



Improving quality of life for all our goal: LG Sinha

Calls for integrating AI into diagnostic processes for accuracy

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed the inaugural session of 'APCON 2025', the 73rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Pathologists & Microbiologists (IAPM) and International Academy of Pathologists-Indian Division (IAP-ID), at Government Medical College, Jammu.

The 5-Day annual conference on the theme "Emerging Trends in Pathology: From Morphology to Molecular Insights," has brought together leading pathologists and microbiologists to deliberate on the latest advancements and innovations shaping the field of pathology.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data analysis into diagnostic processes for accuracy and speed and to strengthen the bridge between Science and Medicine.

"Healthcare system must focus on enhancing diagnostic accuracy and reducing time to treatment. Mainstreaming the Precision Medicine approach



through advanced diagnostic tests is crucial. Labs should develop modern infrastructure to transform data into clinical insights for doctors," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor made valuable suggestions for developing preventative strategies and improving public health.

"First, empower the pathology field with cutting-edge advancements and develop

standard protocols for patient treatment through multidisciplinary research.

Secondly, identify and bridge gaps in educational programs by developing new training modules.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the healthcare sector has seen historic transformation. He urged all stakeholders to | [More on P6](#)

'Operation Sindoor'

US President didn't play any role in India-Pak ceasefire: GoI informs Parl

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Dec 04: Maintaining that United States President Donald Trump had no role to play in ceasefire between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor in May this year, the Centre on Thursday informed the Parliament that the agreement to end hostilities was arrived directly between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both the countries.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the development came after India's diplomatic and military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, orchestrated by Pakistani terrorists. "India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the attack on civilians. Our armed forces hit terrorist infrastructure across the border."

"Pakistan's DGMO contacted the Indian DGMO on May 10, 2025, seeking cessation of firing and military activities along the Line of



Control. The proposal was accepted the same day, leading to the current ceasefire understanding," the Minister said.

Referring to speculation about international intervention, the Minister said the United States President Donald Trump had no involvement in the ceasefire process or discussions between the two sides.

Replying to another question on political consultations, the government said an all-party meeting was held on May 8, 2025 to brief political leaders on the developments under Operation Sindoor.

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and | [More on P6](#)

RBI index reveals banking gaps in Kashmir

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Dec 04: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index-2025 has revealed key gaps in access and usage of banking facilities in different districts of the Kashmir Valley.

The RBI's Financial Inclusion Index measures financial inclusion across three key parameters: Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%).

According to details available with news agency—Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

You're future of country's Army: CM Omar to Agniveers

Attends passing out parade of Batch-6 at JAKLI Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday attended the Passing Out parade of Agniveer Batch-06 at the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) Regimental Centre, Srinagar, where he congratulated the young soldiers for successfully completing their 31-week rigorous training.

He wished them a distinguished and honourable career in the service of the nation.

Addressing the Agniveers

Consult parties on voter roll revision to avoid speculation: CM Omar to ECI

Claims ambiguity on revision process risks mistrust

Says delimitation 'already changed electoral balance'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Dec 04: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold consultations with political parties over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying clarity was needed to address issues raised by several groups.

Speaking to reporters after attending the passing-out parade of the Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment, Abdullah, as per the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said political parties should be briefed on the revision process to avoid speculation.

He further said that



electronic voting machines were reliable but could be influenced if not handled with transparency, and stressed the need for all stakeholders to understand the SIR exercise.

Omar also referred to the 2023 delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the addition of seven Assembly seats had altered the electoral landscape in a

manner that favoured one political side.

"Similar concerns could surface if the voter roll revision is not explained to the public and political actors," he cautioned.

The Chief Minister congratulated 713 cadets who passed out from the JAKLI training centre and said the regiment has long played a significant role in defence duties on the country's borders. He conveyed his good wishes to the Agniveers who will now be deployed to different units across India.

Commenting on Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi, Abdullah said India and Russia have maintained strong diplomatic ties for | [More on P6](#)

CM distributes compassionate appointment orders in Kashmir

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 04: A day after distributing compassionate appointment orders in Jammu, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday handed over SRO-43 and RAS-2022 appointment orders to beneficiaries at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, reaffirming the

Government's commitment to provide support to the bereaved families.

The Chief Minister handed over appointment and regularisation orders to 54 beneficiaries from various districts of Kashmir, marking another significant step toward clearing the backlog of cases under both SRO-43 and RAS-2022.

The event | [More on P6](#)

Reservation policy: 'File sent to LG, formal order expected soon'

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Dec 04: A day after the Cabinet approved the proposal to reduce quotas in the EWS and RBA categories to raise open merit quota by 10 percent, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said the file has been signed and sent to the Lieutenant Governor for approval and the government expects to

issue a formal order soon.

Speaking with reporters in Srinagar, Omar Abdullah, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the file was signed yesterday and sent to the Lieutenant Governor for vetting.

"We hope he will approve it and the order will be issued thereafter," he said in response to a query on the status of the | [More on P6](#)

Omar for enhancing Mission YUVA outreach

KT News Desk

Budgam, Dec 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday directed the Budgam district administration to ensure full winter preparedness so that the people of the district do not face any inconvenience in terms of electricity, ration supply or snow clearance during the coming months. He issued these

directions while chairing a detailed district review meeting in Budgam, where the entire developmental scenario of the district was assessed threadbare.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Sakina Ittoo, Javed Ahmad Rana and Javid Ahmed Dar, Speaker Legislative Assembly Advocate Abdul Raheem Rather, who represents Charar-i-Sharief constituency in Legislative

Assembly, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and MLAs Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi (Budgam), Ali Mohammad Dar (Chadoora), Shafi Ahmed Wani (Beerwah) and Saif-ud-din Bhat (Khan Sahib).

Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner | [More on P6](#)

Himalayan Circuit Centre highlights six major tourism projects for J&K

PIB

New Delhi, Dec 04: The Union Ministry of Tourism on Thursday reiterated its commitment to supporting the development and promotion of tourism infrastructure in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), in response to a parliamentary question raised in the Rajya Sabha.

Union Minister for Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed that while the primary responsibility for developing and promoting tourist destinations lies with the respective

State or Union Territory administration, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under its flagship schemes such as Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive).

These schemes support the creation of tourism infrastructure, enhancement of visitor experiences, and facilities that may include last-mile connectivity, log huts, CCTV systems, and public convenience components, depending on the requirements | [More on P6](#)

252-million-year-old 'nature's library' in Kashmir gets national geo-heritage tag

'Guryul Ravine fossil site holds key to Earth's ancient climate, geology'

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Dec 04: The Guryul Ravine in Kashmir—home to one of the world's most complete fossil records of the Permian-Triassic mass extinction—has been declared a national geo-heritage site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), recognising its global scientific value and extraordinary preservation of 252-million-year-old geological history.

The fossil-bearing section at Guryul Ravine records the "Great Dying", the largest mass extinction in Earth's



history, when nearly all life forms vanished. Located at Vihi in Khanmoh on Srinagar's outskirts, the site also preserves



traces of what scientists believe could be the world's earliest documented tsunami within its one-metre-thick boundary

section.

What makes Guryul Ravine exceptional, experts said, is its 3-metre-thick boundary section, far larger than the globally known Meishan section in China, which measures just 27 cm. This extensive thickness provides a clearer, uninterrupted geological timeline of the extinction and recovery phases.

Speaking to the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Mohsin Noor, Senior Geologist and Nodal Officer for Guryul Ravine, said the section remains unparalleled in the region and holds critical clues

about ancient climate, biodiversity collapse, and geological transitions.

"Guryul Ravine marks the exact Permian-Triassic boundary and contains one of the world's most detailed records of the 'Great Dying.' Its 3-metre composite boundary makes it scientifically more significant than the 27-cm Meishan section in China," he said. "The layers here also preserve the earliest known tsunami deposits, making this site globally unique."

Noor said Kashmir hosts exceptional geological diversity spanning | [More on P6](#)

Dry spell, dipping temps trigger rise in cold-related illnesses across Kashmir

Hospitals report patient load linked to flu-like symptoms

Experts warn of further spike if same weather continues

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Dec 04: As Kashmir continues to experience an unusually dry and biting cold spell, health facilities across the Valley are witnessing a steady rise in patients complaining of common cold, cough, fever, throat irritation and other winter-related respiratory

ailments.

Doctors estimate that more than 10 per cent of daily OPD cases are now linked to these seasonal infections, a number that has been climbing with each passing day due to the cold and dry weather.

They said the combination of dry air, sharp temperature drops, and increased indoor confinement has created perfect conditions for viral infections to multiply and spread.

Speaking to the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mir, a doctor posted at the district hospital in south Kashmir, said the weather | [More on P6](#)

CS reviews proposal for large-scale Solar Park in J&K



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, December 04: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, while chairing a meeting on Thursday to review the feasibility of establishing a large-scale Solar Park in Jammu & Kashmir under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy's (MNRE) Solar Park Scheme, directed the divisional administrations to expedite the identification of suitable, encumbrance-free land parcels for the project.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Science & Technology; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Managing Director, JKPD; and other senior officers.

Taking a district-wise review, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of identifying sizeable land patches that are not earmarked for other developmental works and can be swiftly transferred for establishing clean energy infrastructure in the UT.

The Chief Secretary appreciated

the Science & Technology Department for the progress achieved so far and the formulation of modalities required for advancing the initiative. He emphasised that harnessing solar power at a large scale is pivotal for strengthening J&K's renewable energy portfolio and reducing dependence on conventional power sources.

Secretary, Science & Technology, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, briefed the meeting on the contours of the MNRE Solar Park Scheme and highlighted successful models implemented in Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.

He informed that under the scheme, MNRE provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of up to Rs 20 lakh per MW or 30% of project cost, including grid connectivity for infrastructure development, in addition to up to Rs 25 lakh per solar park for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

Dr Choudhary further informed that J&K has an assessed solar energy potential of around 20-22 GW, of which 72 MW has already been

harnessed through solar roof-top installations on government buildings.

He added that as an initial step, the department has proposed setting up a Solar Park of 200-250 MW capacity, requiring approximately 5-7 acres per MW along with the necessary electrical and evacuation infrastructure.

The meeting also discussed the range of opportunities for J&K in the renewable energy sector, various implementation models available under the Solar Park Scheme, and the preliminary land parcels identified by the Divisional Commissioners.

It further deliberated on key financial parameters, cost implications, and the overall viability of establishing the Solar Park in the UT.

The Chief Secretary directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and complete land feasibility assessments at the earliest, enabling J&K to take a significant step towards the adoption of clean and sustainable energy.

Rana meets delegations, takes action on public concerns

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 04: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday met with several delegations from different parts of Kashmir who apprised him of a range of pressing public issues affecting their respective areas. The delegations, as per an official statement, raised concerns regarding the pending payments of contractors under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). They also requested the minister to pass directions to the concerned officers for pacing up of

ongoing developmental works. They also highlighted the need for removing bottlenecks related to the Lift Irrigation Scheme in Tral, a crucial project for local agricultural and horticultural needs.

Similarly, other delegations highlighted the urgent requirement for adequate firewood supply across the Kashmir division, particularly in view of the harsh winter season. Taking immediate cognizance of these issues, the Minister immediately convened a review meeting with the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Kashmir and senior officials of the Forest Department. He conducted a

comprehensive assessment of the current stock position, supply chain and distribution mechanisms concerning both timber and firewood.

Issuing firm directions, Rana instructed the department to ensure timely, adequate and seamless availability of firewood to the public without any delay.

