaka in October after welcoming over 27 million people.

Made by Japanese firm Science, the device is an update of a product displayed the last time Osaka hosted the event, in 1970.

"Our (company) president was inspired by that as a 10-year-old boy at the time," Science spokeswoman Sachiko Maekura told AFP.



The machine "not only washes your body but also your soul," she added, while also monitoring users' heartbeats and other vital signs.

After a US resort company contacted Science to see if the prototype would be commercialized, the firm decided to produce it for real. A hotel in Osaka bought the

first machine and is preparing to offer the service to hotel guests, the spokeswoman said.

Other customers include Yamada Denki, a major consumer electronics retail chain in Japan, which hopes the machine will draw people to visit its outlets, she said.

## Messi confirms Hyderabad visit during his 'GOAT Tour of India' next month

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 28: Argentine football superstar Lionel Messi has confirmed the addition of Hyderabad to his much-anticipated 'GOAT Tour of India 2025' next month, with the Telangana capital becoming his fourth stopover in the country.

The World Cup-winning captain will be in Hyderabad after the Kolkata leg -- the first of his tour. He will then proceed to Mumbai and New Delhi where he is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Thanks for all the love from India! The GOAT tour kicks off in a few weeks' time!!! I'm happy to share that Hyderabad has been added to my visits to Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. See you soon India!" Messi posted on his social



media handle.

The decision to add Hyderabad came in the wake of the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kochi, which had been originally announced by Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman for November 17.

The revised plan ensured that Messi's 'GOAT Tour' would span all the four corners of India -- east (Kolkata), south (Hyderabad), west (Mumbai) and north (New Delhi).

Satadru Dutta, the sole organiser of the 'GOAT Tour to

India 2025', had told PTI that Messi's event in Hyderabad will be held either at Gachibowli or Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

According to Dutta, there would be a celebrity match, football clinic, felicitation and musical programme in Hyderabad.

The GOAT Tour, conceptualised by Dutta, will feature a mix of celebrity football matches, musical events, meet-and-greet sessions, masterclasses for children and felicitation ceremonies across four cities.

Messi will start his tour in Kolkata on December 13, followed by Hyderabad the same evening, before travelling to Mumbai on December 14 and concluding in New Delhi on December 15.

## Juyal, Veer star as UP rout J&K by 109 runs

PTI

Kolkata, Nov 28: Aryan Juyal struck his second successive fifty, while Prashant Veer produced an fine all-round effort as Uttar Pradesh outclassed Jammu and Kashmir by 109 runs in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group B match on Friday.

This was Uttar Pradesh's second win on the trot as they went to the top of Group B standings with eight points. Fresh from a match-winning 93 not out against Goa, the promising wicketkeeper-batter Juyal was in his elements again, smashing three sixes and four fours in a 40-ball 51 to guide UP to 193/6 after Jammu and Kashmir opted to bowl.

Veer, the left-arm spin-bowling all-rounder, later returned with 3/20 to go with a blistering unbeaten 10-ball 37 (4x6, 3x4), including 24 runs in the final over off pacer Aaqib Nabi, to give the UP innings a decisive push.

Earlier, skipper Karan Sharma (32 off 24; 4x4, 1x6) and Juyal put on a free-flowing 73-run opening stand as UP cruised through the Powerplay without losing a wicket. Umran Malik was brought in to break the stand and he troubled the batters with raw pace.

He even had Juyal caught behind, only for the delivery to be called a no-ball for overstepping.

The breakthrough came in the ninth over when he dismissed Karan, before Priyam Garg fell



to spinner Murugan Ashwin.

Umran got Juyal soon after the latter reached his fifty, removing him off the fifth ball of the same over.

UP suddenly slipped to 97/4, losing four wickets for 24 runs, as J&K's decision to bowl first seemed vindicated.

But Veer turned the momentum again. He found a solid ally in Siddharth Yadav (24 18b; 2x4, 1x6) as the pair rebuilt with a fifty-plus stand before Veer's late carnage off Nabi.

Jammu and Kashmir's chase never took off as they folded for a meek 84, with skipper Shubham Khajuria absent hurt.

Opener Qamran Iqbal top-scored with 20 before the spin duo of leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam (3/25) and Veer tightened the noose.

Umran showed some late hitting with one six and a four, but he fell to a superb diving effort by Rinku Singh near the boundary.

Sunil Kumar took 2/11 from 3.3 overs, while veteran India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar returned 1/14 from two overs.

Prithvi Shaw slams 66 Prithvi Shaw roared back to form with an explosive fifty, while Arshin Kulkarni struck an unbeaten 89 as Maharashtra cruised to an eight-wicket win over Hyderabad.

Maharashtra were assured and clinical in their chase of 192. Shaw and Kulkarni added 117 for the opening wicket, aided by Hyderabad's sloppy fielding and several dropped catches.

Eyeing a good outing ahead of next month's IPL mini-auction after going unsold last season, Shaw, who had a fruitful first half of Ranji season for his new domestic state, capitalised on a reprieve and smashed three sixes and nine fours in his 36-ball 66.

Kulkarni, dropped three times, stayed unbeaten on 89 off 54 balls to finish the job.

DE DE PYAAR DE 2 (U/A13+)  
HINDI - 05:15 PM

GUSTAAKH ISHQ (U/A 13+)  
HINDI - 01:30 PM, 06:45 PM

ZOOTOPIA 2 (U/A 7+)  
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
11:00 AM, 04:15 PM

TERE ISHK MEIN (U/A 16+)  
HINDI - 10:15 AM, 11:40 AM, 01:45 PM, 03:05 PM, 06:30 PM

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