

Any attempt to revive terrorism in J&K will be crushed: LG Sinha warns subversive elements

» Era of stone pelting, Pak-sponsored strikes, unchecked terrorism has ended

» Patel never favoured taking Kashmir to UN

» Sardar made it clear not an inch of J&K will be given to Pak

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Dec 01: Issuing a stern warning to elements attempting to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the era of stone pelting, Pakistan-sponsored strikes, and unchecked terrorism has ended, and any fresh attempts to destabilize peace will be "crushed with full force."

LG Sinha today joined the "Sardar@150 Unity March (Padyatra)" at Vadodara, Gujarat. The National Padyatra, which began at Sardar Patel's family home in Karamsad, will cover nearly 190 km in 11 days, and will conclude at the Statue of Unity on 6th December.

Addressing the event on the theme "Kashmir, Hyderabad and Sardar", the Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed



tremendous development over the past few years, with visible improvements in law and order. Today, no stone pelting takes

place in J&K. No strike is called at the behest of Pakistan. Terrorist commanders of all terror outfits have been eliminated. Those

trying to raise their heads again will be crushed."

LG Sinha also drew historical parallels while invoking the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose birth anniversary is being observed across India.

He recalled an anecdote involving Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel during their time in Yerawada Jail. "Gandhiji once asked Sardar Patel what post he would like to hold after Independence, Patel replied he would become a sadhu. Yet it was he who ensured the merger of 562 princely states, reshaping Bharat's map," LG Sinha said.

He emphasized that only Sardar Patel possessed the "guts and willpower" to unite a newly independent country. "Had Patel not been there, India's map would not have been the same. Whether it was Hyderabad or Jammu and Kashmir, Patel wrote a new history," the LG said, adding that Patel played a crucial role in ensuring J&K

acceded to India despite not being directly assigned the state's responsibility.

LG Sinha noted that Patel was never in favour of taking the Kashmir issue to the United Nations, a move that, he said, was steered by Jawaharlal Nehru and Gopalaswami Ayyangar.

"Had the J&K issue been handled by Sardar Patel, India's map would have been different today," he added.

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel would have ensured complete and irreversible integration of Jammu Kashmir if he had handled its affairs directly. History of J&K would have been different if Sardar Patel had been given full responsibility for its integration in 1947," LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor said despite not directly handling Jammu Kashmir, Sardar Patel ensured that it remained an integral part of India. From the very beginning, Sardar Patel had said that we | [More on P6](#)

Infiltration down, narco-terror, 'white collar' radicalisation challenges in Kmr: IG BSF

Only four infiltration attempts this year; 8 terrorists killed, 5 pushed back: Yadav



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Rehan Qayoom Mir / Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Dec 01: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday said infiltration along the Line of Control (LoC) has "declined sharply" this year owing to tighter coordination and proactive intelligence sharing with the Indian Army. He, however, added that narco-terrorism and "white-collar" radicalisation emerge as new fronts in internal security challenges.

Speaking at the Annual Press Meet 2024-25 at the BSF Frontier Headquarters in Humhama, IG Kashmir Frontier Ashok Yadav (IPS) said the frontier's counter-infiltration grid and joint operations have ensured a near-record low in cross-border intrusions.

"Only four infiltration attempts were reported this

year. Thirteen infiltrators were involved, eight were neutralised, and five pushed back," Yadav said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). He added that the drop reflects "better synergy, quicker intelligence response and ground-level coordination".

Over 'White-Collar' radicalisation and the silent challenge, the IG said a new pattern of radicalisation has emerged, where educated youths with clean records are being lured into ideological and logistical support roles. "These individuals don't appear on our radar or in security databases. It's silent recruitment, harder to detect and therefore more dangerous," he said.

He said all security agencies have intensified efforts to trace such modules and identify | [More on P6](#)

Rubaiya Sayed kidnapping case

CBI arrests Shafat Shangloo, says he conspired with Malik to commit crime

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Dec 01: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, who was wanted in a 35-year-old case relating to the kidnapping of Dr. Rubiya Sayeed, daughter of the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

In a statement, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the CBI said it had arrested absconder Shafat Ahmed Shangloo, wanted in connection with the 35-year-old case of Dr. Rubiya Sayeed's kidnapping. Dr. Sayeed is the sister of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti.

The agency further said that

the accused Shangloo had conspired with Yasin Malik and others in committing the crime under various sections of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) in 1989.

"The absconder was carrying a reward of Rs. 10 lakh on his head," the statement reads.

He will be produced before the TADA Court Jammu, within stipulated time as per law, it further states.

On December 8, 1989, Rubaiya Sayeed, the 23-year-old daughter of India's then Home Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, was kidnapped from Srinagar.

Rubaiya was | [More on P6](#)

Newly elected NC MPs press for J&K statehood, decry LG's 'all power'

Ramzan questions purpose of elected govt when 'all authority lies with LG'

Kichloo urges Centre to follow Vajpayee's principles

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Dec 01: National Conference (NC) leader and Member of Parliament (MP) in Rajya Sabha, Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan on Monday said the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has been left with "no powers" and that all the "authority" rests with the Lieutenant Governor.

Speaking during his maiden address after being elected to the Upper House, the MP, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that despite elections held in October 2024 and the



formation of a new government, it was not being allowed to function independently.

"Our government has nothing in its hands. All the power is in the hands of the LG. Orders flow from there," he

said. "What is the purpose of the elected government if it has no powers to work?"

Ramzan said the people of J&K had given a strong mandate to the National Conference and expressed | [More on P6](#)

Girl succumbs after self-immolation bid in Lal Chowk

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Dec 01: A young girl who attempted self-immolation at Pratap Park in Srinagar's Lal Chowk on Saturday succumbed to her injuries at SMHS Hospital on Monday morning, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the girl, in an apparent act of self-harm, had poured an inflammable substance on herself before setting herself ablaze.

Bystanders, shocked by the incident, rushed to her rescue and managed to douse the flames using available means before police and emergency responders arrived at the scene.

He said she succumbed to burn injuries two days after, today at hospital and investigation have been taken | [More on P6](#)

Army's BrahMos unit executes long range precision strike mission

Srinagar, Dec 01: The Indian Army on Monday successfully carried out a combat missile launch of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile from a test range in the Bay of Bengal.

According to a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the launch was executed in a precisely coordinated mission involving a BrahMos unit of Southern Command and elements of the Tri-Services Andaman & Nicobar Command.

The statement reads that the missile, equipped with advanced guidance and control systems, validated its performance, high-speed flight stability and

terminal accuracy by engaging a designated target with precision.

"The mission met all operational objectives under simulated battle conditions, reaffirming the high state of operational readiness of the Indian Army's BrahMos units and their capability to undertake real-time precision strike missions to address emerging battlefield challenges," it reads.

It added that Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, AVSM General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command lauded the successful combat launch of the BrahMos missile.

"This successful launch marks a major milestone in the Army's | [More on P6](#)

DELHI BLAST CASE

NIA raids multiple locations in Kashmir, UP Digital devices, other incriminating materials seized

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Dec 01: The National Investigation Agency on Monday carried out raids at about 8 locations in the Kashmir Valley and one location in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the Delhi blast case, officials said.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the NIA conducted raids at about 8 locations, including the houses of Moulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Dr Adeel, Dr Muzamil and Amir Rashid.

He said that various digital devices and other incriminating materials were seized during the searches from the premises of several accused and suspects in the two states.



"Eight locations were searched in Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Awantipora of J&K, and one location in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow," he said.

They said the raids are underway in Nadigam village of Shopian, Koil, Chandgam,

Malangpora, and Samboora villages of Pulwama.

"The teams searched for evidence that could be linked to the 'white-collar' module and the Delhi blast," they said.

The NIA has so far arrested seven accused | [More on P6](#)

Man dies after hit by vehicle in Qazigund

KNO Correspondent

Qazigund, Dec 01: A 65-year-old man was killed after being hit by a vehicle in the Nipora area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday, officials said.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred when the man was hit on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

He sustained critical injuries and was shifted to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries," he said.

The deceased has been identified as Abdul Ahad Khanday (65), son of Abdul Khaliq Khanday of Nipora, Qazigund. Police have taken cognisance of the incident. (KNO)

Cyclone Ditwah

PM Modi speaks to Sri Lankan President, condoles loss of lives

Assures India's continued support

Srinagar, Dec 01: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a telephone conversation with the Sri Lankan President, Anura Kumara Dissanayake to express condolences on the loss of lives and widespread devastation in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah.

According to a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the PM conveyed that the people of India stand in firm solidarity

and support with the people of Sri Lanka in this hour of need.

"President Dissanayake conveyed his deep gratitude for India's assistance in the wake of the disaster and appreciated the swift deployment of rescue teams and relief material. He also conveyed the appreciation of the people of Sri Lanka for India's timely and effective response efforts," reads the statement.

It reads that PM Modi assured President Dissanayake of India's continued support to Sri Lanka | [More on P6](#)

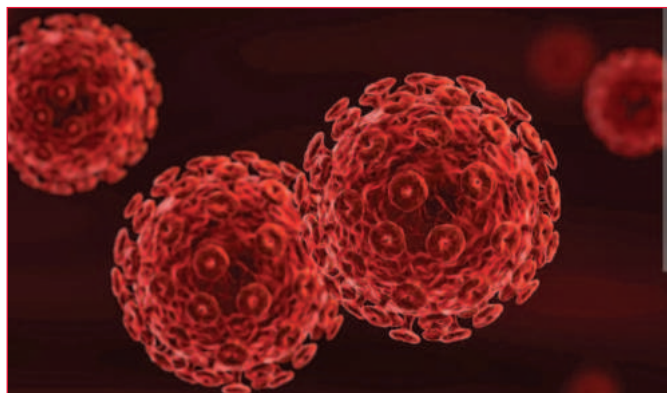
'Stigma, not the virus': Why HIV cases go undetected in J&K until it's too late

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Dec 01: Once considered a low-prevalence region, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a slow but steady rise in HIV cases, with health professionals calling for urgent awareness, wider testing, and a decisive push to end stigma.

As per details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 2,071 new HIV cases and 66 AIDS-related deaths have been recorded in the Union Territory since 2019.

Although the overall adult prevalence in J&K remains among the lowest in the country, hovering between 0.03% and 0.06% in recent years, the



numbers reflect that infections continue to occur, especially among high-risk groups such as people who inject drugs.

Doctors said the new figures

underline a pattern they have been observing quietly for years. "J&K is not a high-burden state, but the upward trend is undeniable. Each new infection is

preventable, and each delay in testing has consequences," said a senior physician, requesting anonymity.

Another infectious-disease expert at a government medical college in Srinagar said that late diagnosis remains common. Many patients, he said, walk in only when their immunity is severely compromised. The reason is stigma and misinformation, he said. "If people felt safe coming forward, we would catch infections early and prevent most AIDS-related deaths."

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) weakens the body's immune system. Without treatment, it can progress to AIDS, a stage where the

immune system becomes unable to fight common infections.

It mainly occurs due to unprotected sexual contact, sharing needles or syringes, mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding, and rarely, contaminated blood transfusion where proper screening is absent.

According to doctors, modern antiretroviral therapy (ART) allows people with HIV to live long, healthy lives, and those who take ART regularly and achieve viral suppression cannot transmit the virus sexually.

Health workers said the most vulnerable group in J&K is people who inject drugs (PWID). "Sharing needles | [More on P6](#)

CS chairs meeting to review traffic management in Jammu, Srinagar



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday presided over a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management Systems for Jammu and Srinagar, to take a comprehensive look at the measures already undertaken and those proposed for easing congestion, strengthening road safety, and improving overall urban mobility in both cities.