On the matters pertaining to JJM contractor payments and the Lift Irrigation Scheme in Tral, the Minister assured the delegations that he would personally follow-up with the concerned departments.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO:48 e-Tendering/2025-26

Dated: 02-Dec-2025

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible

Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CNR)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
1.	Construction of lane and drain by way of tilling from H/o Faizan to H/o Khurshed Ahmad at main lane Mehboob Colony	Rs. 2.51/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5020/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	529 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF
2.	Construction of lane and drain by way of tilling from H/o Gul Pandit to main road at Batpora Chanapora	Rs. 3.22/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 6440/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	530 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF
3.	Upgradation of lane and drain by way of tilling from H/o Rafiq Ahmad Mir to H/o Rashid Ahmad Baghwan at Zum zum Colony	Rs. 2.75/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5500/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	531 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF
4.	Construction of Graveyard by way of filling near BSF Camp at Housing Colony Chanapora	Rs. 4.26/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8520/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	532 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF
5.	Upgradation of lane and drain from road to H/o JB Singh Opposite Gurudwara at Chanapora	Rs. 3.74/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 7480/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	533 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF
6.	Construction and upgradation of lane from H/o Farooq Ahmad Bhat Bashir Ahmad Bhat at Al Huda lane near MB Gym at Naik Bagh	Rs. 4.46/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8920/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	534 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF
7.	Upgradation of lane by way of Cement Concrete tilling from Shop of Abdul Aziz to House Md Amin Bhat at Rambagh Payeen	Rs. 5.95/-	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 11900/-	14 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	535 Dated: 02/12/2025	CDF

Accord of Administrative Approval:

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Publish date	02-12-2025
2	Document download date	02-12-2025 04:00 PM To 08-12-2025 04:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	02-12-2025 04:00 PM To 08-12-2025 04:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	09-12-2025 11:00 AM
5.	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	10-12-2025 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC.EMD2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security
- The L-1 contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOL. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk , cost and responsibility of L1.
- In Case of abnormally low bids: the successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer Left River Works Division SMC Sgr (Tender receiving authority) as per circular issued by J&K Finance department (Codes Division) under No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025. Moreover, the additional performance security percentage shall be rounded off the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

S.No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid via advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security
1.	Upto and including 10% below	NIL
2.	>10% upto and including 20% < below project cost Example: if the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit Additional security = $[0.1\% * (12-10)] = 0.2\%$ of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of the bid below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
3.	>20% or more below project cost. Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit Additional Security = $[1\% + (0.2\% * (25-20))] = 2\%$ of bid price.	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 guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price

- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

- The intending tenderer /bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.

- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 09-12-2025 at 11:00 AM.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Brach. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR/BG) dully filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattested, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.

- Name of the Bank:- Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
- Branch:- Balgarden, Srinagar
- Bank Account No:- 0216010200000007
- IFSC Code:- JAKA0GARDEN
- MICR Code: 190051008

- (a). Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO, SNO and LRWD). Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.

Sd/-
Er. Nisar Ahmad Wangoo,
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No.SMC/ELRWD/2659-68
DIPK-NB-2658/25
DATED: 04-12-2025

Dated: 02-Dec-2025.

SAD DEMISE



With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Fatima W/o Late Mohd Subhan Mir Resident of Baranpather Batamaloo, Srinagar, who has departed for heavenly abode on 04 December 2025. she was a kind, loving soul whose warmth and presence will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. May Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah and give strength, patience to her family to bear this irreparable loss. Fateha Khawani will be held on 06 December 2025 at 11: AM in their ancestral Graveyard Mominabad Batamaloo, Near Court Complex, Srinagar.

Bereaved family
ABDUL MAJEED MIR (SON)
Mobile No-9697776655

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285

Extension Notice 10th

Subject: 1. Construction of Machine Drilled Hand Pump Operated Bore Well at Ajas Bandipora Near House Of Zahoor Ahmad and Tariq habib and Others in District Bandipora.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 41-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./6291-6304, dated: 02-09-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286817_18.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 03-12-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	10-12-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	11-12-2025 01.00 PM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/

Camp./14706-16

Dated: 03-12-2025

DIPK-8723/25

DATED: 04-12-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

‘Bear With Us’, sightseeing spree hits Nigeen

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Dec 04: Black bear sightings in Srinagar continue to make headlines as the animal was spotted near Nigeen Lake on Wednesday, following earlier appearances at NIT, Kashmir University and SKIMS.

The Wildlife Department has launched a full-scale operation to safely capture the bear. Teams from the Central Kashmir division, assisted by wildlife personnel brought in from other districts, are actively on the ground. Drones are being deployed to track the bear's movements from above, while tranquiliser guns and short firearms stand ready for emergencies. Moreover, ambulances and wildlife teams have been stationed nearby to ensure swift response in case of human or animal injuries. Wildlife officials, including Central Kashmir Wildlife Warden personally visited Nigeen Lake to oversee operations and coordinate the multi-team effort.

Speaking to KNO during on sight visit,



Wildlife Warden, Central Kashmir division Parvez Ahmad Wani, said the public needs to move with caution and people need to step out only in groups for essential errands or prayers. "Avoid venturing into parks, lakesides, or secluded areas. Safety is our priority," he said.

The official also warned against circulating or creating AI-generated bear videos, revealing that two FIRs have already been lodged. "Those indulging in such activities will face action," he added. He said, it has also been observed people are seen chasing bear and documenting him over videos which is dangerous and it should be avoided.

Meanwhile, Srinagar residents continue to follow the unfolding drama with a mix of concern and humor, joking that the bear is perhaps exploring the city.

Moreover, search operations are ongoing, with wildlife teams stationed strategically to ensure both human and animal safety until the bear is safely relocated—(KNO)

From The Parliament

‘J&K has highest power losses in India at 48%’

RAJA SYED RATHER

\Srinagar, Dec 04: The Government of India on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir continues to reel under the highest Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses in the country with 48.08 percent for the fiscal year 2023–24. Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik informed the parliament that the national T&D loss average stands at 17.63 percent. "J&K's figure remains far above all other States and UTs."

The Central Electricity Authority's latest review revealed that

the northern region, including J&K recorded transmission losses of around 3.15 percent. "The major gap lies in overall T&D losses where J&K continues to struggle due to technical gaps, power theft, ageing infrastructure, and distribution challenges."

The Minister said the Centre and States are working to reduce these losses through measures such as network expansion, modernisation of transmission systems, SCADA, EMS deployment, higher-voltage systems, and improved operational practices. He further informed that all inhabited villages in the country, including those

in J&K have already been electrified under schemes like DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA, both of which stand closed. "Under the ongoing Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the Union Government continues to support States and UTs including J&K for strengthening distribution networks and electrifying remaining households wherever feasible," it reads.

The reply also said that there was no requirement for land acquisition for laying of transmission lines. "Land ownership remains with the landowner. Compensation for damages, if any, is governed by State guidelines."—(KNO)

NH toll revenue crosses Rs 507 Cr

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Dec 04: The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Thursday said six toll plazas are currently operational on National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir—generating Rs 507.56 Crore in 2024–25 and 290.41 crore in the ongoing fiscal year. The disclosure was made in a written reply by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha. According to the Ministry, J&K recorded toll revenue of rupees 507.56 crore in 2024–25, while the collection in the first seven months of the current financial year (April–October 2025) stood at rupees 290.41 crore.

Toll receipts have seen a steady rise over the last decade, from rupees 0.11 crore in 2014–15 to rupees 409.96 crore in 2022–23 and rupees 436.86 crore in 2023–24, the data shows. The Ministry also stated that toll collection continues either by concessionaires or by the Government even after the concession period ends, in line with the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.

Responding to concerns raised over traffic congestion at toll points, Gadkari informed the House that the Centre has decided to roll out Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) electronic tolling, aimed at barrier-less collection using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) with AI analytics and RFID-based FASTag systems. "A phased implementation will follow based on the performance of the initial sites identified for MLFF." The reply was tabled in response to a question by Deepender Singh Hooda regarding the number of toll plazas in each State/UT, toll collections over the past ten years—(KNO)

42 NABL-accredited water labs in J&K: GoI

RAJA SYED RATHER

\New Delhi, Dec 04 (KNO): The Union Government Thursday informed Lok Sabha that Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 98 drinking water quality testing laboratories of which 42 are NABL-accredited or recognised. Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna said J&K currently operates with 2 state-level labs, 20 district or regional labs and 76 block, sub-division or mobile testing labs to monitor drinking water quality under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The ministry also said that the two state labs, 20 district or regional labs and 20 block-level labs are accredited—bringing the total number of certified labs in the Union Territory to 42.—(KNO)

Tap water reaches 81% of J&K households

RAJA SYED RATHER

New Delhi, Dec 04: The Union Government on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that Jammu & Kashmir has achieved 81.22% coverage of rural households with tap water supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The figures were shared in a written reply by Minister of State for Jal Shakti, V. Somanna.

As per data, J&K has a total of 19.26 lakh rural households, of which 5.75 lakh (29.89%) had tap water connections at the launch of JJM in August 2019. Since then, an additional 9.88 lakh households (51.33%) have been provided with tap water supply, taking the total to 15.64 lakh households.

The reply stated that while significant progress has been made, nearly 3.62 lakh rural

households in the UT are still awaiting tap water connectivity, with works at various stages of implementation as part of the saturation plan.

Nationally, over 12.52 crore households have been connected since 2019, raising overall rural tap water coverage to over 81%. The Ministry also shared findings from an independent functionality assessment, noting that 76% of tap water connections surveyed across the country were fully functional in terms of quantity, quality, and regularity.

The Government said that measures including geo-tagging of assets, Aadhaar-linked monitoring, village/district dashboards, and third-party inspections have been adopted to strengthen implementation and address gaps under the Mission—(KNO)

‘J&K got Rs 37,978 Cr for highways in 5 years’

Accidents claim 426 lives in 2024

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Dec 04: The Union Government on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that Jammu & Kashmir received Rs 37,978 crore for the development and maintenance of National Highways over the last five years, with almost full utilisation of funds each year. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways allocated funds to J&K in a phased manner.

The break up provided by the government stated: Rs 2,932 crore in 2020–21,, Rs 6,817 crore in 2021–22, Rs 7,370 crore in 2022–23, Rs 10,528 crore in 2023–24 Rs 10,331 crore in 2024–25. The data shows continuous investment in National Highway expansion, upgradation and maintenance across the UT.

The Government also revealed that J&K recorded 2,020 road accidents on National Highways in 2024, leading to 426 fatalities, marking an increase in deaths compared to 2023, when 294 people were killed in 2,342 NH accidents.

The Ministry said road accidents are "multi-causal," involving human error, road conditions, vehicular issues and environmental factors. In terms of construction activity, J&K saw 976 km of National Highway works awarded during the last five years, including 248 km in 2020–21, 287 km in 2021–22, 120 km in 2022–23, 244 km in 2023–24, and 77 km in 2024–25.

The reply also revealed that while Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS) have been introduced on several major corridors in other States, no ATMS project has been taken up in J&K till date—(KNO)

CS stresses departmental commitment for climate action plan



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Dec 04:: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a crucial meeting to review the updated Action Plan on Climate Change for Jammu & Kashmir, calling for a coordinated and time-bound approach to strengthen the climate resilience efforts here.

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, and Commissioner Secretary, Forests was attended by Chairperson, J&K Pollution Control Committee; Secretary, Science & Technology; Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Transport; Commissioner, JMC/SMC, and senior officers from other concerned departments.

While reviewing the updated Action Plan, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for each department to treat climate change as a priority subject and assign dedicated officers to integrate climate-responsive measures into their policies,

programmes, and annual work plans.

He directed the Forest Department, the nodal agency for the Action Plan, to hold inter-departmental consultations to clearly outline the roles, responsibilities, and resource commitments of each department.

He emphasised that effective implementation will require every department to realign activities with emission reduction targets and climate adaptation goals.

To ensure transparency and real-time progress tracking, the Chief Secretary instructed the departments to develop an online portal where each stakeholder department will regularly update details of climate-related interventions. This system, he said, should support continuous monitoring of vulnerability indicators, risk assessments, and department-wise progress, enabling data-driven decision-making.

Speaking during the meeting, ACS Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, underscored the importance of holding detailed stakeholder consultations to chart out

the way forward. He called for reviewing ongoing projects across sectors to assess their alignment with the updated climate targets and exploring opportunities to scale up successful initiatives.

The Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda, highlighted the significance of the updated Action Plan in the context of J&K's fragile ecological landscape. She informed that the revised plan has been prepared by incorporating the UT's environmental sensitivities, financial capacity, and the scope of ongoing programmes under UT Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The Chairperson, J&K Pollution Control Committee, informed that the earlier Action Plan had been submitted to the MoEF&CC, Gol, for its approval by the Steering Committee for funding. The original plan consisted of 11 missions, with 235 adaptation and mitigation actions proposed by 10 line departments, including 125 high-priority actions.