The meeting, as per an official statement, witnessed participation of senior administrative and police officials, including ACS, PWD, Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP, Traffic; Secretary, Transport; DIG, Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; SSPs Traffic, Srinagar/Jammu; Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu/Srinagar; VC, LCMA; Vice-Chairman, JDA/SDA, besides officers from other concerned departments.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored that Jammu and Srinagar, being the face of the UT and receiving a continuous flow of tourists and visitors, require swift and focused interventions to enhance commuter experience.

He stressed the need for timely execution of traffic management plans and called for the early operationalisation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS) and Integrated Traffic Light Systems (ITLS). He directed the Divisional Commissioners to monitor

the implementation rigorously. He also stressed on resolving other bottlenecks after incorporating feedback from citizens and stakeholders.

Briefing the meeting on the current status of traffic improvement initiatives, the Divisional Commissioners outlined the steps taken in both cities, such as introducing diversions where required, setting up new roundabouts, installing traffic signals at strategic points, augmenting parking facilities, identifying no-parking stretches, earmarking dedicated bus stops, enforcing one-way traffic on congested routes and adjusting school and college timings. They further informed that dedicated corridors for eastern and western minibuses have been planned, honking zones are being regulated, and additional charging points for Smart City electric buses are also going to be established here.

Expressing concern over traffic violations, particularly those related to lane discipline, the Chief Secretary called for strict enforcement. He reviewed action taken against the 9,204 repeat offenders identified so far through e-challans. The Transport Commissioner informed that 600 driving licences had already been suspended and that the remaining cases were being examined for appropriate action based on the seriousness of the violations.

The IG Traffic appraised the meeting about the efforts made to decongest city roads, including zoning of e-rickshaws, implementation of one-way traffic

regimes in selected areas, and installation of road dividers wherever necessary.

The Commissioners of the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations briefed the Chief Secretary about steps taken to streamline urban spaces, which include establishing designated hawkker zones, relocating street vendors, rehabilitating them through kiosk allotment, and ensuring that commercial establishments develop adequate parking facilities.

The Chief Secretary instructed all departments to furnish detailed, location-specific accounts of measures implemented on the ground. Emphasising traffic management in areas with heavy tourist movement, the meeting discussed the necessity of designated parking areas and the use of small-capacity vehicles to prevent congestion caused by larger buses.

Departments also presented updates on initiatives aimed at expanding road capacity through elevated corridors and flyovers, constructing multi-level parking structures, and removing encroachments that obstruct smooth traffic flow.

Road safety measures were also reviewed, including the establishment of no-honking and no-parking zones, construction of medians and dividers, closure of unsafe openings, and rectification of identified black spots in coordination with construction agencies.

The Chief Secretary also enquired about the operational status of the newly procured bus fleet intended

to enhance the city's public transportation network. The Vice-Chairmen of JDA and SDA, along with representatives from Urban Local Bodies, detailed the infrastructural and planning initiatives in progress.

Other aspects discussed in the meeting included procurement of enforcement equipment by traffic police such as alcohol meters, breath analysers, speed detection devices and body cameras. The manpower-related concerns within traffic police; safety audits of school buses; improvements in parking and transport planning in urban centres; better management of shikara and water transport; and clearing footpaths and roadways of encroachments were discussed in detail in the meeting.

Secretary Transport informed the Chief Secretary about capacity-building efforts initiated with the support of national-level institutions to train various stakeholders involved in urban mobility and transport management.

Reiterating the importance of coordinated functioning among all departments, the Chief Secretary observed that improved logistics and mobility planning is essential for sustainable urban development.

He reviewed progress being tracked through the e-Samiksha portal and urged all departments to maintain focus on implementing citizen-centric solutions that can bring about visible and lasting improvements in traffic conditions in both the cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

Traffic Decongestion

DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner inspect work on Nawab Bazar–Darish Kadal corridor

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, SSP Traffic City Aijaz, Principal GMC Srinagar Dr Iffat on Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the initiation of work on NawaBazar- Darish Kadal alternate route for traffic decongestion and management measures in the critical medical zone surrounding Shri Maharaja Hari Singh(SMHS) Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital and Dental College.

The project, as per an official statement is a part of the broader mobility improvement and traffic regulation plan along the Nawab Bazar–Kaksaraie–Darish Kadal Corridor aimed

at streamlining vehicular movement by distributing traffic through the Suner Kul route. During the visit, the DC and SMC Commissioner along with senior Officers and engineers, carried out an onsite assessment of the works initiated to develop this alternate road for improving mobility and decongesting the critical Medical Area around Super Specialty Hospital, SMHS and Dental College. The project shall allow for alternate vehicular movement through a specialised route. An on-site assessment of establishing a dedicated parking facility around the high-priority hospital zone encompassing SMHS Hospital, Dental Hospital and the Super Specialty Hospital to prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smooth access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles was also deliberated upon.

The Nawab Bazar–Kak

Saraie–Darish Kadal corridor via the Suner Kul bund link, is aimed at ensuring smooth mobility and decongested vehicular movement.

The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure that the pace of work on the approved decongestion project is maintained at a fast rate so as to ensure timely completion of the project, emphasizing the need to prioritize interventions that guarantee swift patient movement and timely ambulance access, while minimizing inconvenience to local residents, traders, and commuters. He noted that the proposed corridor would help redistribute traffic load, reduce bottlenecks in densely populated market stretches and streamline the approach roads leading to the major hospitals of Srinagar City.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.

Subject: Verification of Character & Antecedents of the applicants who have applied for compassionate appointment case under SRO-43 of 1994.
Reference: O.M No. GAD-SRO/49/2025(7635718) dated 12.11.2025 from General Administration Department.

NOTICE

The applicant namely Mtr. Shaista Parveen D/o Ali Shan Khan & W/o Late Nisar Ahmad R/o Dhani, Tehsil Karnah, District Kupwara, is hereby informed to submit her email ID and contact details in the office of Secretary to the Government, School Education Department Civil Secretariat Jammu in person within a period of 21 days positively, for uploading/registering the same on the employees verification system (EVS), for obtaining the Character and Antecedents report from the Criminal Investigation Department, failing which she shall forfeit her right for appointment under Compassionate appointment rules notified vide SRO-43 of 1994.

DIPK-8603/25
DATED: 01-12-2025

Thannaji Bhat
Under Secretary to the Government
School Education Department

No. Edu-SROK/28/2023-01(7184107) Dated: 26.11.2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.

Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.52/EE/R&B/BM/CS/6438-46 of 2025-26 DATED:01.12.2025

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 (In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money (In Rupees) | Time of completion | M.H of Account | Class of Contract or |
|-------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Creation of Central Lab and canteen in Stilt floor of IPD Block at SKIMS MCH Bemina | 106.00693 | 2600/- | 2,12,014/W | 365 Days | Capex budget 2025-26 | AAY |

Position of AAA: Accorded by Principal SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar vide order No. 11-SKIMS-MCH of 2025 Dated: 20.09.2025

Position of funds: Available

Project Authority Principal SKIMS MCH Bemina Srinagar.

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 as per schedule of dates given below:-

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 01.12.2025 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 02.12.2025 from 10:00 AM |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 02.12.2025 from 10:00 AM |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 10.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 11.12.2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar. |

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority)
- 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 pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR 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.
- Abnormally Low Bid Price: As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :-

- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance Security shall be taken only after approval of next Higher authority. The bidder declared as L1 has to Provide additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the break up given above at the time of allotment.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site 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 Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- 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.
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into acquaint bid submission process.

No.: EE/R&B/BM/CS/6438-46
Dated:01.12.2025

DIPK-8581/25
DATED: 01-12-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

DDC Baramulla reviews Baseline Survey



KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 01: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Monday chaired a meeting at the Main Meeting Hall DC Office to review the Baseline Survey and finalise the Comprehensive District Agriculture Development Plan (DADP) under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY).

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by officers from agriculture and allied sectors, along with

representatives from banking and development agencies, to ensure a coordinated and data-driven approach for strengthening the district's agricultural landscape.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said, "The District Agriculture Development Plan must reflect the real needs of our farmers and the potential of each sector. Accurate data, timely inputs, and inter-departmental coordination are crucial for preparing a practical and result-oriented plan. Our focus should be on improving productivity, creating market linkages, and ensuring that farmers benefit from every component of PMDDKY."

Discussions during the meeting revolved around streamlining baseline data, identifying priority interventions, and aligning departmental submissions with the overall objectives of the scheme.

The DC directed all departments to submit their final inputs promptly for the timely completion of the DADP.

KASHMIR THUNDER

IS AVAILABLE
AT ALL LEADING
STALLS



HQ POLICE TELECOM ACS KASHMIR

No.Estt/ACSK-105/2022/9934

DATED: 01:12:2025

Public Notice

Mohmmad Ayaz S/O Mohmmad Akbar Dar working as ASI (Telecom) in J&K Police Telecommunication under regimental No. 1786/PW, Tel-984515 has represented for correction in his name and parentage which is recorded as Mohd. Ayaz Dar 5/O Mohd Akbar Dar instead of Mohmmad Ayaz 5/O Mohmmad Akbar Dar in the service records of the officer.

As such, objections if any are invited from general public through this notice, which should reach to the office of undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Superintendent of Police

DIPK-8610/25
DATED: 01-12-2025

CS chairs APD review meeting

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Dec 01: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired a detailed review meeting of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to examine the modalities of a comprehensive plan aimed at significantly enhancing milk production, processing, and value-addition across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, APD; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives; Secretary, RDD; Managing Director, HADP; Representative from NABARD and other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took an in-depth appraisal of the proposed roadmap prepared by the Department to give a major boost to dairy development in the UT. He stressed the need to study the outcomes of dairy sector interventions already being implemented under HADP and build upon their strengths while designing the new plan.

He observed that a well-structured strategy, supported by robust infrastructure and efficient value chains, would help achieve substantial progress in the



sector and ensure maximum benefits to dairy farmers across J&K.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Department to study successful models from other states to identify best practices suitable for local conditions. He further emphasised close coordination with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to integrate its expertise and ongoing programmes for optimised results in J&K's dairy ecosystem.

Highlighting the scope of growth in the sector, ACS APD, Shailendra Kumar informed that J&K presently ranks 8th in the country in milk production, with per capita availability standing at 577 grams per day. Despite producing around 80 lakh litres per day (LLPD), only about 4 LLPD is currently being processed, he noted.

He added that dairy development is among the most promising sectors in J&K, capable of achieving surplus production in the coming years. Citing a projected growth rate of 6.55% CAGR, he stated that milk production is expected to reach approximately 50.74 MT by 2031-32. He also briefed the meeting about the ongoing interventions to boost production, processing, and value-addition.

Providing details of the newly proposed initiative, the MD HADP, Sandeep Kumar informed that the plan is designed for implementation over a seven-year period from 2026-27 to 2033-34. The scheme aims to integrate more than five lakh dairy farmers through an organised, technology-driven value chain. The plan focuses on two

major, mutually reinforcing components comprising of the establishment of modern, automated milk processing plants across production zones; and creation of an extensive, decentralized network of milk collection, chilling, and allied infrastructure to support the processing facilities.

It was further informed that the scheme adopts a farmer-centric model aimed at decentralising power and profits. It was elucidated that the implementation will be carried out primarily through farmer-owned organisations, including Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs/ FPCs), and Self-Help Group (SHG) cluster federations. Technical and administrative support will be provided by NDDB and the

Animal Husbandry Department of J&K.

Officials also apprised that the plan ensures balanced geographical development by proposing a milk processing plant in every major production area. Each plant will be established with significant initial processing capacity, expandable up to 1 lakh litres per day (LLPD), based on future growth and coverage of at least 20% of the production through this network here.

The project also envisions the formation and strengthening of Dairy Cooperative Societies to build a direct link between dairy farmers and the newly proposed processing facilities, thereby ensuring better remuneration, transparency, and long-term sustainability for the dairy sector in J&K.

Uptick in temperature post snowfall in high reaches

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Dec 01: Following the fresh snowfall in higher reaches, Kashmir valley witnessed a slight reprieve from the bitter cold on Monday as the region witnessed a rise in minimum temperatures, officials said.

According to meteorological sources, "A light snowfall was reported in Minimarg region near Zojila Pass along the Srinagar-Kargil route. The overnight cloud cover across the valley contributed to an increase in temperatures compared to the previous night, they added."

Srinagar recorded a minimum of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius on Sunday night—up from minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, officials said. North Kashmir's Baramulla recorded the lowest temperature in the valley at minus 4.7 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund registered a minimum of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, officials said.

South Kashmir's Kokernag area reported a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius, and the Pahalgam recorded minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, showing an increase of over five degrees compared to the previous night.

Gulmarg recorded 0.3 degrees Celsius, a rise of two degrees from the previous day. Officials said the weather pattern

indicates that temperatures may remain stable over the next few days due to the continued presence of cloud cover and light precipitation in some areas.

They added that the snowfall at higher reaches may affect road conditions along Srinagar-Kargil and other connecting routes—advising travelers to take precautions.

The officials also said that residents of low-lying areas experienced slight relief from cold wave conditions due to the increase in night temperatures.



The meteorological department said similar weather conditions are expected to continue in coming days with intermittent cloud cover and occasional light snowfall at higher altitudes.

Officials urged people to remain cautious while traveling to hilly and mountainous areas—(KNO)

LoP Sharma questions CM on 'stalled files' in LG office

SAJID RAINA

Jammu, Dec 01: Accusing Omar Abdullah led dispensation of failing to address issues related to landless families, unemployed youth and daily-wage workers, Leader of Opposition (LoP) and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Monday asked the Chief Minister to clarify which files have been allegedly stalled in the Lieutenant Governor's office.

Talking to reporters here rejected the NC's claim that files were being blocked by the Lieutenant Governor's office and demanded that the ruling party publicly disclose which files were pending.

"If all files are being cleared for transfers and tenders, the government must tell the people which files are not being cleared," he said.

Sharma said, "The government has not fulfilled its responsibility of rehabilitating families affected by landslides, floods and land subsidence in the Chenab region and other areas."

He said, "As many as 5000 houses for disaster-hit families were being built in the Union Territory through an NGO from Tamil Nadu and not with government funding. "A saint from South India has taken the



responsibility of constructing houses where the government could not do so," Sharma said.

On the ongoing demolition drives and encroachment-related actions, Sharma said the BJP fundamentally opposes encroachment on any land, including state or private property. However, he said genuine landless families must be identified and supported under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Sharma said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi had already laid down norms for providing land assistance to landless and houseless beneficiaries."

He said daily wagers, SPOs, contractual workers, need-based workers and other low-income

employees should be covered under government welfare schemes.

Sharma said a review was needed to define the income threshold that determines eligibility for government benefits. "The poor earning 2,500, 7,000 or 9,000 should not be excluded," he said.

He also stated that ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, contractual employees and other categories continued to protest on the streets as their demands had not been met. He said the BJP would continue to raise their issues in the Assembly and added that the Minimum Wages Act should be implemented in the Union Territory—(KNO)

Solving traffic snarls needs public support: SSP traffic

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Dec 01: Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic City), Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Monday said traffic gridlocks cannot be completely eradicated due to structural limitations but citizen discipline can prevent the congestion.

The SSP said that the Traffic Department is intensifying enforcement and regulation measures in Srinagar while the long-term decongestion depends on coordinated infrastructure interventions by the administration.

Speaking to media persons in Srinagar, the SSP said that the department's role is limited to regulation and enforcement. "The infrastructure upgrades such as road widening, alternate routes and parking facilities fall under the purview of the administration."

"We can regulate and act against violators, but creating infrastructure is the administration's responsibility. The district administration regularly takes our suggestions and if the suggestions are implemented effectively, these steps can significantly ease the congestion," he said.

The SSP said the city's key stretches, including areas around SMHS and Super Specialty Hospitals, face severe congestion due to the flow of vehicles of patients and other vehicular movement, street vendors and narrow road space.

"Some areas require exclusion zones or alternate routes. We are working with the administration to identify such points," the SSP said.

He said that the department will intensify



action through smart enforcement and contactless challan systems against the violators under the new Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS).

"The contactless challan mechanism will ensure transparency. People will receive automated challans for the violations. The violators who won't change their pattern of driving will face penalties," he shared.

He added that "The traffic jams cannot be completely eradicated due to structural limitations, smart regulation but the citizen discipline can prevent gridlocks that will help in ensuring smoother mobility."—(KNO)

Batch of 262 army recruits joins JKLI

YOGESH

Jammu, Dec 01: Over 260 Army recruits from Jammu and Kashmir were inducted into the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JKLI) regiment on Monday.

According to details available, the 262 cadets from Kashmir districts like Kupwara, Baramulla, Budgam and Srinagar, took oath as soldiers and pledged to defend the nation.

Lieutenant General P K Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) White Knight Corps, reviewed the passing-out parade at the JAKLI Regimental Training Centre in Jammu's Dansal. Families of the soldiers were honoured with the 'Gaurav Padak' in recognition of their support, as they witnessed their sons transform from recruits into dedicated guardians of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Lt Gen Mishra said the recruits would serve not only the uniform but the very essence of India. He congratulated them, describing the event as a powerful reaffirmation of their resolve to safeguard India's sovereignty.

As the final salute was rendered and the Tricolour rose high, the soldiers marked the beginning of their journey in uniform, rifles firm and spirits strong.

"Amid the wintry air and beneath the solemn heights of the Trikuta hills, 262 valiant sons of Jammu and Kashmir inscribed their legacy into the annals of valour at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre, Dansal," a defence spokesperson said—(KNO)

Scientific mobility plan to ease traffic congestion: DC Sgr

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Dec 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Akshay Labroo on Monday said the administration has rolled out a coordinated and technology-supported plan to tackle the traffic congestion in a systematic way across the district.

Speaking during a field inspection of the Sonarkol Road project near the Super Specialty Hospital and Government Dental College, DC Labroo said that a series of mobility-focused projects, ranging from new link roads to improved traffic enforcement are being executed to ease daily movement through the city's most congested zones.

He said the Sonarkol link road that is currently under construction will connect Nawa Bazar with Safa Kadal and provide an alternate route for ambulances and commuters.

He said the district administration, Srinagar Smart City, R&B, Traffic Police and other departments are working in close coordination under a multidisciplinary committee chaired by the Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner.

He said that the recent infrastructural upgrades such as the Srinagar flyover and Noor Jahan Bridge have already provided partial



relief. "The ongoing scientific mobility plan will be implemented in phases to ensure lasting impact."

The DC further added that "The administration is focused on creating a long-term system that offers infrastructure expansion, smart traffic solutions and disciplined driving behaviour so that Srinagar moves not just faster, but smarter."

Meanwhile, a statement issued by administration as accessed by KNO reads, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, SSP

Traffic City Ajiaz, Principal GMC Srinagar Dr Iffat conducted an on-site inspection of the initiation of work on Nawa Bazar-Darish Kadal alternate route for traffic decongestion and management measures in the critical medical zone surrounding Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital and Dental College.

The statement reads, the project is a part of the broader mobility improvement and traffic regulation plan along the Nawa Bazar-Kak-saraie-Darish Kadal Corridor aimed at streamlining vehicular movement by distributing traffic through the Suner Kul route.

During the visit, the DC and SMC Commissioner along with senior Officers and engineers, carried out an onsite assessment of the works initiated to develop this alternate road for improving mobility and decongesting the critical Medical Area around Super Specialty Hospital, SMHS and Dental College.

It said that the project will allow alternate vehicular movement through a specialised route. An on-site assessment of establishing a dedicated parking facility around the high-priority hospital zone encompassing SMHS Hospital, Dental Hospital and the Super Specialty

Hospital to prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smooth access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles was also deliberated upon.

"The Nawa Bazar-Kak Saraie-Darish Kadal corridor via the Suner Kul bund link, is aimed at ensuring smooth mobility and decongested vehicular movement," it reads.

The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure that the pace of work on the approved decongestion project is maintained at a fast rate so as to ensure timely completion of the project, emphasizing the need to prioritize interventions that guarantee swift patient movement and timely ambulance access, while minimizing inconvenience to local residents, traders, and commuters.

He noted that the proposed corridor would help redistribute traffic load, reduce bottlenecks in densely populated market stretches and streamline the approach roads leading to the major hospitals of Srinagar City.

The DC further highlighted that all measures are being implemented in close coordination with SMC, Traffic Police, local stakeholders, and health authorities to ensure smooth execution with minimal disruption—(KNO)

No construction in B'la without municipal nod

KNO

Baramulla, Dec 01: The District Administration Baramulla has directed all executing agencies to obtain mandatory prior permission from the concerned Municipal Council or Committee before starting any construction-related activity within the municipal limits.

The directive was issued following the reports that some agencies have been undertaking construction, reconstruction

and repair works without approval from municipal authorities, in violation of municipal laws.

Executing agencies in an issued circular have been told to strictly comply with statutory provisions and secure clearance from municipal bodies before initiating any developmental activity.

It warns that failure to follow these instructions will be viewed seriously and may invite administrative action as warranted under law—(KNO)

Three-storey house guts in Habba Kadal blaze

KNO

Srinagar, Dec 01: A fire incident damaged a three-storey residential house in Srinagar's Habba Kadal area on Monday. In the incident, two firefighters were injured, officials said.

An official said that the department received a distress call at around 11:46 am following which fire service teams immediately rushed to the spot.

He said that the blaze was controlled with prompt response, though

the structure was already engulfed when the fire emergency teams reached the spot.

He added that during the operation, two firefighters, Ajay and Manoj sustained injuries while dousing the flames. "They were immediately shifted to hospital for medical treatment."

The official further said that the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and an investigation has been initiated to determine the source of ignition—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

PM’s Timely Call For Police Reform

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address to the nation’s top police leadership in Raipur strikes at the heart of a long-standing challenge: the widening trust deficit between the police and the public. His directive to urgently transform public perception, particularly among the youth, by enhancing “professionalism, sensitivity, and responsiveness” is not just a platitude but a critical imperative for a 21st-century democracy. While the conference’s focus on

leveraging technology like AI and the NATGRID database for intelligence and island security is forward-looking, it is this human-centric call for image overhaul that forms the most significant and difficult takeaway. For decades, the common citizen’s interface with the police has been marred by perceptions of indifference, corruption, and opaque functioning. The youth, especially, often view the force as an instrument of control rather than a service for protection. This erodes cooper-

ation, hampers intelligence gathering, and ultimately weakens the entire justice delivery system. Technology, while a powerful enabler, cannot alone bridge this gap. A sophisticated AI-driven intelligence grid is of limited value if the constable on the street is perceived as unapproachable or biased. Therefore, the PM’s emphasis on sensitivity and responsiveness must translate into concrete, ground-level reforms. It requires a systemic shift - from custodial attitudes to service-oriented conduct,

from opacity to transparency, and from brute force to measured, lawful authority. Investing in continuous training in soft skills, human rights, and community policing is as vital as investing in new software. Decentralising authority and establishing swift, fair grievance redressal mechanisms can rebuild bridges of trust. The parallel focus on holistic development in the affected areas underscores a key insight: security is inseparable from civic progress and social justice. A police force

perceived as a partner in development, rather than just a punitive presence, will naturally garner greater public cooperation. The annual DGPs’ conference has rightly set its sights on high-tech frontiers. But its most enduring success will be judged by a simpler metric: when a citizen, particularly a young one, views a police uniform not with apprehension, but with a sense of security and hope. That transformation is the true foundation of a safe and secure nation.