LoP Sharma meets LG Sinha Flags pending demand on exam age relaxation



HE INFORMED THE LG THAT MANY ASPIRANTS HAVE ALSO MAILED THEIR CONCERNS, highlighting the difficulties they face due to age restrictions and repeated delays in recruitment cycles.

KNO

Jammu, Nov 04: Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma Thursday met the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhawan, Jammu wherein he raised the long-pending demand of age relaxation for combined competitive examination aspirants across Jammu & Kashmir. Sharma conveyed that a large number of aspirants and delegations have been approaching him for several weeks, seeking intervention on the issue of upper-age relaxation in various recruitment processes.

He informed the LG that many aspirants have also mailed their concerns, highlighting the

difficulties they face due to age restrictions and repeated delays in recruitment cycles.

During the meeting, Sunil Sharma presented the collective concerns of youth and urged the LG to sympathetically consider granting age relaxation, keeping in view the aspirations of thousands of candidates.

"The LG gave a patient hearing to the matter. Shri Sharma expressed hope that the administration will take a positive decision to safeguard the future of deserving aspirants," it reads. LoP Sharma said that the LG assured the youth that he will continue to follow up the issue until a favourable outcome is achieved—(KNO)

Srinagar witnesses 3 minor fire incidents

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Dec 04: Within 24 hours of the devastating Nowpora blaze that damaged five houses, Srinagar city witnessed a series of minor fires at different locations on Thursday.

An official said that a residential house in Batmaloo suffered damage to one room, while the attic of a mosque in Nalbandpora Safakadal caught fire.

He said, additionally, a minor fire damaged an MCB box at Nathu Sweets. "Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) teams responded promptly, bringing all fires under control without any casualties," he said.—(KNO)

Vehicle resale without authorization banned in Baramulla

KNO

Baramulla, Dec 04: The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Baramulla Thursday banned resale and purchase of registered vehicles without a valid authorization under Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR). Official warned that such vehicles and establishments shall be seized under the government orders issued on November-24 wherein the resale or purchase of registered vehicles without authorization under CMVR Rules 55A–55H has been declared illegal in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The ARTO announced that after 21 days of issuance of the Transport Commissioner's circular, all such vehicles and establishments involved in unauthorized resale or purchase will be treated as banned in Baramulla district and shall be liable to seizure.—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Upholding The Rights Of The Specially-Abled

Islamic teachings offer a profound and compassionate framework for the treatment of individuals with disabilities. The Quran and Hadith do not view disability as a deficit of faith or character, but as a natural variation within human creation, carrying inherent dignity and specific rights ordained by God. The foundational Islamic principle is one of absolute equality in human worth. The Quran states, “O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female

and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you” (49:13). Piety (taqwa), not physical ability, is the sole criterion for superiority. This dismantles any basis for stigma or social marginalisation. Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) transformed this principle into a practical social contract. He consistently integrated specially-abled companions into the full life of the community. `Atta ibn Abi

Rabah, a renowned scholar of the next generation, was blind and paralysed, yet he became the leading jurist of Mecca, his disability irrelevant to his authority. The Prophet (PBUH) appointed `Abdullah ibn Umm Maktum, a blind man, as a muezzin and left him in charge of Medina on multiple occasions, entrusting him with great responsibility. The Hadith literature is replete with directives for accommodation and ease. The Prophet (PBUH) taught that societal barriers

must be removed, stating, “You are rewarded for every act of charity, even for the morsel of food you put in your wife’s mouth... and for removing a harmful thing from the road” (Sahih al-Bukhari). Removing physical and social obstacles is thus framed as a spiritual duty. He explicitly prohibited mocking anyone, a warning that directly protects the specially-abled from ridicule. Islamic law provides tangible concessions (rukhas) to alleviate hardship. Those unable to stand may

pray sitting; those who cannot fast may make up days later or provide charity. These are not allowances for lesser believers but divinely granted rights ensuring that worship remains accessible, not burdensome. A Muslim society is judged by its treatment of its most vulnerable. It is obligated to ensure accessibility, economic opportunity, social inclusion, and active respect. To honour the rights of the specially-abled is to fulfil a divine trust.

India-Russia Relations At A Glance
From strategic partnership to special and privileged bond

Press Information Bureau

India-Russia bilateral relations Russia has been a longstanding and time-tested partner of India. Since the signing of the “Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership” in October 2000, India-Russia ties have evolved significantly, touching political, security, defence, trade and economy, science and technology, culture, and people-to-people cooperation. In December 2010, during the Russian President’s visit to India, this partnership was elevated to the level of a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. [4]” Under this Partnership, several institutionalized dialogue mechanisms operate at both political and official levels to ensure regular interaction and follow-up on cooperation activities.[5]

India and Russia also work closely at strategic, economic and defence levels through formalized institutions like India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC). It has two parts: one is the Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation division (IRIGC-TEC), led by India’s External Affairs Minister (EAM) and Russia’s First Deputy Prime Minister (DPM); the other is the Military & Military-Technical Cooperation division (IRIGC-M&MTC), headed by the defence ministers of the two countries. In December 2021, a new format called the “2+2 Dialogue” was added, where both Foreign and Defence Ministers meet simultaneously. This was done alongside; the summit level talks between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia[6].

The Inter-governmental Commission is a mechanism for regularly monitoring bilateral progress across the sectors of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries which was set up by an Agreement on inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in May 1992[7].

India-Russia Political Relations India and Russia continue to nurture their Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership through intensive and multi-layered political engagements. The highest institutionalized mechanism remains the Annual Summit between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation, with 22 summits completed to date. President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin will be visiting India again from 04- 05 December 2025 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. The upcoming visit of President Putin to India will allow the leaders of both countries to review the progress of India-Russia cooperation, decide the future direction of our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, and discuss important regional and global issues that matter to both nations[8]. The last (22nd) Summit was held in Moscow on 8-9 July 2024, during which the leaders issued a Joint Statement titled “India-Russia: Enduring and Expanding Partnership”[9]. A separate Joint Statement on strategic economic cooperation until 2030 was issued besides signing of 9 MoUs. During the visit, PM of India was conferred on Russia’s highest state decoration, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, for former’s outstanding contribution to India-Russia ties. The leaders met again on 22 October 2024 on the margins of the BRICS Summit in Kazan[10] and again on 01 September 2025 on the sidelines of SCO Heads of States meeting in Tianjin, China and discussed ways to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the countries. The two leaders have maintained frequent telephonic contact, including conversations on 15 January, 20 March, 5 June and 27 August 2024, as well as on 5 May 2025 following the Pahalagam terror attack, during which they reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen cooperation in the fight against all forms and manifestations of terrorism. Earlier also, on 08 and 18 August 2025, President Putin spoke with PM and briefed him on the latest developments regarding Ukraine in the context of US-Russia’s Alaska Summit[11].

Ministerial and official-level interactions remain robust between the two countries. EAM and FM Lavrov also met recently on 17 November 2025 during EAM’s visit to Moscow for SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting[12]. The Ministers have already met six times this year: 17 November in Moscow (Russia), 27 September in New York (USA), 21 August in Moscow (Russia), 15 July in Tianjin (China), 07 July in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and 20 Feb in Johannesburg (South Africa).

In his August 2025 visit to Moscow, EAM co-chaired the 26th IRIGC-TEC with First Deputy PM of Russia Manturov. He met President Putin and FM Lavrov, and pushed for faster \$100 billion trade by 2030. They had discussions on fast-tracking of opening of two new Indian Consulates in Kazan and Yekaterinburg, energy ties, and an India-EAEU FTA. They reviewed recent developments in Ukraine, Middle East, West Asia and Afghanistan. EAM reaffirmed India’s view that dialogue and diplomacy remain the most constructive pathways

for addressing differences. He also conveyed India’s concerns regarding Indians serving in the Russian Army, expressing hope for a prompt and considerate resolution of the pending cases[13].

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with the Russian Defence Minister Mr. Andrey Belousov on the margins of the SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting in Qingdao, China on 26 June 2025. He earlier visited Moscow from 8-10 December 2024 to co-chair the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) and called on President Vladimir Putin.

National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval visited Moscow on 07-08 August 2025 for the India-Russia NSA-level Strategic Dialogue. During the visit, he called on President Putin and held meetings with Secretary of the Russian Security Council Mr. Sergei Shoigu, Aide to President Putin Mr. Nikolai Patrushev and First DPM Mr. Denis Manturov.[14] NSA also visited St. Petersburg in September 2024 for the BRICS NSAs meeting, during which he met President Putin and Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu. India was represented at Russia’s 80th Victory Day celebrations on 9 May 2025 by Minister of State for Defence, Shri Sanjay Seth.

At the working level, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held Foreign Office Consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko in Moscow on 7 March 2025. These sustained high-level exchanges across multiple formats underscore the depth, resilience and forward momentum of India-Russia political relations.[15]

India and Russia held high-level maritime consultations in New Delhi, led by Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Nikolai Patrushev on 17 November, 2025. Both sides reviewed shipbuilding, port development, logistics and Arctic cooperation, reaffirmed their strategic partnership, and agreed to deepen collaboration to build a resilient, efficient and sustainable maritime framework supporting long-term connectivity and growth[16].

India – Russia Economic Relations The primary mechanism at the government level for enhancing trade and economic cooperation is the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific & Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), co-chaired by EAM from the Indian side and First DPM Mr. Denis Manturov from the Russian side. The 26th session of the IRIGC-TEC was held on 20 August 2025 in Moscow and focused on addressing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, removing bottlenecks in logistics, promoting connectivity, effecting payment mechanisms smoothly, timely finalization and execution of the Programme of Economic Cooperation till 2030. The session also emphasized the early conclusion of the India-Eurasian Economic Union FTA, whose terms of reference were finalized, along with the need for regular interaction between businesses of both countries to achieve the revised bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030. Following the plenary session, the Protocol for the 26th Session of IRIGC-TEC was signed by the co-chairs. Both countries are working towards ambitious targets set by their leaders: \$50 billion in mutual investments by 2025 and \$100 billion in annual bilateral trade by 2030[17].

Bilateral trade has grown rapidly and reached a record \$68.7 billion in FY 2024-25, with Indian exports at \$4.9 billion[18] (mainly pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron & steel, and marine products) and imports from Russia at \$63.8 billion (primarily crude oil and petroleum products, sunflower oil, fertilizers, coking coal, and precious stones/metals).

Bilateral trade in services has remained stable during the last few years. It amounted to \$1021 billion for the year 2021. Bilateral investments between the two countries remain strong with a target of \$50 billion investment by 2025. The major bilateral investments by Russia in India are in the oil and gas, petrochemicals, banking, railways and steel sectors, while Indian investments in Russia are mainly in oil and gas and pharmaceuticals sectors[19].

India-Russia Defence Cooperation Defence is one of the most important parts of the strong friendship and strategic partnership between India and Russia. Both countries follow a special 10-year agreement that guides all their military and defence technology cooperation. The military-technical cooperation agreement for 2021–2031 inked on 6 December 2021 in New Delhi, focuses on joint research, development, production, and after-sales support of weapons and military equipment[20].

The longstanding and wide-ranging military technical cooperation between the two countries has evolved from a buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research, development and production of advanced defense technologies and systems. Russia is also an important source for the supply of defense equipment, engines, spare parts and components. Several defense platforms are also assembled/produced in India such as T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI aircraft. Both sides have also been

exploring co-development and co-production of defence equipment and platforms, including the possibility of export to other countries such as the Brahmos system.

The India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) is co-chaired by India’s Defence Minister and Russia’s Defence Minister. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Russia in December 2024 and Co-Chaired the 21st IRIGC - M&MTC meeting apart from participating in the commissioning a frigate “INS Tushil” into Indian Navy at Kaliningrad. On 01 July 2025, INS Tamal, the latest stealth multi-role frigate, was also commissioned in Kaliningrad[21]. The 5th Meeting of IRIGC-M&MTC took place in New Delhi on October 28-29 2025.