Transforming India’s Labour Landscape: Labour Codes For A Vikshit Bharat

Implementation of four labour codes marks a major step towards simplified regulations, enhanced worker welfare, and economic growth, while addressing media misconceptions

Dr Pradeep Kumar Jena

In a landmark development, Government of India has implemented four Labour Codes with effect from 21st November 2025, bringing labour reforms enacted by the Parliament into reality. Following this, different views and news articles have surfaced in media on its impact, driving the debates and discussions on this pertinent issue. This piece is aimed to clear some of the confusions being created on the efficacy of the Codes. The Government has consistently strived to uphold the dignity of labour through various labour laws and strong social security framework. However, in order to bring about economic transformation among the labour class, availability of meaningful employment opportunities is a prerequisite and, in a labour-surplus economy like India, it is unrealistic for Government to generate employment for all. This is where the private sector plays a crucial role provided enabling socio-legal framework and progressive, forward-looking labour laws are in place that reflect the aspirations of a 21st-century India.

For decades, India’s labour ecosystem was governed by 29 central laws—many of which date back to the pre-independence era. To overcome the challenges of multiplicity, complexity and outdated provisions and in line with the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour (2002), the Government of India initiated one of the most far-reaching reforms in the country’s labour history by enacting four comprehensive Labour Codes—the Code on Wages, 2019, the Code on Social Security, 2020, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. Remarkably, these reforms mark a major milestone with right sequencing after the 1991 liberalisation and structural adjustment policies; bringing a modern, innovation-driven framework for progressive labour ecosystem and industrial growth.



The Labour Reform: Through rationalisation and modernisation of previous labour laws, the four Labour Codes have significantly streamlined the regulatory framework. The number of sections has been reduced from 1,228 under the previous 29 Acts to just 480, while the number of rules has come down from 1,436 to 351, forms from 181 to 73 and registers from 84 to merely 8. This significant consolidation and harmonisation will enhance both ease of living for workers and ease of doing business for employers across the country.

One of the most notable reforms under the Code on Wages is the universalisation of minimum wages, making them applicable to all employees across both the organised and unorganised sectors, which was restricted to

specific ‘scheduled employments’ under the previous Acts. The ‘floor wage’ to be determined by the Central Government will reduce the regional imbalance as the states can’t set the minimum wage below the nationally defined threshold. Another progressive change is the replacement of the traditional labour ‘inspector’ with the ‘inspector-cum-facilitator’ with the mandate to guide and create awareness, marking a clear shift away from the rigid and often criticised “inspector raj”. Furthermore, all four Codes have decriminalised minor offences and introduced compounding provisions for first-time violations, signalling a move from a punitive to a corrective and trust-based regulatory approach.

The Industrial Relations (IR) Code introduces the concept of Fixed Term Employment

(FTE), ensuring that fixed-term workers receive the same benefits as permanent employees, including gratuity after one year of service. This reform provides industries with much-needed flexibility to hire according to operational requirements while safeguarding the rights and welfare of workers. This will reduce contractualisation. The 14-day notice period before strikes and lockouts by the workers will promote industrial peace and harmony, which under the previous law was applicable only to public utility services. This change will encourage the resolution of disputes through dialogue and negotiation rather than disruption. Additionally, the Code provides statutory recognition to trade unions, something missed out in the media analysis, through the ‘Negotiating Union’ or ‘Negotiating Council’, thereby strengthening collective bargaining mechanisms and promoting labour welfare. The Code also revises the threshold for prior government approval in cases of retrenchment, lay-offs, and closures from the existing 100 workers to 300 workers in factories, mines, and plantations.

The most ambitious reform carried out in this process is through the Code on Social Security, that formally recognises the gig and platform workers for the first time. With this, India becomes one of the first countries in the world to extend legal and social protection to this emerging work force. It also provides for the creation of a Social Security Fund with multiple financing mechanism to support unorganized including the gig and platform workers through various welfare schemes, thereby taking a major step toward inclusive and equitable labour welfare.

Likewise, the OSH code that governs the provisions related to workplace safety, welfare, and working conditions of the workers introduces single registration, single license and single return—a major step toward ease of doing business in the country with license validity for five years. Importantly, it promotes gender equality by allowing women

to work in all sectors and during night shifts, with their consent and adequate safety measures. It also mandates free annual health check-ups for workers and the issuance of appointment letters to all employees leading the way to formalization. Additionally, the Code raises the applicability thresholds, thereby reducing the compliance burden on smaller establishments. For instance, for the applicability of contract labour; the threshold increased from 20 to 50, for applicability of factory provisions, from 10 to 20 workers and 20 to 40 workers (with and without power respectively). These changes collectively create a more streamlined, worker-friendly and business-conducive regulatory environment.

Towards a Vikshit Bharat: The four labour codes collectively seek to strike a balance between the welfare of workers and the flexibility of the industry and employers. By streamlining definitions, digitizing compliance, and promoting gender neutrality, the four labour codes are designed to usher into an equitable labour eco-system, matching the country’s aspiration of a Vikshit Bharat by 2047. The Institute for Studies in Industrial Development’s (ISID) India Industrial Development Report 2024-25 suggests that, there is significant manufacturing opportunity available in India with the Government of India’s policies of ‘Making-for-India and Making-for-the-World’ which are labour, skill and resource intensive. The country has potential to more than double the manufacturing value added (MVA) from US\$ 717 billion in 2024 to \$1.45 trillion by 2030, out of the \$7.5 trillion GDP; therefore, eventually creating millions of decent jobs both direct and indirect. Implementation of the four Labour Codes will complement the effort to provide the industries, much needed flexibility and deregulation with mandates of universal labour welfare and social security for our workforce.

The author is the Director, Ministry of Labour & Employment

Are You Feeling Unappreciated?

We need to feel valued, this is how to nurture it

John Amodeo

During the past 45 years in my psychotherapy office, I’ve heard countless people lament how unappreciated they feel.

Humans thrive when we feel genuinely valued. Those who claim not to need validation may actually pursue it in indirect, less-than-effective ways—struggling to gain people’s respect and admiration through power, wealth, or status. Such “achievements” may offer a bounty of empty calories, temporarily inflating the ego without truly satisfying the deeper longing to be appreciated for who we really are.

Do We Really Need Appreciation?

We might reasonably question whether the desire for appreciation is a fool’s errand—launching us on a search for something we have no control over. It’s a legitimate concern. As Buddhist psychology suggests, the effort to reach for something outside of ourselves to fill an inner void is a setup for suffering.

Having said that, it’s hard to deny that something in us perks up and feels enlivened in a unique way when we’re seen and valued. Being touched by appreciation offers:

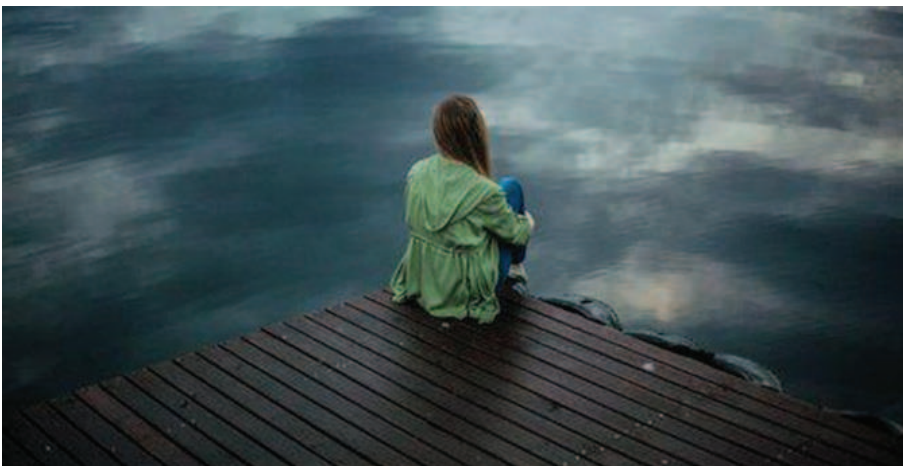
A way to feel a sense of connection with others

A validation of our goodness

The gift of being seen in a deeper way

An intimacy hard to obtain in other ways

Appreciation isn’t something we



desperately need to survive, yet the sense of human connectedness it affords can satisfy a deep yearning to thrive.

People might express appreciation as they notice various things about us:

Recognition of a kind act

Noticing the love and caring we offer in our personal lives

Gratitude for our chosen work that makes a difference

Noting and valuing features of our personality that have been helpful to them, such as our kindness, generosity, or capacity to listen well

Is It an Ego Trip or Something More Soulful?

We might reduce the longing for validation to a mere ego trip—a desire to steady a wavering self-image. This is a legitimate concern. If you find yourself craving appreciation or complaining about how little you get, you might consider your motivation.

Perhaps what you crave externally is something you need to offer yourself internally. If there’s a part of you that feels worthless, inadequate, or less than others, you might find yourself on an endless search for something you really need to internalize. Perhaps the longing for validation contains a quiet message that you need to offer acceptance, appreciation, and recognition to the parts of you that feel unseen, lonely, or beaten down.

Having said that, no one is an island. There’s nothing wrong with wanting appreciation, as long as we don’t get so attached to it that we neglect giving it to ourselves. Self-acceptance and self-care are what we have the most control over. Yet relying more on ourselves doesn’t mean closing ourselves off to others’ appreciation—or ignoring it when it drifts our way.

Can We Let It In?

Something to consider: Are you noticing the appreciation that you do get? If we’ve grown accustomed to not being appreciated, we may fail to see it when it comes. Becoming more mindful of when someone thanks us for a well-prepared meal or kind action might buoy our spirits. Appreciation might also come in softer varieties easily overlooked, such as a warm glance or kind smile.

As expressed in my recent book, *The Power of Gentle Presence: Insights for Inner Peace and Deeper Relationships*:

“The next time someone offers a gift, a kind word, or gesture of recognition, take a breath and allow the good feeling to register throughout your entire body and being. Notice if a sense of gratitude and appreciation well up inside you—and experiment with allowing a friendly smile or words of gratitude to bubble up from this deeper wellspring of your being.”

How to Garner More Appreciation

A good way to gather more appreciation

from others is to offer it to others. How often do you convey kindness and gratitude toward the people in your life who you appreciate? Are you awake to fleeting moments when someone does or says something kind? Can you find words to convey your appreciation?

If you’d like to garner more recognition from others, look for opportunities to spread yours around more generously. What goes around truly does tend to come around. Try it and see.

Appreciation isn’t something we need to chase; it tends to arise unassisted as we embody a gentle presence with ourselves and others. When we let appreciation touch us—and extend it to others who may need it just as much—we create a more loving space within us and between us.

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- John Amodeo, Ph.D., MFT, is a coach and has been a licensed marriage and family therapist for over 40 years. Source: Psychology Today

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

SMDA Projects: Div Com Kashmir reviews physical, financial progress



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Monday conducted a comprehensive review of the physical and financial progress of various development projects being executed under the Srinagar Metropolitan Development Authority (SMDA).

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Deputy Commissioners

of Srinagar, Budgam, and Ganderbal; Commissioner SMC; Vice Chairman SDA; CEO Wullar Manasbal Development Authority; Town Planning Officer; CPO Bandipora and other concerned officials.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the status of works on key projects including the development of Transport Nagar Parimpora, construction of community facility centres across multiple city locations,

development of Bairam Hills in Budgam, construction of marriage halls, ongoing works at Mansbal Lake, and establishment of public parks in Sumbal.

Addressing the officers, the Div Com stressed the importance of completing all ongoing works within the stipulated timelines. He further directed them to submit revised expenditure details for extended works and ensure timely submission of bills for clearance of liabilities.

KPDCL commissions 33/11 KV Kanzalwan Receiving Station

Commits to strengthen power infra, implementation of RDSS works across Gurez

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has achieved a major milestone in strengthening the power infrastructure of the remote Gurez region with the commissioning of the 33/11 kV, 6.3 MVA Kanzalwan Receiving Station.

According to an official statement issued on Monday, the achievement follows the directives issued during a recent review visit to Gurez by the Managing Director, KPDCL, alongside the Chief Engineer Distribution and senior officials.

The visit, aimed at assessing winter preparedness, resulted in firm instructions to prioritize the commissioning of the Kanzalwan Receiving Station, complete grid connectivity for all habitations, ensure adequate High-Speed Diesel (HSD) dumping, and expedite Smart Metering for improved load management.



These measures were considered essential for maintaining uninterrupted power, especially when the region switches to standalone mode due to intermittent snapping of grid connectivity with Grid Station Bandipora.

Acting swiftly and efficiently within the limited working season, the Executive Engineer ED Bandipora and Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal mobilized resources on a war footing and completed target

works in record time.

As a result, 100% grid connectivity has now been provided to the habitations of Bagtore, Refugee Mohalla, Dasi Bagtore, Tarbal, Banjran, Kanzalwan, Nai Basti Kanzalwan, Izmar, Jalindora, Chuntiwari, and Korangbal. The new grid-based system replaces the earlier 7-hour diesel-driven power supply, enabling the decommissioning of DG Sets at Tarbal (200 kVA), Bagtore (100 kVA),

Korangbal (62.5 kVA), and Kanzalwan (320 kVA).

To further secure uninterrupted power availability through the harsh winter, KPDCL has stocked 4,68,000 liters of HSD, sufficient to meet regional requirements until May 2026.

In parallel, under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), KPDCL is concurrently progressing with advanced infrastructure and technological upgrades across Gurez. As part of the initial phase, 300 Smart Meters have been installed on the Dawar and Wanpora feeders, significantly enhancing operational efficiency, improving consumer-side load management, and reducing Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses.

KPDCL reiterates its commitment to strengthening power infrastructure, accelerating RDSS implementation, and ensuring a resilient and reliable electricity supply across the remote and challenging terrains of Gurez.

Rana hears public grievances in Srinagar, orders prompt action



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday held a series of meetings with multiple delegations in Srinagar.

The groups, as per an official statement, raised matters related to water supply schemes, forest and environmental concerns, as well as service-related issues of Rehbar-e-Janglat employees.

The delegations briefed the Minister on various bottlenecks hindering the effective service delivery in their

respective areas.

The Minister issued on-spot directions to the concerned departmental wings for time bound, transparent and immediate resolution of all the issues raised by the delegations.

Reiterating Omar government's commitment towards responsive and accountable governance, the Minister affirmed that the present dispensation remains dedicated to people-centric governance and ensuring efficient delivery of essential public services.

He assured that all genuine concerns will be addressed promptly in the larger public interest.

Mission Director JJM urges Chief Engineers for creating ID's related to RPWSS

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: A review meeting regarding the creation of Out-Village infrastructure for Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS) was held Monday under the chairmanship of the Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chief Engineers, Jal Shakti Department, Superintending Engineers (Hydraulic) of all circles, Technical Officers with Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu/Kashmir and officers of Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission.

The meeting focused on accelerating the preparation and uploading of infrastructure details required for the Out-Village component of RPWSS, as mandated under the Jal Jeevan Mission digital framework.

During the meeting, the Mission Director emphasized the need for timely and accurate configuration of scheme architecture, ensuring complete mapping of existing and proposed water infrastructure, including sources, reservoirs, treatment systems, pumping systems, and transmission networks.



To streamline the process, the technical team presented step-by-step guidance for RPWSS creation, based on an illustrated flow framework which included Identification and merging or demerging of schemes for RPWSS ID creation, Selection of villages benefiting from the scheme and associated habitations, Mapping of water sources, including newly added sources where required, Incorporation of raw water reservoirs followed by Raw water transmission mains, Valves and hydraulic control components, Entry of Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) associated with the scheme, Addition of Clear Water Transmission (CWT) mains and valves, Mapping of pump houses (non-gravity systems), Integration of MBR/ZBR units and Overhead Tanks

(OHTs), Entry of Feeder Mains up to distribution point.

The Mission Director reiterated that all divisions must ensure complete, verified, and field-reflective documentation before uploading the final structure into the system to avoid discrepancies during validation and implementation.

He urged the circles to provide information of these mother-child schemes so that single ID's are created for these schemes as directed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, National Jal Jeevan Mission.

The MD directed the Superintending Engineers to complete the process on war footing basis which will ensure assured funding in future for these schemes. The meeting was informed that technical sessions regarding creation of RPWSS ID's will be held with divisions in coming days for handholding of divisional staff, so that the whole process is completed within the set timelines.

The MD also reviewed the circle-wise mapping of the pipeline laid under PM Gati Shakti. He directed the concerned SE's to speed up the process of pipeline mapping and uploading on the PM Gati Shakti.

DLSA Udhampur observes World AIDS prevention day 2025

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR DECEMBER 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur, under the guidance and supervision of Virinder Singh Bhou, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman DLSA and Sumati Sharma, Sub-Judge/Secretary

DLSA organised an awareness program at Government District Hospital Udhampur to commemorate World AIDS Prevention Day.

The resource persons, as per an official statement issued on Monday for the programme were Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Akashdeep and Panel Lawyer DLSA Advocate Sanjeet

Kumar. The Secretary, DLSA Udhampur was also present, emphasizing the importance of the cause.

The program aimed to educate hospital staff, patients and locals about AIDS, its causes, symptoms, treatment options and prevention strategies.

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits SM Farm Gangbug Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Monday visited vegetable Seed Multiplication (SM) Farm Gangbug Srinagar and took stock of different agriculture activities there.

He inspected the recently installed machinery and equipments for packaging of seeds and other concerned activities. He visited different sections of the Farm and reviewed the various interventions adopted there.

Speaking on the occasion Director Agriculture, as per an official statement said that the departmental farms are the

assets with the department and have an inevitable role to play amid the changing global agriculture scenario. Our immediate goal is to achieve the maximum output (in terms of seed production of different agricultural crop) from our departmental seed multiplication farms, he added.

The Director asked the concerned officers, technical experts to work on a mission mode so that all the set targets viz-a-viz assured availability of quality seeds of different vegetable, agriculture crops to the farming community could be reached successfully.

He was accompanied by SPO and some senior officers of the department.

Modern charkhas replace traditional wheels to boost Pashmina spinning in Kashmir

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 01: In order to secure the indigenous process of hand-spinning of world-famous Pashmina wool, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has replaced traditional charkhas with 213 Modern Charkhas in all its 16 Pashmina Spinning Training Centres with an intake capacity of 20 trainees in each centre.

These training centres, as per an official statement, are functional in Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Bandipora districts.

Sharing details in a press statement issued here Monday, a spokesman of the Department stated that the modern spinning

charkhas designed by SKUAST Kashmir provide a healthy posture to the spinners, who earlier had to sit on haunches to hand-spin the Pashmina wool, an arduous task known only to the famed artisans of Kashmir.

"The modern charkha also increases daily yield at least three times, thereby increasing the financial income of the artisans," he added.

Highlighting the salient features, the spokesman further stated that these paddle-driven charkhas contribute to enhance uniformity in the Pashmina yarn count. "The modern charkha is also easy to operate and offers a comfort zone to the spinners, contrary to the much tiring experience on the traditional charkhas earlier," he added.

Judicial Academy launches 2-week training course for Ladakh legal assistants

KT News Desk

JAMMU, DECEMBER 01: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy Monday launched the two week Training Course for Legal Assistants of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The programme, as per an official statement issued on Monday, is aimed at strengthening the legal understanding, administrative competence and professional capacity of the officers working in various departments of the UT administration of Ladakh. It is being conducted from 01 December to 12 December 2025 at the Academy, Jammu.



The inaugural day of the training witnessed an interactive and insightful academic engagement led by eminent academicians and legal experts.

The first session was conducted by Professor S K Sharma, Former Head, Department of Law & Dean, Faculty of Law and Former State Information Commissioner, J&K, who deliberated on the Constitutional Scheme of Governance and the

Role of the UT Administration. He highlighted the foundational principles of Indian constitutionalism and discussed the constitutional responsibilities of administrative officers. He emphasised the ethical governance and legal compliance in public administration.

The second session was led by Professor Sanjay Gupta, Former Director, The Law School, University of Jammu,

who spoke on Separation of Powers, Rule of Law and the Role and Duties of Law Officers. He provided detailed insights on effective legal scrutiny, drafting of administrative notes and the significance of maintaining objectivity and legality in administrative decision-making.

The third session, also taken by Professor Sanjay Gupta, was a practical workshop focusing on Drafting a Legal Note and a Case Study on Delegation of Powers. The participants engaged in hands-on drafting exercises and interactive discussions aimed at developing clarity, precision and analytical reasoning in official legal work.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, conducted the proceedings of the day-long session of the training course for Legal Assistants of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

JKEDI begins EDPs under Mission YUVA in 12 districts

KT News Desk

JAMMU/SRINAGAR DECEMBER 01: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Monday launched new batches of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) under Mission Yuva across 12 districts of the Union Territory.

The initiative, as per an official statement, aims to equip the youth with essential entrepreneurial skills and support them in establishing sustainable business ventures.

The programme is being implemented with the support of JKEDI as one of the key training institutes, entrusted with delivering high-quality capacity-building sessions in a hybrid mode.

The inaugural sessions were conducted Monday in the district centres of JKEDI at Kathua, Reasi, Jammu, Udhampur, Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora,



Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Baramulla, under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

The EDPs launched will provide the participants with comprehensive training in business planning, financial literacy, enterprise management, market linkages and access to government support schemes. Conducting these programs simultaneously in 12 districts ensures broader outreach, enabling the aspiring entrepreneurs from various areas to benefit from structured skill development.

The commencement of the training programs mark the beginning of a comprehensive,

multi-phase learning programme. The initiative is expected to significantly improve the on-ground preparedness, entrepreneurial confidence, and youth engagement, thereby strengthening the overall impact of Mission YUVA.

The participants expressed enthusiasm about the initiative and acknowledged JKEDI's role in driving entrepreneurship-led growth at the grassroots level. The institute will be rolling out additional batches in more districts in the coming weeks to meet the rising demand for entrepreneurship training under Mission YUVA.

Secretary Health chairs World AIDS Day, calls for transformative action

Emphasises collective responsibility, stigma-free access

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 01: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Monday presided over the Union Territory level function held to mark World AIDS Day 2025.

The event was organised by the J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) at the Convention Centre, Canal Road, Jammu.

In his address, the Secretary spoke about the profound impact HIV/AIDS has on the lives and mental well-being of affected individuals. He highlighted the collective responsibility required to address such public health challenges. He emphasized the need for transformative solutions to improve the patient access to HIV services, eliminate stigma and discrimination while ensuring protection of their rights.

Dr. Abid Rasheed appreciated the efforts of JKACS and commended community members for openly sharing their



experiences. He assured all possible support from the department to ensure that people living with HIV receive the necessary assistance to lead healthy and productive lives. He also underscored the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending AIDS as a global health threat by 2030.

This year's theme, "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response," focuses on addressing disruptions in HIV prevention and treatment services and calls for a transformed, resilient response driven by political commitment, international co-operation and human-rights-centered approaches. Following the formal

proceedings, the dignitaries visited various awareness booths set up by different wings of the Health Department in the foyer area. The stalls featured IEC material on HIV/AIDS, free HIV testing, TB awareness, AYUSH medicines, Anemia Mukht Bharat services, Tele-MANAS services, yoga demonstrations and distribution of medicines by NHM with support from the Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

The dignitaries also inspected the posters and canvas paintings prepared by the students from various Red Ribbon Clubs of different educational institutions.