The 14th edition of India-Russia joint training exercise INDRA-2025 was held in Bikaner, Rajasthan from 6-15 October, 2025 with the participation of more than 250 servicemen from each side. On 10-16 September 2025, a contingent of 65 Indian Armed Forces personnel from the Army, Air Force, and Navy, took part in Zapad-2025 military exercise at Nizhny Novgorod in Russia. On 28 Mar-02 Apr 2025, the bilateral Naval Exercise INDRA 2025 between Indian and Russian navies was conducted in two phases - Harbour phase at Chennai and Sea phase in Bay of Bengal. On 10-16 September 2025, a contingent of 65 Indian Armed Forces personnel from the Army, Air Force, and Navy, took part in Zapad-2025 military exercise at Nizhny Novgorod in Russia.

On 29 October 2025, Indian delegation led by Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) participated in the 23rd Working Group Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation and Defence Industry in Moscow.

Shift to Joint R&D and Production The defense cooperation evolved beyond a mere buyer-seller dynamic to include joint research, development, and co-production of advanced systems. Following are some of the weapon systems:

Weapon Systems and Description BrahMos Missile[22] [23]: BrahMos Cruise Missile system jointly developed by India’s DRDO and Russia’s NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM), which remains a flagship of India-Russia military-technical collaboration in missile technology Sukhoi Su-30MKI: Licensed production of the multi-role fighter aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in India. T-90 Tanks[24]: Licensed production of the T-90S Bhisma main battle tanks in India.

S-400 Triumf: Procurement of the advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defense system (SAM) by India. This is not jointly produced but procured

INS Vikramaditya: Refurbishment and transfer of the former Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov to the Indian Navy. A majority of India’s conventional and nuclear-powered submarines are of Russian origin.

AK-203 Assault Rifles[25]: Production by the Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRL) joint venture in Korwa, India, under the “Make in India” initiative.

Parliamentary Cooperation: The Inter-Parliamentary Commission, between the Lok Sabha and the Russian State Duma (lower house), has played a key role in facilitating parliamentary cooperation. It has met five times since its inception (2000, 2003, 2015, 2017, 2018). The Commission is co-chaired by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of the State Duma. The 5th India-Russia Inter Parliamentary Commission was held in India on 09 December 2018.

Chairman of the State Duma (Russia’s lower house of Parliament) Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin paid an official visit to India from 02-04 Feb 2025. During the visit, Volodin called on President and Vice President and had bilateral meeting with the Lok Sabha Speaker. The Russian delegation attended the then ongoing 2025 budget session of both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. In July 2024, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla led the Indian delegation for the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Saint Petersburg and also had bilateral meetings with Chairman Volodin and Speaker of the Russian Federation Council (Upper House of Parliament) Ms. Valentina Matvienko.

In the context of Pahalagam terror attack and India’s Operation Sindoor, an all-party delegation led by Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi comprising 5 MPs and senior diplomat Ambassador Manjeev Puri visited Russia from 22-24 May 2025 to project India’s united resolve and zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. From 21-26 June 2025, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MP Lok Sabha who was on his personal visit held meetings with Mr. Konstantin Kosachev (Deputy Chairman of Federal Council) and Mr. Leonid Slutsky (Chairman of State Duma Committee on International Affairs). From 29-30 October, Indian parliamentary delegation including Hon’ble

MPs Shri Rajkumar Chahar, Dr. C.N. Manjunath from Lok Sabha and Dr. V. Sivadasan from Rajya Sabha participated in the meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Moscow.

Science and Technology Science & Technology has played a key role in the bilateral India-Russia partnership, especially in the early days after India’s independence. Today, India & Russia work together on basic sciences, materials science, mathematics and cutting-edge areas like India’s manned spaceflight program (Gaganyaan), nanotechnologies etc. India’s only nuclear power plant established with another country is in Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu which established in collaboration with Russia. The bilateral cooperation is guided by the new roadmap for Science, Technology & Innovation signed during the 21st Annual Summit in New Delhi in December 2021. It is expected to boost innovation-related engagements between the two countries and focus on commercialization of technologies and full-cycle support for joint projects of economic and societal impact. Meetings of the Russia-India Working Group on Science and Technology, with representatives of the relevant ministries, universities and scientists of both countries, take place regularly under the IRIGC-TEC mechanism.

DID YOU KNOW?[26]

India and Russia have a long-standing cooperation in space. Their space agencies, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Roscosmos, have signed agreements to work together, including for India’s first human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan. As part of this partnership, Indian astronauts have already completed their training in Russia under Roscosmos.

Education: Cooperation between India and Russia in the field of education is multifaceted and longstanding in nature. One of the most visible aspects of this cooperation is the presence of about 20,000 Indian students in institutes in Russia for courses in disciplines such as medicine, engineering, economics, sciences and other subjects. Medical students comprise the largest group among Indian students studying in Russia. Separately, Indology is taught in several Russian universities apart from Indian languages such as Hindi, Sanskrit & Pali. At the school-level, the Atal Innovation Mission of India and SIRIUS Center work together as part of an initiative envisioned by Prime Minister and President Putin. In context of collaboration in higher education including between universities/institutes, then the following main mechanisms are playing an active role - Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) between the two governments, Network of Higher Education Institutions of India and Russia (known as the RIN), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), and the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) programme.

Russia has been an active partner country for ITEC scholarship. In 2024-25 around 17 Russian nationals took part in ITEC while in 2023-24, around 23 Russian nationals took the ITEC scholarship when compared to 100+ number during pre-Covid years. On 19 September, Embassy celebrated ITEC Day 2025.

India-Russia Cultural Relations India and Russia enjoy deep-rooted and centuries-old cultural relations that predate India’s independence, tracing back to the 15th-century travels of Russian merchant Afanasy Nikitin, traders settling in Astrakhan, and the founding of a Russian theatre in Kolkata by Gerasim Lebedev. Prominent Russian scholars and artists such as Nicholas Roerich Generations of Russians have grown up watching iconic Indian films, and since the 1980s yoga has gained immense popularity, especially in major cities.

DID YOU KNOW?[27]

In 2019, Russian President Putin awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi Russia’s highest civilian honour, the Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First, for strengthening the special friendship between India and Russia.

People-to-people contacts continue to strengthen, with a marked increase in tourist flows in both directions and ongoing efforts to ease visa regimes. The Jawaharlar Nehru Cultural Centre in Moscow, established in 1989, serves as the primary institution for promoting Indian culture in Russia through regular classes in Kathak, yoga, tabla, and Hindustani vocal music, as well as collaborations with Russian universities and cultural organisations. A number of Russian universities and institutions, teach Indian languages. Under the Cultural Exchange Programme and the ICCR-Russian Ministry of Culture Protocol (regularly renewed), Indian cultural troupes visit Russia almost every year; in 2023 five groups performed across multiple regions, showcasing Warrior Women of India, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Rajasthani folk dance. ICCR also offers four dedicated scholarship schemes for Russian nationals to pursue higher

studies in humanities, science, Ayurveda, dance, and music in India.

DID YOU KNOW?

Russia’s Minister of Culture Ms. Olga Lyubimova visited India for the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit 2025 (WAVES 2025) in Mumbai in May 2025 and had a meeting with Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw discussing bilateral cooperation in cinematography.[28]

The Second Indian Film Festival was held from 04-15 October 2025 across five Russian cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Yakutsk and Vladivostok. A 9-day cultural festival ‘Bharat Utsav-Festival of India’ was held for the first time in the central area of Moscow city from 5-13 July 2025. The festival with 120+ events bringing in 100+ artists and craftsmen from India was a huge success witnessing a footfall of 8,50,000 Muscovites. The 11th International Day of Yoga (2025) was celebrated in 60+ regions of Russia. In Moscow’s VDNKH complex (June 21) more than 1000 people participated in Yoga demonstration and master classes on Ayurveda and meditation.

India was the Guest of Honour country for 2025 in the Moscow International Book Fair during 3-7 September 2025. On 11 October, the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha arrived in Elista, Republic of Kalmykia, for exposition. The relics were accompanied to Russia by Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and were accompanied back to India by Hon’ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha.

International/Multilateral Organizations and Connectivity Projects

India and Russia cooperate closely at several multilateral platforms such as the UN, G20, BRICS & SCO. This cooperation has been strengthened further through regular exchanges and mutual support during India’s Presidencies of the G20 and SCO in 2023 and Russia’s BRICS Presidency in 2024. Russia has consistently expressed support for India’s candidature for a permanent seat the UN Security Council. India will take up the BRICS Chairship in 2026, it will work for strengthening cooperation in BRICS through the institutionalization of its processes.

Conclusion The bilateral relationship has remained strong and stable over the past 78 years. The India-Russia partnership has been among the steadiest in the contemporary era with a shared commitment to a multipolar world as well to expand the engagement beyond the traditional military, nuclear and space cooperation. In the past two years, the bilateral trade has expanded significantly. There are discussions on ways to increase exports from India as well developing new models of cooperation. Both countries are also looking to strengthen inter-regional cooperation, especially with the Russian Far East and promote connectivity initiatives like the International North-South Transport Corridor, the Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor and the Northern Sea Route. There is a synergy between Russia’s pivot to the East, its resources and technology and India’s own flagship initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

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Satish Sharma inspects Govt infrastructure, public services in Chamb

KT News Desk

JAMMU, DECEMBER 4: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, Thursday visited various areas of Chamb constituency and adjoining areas to inspect the government infrastructure and review public services in the region.

The areas, as per an official statement, visited inter alia included Chowki Choura, Sunderbani, Neeli Nallah, Mallah Barote, Nathal, Dori, Degar and peripheral areas.

The Minister inspected the school buildings, government offices and public services. He reviewed the status of educational facilities, staff availability, sanitation and basic amenities in these government entities.

While interacting with the locals, the Minister said that the major focus of the government is addressing deplorable road conditions, scarcity of safe drinking water and public



grievances related to other civic facilities.

The Minister had a detailed feedback from the local residents regarding their development issues and needs as well. He assured immediate departmental action and assistance in resolving the critical public issues.

Satish Sharma reviewed the commissioning of solar power plants in the region, emphasising the government's push

towards clean energy, sustainable infrastructure and reliable electricity supply for remote and rural habitations.

The Minister directed the accompanying officers to compile action-oriented reports, expedite ongoing works and ensure that development projects in these areas proceed without delay. He reiterated that equitable development, improved connectivity, enhanced service delivery and preservation

of cultural heritage remain high priorities for the present government.

The Minister also directed for undertaking urgent works under CDF like providing of ambulances, construction of community halls, cremation sheds and water tanks, installation of water pipes and transformers across the constituency.

He instructed the accompanying officers and officials to provide on-spot response to the public issues and take immediate action, wherever required.

Later, the Minister also distributed daily essential items among the poor and needy families.

Meanwhile, the Minister had an exhaustive inspection of several Devsathan sites in these areas. These included Ladyaal Biradri Devsathan, Neeli Nallah, Baba Maimal ji Devsathan, Mallah Top (Mallah Barote) Baba Maimal ji Devsathan, Nathal, Baba Maimal ji Devsathan, Dager Rakhmalal Baba Bhadwag Singh ji Devsathan and Rakh Malal Devsathan.

ARI & Trainings Deptt holds workshop on online portal for recruitment rules

KT News Desk

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: ARI & Trainings department organised a highly impressive Workshop-cum-Training programme on online portal for updating of Recruitment Rules (RRs), a major reform initiative aimed at bringing transparency, efficiency, and uniformity in the process of framing, amending and approval of RR across all Ministries and departments at Convention Centre on Thursday.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu was the chief guest on the occasion.

ACS, PW(R&B), A.K. Singh; Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili; various Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of different departments, General Managers of Government Press, designated Nodal Officers from all the departments, representatives of BISAG and other concerned officers were present during the workshop.

Addressing the gathering,

ACS Shantmanu, as per an official statement, acknowledged the efforts of the ARI & Trainings department, adding that this initiative marks a significant step towards modernizing governance. He highlighted that the Single Window System for RRs will not only save time but also bring clarity, accountability, and consistency in government recruitment process.

ACS, A.K.Singh while speaking on the occasion said that this new system is expected to cut approval time by over 75% and every stage of the process shall be digitally traceable and also supports the Government's Digital India initiative.