Earlier, Project Director, J&K AIDS Control Society, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, delivered the welcome address and outlined the overall functioning and initiatives of the Society.

The event also featured cultural performances, including dance presentations by students from various institutions, aimed at spreading awareness among the audience.

Rly's Jammu Div generates ₹57 lakh revenue from ticket checking during Nov

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 01: Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager, Vivek Kumar and the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, the ticket checking staff of the Jammu Division of Northern Railway are conducting special ticket checking drives every month at stations and trains to curb ticketless and irregular travel, ensuring comfortable travel and better services for all genuine rail passengers.

These drives are conducted at various railway stations including Jammu, Katra, Pathankot Cantt, Pathankot City, Srinagar, etc. During the ticket checking drive in November 2025, the divisional checking staff and Chief Ticket Inspectors apprehended 9,346 passengers for irregular travel, resulting in a fine of approximately ₹57 lakh.

The Division officials also conduct regular surprise ticket checking drives to prevent unauthorized entry of passengers onto trains and stations, ensuring passengers travel with valid tickets.



Regular checks are conducted to maintain cleanliness at all railway stations in the division and to prevent public littering. During this check, in November 2025, approximately 17,000 rupees in fines were collected from 53 passengers for littering within the station premises. Regarding the monthly

ticket checking drive conducted in the division, Uchit Singhal, said that ticket checking drives will continue to curb ticketless and irregular travel. "Such drives will increase railway revenue. The aim of this drive is to ensure transparency in the ticketing system while providing convenience to passengers," he added.

RBI governor releases five-year national financial inclusion strategy

PTI

Mumbai, Dec 01: Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday released a national strategy aimed to deepen financial inclusion over the next five years.

The 'National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI): 2025-30' emphasises a synergistic ecosystem approach, improving the quality and consistency of last-mile access and effective usage of financial services.

The strategy lists out five objectives called 'Panch-Jyoti' that are aimed at elevating the state of financial inclusion in the country and 47 action points to achieve.

These include adopting a gender-sensitive approach for women-led financial inclusion and differentiated strategies for improving the financial

resilience of households, especially for the underserved and vulnerable segments, as per an official statement.

Efforts are also centred around improving the availability and use of an equitable, responsible, suitable, and affordable bouquet of financial services to achieve financial safety and financial security for households and micro enterprises, the RBI said.

The Panch-Jyoti strategy is also focusing on synergising livelihood, skill development and support ecosystem and its linkages with financial inclusion, the central bank said. In his foreword, Malhotra said that the earlier five-year strategy ending in 2024 has achieved its objectives.

Efforts will also be made to leverage financial education as a tool for promoting financial

discipline, and strengthen the quality and reliability of customer protection and grievance redressal measures.

The five-year strategy has been framed under the aegis of Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy (TGFIL) following country-wide discussions with various stakeholders by the RBI and consultations involving the Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, National Skill Development Corporation, and National Centre for Financial Education.

Anil Ambani moves SC against SBI classification of his account as fraud

New Delhi, Dec 01: Industrialist Anil Ambani has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Bombay High Court which upheld the State Bank of India's (SBI) decision classifying his and Reliance Communications' accounts as fraud.

The matter is yet to be listed for hearing.

The High Court had on October 3 dismissed Ambani's plea challenging the SBI decision and said there was no merit in the plea.

The SBI had last year classified the accounts as fraud, alleging misappropriation of funds by entering into

transactions that violated the terms of loans extended by it.

Ambani moved the HC, arguing that the bank had not followed the principles of natural justice as it did not grant him a hearing.

Certain documents, based on which the classification orders were passed, were not provided to him initially and were furnished only after six months, the petition claimed.

The bank this year lodged a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which searched premises linked to Reliance Communications and Ambani's residence.

Bitcoin dips below USD 85 000 in cryptocurrency rout

AP

New York, Dec 01: Bitcoin and companies tied to cryptocurrencies extended a nearly two-month swoon Monday, tracking with a broader market sell-off in technology companies that many see as overvalued. Bitcoin, which soared to a record USD 126,210.50 on October 6 according to crypto trading platform Coinbase, slid 11.8 per cent to below USD 85,000. That's a decline of about 33 per cent in just eight weeks.

Stocks across the crypto industry tumbled, with Coinbase Global sinking 5.1 per cent and online trading platform Robinhood Markets losing 5.2 per cent. Bitcoin mining company Riot Platforms dropped 5.4 per cent.

Strategy, the biggest of the so-called crypto treasury companies

that raises money just to buy bitcoin, tumbled 10.3 per cent. The company has reported holding 649,870 bitcoin. As of 11 am ET Monday they were worth about USD 55 billion.

American Bitcoin, in which President Donald Trump's sons Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. hold a stake, fell 7.2% and is now down more than 41 per cent since September 30.

Other Trump-related crypto ventures have seen declines as well. The market value for the World Liberty Financial token, or WLFI, has fallen to about USD 3.91 billion from above USD 6 billion in mid-September, according to coimarketcap.com And the price of a meme coin named for President Donald Trump, \$TRUMP, is USD 5.63 compared to around USD 45 just before his inauguration in January.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Any attempt to revive

will not give even an inch of Jammu Kashmir to Pakistan.

"Sardar Patel had opposed the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's policy towards Jammu Kashmir. He was also against taking the issue to the United Nations. In one of his public rallies Sardar Patel had categorically said about complete integration of Jammu Kashmir and his decisive action would have altered the course of history," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling the vision of Sardar Patel and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee through the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. "PM Modi has paid rich tributes to Sardar Patel by fully integrating Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country," he said.

Reiterating that "unity holds the key," LG Sinha urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to continue supporting the ongoing peace and development trajectory, warning that no force will be allowed to push the region back into turmoil.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Sardar Patel's vision of unity, ideals and values of equality and social justice continue to shape the growth of our nation.

"As an architect of modern India, Sardar Patel symbolises India's self-confidence, self-respect and its bravery. His embodying values of integrity, decisiveness, selfless service continue to inspire us to build a strong, self-reliant and developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that PM Modi's initiatives- 'One Nation, One Tax', 'One Nation, One Ration Card', 'One Nation, One Health Card', 'One Nation, One Grid', 'National Education Policy', 'PM Gati Shakti', 'Kashi-Tamil Sangamam' and various other programmes have strengthened the unity of the country.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to strengthen the pillars of Unity.

"There are three important pillars of unity - shared values, shared identity and a common purpose act as a unifying force for sustained progress and development," the Lieutenant Governor said. (KNO)

Infiltration down

institutions or social circuits used for indoctrination. "It's a serious internal threat, and we are working closely with J&K Police and intelligence agencies to dismantle such networks," he said.

Calling narco-terrorism "a hybrid threat that targets both the mind and the system," Yadav said attempts to smuggle narcotics into Kashmir have increased, particularly along the Tangdhar and Keran sectors. "Drugs are being used to fund terrorism and to weaken Kashmiri

youth. Every such attempt is tracked and neutralised through layered surveillance and local coordination," he said.

The IG said that "female couriers" have been intercepted along LoC roads, and Mahila Praharis have been strategically deployed at choke points to counter this emerging tactic.

He said that last year, BSF carried out 22 joint operations with the Army, RR, JKP and CRPF, recovering large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives. The frontier, he added, has also supported 13 companies in the hinterland for anti-terror and anti-radicalisation roles.

Yadav said BSF continues to "dominate the LoC effectively in coordination with the Army", adding that border vigilance and internal intelligence sharing are the backbone of Kashmir Frontier's success.

Beyond operations, the IG underlined the BSF's civic action programmes under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Bharat Darshan tours for border students, and pre-recruitment training for local youth. "We believe in making border communities our partners in peace and national security," he said.

Yadav added that BSF played a vital role in ensuring an incident-free Amarnath Yatra 2025, deploying 128 companies across four districts with special rescue and medical teams. (KNO)

'Future of border

"The future of border security will be decided by technology. Drone warfare, AI integration and night-surveillance superiority are our top priorities," he said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The IG also revealed that the BSF Drone Warfare School at the Academy in Gwalior is now operational and training personnel in "drone design, weaponisation, anti-drone jamming, AI analytics and reconnaissance tactics."

He said drone forensics labs at Delhi and Amritsar have been established for technical training, research and rapid analysis of recovered drone parts used in cross-border smuggling or surveillance. "We are developing offensive and defensive drone capabilities simultaneously. Our teams are trained to intercept hostile drones, jam frequencies, and even use drones in tactical operations," Yadav added.

The IG said while drone activity continues to be observed across the LoC, there have been 'no incursions' into Indian territory in recent months. "Drones seen across the border are primarily reconnaissance or surveillance drones. We are monitoring every movement with upgraded night-vision and radar integration systems," he said.

He said the BSF's new surveillance devices, upgraded night-ops systems, and AI-assisted thermal imagers have strengthened the force's ability to detect infiltration or aerial movement even in difficult weather and terrain.

IG Yadav further said BSF is implementing a digital transformation initiative, including advanced cyber threat response training under partnerships with NIELIT and DRDO and inducting new weapons and optical systems suited for high-altitude operations.

He added that BSF's "Bhumi" innovation program is collaborating with Indian startups to build indigenous tools for detecting tunnels, drones and communication jammers. "We are moving towards self-reliant, smart-border management where every jawan on the LoC has access to data, sensors and AI-led surveillance," Yadav said.

The IG also announced deployment of Mahila Praharis (women personnel) at forward defence locations and chokepoints as part of the frontier's evolving strategy to intercept 'female couriers linked to narco-smuggling' and enhance community confidence among women in border villages.

"Our modernisation drive is not just about machines, it's about mindset, professionalism and inclusion," Yadav said, adding that the BSF remains "battle-ready and technologically forward" for the coming decade. (KNO)

Newly elected NC

concern that the elected representatives were not in full control of decision-making.

Another NC MP, Sajad Kichloo urged the Prime Minister and Home Minister to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying the people had made history in the recent assembly elections.

He called on the Government of India to implement the mission outlined by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, based on the principles of "Jamhooriyat, Insaaniyat, and Kashmiriyat".

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated Sajad Kichloo on beginning a new phase in his political career. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those from the Chenab Valley, will look to him and watch closely as he represents their aspirations," he said.

Abdullah also extended his best wishes to Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, also known as Shammii Oberoi, on his first day in the Rajya Sabha. "You carry many hopes and expectations on your shoulders," he said.

Earlier on Monday, the newly elected Rajya Sabha members were administered an oath of office by Vice President and ex officio Chairman of the House, C. P. Radhakrishnan.

Kichloo was the first to take the oath, choosing Urdu as his language. He was followed by Oberoi, who took the oath in Punjabi. Ramzan took his oath after Oberoi. (KNO)

CBI arrests Shafat

returning home from a hospital in Srinagar when terrorists linked to the Jammu and

Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) abducted her.

This incident took place only a few days after her father had taken charge as India's Home Minister.

The JKLF made a major demand in exchange for Rubaiya's release: the government must free five of their arrested militant associates.

The government came under immense pressure — it was the Home Minister's daughter, and the situation in Kashmir was already tense.

After five days of negotiations, protests, and mounting tension, on December 13, 1989, the government agreed to the militants' demand.

The five jailed militants were released, and in return, Rubaiya Sayeed was freed safely.

It was the first time the Indian government had released terrorists in exchange for a hostage.

Many experts later regarded this event as a turning point that further intensified militancy in Kashmir.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) later took over the case and named Yasin Malik along with several others as accused.

Although the case dates back decades, legal proceedings have continued for years, with several accused remaining absconding.

The case is still being heard in the TADA court in Jammu.