In her welcome address, Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili acknowledged the fact that the RRs are the foundation of government service management, determining eligibility, promotion norms, and service structure for various posts. She added that until now, the process of framing and amending these rules involved multiple layers of approval, leading to delays and

procedural complexities.

The Commissioner Secretary further said that to address procedural delays, the Government has in collaboration with BISAG-N developed a digital single-window platform that integrates all stakeholders like administrative departments, Finance, Law, JKPSG and GAD into one streamlined system. She added that the system will be made hassle free and secured from security point of view in consultation with IT/NIC.

During the workshop, the Bisag-N representatives imparted training to the Nodal officers followed by Question Answer session as an important part of the workshop.

In his concluding remarks of the workshop, Special Secretary ARI & Trainings, Tassaduq Hussain said that Government is committed to making public administration simpler, faster, and more transparent, adding that this reform is another step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen good governance and service delivery mechanisms.

DC Baramulla reviews SBM-G Activities

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on various activities being carried out under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) at the Main meeting Hall, DC Office Baramulla.

During the meeting, concerned officers, as per an official statement, presented updates on ongoing works and projects being executed across the district.

The DC took a detailed review of the works which have already been tendered out or allotted, directing officers to

ensure that these projects are initiated on the ground within the coming week.

Stressing the importance of timely execution, the DC emphasized achieving 100% targets within the stipulated time frame, adding that delays will not be tolerated in projects aimed at improving cleanliness and sanitation in rural areas.

He called for close monitoring, regular field visits, and strict adherence to quality parameters to ensure successful implementation of SBM-G initiatives across the district.

Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Block Development Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

DC Shopian stresses timely, seamless revenue service delivery

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Thursday chaired a meeting in his office chambers to review the implementation and progress of the revenue service delivery as mandated under Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA).

During the meeting, The DC, as per an official statement, emphasised the importance of ensuring timely and seamless public

service delivery as mandated under PSGA. He stressed that all revenue offices must strictly adhere to notified timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to closely monitor service delivery mechanisms, ensure proper record maintenance and address any bottlenecks that may hinder timely services. He reiterated the need for greater coordination among officers and field staff for effective implementation of the Act.

YSS Commissioner Secretary reviews budget proposals for 2025-26, 2026-27

KT News Desk

JAMMU, DECEMBER 04: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal, Thursday convened a meeting to discuss the Budget proposals, comprising the Revised Estimates (RE) 2025-26 and Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27 for both Revenue (Reven) and Capital (Capex) components.

The exercise, as per an official statement, was undertaken with due consideration to expenditure trends, departmental priorities and the government's emphasis on fiscal prudence, efficient public spending and improved service delivery.

The meeting was attended by the Director General, Youth Service and Sports Department; Director NCC; Director Finance, YSS and Secretary, J&K Sports Council.

During the deliberations, the Director Finance presented the consolidated budgetary requirements of all Heads of Departments, supported by performance indicators, physical achievements and projected needs for the ensuing financial year.

Yasha Mudgal underscored the imperative of maintaining strict fiscal discipline, ensuring realistic assessment of departmental requirements and aligning all budget proposals with government priorities



and welfare-oriented initiatives. She emphasized that inflated projections must be avoided and that every demand should be substantiated with verifiable data and sound justification.

The meeting focused extensively on augmentation of revenue through optimal utilization of departmental facilities, improved digital integration, adoption of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, tourism and event-based collaborations, increased Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) participation and progressive user fee rationalization across departmental assets.

Heads of the Departments were directed to ensure timely disposal and auction of unserviceable items lying in various offices to ensure transparency, space optimization and

enhance revenue realization.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed the need for intensified efforts to attract CSR funding to support the departmental programmes and youth-centric initiatives across the Union Territory.

To boost tourism-linked engagements, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted the importance of strengthening the tourism potential of youth hostels and allied departmental assets. She laid emphasis on improved visibility, service standards and partnership opportunities with the tourism stakeholders.

Further directions were issued to all district and sectoral officers to submit justified proposals under M&S, M&E, M&R and outsourcing heads to ensure efficient utilization of funds and operational preparedness.

DC Ganderbal chairs monthly Revenue meeting



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to take stock of the functioning of the Revenue department in the district.

The DC, as per an official statement, reviewed in detail the progress achieved under DILRMP, SVAMITA, ULPIN and digitization of revenue records.

He also sought the status of migrant land alienation cases, online services under Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA), Fard, Revenue extracts, Mutations, certificates issued under Jan Sugam portal, grievances on Samadhan portal, rectification of revenue records under Section 27, status of departmental enquiries other key revenue matters in the district.

During the meeting, the DC stressed the need for speeding

up the disposal of pending cases to ensure timely delivery of services to the public. He instructed the concerned officers to ensure prompt delivery of various services within the timeline stipulated under the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA).

He also reviewed the status of Revenue Court Cases in RCCM and directed to ensure timely disposal of revenue cases.

The DC also directed concerned officers to expeditiously clear pending cases of rectification under Section-27.

He urged Revenue department officials to work with renewed commitment to uphold transparency, responsiveness, and citizen-centric governance in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars and allied officers.

SDRF Kashmir conducts Disaster Management Mock Drill at GMC Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 4: A dedicated team from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Bhagat Barzulla, conducted an extensive demonstration-cum-mock drill on disaster preparedness and emergency management at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar on Thursday under direction of Director SDRF Kashmir, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir.

The activity, as per an official statement, was specifically organised for the MBBS Batch 2025, aiming to enhance their awareness, technical abilities, and confidence while responding to critical incidents and public health emergencies.

The mock drill featured a series of realistic demonstrations covering a wide range of emergency situations that commonly arise during disasters.

The SDRF team presented structured modules on earthquake preparedness, outlining the immediate actions required to minimise injuries, maintain safety, and assist victims until medical teams arrive. Fire emergency training included demonstrations on identifying



hazards, safe evacuation techniques, and systematic fire response strategies. Students were also introduced to drowning rescue procedures, including safe retrieval and first-aid steps essential for stabilising patients until they receive advanced care.

One of the key components of the programme was the training in airway obstruction management in both paediatric and adult populations. The SDRF experts demonstrated the Heimlich maneuver and shared clinical insights on recognising choking, differentiating partial from complete obstruction,

and applying age-appropriate interventions.

Additionally, students received hands-on practice in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), including chest compressions, rescue breaths, and automated external defibrillator (AED) awareness, aligning with internationally recognised emergency care guidelines.

The session also included practical guidance on the proper use of fire extinguishers, where students were encouraged to operate the equipment themselves under supervision. This activity helped participants build familiarity with the

PASS method, which is considered an essential skill during fire outbreaks.

Officials from the SDRF emphasised that the exercise was designed to familiarise future doctors with first-responder responsibilities, particularly during large-scale emergencies where medical teams collaborate with rescue units to manage mass casualty situations.

The participants were introduced to key principles of triage, prioritisation of victims, and rapid situational assessment, skills that remain critical during disasters.

Faculty members at GMC Srinagar appreciated the efforts and professionalism of the SDRF team, acknowledging that such programmes significantly strengthen emergency preparedness in the healthcare sector.

Students expressed positive feedback and acknowledged that the session enhanced their understanding of disaster medicine, risk communication, and crisis response. The training created awareness regarding the importance of preparedness at individual, institutional, and community levels.

DC Kupwara tours Trehgam Block, reviews development works

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 4: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Thursday undertook a tour of Trehgam block of district Kupwara to inspect ongoing development works, assess public infrastructure and engage directly with officials and members of the community.

As per an official statement, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat; BDO Trehgam, Tehsildar and other concerned officials accompanied the DC.

At BDO Office Trehgam, the DC chaired a meeting of concerned officers, officials from RDD and reviewed the latest progress under different schemes including MGNREGA, ADF, SBM, construction of pan-chayat Ghar etc.

He directed the concerned officers to speed up the execution of works and ensure completion of works within given timeframe. He directed the BDO to focus on cleanliness in the block especially



around the roadsides. He also reviewed renovation work for public library and directed to complete the work by January 2026.

At Tehsil Office Trehgam, the DC also interacted with general public, who apprised him about their developmental issues pertaining to healthcare, education and infrastructure.

The DC assured to resolve their genuine issues in a time bound manner and issued necessary directions to concerned departments.

He also visited sports ground near tehsil office to explore possibility of upgradation of facilities for local youths.

During the visit, the DC reviewed progress across multiple sectors including roads, rural development projects, health facilities, education infrastructure, and public service delivery. He emphasised adherence to quality standards, timely completion of works, and transparent execution of government schemes.

CM inaugurates projects worth ₹75 cr in Budgam



KT NEWS DESK

Budgam, Dec 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated and laid e-founda- tion stones for a series of trans- formative development projects in Budgam district worth nearly 100 crore, giving a major push to local infrastruc- ture and public services.

The projects include multiple Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Water Supply Schemes across Gudsathoo, Dreygam, Drang, Kultreh Wanpora, Qazipora, Awanpora, Rangreth

Wavoosa, Checkmari Colony, Nowbugh, Delipora Badipora and Zaloosa, aimed at providing reli- able and safe drinking water to thousands of households.

In addition, the Chief Minister inaugurated works for a Multi-Level Car Parking facility, announced the upgra- dation of the Kadalbal–Lasjan Road, and laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 2×35 m Steel Truss Bridge over Nallah Sukhnag at Beerwah, in order to significantly improve traffic flow, connectivity and

commuter convenience in the area.

The Chief Minister was ac- companied by Speaker Legislative Assembly & MLA Charar-i-Sharief, Advocate Abdul Raheem Rather; Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana; Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi; MLA Beerwah, Shafi Ahmed Wani; MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar; MLA Khan Sahib, Saifud-din Bhat, along with senior officers and officials from the concerned departments.

From Italy to Kashmir

Qul Fruits' live tour brings transparency to HDP nursery procurement

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Dec 04: In a first-of- its-kind transparency initiative, Khuram Mir, Managing Director of Qul Fruits, went live from Italy's premier high-density apple nurseries, giving thousands of orchardists across Jammu and Kashmir a real-time look at the procurement and grading of High Density Plantation (HDP) saplings.

The live session, streamed simultaneously across multiple Qulgahs at 3:30 PM, allowed farmers to witness the care- ful inspection, quarantine, and cold storage preparation of over 1.5 million saplings, those from renowned nursery of Nischler Nursery. Participants described the initiative as “a historic step that ensures transparency, trust, and better awareness of planting material quality.”

Speaking from the nurseries, Mir demonstrated every stage of the HDP sapling process—from plant selection and health in- spection to grading, loading, and protective spray applications before shipment. He highlighted



Qul Fruits' collaboration with top European experts to ensure that, certified, and high-quality saplings reach Kashmir.

A significant feature of the event was the live interac- tion between Kashmiri farm- ers and European horticulture specialists. Farmers posed questions on sapling quality, survival rates, rootstock per- formance, cold storage, and orchard management. Experts responded with science-backed guidance tailored to Kashmir's

agro-climatic conditions.

The session also addressed orchard challenges and practi- cal solutions were provided to help boost orchard productivity and fruit quality.

A live demonstration of nurs- ery operations allowed farmers to see firsthand how saplings are nurtured, monitored, and preserved under optimal condi- tions, enhancing confidence in the imported planting material. Experts stressed modern or- chard systems, climate-resilient

techniques, and sustainable practices, emphasizing that in- formed farmers are essential to a successful high-density apple ecosystem.

The event concluded with Qul Fruits reaffirming its commit- ment to a transparent supply chain and ongoing farmer sup- port through training, technical guidance, and field-based assis- tance. Farmers across Kashmir hailed the initiative as “a land- mark step toward openness and scientific orchard management.”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Improving quality

work together to expand digital records and the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) facility to remote areas and link smaller health centers with larger labs for expert advice.

“Building a modern healthcare system and improving the quality of life for all, is our goal. Public and private sectors must collaborate to provide dedicated diagnostic facilities in re- mote areas and reduce the time between di- agnosis and treatment in far-flung areas,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Principal GMC Jammu; Dr Usha Kini, President Indian Association of Pathologists & Microbiologists (IAPM); Dr. Reeni Mallik, Vice President IAPM; Dr. Ranjan Agarwal, Honorary Secretary, IAPM; office bearers of IAPM and International Academy of Pathologists-Indian Division (IAP-ID), Pathologists and Medical Professionals attend- ed the inaugural session.