In 2022, Rubaiya had identified Yasin Malik as one of her abductors in 1989. (KNO)

Girl succumbs after

up, while her identity is being hidden. (KNO)

Army's BrahMos

continued efforts to enhance long-range precision strike capability and reinforce deterrence. The launch once again demonstrated the accuracy, reliability and effectiveness of India's indigenous missile systems, reflecting steady progress in the nation's strategic and technological competencies.

It further reads the achievement is a testament to India's commitment to self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. (KNO)

NIA raids multiple

in connection with the Delhi blast case. At least 11 people were killed and several others injured after a high-intensity blast ripped through a car near Delhi historic Red Fort area on November 10.

Meanwhile, in a statement the NIA said it had on November 26 and 27 conducted extensive searches at the premises of the prime accused, Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganie and Dr Shaheen Saeed, in the Al Falah University complex and other places in Faridabad (Haryana).

"A huge quantity of cash, foreign currency, gold and other incriminating materials were seized during those searches, and the same are being minutely examined to unravel the conspiracy

that culminated in the bombing," it reads.

It added that the NIA teams are questioning the arrested accused while continuing to pursue various leads in connection with the November 10 blast.

"The NIA continues to work closely with various state police forces to track and arrest every member of the terrorist module involved in the bomb attack," it said. (KNO)

'Stigma, not the virus'

is one of the most efficient ways for HIV to spread. Even one shared syringe can transmit the virus," said a senior community-medicine specialist.

Experts outline five pillars of HIV prevention, all of which need strengthening in J&K: early testing and linkage to ART, safe sexual practices, harm reduction for PWID (such as needle-syringe programmes and opioid substitution therapy, which are proven to reduce transmission but remain limited in reach), testing pregnant women and providing timely ART to protect newborns, and community outreach and awareness.

"People still fear being judged more than they fear the disease itself," said a psychiatrist involved in HIV counselling. "Stigma pushes the virus underground. It stops people from getting tested, hides cases within families, and delays treatment."

He added, "Many people wrongly believe HIV spreads through casual contact - sharing food, shaking hands, or sitting together. These myths isolate patients and damage public health."

Health experts said that HIV is now a treatable medical condition, not a moral issue, and must be approached with empathy. "If we want to reverse the trend, we must normalise HIV testing," said one ART consultant. "Make it as routine as checking blood pressure, and we will catch cases before complications begin."

Despite the rise in numbers, doctors said that J&K can prevent a larger outbreak if it acts now. "We have the medical tools - ART, testing, prevention programmes. What we lack is openness," said a senior physician. "The message must be simple: HIV is not something to hide from. It is something to treat." (KNO)

PM Modi speaks

under the ongoing Operation Sagar Bandhu, providing rescue and relief to distressed persons.

"He assured that India, in line with its Vision MAHASAGAR and its established position as the 'First Responder', will continue to extend all necessary assistance in the coming days as Sri Lanka undertakes rehabilitation efforts, resumes public services, and works toward restoring livelihoods across the impacted regions. The two leaders agreed to remain in close touch," it reads. (KNO)

Opposition using Parliament to vent out frustration, no place for drama: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 1: Parliament is not a place for drama, it is a place for delivery, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday in a hard-hitting attack on the opposition and accused it of turning the House into a "warm up arena" for elections or as an outlet to vent out frustration after defeat. Speaking to reporters outside Parliament ahead of the Winter session, he said the session must not become a stage for political theatrics but a platform for constructive and result-driven debate, and offered to give the opposition tips to bring positivity in politics.

"We need to work with a sense of responsibility. Parliament is not a place for drama, it is a place for delivery," Modi said, hitting out at the opposition for stalling parliamentary proceedings.

The Monsoon session of Parliament was virtually washed out over opposition protests on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The opposition has also threatened to stall the Winter session of Parliament over the SIR exercise in nine states and three union territories, if the issue was not discussed in Parliament.

"For some time now, our Parliament is being used either as a warm up arena for elections or



as an outlet for frustration after defeat," Modi said.

Referring to the drubbing of opposition parties in the Bihar polls, he said the opposition was perturbed by the electoral loss and unable to digest failure.

"Defeat should not be the ground to create disruption. Victory should not convert into arrogance either," the prime minister said. The record turnout witnessed in Bihar elections is the biggest strength of democracy, he said, adding the opposition too should fulfil its responsibility and

come out of its depression after loss in elections. The prime minister said the game the Opposition have been playing for the last 10 years is no longer acceptable to the people. "They should change their strategy - I am ready to give them a few tips," Modi said.

He urged all parties to recognise the purpose of Parliament and "come out of the frustration of defeat." Prime Minister Modi added that he had heard statements of leaders of certain Opposition parties which suggest their inability to accept electoral

outcome.

"There are one or two parties that are unable to accept their defeat. From the statements I heard yesterday, it seems that the loss has deeply troubled them," he said.

The prime minister also said that opportunities should be given to the new generation of young Members of Parliament.

"The House should benefit from their experiences, and through this House, the nation should also gain from their fresh perspective," Modi said.

Need framework to deal with challenge of biological weapons: Jaishankar

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 1: India on Monday pitched for a global mechanism to check any possible misuse of biological weapons in view of the uncertain international security environment.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said "misuse" of biological weapons by non-state actors is no longer a distant possibility and international cooperation is needed to combat such a challenge.

He was speaking at a conference on 50 years of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

"Bioterrorism is a serious concern that the international community has to be adequately prepared for. Yet the BWC still lacks basic institutional structures," he said. "It has no



compliance system, it has no permanent technical body and no mechanism to track new scientific developments. These gaps must be bridged in order to strengthen confidence," he added. India, the minister said, has consistently called for stronger compliance measures within BWC, including verification designed for

today's world. "India supports international cooperation and assistance enabling exchange of materials and equipment for peaceful use," he said.

"We have further called for systematic review of scientific and technological developments so that governance does indeed keep pace with innovation," he added.

Court sends Al Falah university founder to 14-day judicial custody

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 1: A Delhi court on Monday sent Al Falah University founder Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui to 14-day judicial custody in a terror-linked money laundering case.

Siddiqui had been sent to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody for 13 days on November 19.

On Monday, he was produced before Additional Sessions Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan, who sent him to judicial custody till December 15.

During the hearing, the ED counsel briefly argued that it was premature to produce him before the court since the 13-day custody would end at 1 am on Tuesday, technically making Monday the 12th day of his custody.

Meanwhile, an application was moved by Siddiqui's counsel seeking access to prescribed medication and spectacles during the custody period. The judge allowed the request.

ED officials handed over Siddiqui's medical prescription to the court, which directed jail authorities to ensure that he continued to receive the prescribed treatment.

The agency had earlier alleged that Al Falah University falsely claimed UGC



recognition and misrepresented its NAAC accreditation status to students. It said the institution generated Rs 415.10 crore in revenue between 2018 and 2025, witnessing a "meteoric rise" in earnings despite financial records not matching the assets accumulated by the group.

The ED told the court that student fees and funds raised from the public were being diverted for personal and private use, and that Siddiqui exercised de facto control over the Al Falah Charitable Trust, the managing trustee, and related entities.

Searches at 19 locations in Delhi-NCR on the day of his arrest yielded around Rs 48 lakh in cash, officials had said.

The matter will be taken up next on December 15, following the end of Siddiqui's judicial custody.

ATF price hiked by 5.4 pc, commercial LPG rates cut

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 1: Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were raised by 5.4 per cent on Monday, while commercial LPG rates were cut by Rs 10 per cylinder as state-owned oil companies announced their monthly price revision in line with global trends.

ATF prices in Delhi increased by Rs 5,133.75 per kilolitre to Rs 99,676.77 per kl, marking the third consecutive monthly hike, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

Rates had risen by about 1 per cent on November 1 and by 3.3 per cent on October 1. The latest increase is expected to add pressure on airlines, for which fuel accounts for nearly 40 per cent of operating costs.

No immediate comments could be obtained from the airlines on the impact of the price change.

In Mumbai, ATF was revised to Rs 93,281.04 per kl, while prices in Chennai and Kolkata were raised to Rs 1,03,301.80 and Rs 1,02,371.02 per kl, respectively.

Fuel prices vary across cities due to local taxes. Alongside, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder used by hotels and restaurants was cut to Rs 1,580.50 in Delhi. This is the second reduction in a row, offsetting the Rs 15.50 increase implemented in October (rates had been cut by Rs 5 per cylinder on November 1). Since April, six earlier cuts have reduced commercial LPG prices by a total of Rs 223 per cylinder.

Domestic LPG prices remained unchanged at Rs 853 per 14.2-kg cylinder, following a Rs 50 hike in April.

Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum revise ATF and LPG prices on the first day of every month based on international benchmarks and the exchange rate.

Power consumption dips to 123.4 billion units in Nov



PTI

New Delhi, Dec 1: Power consumption in the country fell marginally by 0.31 per cent to 123.4 billion units (BU) in November from 123.79 BU a year ago, due to frugal use of cooling appliances.

According to the government data, power consumption had declined by 5.8 per cent year-on-year in October this year to 131.07 BU.

Power consumption had risen to 145.66 BU in September from 140.61 BU in the same month a year ago.

Experts said October also saw unseasonal rains in

various parts of the country which reduced the need of cooling appliance and with onset of winter in November, the usage reduced to almost nil.

They also stated that though the winter season has begun, the need for using heating appliances like geysers and blowers was not felt by many people during November.

However, the peak power demand met or the highest supply during November rose to 215.54 GW from 207.44 GW recorded in November 2024.

The peak power demand had touched an all-time

high of about 250 GW in May 2024. The previous all-time high peak power demand of 243.27 GW was recorded in September 2023.

However, this summer (April onwards), the record peak power demand was 242.77 GW in June.

According to government estimates, peak power demand was expected to touch 277 GW in the summer of 2025.

The experts said the power consumption as well as demand would be more steady December onwards with rise in use of heating appliances as mercury drops further.

Study finds low blood choline as possible factor in obesity-related Alzheimer's risk

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 1: Low blood levels of choline, crucial for liver function and controlling inflammation, could be among the various ways through which obesity can speed up cognitive decline and increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease, according to a study.

Studies have found that high blood pressure is a risk factor for mild cognitive impairment, which usually precedes Alzheimer's disease, in which speech and thought processes steadily decline with age.

The researchers from Arizona State University said conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure and insulin resistance can strain the body's blood vessels and

metabolic systems, with stress building up over time speeding up cognitive decline and one's risk of Alzheimer's disease. The study, published in the journal Aging and Disease, looked at 30 young adults -- half with obesity and half of healthy weight -- aged in their 20s and 30s.

Fasting blood samples were collected for measuring circulating choline, inflammatory cytokines, insulin and glucose levels, liver-related enzymes, other metabolic measures, and neurofilament light chain (NFL) -- a protein released when a nerve cell is damaged.

The participants were seen to have unusually low blood levels of choline, a key nutrient and organic compound crucial for liver function, inflammation control and long-term brain health. The authors



"found that obese participants showed reduced circulating choline, correlating with higher body fat, liver dysfunction markers, increased (insulin resistance), and elevated inflammatory cytokines." The NFL

levels were higher in obese participants and negatively correlated with circulating choline levels, findings that the researchers said were consistent with those observed in patients with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease.

The findings reveal links between obesity, low choline, insulin resistance, systemic inflammation and NFL -- key risk markers for Alzheimer's disease, the authors said.

"This research adds to the growing evidence that choline is a valuable marker of metabolic and brain dysfunction--and reinforces the importance of sufficient daily intake, as it is essential for human health," lead researcher Ramon Velazquez, from the Arizona State University's Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center, said. "Several new reports

published this month further link reduced blood choline levels to behavioural changes, including anxiety and memory impairment, as well as (a) broader metabolic dysfunction," Velazquez said.