Arvind Gupta, Member Legislative Assembly from Jammu West; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary Health and Medical Education, and senior officials of civil and police administra- tion were also present.

Consult parties

decades and that discussions between the two governments could have a wider impact on global affairs.

“Improved engagement between Moscow and Kyiv through diplomatic initiatives would be in the interest of peace,” he said.

On the birth anniversary of National Conference (NC) founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the Chief Minister said the J&K ad- ministration cannot declare a public holiday under the current constitutional arrangement.

He said the matter would be within the gov- ernment's authority only after full statehood is restored.

Omar added that tributes to Sheikh Abdullah continue each year, noting that the Sher-e- Kashmir Best Cadet award was presented during the parade. (KNO)

CM distributes

was attended by Minister Javid Ahmad Rana, Commissioner Secretary GAD M. Raju, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb, senior civil administration officers, and a large gathering of beneficiaries and their families.

In his address, the Chief Minister—who also holds the charge of the General Administration Department—reiterated the Government's resolve to dispose of all pending cases under SRO-43 and RAS-2022 in a time-bound, trans- parent manner, with relaxations extended wherever warranted under the policy.

Expressing empathy with families who ap- proach the Government following personal be- reavement, the Chief Minister underscored that compassionate appointments are rights guar- anteed under an established policy framework, not acts of favour. He said the Government's endeavour is to stand firmly with the affected families during their most difficult moments and provide them the institutional support they are entitled to.

Chief Minister said that the lacunae in pro- cessing the cases need to be corrected so that the onus is on Government to complete the for- malities rather than candidates having to run from pillar to post to obtain clearances and in pursuing submission of their cases from sub- ordinate offices which takes months together causing further hardship to applicants.

Reservation policy:

reservation report.

He also said that the government has issued appointment orders under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS), formerly known as SRO-43, to the families of government employ- ees who died in service.

He said around 60 cases from Kashmir prov- ince received formal orders on Wednesday, while a similar exercise was held in Jammu a day earlier. “The scheme ensures that a family member of a deceased government employee

is provided a government job to help them cope with the crisis”.

The CM said there are some procedural is- sues in the orders which they will rectify, but the cases have been processed and the orders have now been handed over.

Responding to a query on investigations into the Nowgam blast, he said all concerned cases are under examination. “All of them are being investigated. Where relaxation is required, it will be made. Otherwise, normal orders will be issued,” he added.

On the Darbar move and winter secretariat functioning, CM Omar said ministers and offi- cers continue to operate from Srinagar during winter. “Every week, one minister is on duty here. People should get relief and their work should be done,” he said.

On being asked about renaming of Raj Bhavan to Lok Bhavan, he said that names were secondary to delivery of governance. “Changing the name doesn't do anything. People don't care about what we call ourselves; they want to see work,” he said. (KNO)

Omar for enhancing

Budgam Bilal Mohi-ud-Din, Heads of Departments, district officers and other con- cerned officials were also present.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Budgam gave a detailed presentation on the status of the Capex budget under UT and CSS, the district's winter preparedness measures and the stock position of ration and LPG. He also briefed the meeting about the status of Constituency Development Fund and MPLADS, besides providing updates on both financial and physical achievements in major projects under Public Works (R&B), Jal Jeevan Mission and various other departments. Department-wise progress was shared in respect of Jal Shakti, Power Development Department, NABARD, Rural Development, Labour & Employment, Health and Medical Education, School Education, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports, Agriculture and allied sectors, Animal Husbandry and other departments. Chief Minister assessed the progress of development works across the district and issued necessary instructions during the course of the meeting. He laid special emphasis on winter prepared- ness and asked the administration to take extra care on this front. He noted that last year the winter management had been widely appreciated as power cuts were kept minimal despite harsh weather, and expressed hope that this year too the district would maintain the same performance.

However, the Chief Minister expressed concern that snow clearance last year had suffered due to lack of coordination between different agencies. He pointed out that often various stretches of connected roads are being main- tained by multiple departments, resulting in only partial clearance as each agency clears its own portion and leaves the remaining unat- tended. He directed the district administration to evolve a mechanism for coordinated snow clearance, for appointing a nodal officer if nec- essary, and ensure that entire roads are cleared end-to-end regardless of whether these fall un- der PMGSY, R&B or any other agency. He said that people must not suffer due to administra- tive overlap.

Referring to developmental works, the Chief Minister acknowledged that the district had faced delays due to two months of the Model Code of Conduct and procedural issues of fi- nancial approvals. He nevertheless urged the administration to make the best possible use of the remaining working months—December, January, February and March—while ensur- ing that expenditure is made responsibly and not merely for the sake of spending. He said it must be ensured that no funds lapse and that the money spent translates into visible public benefit.

Speaking on employment generation, Omar Abdullah reiterated that unemployment cannot be addressed solely through government jobs. He said the administration must reach out to youth, publicise the success stories of Mission YUVA and encourage more young people to

take up self-employment and entrepreneur- ship. He stressed that such schemes must be taken to the grassroots so that their benefits reach the maximum number of people.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the im- portance of timely expenditure under SASCI, noting that nearly 80 percent of the funds un- der the scheme are required to be spent within a specified time frame to avoid forfeiture. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner to review SASCI progress at least three to four times a month and push departments wherever nec- essary so that the required expenditure is booked in time and the district continues to receive funds under the scheme.

Responding to the specific issues raised by the MLAs in the meeting, Omar Abdullah di- rected the administration to immediately ex- amine the concerns highlighted regarding the Chadoora Bridge and to expedite the creation of the required civil infrastructure for the in- stallation of the CT scan machines so that these facilities become operational at the earliest. He assured them that the upcoming budget would be framed with their inputs and that ongoing works would be accelerated. He reiterated his commitment to working jointly with elected representatives to resolve public issues, saying there would be no shortcomings in addressing genuine demands of the people.

Earlier in the meeting, the MLAs had raised several developmental issues pertaining to their constituencies and sought intervention for timely resolution. The Chief Minister as- sured them that all genuine issues would be taken up on priority.

Later, the Chief Minister interacted with Mission YUVA beneficiaries and handed over sanction letters amounting to 46.04 lakh. He also released financial assistance worth 353.44 lakh under various welfare schemes of the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board in favour of 7,593 regis- tered construction workers of district Budgam.

US President didn't

MPs who were part of overseas delegations were later updated as well. The reply stat- ed, adding that the ceasefire understanding formed part of India's broader strategy to coun- ter Pakistan-sponsored terrorism while ensur- ing that major political stakeholders remained informed on issues concerning national secu- rity. (KNO)

You're future of

and recruits as you are going to become members of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment after passing the tough test and rigorous training of 31 weeks. You are all very fortunate to be a part of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry.”

He said Agniveer Batch-06 and JAK LI Territorial Army recruits would forever in- scribe their names in the proud history of the Regiment. “You will make the name and legacy of this great Regiment proud,” he added.

Expressing confidence in their capabilities, the Chief Minister said, “I not only hope but am confident that you will continue to excel beyond your abilities. You are the future of the country's Army, and you will have a huge responsibility on your shoulders. To fulfill this responsibility, not only the Indian Army but the entire country has great expectations from you. I am sure you will fulfill all these expectations well.”

He also extended his gratitude to the fami- lies of the young soldiers. “I congratulate and thank your families and parents, who dedi- cated you to serve in the Army and encouraged you to join as Agniveers and recruits.”

Following the parade, the Chief Minister joined the Agniveers for a cup of tea and in- teracted with them, appreciating their spirit and dedication.

Lt. Gen. Prashant Srivastav, GoC 15 Corps; Javed Anjam, Director Airport Srinagar; V. K. Purohit, IDES, IFA HQ 15 Corps; Som Raj, Joint Director Airport Srinagar and other senior of- ficers were present on the occasion.

Centre highlights

detailed in project proposals.

Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, six ma- jor projects under the Himalayan Circuit were sanctioned in 2016–17 for J&K. These include the development of the Jammu–Srinagar– Pahalgam–Bhagwati Nagar–Anantnag– Salamabad Uri–Kargil–Leh circuit at a sanc- tioned cost of 77.33 crore; the development of tourist facilities at Jammu–Rajouri–Shopian– Pulwama at a sanctioned cost of 81.60 crore; and the development of tourist facilities in- volving the construction of assets destroyed in the 2014 floods under the Prime Minister's Development Package at a sanctioned cost of 90.43 crore.

Further projects include the development of tourist facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev with a sanctioned cost of 91.99 crore; the de- velopment of tourist facilities across Anantnag, Pulwama, Kishtwar, Pahalgam, Zanskar, Padum, Daksun and Ranjit Sagar Dam with a sanctioned cost of 86.39 crore; and the development of tourist facilities at Gulmarg, Baramulla, Kupwara, Kargil and Leh with a sanctioned cost of 91.84 crore.

It was informed that under the PRASHAD Scheme, the Ministry sanctioned the devel- opment of the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar in 2016–17 at a cost of 40.46 crore.

The Ministry also promotes destinations across India, including those in J&K, through a range of ongoing initiatives. These include social media outreach, promotional websites, participation in tourism events, support to fairs and festivals, and road shows aimed at show- casing tourism offerings in a comprehensive manner.

252-million-year-old

vast time periods. “The Guryul Ravine at Khanmoh is among the Valley's most sig- nificant geological sites, spread over 9.8 lakh square metres with a face length of over 1.4 kilometres in the Zabarwan foothills,” he said.

The geologist said the site's “fascinating fos- sils” have attracted global scientific attention and strengthened its potential as a major geo- tourism destination.

Rare invertebrate fossils collected from the Ravine are preserved at the SPS Museum in Srinagar, and also at the Geoscience Museum, Department of Geology & Mining, J&K, located in Budgam. Noor was also an active member in the establishment of the Geoscience Museum.

The Permian rocks of the Kashmir Himalayas exhibit striking lithological variation—from fluvio-glacial and volcanic deposits to conti- nental and marine formations—making them crucial for scientific research. The Ravine pre- serves an uninterrupted sequence across the Permian–Triassic boundary, including mixed fossil assemblages marking key climatic and biological shifts.

“This fossiliferous zone is among the world's best-known Permian–Triassic type sections, home to an illustrious faunal assemblage of marine and terrestrial fossils that offer a bio- logical window into the mass extinction event,” the Nodal Officer said.

While similar boundary sections exist in Iran and China, Noor said they lie in remote ter- rains. “Guryul Ravine is easily accessible, and its proximity to markets gives it unique global significance.”

The site's rock formations show a transition from arenaceous to argillaceous and carbonate sequences. The earliest Triassic layers begin with the ammonoid *Otoceras woodwardi*, a key marker fossil.

Noor recalled that during an international geological conference in Jammu in 2007, experts raised concerns over quarrying at the site. This prompted the Department of Geology and Mining to stop quarrying, re- strict access, and fence the area to protect the fossil zone.

The Guryul Ravine fossil park is currently maintained by the Department of Geology and Mining through the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT), Srinagar.

“The Guryul Ravine is nature's library—hold- ing secrets of historical geology and ancient climate change,” the geologist said, adding that

the site is open to tourists, students, and re- searchers from across the world. (KNO)

Dry spell, dipping

has played a crucial role in the recent surge. “Dry and cold conditions cause viruses to survive longer, and the throat and nasal pas- sages lose moisture, making people more sus- ceptible to infections,” he said. “That is why we are seeing a consistent inflow of patients with cold and flu-like symptoms.”

Dr Mir added that most cases are mild but can turn serious for vulnerable groups such as infants, the elderly, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses.

Another doctor said he examined dozens of similar cases over the past week. Respiratory tract infections tend to increase sharply when- ever the Valley passes through prolonged dry spells, said Dr Yasir Ahmad Shah.

“In many hospitals, over one-tenth of our daily patients are coming with cold, cough, mild fever, sinus issues or throat infections. People need to understand that these are typi- cal winter illnesses, but timely care is impor- tant,” he said.

Dr Shah added that patients with asthma, COPD, heart diseases or diabetes may experi- ence aggravated symptoms during such weath- er transitions and should monitor their health more closely.

Doctors said the rise in winter infections is driven by various factors, including dry air weakening the respiratory system's defences, increased indoor gatherings with poor veni- lation, and the use of heating appliances like bukharis, gas heaters, and kangris, which are enclosed spaces where viruses thrive.

They said smoke from wood and coal irri- tates airways and can trigger infections, while vitamin D deficiency due to limited sunlight exposure lowers immunity. Dust accumu- lation in homes during winter further aggravates breathing issues.

They said prolonged use of smoke-emitting heating devices significantly affects children and the elderly. “We see many cases where throat irritation and persistent cough start due to smoke exposure and later turn into full- fledged infections,” Dr Shah added.

Health officials advise simple preventive measures, such as maintaining proper veni- lation inside homes, avoiding excessive use of heating devices, ensuring chimneys and ex- hausts are functional, drinking warm fluids, eating nutritious food, keeping homes clean and dust-free, wearing masks in crowded in- door spaces, and avoiding unnecessary anti- biotics. They also recommend that vulnerable groups consider getting flu vaccinations after consulting their doctors.

The situation is likely to continue if the weather remains the same, they warned, add- ing that if the dry and cold spell persists, the number of patients with winter infections will continue to grow.

“Such spikes are common during dry win- ters. People must remain cautious because these infections spread rapidly in closed spaces,” a doctor said, urging the public not to ig- nore persistent symptoms. (KNO)

RBI index reveals

News Observer (KNO), four districts of the Union Territory of J&K fall in the bottom 10 per- centile under the Access parameter (branches, fixed business correspondents, and automated teller machines).

The four districts- Srinagar, Bandipora, Kupwara, and Ganderbal- fall in the bottom 10 percentile for the ‘fixed business correspon- dent’ indicator.

Similarly, under the usage parameter, Bandipora and Anantnag districts were placed in the bottom 10 percentile for the “number of savings accounts” indicator.

The issue of these gaps also came under dis- cussion during the 17th Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday in Srinagar, to review the performance of banks and financial institutions operating in the Union Territory. (KNO)

Navy Day 2025

PM hails Indian Navy’s courage, self-reliance and expanding maritime reach



IANs

New Delhi, Dec 04: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday extended greetings to all Indian Navy personnel on the occasion of Navy Day, praising the force for its growing self-reliance, steadfast resolve and the valour with which it guards the nation's maritime frontiers.

Navy Day is observed annually on December 4 to commemorate the Indian Navy's achievements and its contribution to national security. The date marks the Navy's success during the 1971 war, when,

under Operation Trident, Indian forces sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar, delivering a decisive blow to the Pakistani Navy. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Navy Day greetings to all personnel of the Indian Navy. Our Navy is synonymous with exceptional courage and determination. They safeguard our shores and uphold our maritime interests. In recent years, our Navy has focused on self-reliance and modernisation. This has enhanced our security apparatus."

PM Modi noted that he would always cherish the memories of

this year's Diwali, which he spent with naval personnel aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

"Wishing the Indian Navy the very best for their endeavours ahead," he added.

In a video message, the Prime Minister underlined the Navy's critical role in securing the nation's maritime boundaries and economic lifelines.

"In the ocean, our Navy is determined to protect the maritime borders and commercial interests of the country. Whether it is offshore petrol vessels, submarines

or aircraft carriers. Today, the strength of the Indian Navy is increasing exponentially," he said.

He further emphasised India's longstanding tradition of using strength for global good, stating, "India's tradition has been about power and strength. Our knowledge, our strength and our strength is for the service of humanity and for the security of humanity. Today, when the economic system of the country is dependent on the interconnected world and progressive maritime borders, India's Navy is playing an important role in global stability."

Meanwhile, the Indian Navy on Wednesday demonstrated its expanding maritime capabilities in an operational showcase off the Thiruvananthapuram coast in Kerala.

From the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant to the frontline frigate Udaygiri, the event highlighted the force's multi-domain combat readiness.

President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, witnessed the display from Shangumugham Beach as part of the Navy Day celebrations.

A total of 19 major warships, including INS Vikrant, a submarine, four fast intervention vessels, and 32 aircraft comprising fighter jets, surveillance planes and helicopters, participated in the demonstration, underscoring the Navy's increasing operational reach and preparedness.

IndiGo cancels over 180 flights from 3 major airports



PTI

Mumbai, Dec 04: Domestic carrier IndiGo has cancelled over 180 flights from three major airports on Thursday, as the Gurugram-based airline struggles to secure the required crew to operate its flights in the wake of new flight-duty and rest-period norms for pilots. "IndiGo has cancelled over 180 flights on Thursday at three airports-Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru," a source told PTI.

While the number of cancellations at Mumbai airport stands at 86 (41 arrivals and 45 departures) for the day, at Bengaluru, 73 flights have been cancelled, including 41 arrivals, the source said. Besides, it had cancelled as many as 33 flights at Delhi Airport for Thursday, the source said, adding, "The number of cancellations is expected to be higher by the end of the day."

The airline's On-Time Performance (OTP) nosedived to 19.7 per cent at six key airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad -- on December 3, as it struggled to get the required crew to operate its services, down from almost half of December 2, when it was 35 per cent.

"IndiGo has been facing acute crew shortage since the implementation of the second phase of the FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations)

norms, leading to cancellations and huge delays in its operations across the airports," a source had told PTI on Wednesday.

DGCA has already said it is investigating IndiGo flight disruptions and has asked the airline to submit the reasons for the current situation, as well as its plans to reduce flight cancellations and delays.

It may be mentioned here that the pilots' body Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has alleged that IndiGo, despite getting a two-year preparatory window before the full implementation of new flight duty and rest period norms for cockpit crew, "inexplicably" adopted a "hiring freeze."

FIP said it has urged the safety regulator, DGCA, not to approve airlines' seasonal flight schedules unless they have adequate staff to operate their services "safely and reliably" in accordance with the New Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms.

In a letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) late Wednesday, FIP urged the DGCA to consider re-evaluating and real-locating slots to other airlines, which have the capacity to operate them without disruption during the peak holiday and fog season if IndiGo continues to "fail in delivering on its commitments to passengers due to its own avoidable staffing shortages."

Markets bounce back after early losses amid value buying

Sensex rises 146 points
PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slipped in early trade on Thursday, but later bounced back to trade in positive territory, amid value buying at lower levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 156.83 points to 84,949.98 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty skidded 47 points to 25,938.95. However, later both the benchmark indices recovered their early lost ground and traded higher. The BSE benchmark quoted 146.52 points higher at 85,244.78, while the Nifty traded 36.70 points up at 26,024.80.

Both the benchmark indices were on a downtrend for the past four days.

From the Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, Eterna, Titan, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement and State Bank of India were among the laggards. However, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Bharat Electronics, Asian Paints and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,206.92 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 4,730.41 crore, according to exchange data.

SC asks HCs to provide details of pending acid attack trials across country



PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the high courts to submit details of pending trials related to acid attack cases across the country within four weeks, terming the 16-year delay in one of the trials in a Delhi court as a "national shame."

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joydip Bagchi also issued notices to the Centre and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on a PIL filed by acid attack survivor Shaheen Malik. The bench termed as "national shame" the prolonged delay in Malik's own case, which has been pending since 2009 before a Rohini court here. "What a mockery of the legal system! This is such a shame.

If the national capital cannot handle this, then who will? This is national shame," the bench said.

The CJI asked Malik to file an application in the PIL itself explaining why the matter has not been concluded, assuring her that the court may even take suo motu cognisance The bench sought the details from the registry of all the high courts within four weeks.

During the hearing, Malik highlighted the plight of victims who are forced to ingest acid, often surviving with artificial feeding tubes and severe disabilities.

The bench also sought the Centre's response on her plea that acid attack survivors be categorised as persons with disabilities to ensure access to welfare schemes.

Gadkari says using Toyota's 'Mirai' car running on futuristic hydrogen fuel

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: Amid air pollution in Delhi, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the central government is giving priority to alternative fuels, and he has started using Toyota's 'Mirai' hydrogen fuel-cell car. "The futuristic fuel is hydrogen.. I have also got a car, which is hydrogen, and the car is from Toyota ... It gives the same comfort as Mercedes. The name of the car is Mirai, which is a Japanese word meaning future," Gadkari said during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha. The Union minister said the import of fossil fuel is costing

India Rs 22 lakh crore, and it is also creating a lot of pollution.

"Because of pollution, you are all facing the crucial problem; I am also facing the problem in Delhi," he said, as he expressed confidence that as India moves to alternative fuel, the country will become a net exporter of energy.

During 2024-25, India imported around 300 million metric tons of crude and petroleum products and exported about 65 million metric tons. The country meets about 88 per cent of its crude oil and 51 per cent of its gas needs through imports. Gadkari said the Centre is enabling policies to incentivise the use of alternative and bio-fuel,

as it is important to move towards a cost-effective import substitute, pollution-free and indigenous fuel.

He further said India's automobile industry, with a size of Rs 22 lakh crore, has moved up to the third position in the world, surpassing Japan. The first is the United States with an auto industry size of Rs 79 lakh crore, and China is second with Rs 49 lakh crore.

"I am confident because of electric vehicle, with some years we will be number one (auto industry) of the world. We are supporting all the bio-fuel as for ecology and environment to prevent air pollution," Gadkari said, adding research is underway regarding a charging system for EVs.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF PRINCIPALS/ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS/ASSISTANT PROFESSORS/LIBRARIANS & PHYSICAL TRAINING INSTRUCTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGES, DURING THE CALANDER YEAR 2026.

NOTIFICATION

In terms of the Article 285(a)(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956 (Volume-I), it is hereby notified for information of all the concerned Faculty Members of the Higher Education Department, UT of J&K whose particulars are given in Annexure-A to this Notification, shall retire from the Government service from the date (s) as indicated against each on attaining the age of superannuation with due reference to their Date(s) of Birth. The retirement of the Faculty Members shall, however, be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law and verification of Date of Birth (Original Matriculation Certificate(s)) of the concerned by the DDO.