Monitoring such markers in early adulthood may be useful for assessing future Alzheimer's risk in individuals prone to obesity, the researchers said.

They added that the study's sample size was modest, and that a larger, more diverse cohort may have captured broader population trends.

The study also did not include cognitive assessments, though higher NFL levels were observed and has been associated with cognitive decline in non-demented adults in previous research, the team added.

What to know about this week's diplomatic efforts to end war in Ukraine

AP

Moscow, Dec 1: Diplomats face an uphill battle to reconcile Russian and Ukrainian "red lines" as a renewed US-led push to end the war gathers steam, with Ukrainian officials attending talks in the US over the weekend and Washington officials expected in Moscow early this week.

US President Donald Trump's peace plan became public last month, sparking alarm that it was too favourable to Moscow. It was revised some following talks in Geneva between the US and Ukraine a week ago.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said the revised plan could be "workable." Russian President Vladimir Putin called it a possible "basis" for a future peace agreement. Trump said Sunday "there's a good chance we can make a deal."

Still, officials on both sides indicated a long road ahead as key sticking points – over whether Kyiv should cede land to Moscow and how to ensure Ukraine's future security – appear unresolved.

A look at where things stand and what to expect this week:

US holds talks with Kyiv then Moscow

Trump representatives met the Ukrainian officials over the weekend and plan to meet with the Russians this week.

Ukraine's national security council head Rustem Umerov, the head of Ukraine's armed forces Andrii Hnatov, presidential adviser Oleksandr Bezv and others met with US officials for about four hours on Sunday. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the session was productive but more work remains. Umerov praised the US for its support but offered no details.

Zelenskyy's former chief of staff and former lead negotiator



for Ukraine, Andrii Yermak, resigned Friday amid a corruption scandal and is no longer part of the negotiating team. It was only a week ago that Rubio met with Yermak in Geneva, resulting in a revised peace plan.

Trump said last week that he would send his envoy Steve Witkoff to Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed Putin will host Witkoff for talks "in the first half" of the week.

Trump suggested he could eventually meet with Putin and Zelenskyy, but not until there has been more progress.

Witkoff's role in the peace efforts came under scrutiny last week following a report that he coached Yuri Ushakov, Putin's foreign affairs adviser, on how Russia's leader should pitch Trump on the Ukraine peace plan. Both Moscow and Washington downplayed the significance of the revelations.

Where the two sides stand Eager to please Trump, Kyiv and Moscow have ostensibly welcomed the peace plan and the push to end the war. But Russia has continued attacking Ukraine and reiterated its maximalist demands, indicating a deal is still a ways off.

Putin implied last week that

he will fight as long as it takes to achieve his goals, saying that he will stop only when Ukrainian troops withdraw from all four Ukrainian regions that Russia illegally annexed in 2022 and still doesn't fully control. "If they don't withdraw, we'll achieve this by force. That's all," he said. The plan, Putin said, "could form the basis for future agreements," but it is in no way final and requires "a serious discussion."

Zelenskyy has refrained from talking about individual points, opting instead to thank Trump profusely for his efforts and emphasizing the need for Europe – whose interests are more closely aligned with Ukraine's – to be involved. He also has stressed the importance of robust security guarantees for Ukraine.

The first version of the plan granted some core Russian demands that Ukraine considers nonstarters, such as ceding land to Moscow that it doesn't yet occupy and renouncing its bid to become a member of NATO.

Zelenskyy has said repeatedly that giving up territory is not an option. One of the Ukrainian negotiators, Bezv, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Ukraine's president wanted to

discuss the territory issue with Trump directly. Yermak then told The Atlantic in an interview on Thursday that Zelenskyy would not sign over the land.

Zelenskyy also maintains that NATO membership is the cheapest way to guarantee Ukraine's security, and NATO's 32 member countries said last year that Ukraine is on an "irreversible" path to membership. Since he took office, Trump has made it clear that NATO membership is off the table.

Moscow, in turn, has bristled at any suggestion of a Western peacekeeping force on the ground in Ukraine, and stressed that keeping Ukraine out of NATO and NATO out of Ukraine was one of the core goals of the war.

Putin seems to have time on his side

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, has been under pressure at home.

Yermak's resignation was a major blow for Zelenskyy, although neither the president nor Yermak have been accused of wrongdoing by investigators.

"Russia really wants Ukraine to make mistakes. There won't be mistakes on our side," Zelenskyy said. "Our work continues, our struggle continues. We don't have a right not to push it to the end."

An activist with Ukraine's nongovernmental Anti-Corruption Center, Valeriia Radchenko, said letting go of Yermak was the right decision and would open a "window of opportunity for reform."

Putin, meanwhile, seeks to project confidence, boasting of Russia's advances on the battlefield.

The Russian leader "feels more confident than ever about the battlefield situation and is convinced that he can wait until Kyiv finally accepts that it cannot win and must negotiate on

Russia's well-known terms," Tatiana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia and Eurasia Center wrote on X. "If the Americans can help move things in that direction – fine. If not, he knows how to proceed anyway. That is the current Kremlin logic."

Europe's conundrum

NATO and the EU are holding several meetings this week focused on Ukraine. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte is hosting Ukrainian Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal for talks in Brussels on Monday, and EU defense and foreign ministers are gathering to discuss European military support for Ukraine and Europe's defense readiness.

On Wednesday, NATO foreign ministers will gather again in Brussels.

The main issue for the EU right now is what to do with the frozen Russian assets in Belgium that the Trump peace plan in its initial version sought to use for post-war investment in Ukraine.

Those funds are central to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's strategy to ensure continued help for Ukraine while also maintaining pressure on Russia. But Belgium's prime minister is holding out, worried about the legal implications of tapping the frozen assets for Ukraine, the impact that could have on the euro – and of Russian retaliation.

The diplomacy set in motion by Trump's peace plan "painfully exposed" Europe's weakness, Nigel Gould-Davies of the International Institute for Strategic Studies wrote in a recent commentary.

"Despite being the main source of Ukraine's economic and military support, it is marginal to the diplomacy of the war and has done little more than offer amendments to America's draft peace plan," Gould-Davies wrote.

B'desh court sentences Hasina to 5-yr jail, UK lawmaker niece to 2 years in land scam



AP

Dhaka, Dec 1: A Bangladesh court on Monday convicted and sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to five years of imprisonment and her niece, British parliamentarian Tulip Siddiq, to a two-year jail term in a land scam case.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka also handed down a seven-year jail term to Hasina's sister, Sheikh Rehana, in the corruption case lodged against 17 people, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

The 14 other accused were jailed for five years each.

The court also imposed a fine of Tk 1 lakh each on all 17 convicts, including Hasina, Rehana, and Siddiq, failing which they will have to serve an additional six months in jail.

This is the fourth verdict involving 78-year-old Hasina in graft cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Siddiq, a British-Bangladeshi Labour Party politician, is Rehana's daughter and has been the Member of Parliament for Hampstead and Highgate since 2015.

The interim government in April issued an arrest warrant for Siddiq, 43, as part of investigations into corruption during

Hasina's premiership.

The ACC filed the land scam case on January 13 against 15 people, including Hasina, Rehana and Siddiq, over allegations that they unlawfully obtained plot allocations during the former premier's tenure.

The Investigating Officer later submitted a charge sheet against 17 accused on March 10.

According to The Dhaka Tribune, the ACC filed six separate cases between January 12 and 14 with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 over alleged irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

The anti-graft body alleged that Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, unlawfully secured six plots, each measuring 10 kathas (7,200 square feet), in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 of the Purbachal New Town project for herself, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, sister Rehana, niece Siddique, and several other relatives, despite their ineligibility under existing regulations.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) is the state-run agency responsible for monitoring compliance from planning to construction of government-aided buildings in Bangladesh.

Nepal extends USD 200,000 assistance for flood-hit Sri Lanka



PTI

Kathmandu, Dec 1: Nepal has extended an economic aid of USD 200,000 for relief and rescue operations in flood-hit Sri Lanka, underlining that it stands firmly with the island nation in this difficult time.

Sri Lanka has been grappling

floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16.

"As a gesture of solidarity, the Government of Nepal has decided to extend an assistance of USD 2,00,000 for the relief and recovery operations," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release on Sunday.

Acknowledging the close bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, the ministry said Kathmandu stands firmly with Colombo in this difficult time.

"The Government of Nepal offers its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishes for swift and complete recovery to the injured," the release said, adding that Kathmandu remain confident in the resilience and strength of the people of Sri Lanka as they recover and rebuild from this tragedy.

As of Sunday, 334 people have been killed, with 370 missing, in catastrophic

with widespread flooding, landslides and infrastructure collapse triggered by Cyclone Ditwah, leaving several districts isolated and severely straining the country's disaster-response capacity.

As of Sunday, 334 people have been killed, with 370 missing, in catastrophic

Steyn lavishes praise on Kohli for retaining hunger on field despite age

PTI

Ranchi, Dec 1: Most sportsmen past their prime are happy to stay at home with their family and dog, but Virat Kohli at 37 still behaves like a spring chicken on the field, diving and running, like he "wants to be there," South African pacer Dale Steyn says.

Despite retiring from T20s and Tests, Kohli has shown that his ODI game remains unpunctured. The superstar, who turned 37 recently, scored his 52nd hundred in the first one-day against South Africa on Sunday.

"When you speak to most 37 or 38-year-olds, they say they hate leaving home, their dog, their kids. But he (Virat) is in a place mentally where he's eager to be out there playing for India. You can see it when he's running between the wickets, fielding and diving. He's mentally young, fresh, and wants to be here," Steyn told JioStar on Sunday.

"He's played over 300 ODIs in 15-16 years, so the experience is inside him. It's in his body

and mind. Even if he arrived here after three days of rain, it wouldn't have affected his preparation. He's mentally strong, visualises well, and can see the ball onto the bat. That's what the best in the world do.

"They back themselves because they've been out there so many times. A key thing he said is that he's excited about playing," Steyn added.

Following his 83rd international hundred, Kohli had spoken about his mindset and preparation at this stage of his career.

"I have never been a believer of a lot of preparation. All my cricket has been mental. I work physically very hard, as long as my fitness levels are up and I am feeling well, it's good,"

said Kohli.

"I've played 300-odd ODI games and so much cricket, if you're in touch with the game



and are able to hit balls in the practice, if you bat for an hour or two in the nets, you know you're good," he said.

Ashes 2025-26

Carse says England bowlers have plans to tackle Head in Brisbane

REUTERS

Perth, Dec 1: England fast bowler Brydon Carse said his team has firm plans to counter the threat posed by Travis Head after the Australian made a blistering century at the top of the order to set up an eight-wicket win in the Ashes series opener in Perth.

Middle-order batter Head opened in place of the injured Usman Khawaja in Australia's second innings and the aggressive left-hander made a century in 69 balls - the second-fastest in Ashes history - en route to a match-winning 123.

Head told reporters ahead of the second Test beginning in Brisbane on Thursday that he was prepared to reprise that role, but Carse said the visitors will be ready regardless of who comes out to bat early.

"I think that was a phenomenal knock by a high-quality player," Carse said on Monday. "If he does open the batting again, we've got set plans we'll look to use."

"But again, I don't think anything changes from a mindset thing. He had an incredible day out that afternoon... whatever we're presented with, we'll stick to our plans."

England is looking to hit back after its



defeat inside two days in Perth, where Carse took five wickets in a losing cause.

There are concerns surrounding Mark Wood's fitness ahead of the Test, but Carse said the bowling unit is settled even if his fellow pacer is deemed unfit for the day-night, pink-ball Test.

"I'll still be adaptable to whatever the

situation brings," the 30-year-old said.

"Obviously again different challenges this week, where we could be bowling under lights at different times.

"But I think as a bowling group we're quite settled in and where we're going to bowl and what our role is in the side."

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