Sanjay Kumar Tickoo JKAS
Deputy Secretary to the Government

No. HED-GAZ/15/2021-04(45596) Dated: 01.12.2025

Annexure-A

S.No.	Name of Officer	Designation	Subject	Date of Birth	Date of Retirement
1	Ved Kumar	Principal	Chemistry	18-01-1966	31-01-2026
2	Mohd Shafi Lone	Principal	Geology	01-03-1966	28-02-2026
3	Bashir Ahmad Parry	Principal	Electronics	02-03-1966	31-03-2026
4	Nargis Bano	Principal	Zoology	29-03-1966	31-03-2026
5	Shamim Ahmad Dar	Principal	Zoology	09-03-1966	31-03-2026
6	Nazir Ahmad Simnani	Principal (Dean CLUS)	Political Science	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
7	Gh Mohd Lone	Principal (Dean CLUS)	Commerce	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
8	Sujata Rani	Principal	Economics	10-03-1966	31-03-2026
9	Rajesh Kumar Gupta	Principal	Physics	10-03-1966	31-03-2026
10	Mohammed Azam	Principal	Zoology	10-03-1966	31-03-2026
11	Nilofar Akhter	Principal	Psychology	04-04-1966	30-04-2026
12	Archana Kaul	Principal	English	29-04-1966	30-04-2026
13	Ashu Vashisht	Principal	English	16-04-1966	30-04-2026
14	Ab. Rashid Malik	Principal	Botany	02-04-1966	30-04-2026
15	Mohd Hussian Malik	Principal	Persian	01-05-1966	30-04-2026
16	Ravender Kumar	Principal	Electronics	25-05-1966	31-05-2026
17	Gurinder Raj Verma	Principal	Sericulture	15-06-1966	30-06-2026
18	Seema Arora	Principal	English	08-07-1966	31-07-2026
19	Mudasir Afshan	Principal	Economics	31-07-1966	31-07-2026
20	Tirath Kumar Sharma	Principal	Mathematics	03-08-1966	31-08-2026
21	Sheikh Fouzia Fatima	Principal	Geography	05-08-1966	31-08-2026
22	Kuldeep Kumar	Principal	Zoology	05-10-1966	31-10-2026
23	Sanjay Kumar	Principal	Physics	08-10-1966	31-10-2026
24	Chander Shekhar	Principal (Dean CLU)	Mathematics	03-10-1966	31-10-2026
25	Ranjvijay Singh	Principal (Dean CLU)	Zoology	03-10-1966	31-10-2026
26	Seema Naz	Principal	Psychology	10-11-1966	30-11-2026
27	Shariq-Ud-Din Khan	Principal	Electronics	23-11-1966	30-11-2026
List of Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Librarians, Physical Training Instructors					
S.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation	Subject	Date of Birth	Date of Retirement
1	Tabassum Lone	Associate Professor	Philosophy	04-04-1966	30-04-2026
2	Irfan-ul-Majeed	Associate Professor	Botany	06-06-1966	30-06-2026
3	Mushtaq Ahmad Wani	Associate Professor	Statistics	07-06-1966	30-06-2026
4	Gazala Firdos	Associate Professor	Zoology	03-09-1966	30-09-2026
5	Nater Parkash Sharma	Associate Professor	Physics	01-02-1966	31-01-2026
6	Rajinder Kumar Sharma	Associate Professor	Botany	15-01-1966	31-01-2026
7	Bashir Ahmed	Associate Professor	Physics	11-01-1966	31-01-2026
8	Kewal Kumar	Associate Professor	Chemistry	16-02-1966	28-02-2026
9	Gh. Rasool Ganaie	Associate Professor	Zoology	03-03-1966	31-03-2026
10	Rubina Shaheen	Associate Professor	Home Science	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
11	Mushtaq Ahmad Parrey	Associate Professor	Zoology	01-04-1966	31-03-2026
12	Mohd Yousuf Khan	Associate Professor	Commerce	03-03-1966	31-03-2026
13	Umrila Rani	Associate Professor	Hindi	25-04-1966	30-04-2026
14	Nazir Ahmad	Associate Professor	Chemistry	07-04-1966	30-04-2026
15	Mohd Ayub Shah	Associate Professor	Botany	01-05-1966	30-04-2026
16	Nazir Ahmad Bhat	Associate Professor	Education	10-04-1966	30-04-2026
17	Syed Shafiq Ahmad Andrabi	Associate Professor	Chemistry	11-04-1966	30-04-2026
18	Anju Bala	Associate Professor	Mathematics	20-04-1966	30-04-2026
19	Babu Lal	Associate Professor	Education	05-05-1966	31-05-2026
20	Narayan Dutt	Associate Professor	Physics	02-05-1966	31-05-2026
21	Irvindeer Kour Sudan	Associate Professor	Home Science	04-05-1966	31-05-2026
22	Mansa Ram	Associate Professor	Zoology	07-07-1966	31-07-2026
23	Shafiq Ahmad	Associate Professor	Physics	04-06-1966	31-06-2026
24	Balbir Kumar	Associate Professor	Physics	25-08-1966	31-08-2026
25	Surinder Singh	Associate Professor	History	10-09-1966	30-09-2026
26	Bilal Ahmad Khanday	Associate Professor	Mathematics	21-09-1966	30-09-2026
27	Sumita Dham	Associate Professor	Chemistry	17-10-1966	31-10-2026
28	Jozafreen Afzal	Associate Professor	Education	07-10-1966	31-10-2026
29	Rubiva Sultan	Associate Professor	Botany	28-11-1966	30-11-2026
30	Shahida Masarat	Associate Professor	Zoology	09-11-1966	30-11-2026
31	Shuja Hussain	Associate Professor	Electronics	11-12-1966	31-12-2026
32	Farooq Ahmad	Assistant Professor	Computer	15-03-1966	31-03-2026
33	Rakesh Sharma	Assistant Professor	Application Hindi	01-12-1966	30-11-2026
34	Mohd Muzafar Shah	Librarian	Librarian	04-04-1966	30-04-2026
35	Gh. Rasool Rather	PTI	PTI	05-04-1966	30-04-2026
36	Balbir Singh	PTI	PTI	21-06-1966	30-06-2026

DIPK-8696/25
DATED: 04-12-2025

US orders H-1B, H-4 visa applicants to make social media profiles public

PTI

Washington, Dec 04: The US government has expanded screening and vetting measures for H-1B visa applicants and their H-4 dependents, directing them to keep the privacy settings on all their social media profiles set to "public".

In a new order issued Wednesday, the State Department said beginning December 15, a review of the online presence for all H-1B applicants and their dependents will be conducted.

Students and exchange visitors were already subject to such scrutiny, which has now been extended to include those applying for H-1B and H-4 visas.

"To facilitate this vetting, all applicants for H-1B and their dependents (H-4), F, M, and J nonimmigrant visas are instructed to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media profiles to 'public'," the State Department said. Underscoring that a US visa is a privilege and not a right, the department said



it uses all available information in screening and vetting to identify visa applicants who are inadmissible or pose a threat to America's national security or public safety.

"Every visa adjudication is a national security decision," it said. The department said the US "must be vigilant" to ensure applicants do not intend to harm Americans and that all visa applicants credibly establish eligibility

and intent to comply with the terms of their admission.

The directive is the latest in a series of steps by the Trump administration to tighten immigration rules.

The administration has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse of the H-1B visa programme, used largely by US technology companies to hire foreign workers. Indian

professionals, including tech workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders.

In September, US President Donald Trump issued a proclamation, titled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers', imposing a one-time USD 100,000 fee on new H-1B work visas, an order that could significantly impact Indian workers seeking temporary employment in the US. Separately, Washington has also paused with immediate effect Green Card, US citizenship and other immigration applications for people hailing from 19 "countries of concern", following the shooting of National Guard soldiers by an Afghan national.

A policy memorandum issued Tuesday directs the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to "place on hold", effective immediately, all asylum applications, regardless of the immigrant's country of nationality, pending a comprehensive review. The pause also applies

to all immigration applications from nationals of 19 countries previously covered by the administration's travel ban.

These countries are Afghanistan, Burma, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Laos, Libya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, and Yemen. The applications will be on hold "pending a comprehensive review, regardless of entry date", the directive said.

The new guidance follows the shooting of US Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and US Air Force Staff Sgt Andrew Wolfe, 24.

Beckstrom succumbed to her injuries, Trump said Thursday during a Thanksgiving call with service members, while Wolfe remains in critical condition.

The accused, Lakanwal, 29, had entered the US through 'Operation Allies Welcome', a Biden-era programme for Afghan nationals fleeing the Taliban takeover in 2021.

India airlifts movable bridge system, water units to Sri Lanka

Shares disaster-response toolkit



PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: India has airlifted a movable modular bridge system and hundreds of water-purification units to cyclone-hit Sri Lanka as part of its ongoing humanitarian support to reconnect isolated communities and restore essential services in the island nation, the Indian mission said on Thursday.

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

At least 479 people have been killed and 350 are missing as of Wednesday evening due to catastrophic floods and landslides caused by extreme weather conditions since November 16.

A C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force flew in the Bailey Bridge system along with 500 water purification units on Wednesday, following a request from Colombo, the Indian High Commission said in a statement.

"The massive structure can be installed within a few hours to replace damaged bridges, significantly strengthening relief access and mobility for emergency services in landslide- and flood-hit areas," it said.

The flight also carried 22 personnel, including expert engineers to install the bridge and a medical team to assist the field hospital deployed earlier, the mission said.

In a social media post, the mission said disaster-management cooperation between the two neighbours also continued in the digital sphere.

In a virtual meeting held on Wednesday, Bhaskar Katamneni, Secretary of Real Time Governance, Andhra Pradesh, shared a "digital

toolkit" showcasing the state government's best practices in disaster preparedness and response with Hans Wijayasuriya, Chief Advisor to the Sri Lankan President on Digital Economy, and the GovTech team. India has been extending humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu, with extensive air, sea and ground operations delivering urgent relief to those affected.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in a social media post on Wednesday expressed appreciation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's steadfast support to the island nation.

Sri Lankan officials said the scale of the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen.

As of Wednesday night, more than 1.6 million people from over 455,000 families had been marooned, according to National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) Assistant Secretary Jayathissa Munasinghe.

The government is operating 1,347 relief centres sheltering over 188,000 people.

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) Director General Bandula Herath said about 75 per cent of mobile coverage had been restored.

While none of the island's 9,332 communication towers were damaged, 16,926 distribution points remain affected due to lack of electricity and fuel to power generators, he said.

Authorities said accidental deaths among relief workers have risen to eight.

A 41-year-old electricity board employee died after being electrocuted during restoration work. Earlier, a Sri Lankan Air Force pilot was killed during an airdrop mission, while five Navy personnel and a Road Development Authority worker also died during rescue operations.

Kohli's second successive ton looked inevitable: Gavaskar

'He carried on confidence from Ranchi'



PTI

Ranchi, Dec 04: Raipur: Virat Kohli's second successive ton during the second ODI against South Africa here seemed "inevitable" as the st Unfortunate that people who haven't achieved much deciding 'Ro-Ko' future: Harbhajan

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh finds it a bit unfortunate that the future of legends like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli is being decided by

"people who have not achieved much" but he nonetheless expects the duo to carry on till the 2027 ODI World Cup. The 38-year-old Rohit and the 37-year-old Kohli only play the ODI format now and there has been intense speculation on whether they would be able to continue till the World Cup in South Africa given the shrinking ODI calendar across the cricket-playing world. Head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar have been non-committal on the possibility but the

UN weather agency reports 55 pc likelihood of La Nina this winter



PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: There is a 55 per cent chance of a weak La Nina affecting global weather and climate patterns over the next three months, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Thursday.

La Nina usually brings a temporary cooling effect on global average temperatures but many regions are still expected to record warmer-than-normal conditions, the UN climate and weather agency said in its latest

update.

La Nina and El Nino are opposite phases of a Pacific Ocean climate cycle known as El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). La Nina is the periodic large-scale cooling of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and is linked to changes in tropical winds, pressure and rainfall.

El Nino is the "warm phase" of this cycle. It often weakens India's monsoon and increases the chances of drought.

According to the latest forecasts from WMO's Global

Unfortunate that people who haven't achieved much deciding 'Ro-Ko' future: Harbhajan

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 04: Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh finds it a bit unfortunate that the future of legends like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli is being decided by "people who have not achieved much" but he nonetheless expects the duo to carry on till the 2027 ODI World Cup.

The 38-year-old Rohit and the 37-year-old Kohli only play the ODI format now and there has been intense speculation on whether they would be able to continue till the World Cup in South Africa given the shrinking ODI calendar across the cricket-playing world.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar have been non-committal on the possibility but the two players have dropped ample hints to suggest that they intend to fight for their place.

"It is beyond our understanding. I may not be able to answer because I have been a player myself, and what I have seen has happened to me as well. It has happened to many of my teammates, but it is very unfortunate. We don't talk about it or have a discussion about it," Harbhajan, part of the expert commentary panel at the ongoing DP World ILT20 Season 4, said in an interaction here.

"I am so happy when I see a player like Virat Kohli who is still going strong. It is a bit unfortunate that



those people are deciding about their future who have not achieved much," India's fourth-highest Test wicket-taker with 417 scalps added when asked whether the two are being handled well.

There is still over a year left before the first ball is bowled at the World Cup but Harbhajan has backed Rohit and Kohli to be in imperious form during the showpiece and set benchmarks for the next generation.

Kohli has struck back-to-back hundreds at home in the ongoing South Africa series, while a leaner Rohit has reeled off two fifties and a 121 not out in his last four innings.

"They have always scored runs and have always been great players for India, they have done extremely

well as batters and are leaders of the team. I'm so happy for them, they are going very, very strong.

"Not just going strong but setting the example for the younger generation to follow and what it takes to be a champion. So, well done Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma for setting the right example," the 45-year-old added.

Play on good tracks at home India's recent home Test struggles have left observers of the game shocked.

Since Gambhir's appointment, India have lost five of their last seven home Tests, including the recent 0-2 defeat to South Africa -- their first home series debacle against the Proteas in 25 years.

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