



India-Russia Summit-Level Talks

Whether Pahalgam or Crocus, roots are same: PM Modi

'Terrorism assault on humanity; New Delhi, Moscow will continue to intensify joint counter-terrorism efforts'

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Dec 05: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday asserted that both the countries are determined to fight terror and its sponsors, and dismantle their ecosystem.

During summit-level talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin at New Delhi, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said both nations have “stood shoulder-to-shoulder” in countering terrorism and share the belief that the roots of attacks



whether in Pahalgam or at Moscow's Crocus City Hall, stem from the same ecosystem of violence that must be dismantled collectively.

While referring to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people dead, PM Modi said, “The attack reinforced the urgency of global solidarity against the menace.”

Putting security cooperation

exchanges, reaffirming that unity among like-minded countries is the strongest defence against extremists and their sponsors.

Against this backdrop of heightened security concerns, the two leaders unveiled a renewed blueprint to expand bilateral trade and economic ties.

5-YEAR ECONOMIC COOPERATION PLAN FINALIZED

After delegation-level talks, PM Modi and President Putin finalised a five-year economic cooperation plan ending in 2030, aimed at imparting fresh momentum to a relationship that spans over eight decades.

Agreements were also signed in key sectors including health, mobility and people-to-people exchanges.

PM Modi described the India-Russia | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar hails SKIMS's contribution, seeks Rs 250-cr patient-centric project

» Claims institute's key files not routed through him or health min

» Pledges full support under new SASCI funding window

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Dec 05: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday hailed the contribution of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in revolutionising healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir, even as he expressed concern over its administrative functioning.

Omar claimed that the key files of the institute are not being routed through him or the Health Minister.

Speaking at the 43rd Annual Day celebration of SKIMS at the SKICC, Omar Abdullah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “I don't understand the purpose of inviting us when SKIMS files are neither sent to me nor my cabinet colleague. Still, I chose to attend so that the institute, its faculty and staff don't suffer.”

The Chief Minister questioned the absence of senior bureaucrats from the event and directed



the SKIMS administration to identify and propose a “major Rs 200–250 crore patient-centric project”, assuring full government support for securing funds and ensuring completion within three to four years.

He shared that the Special Assistance for States and Capital Investment (SASCI) funding window, previously limited to states, had, following his intervention, been extended to Union Territories, creating a

new opportunity for long-term, zero-interest capital investment in J&K's healthcare sector.

“This year, we finally gained access to SASCI. I want SKIMS to take full advantage of this and conceptualise a high-impact project that can be completed within two to three years,” he said.

Recalling the legacy of “Sher-e-Kashmir” Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Omar described him as a visionary who built SKIMS at a time | [More on P6](#)

USBRL project generated over 5 cr man-days of employment: Vaishnaw informs RS

» Survey for Baramulla–Uri line complete

» DPR prepared to boost Kashmir's rail connectivity

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Dec 05: Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project generated more than 5 crore man-days of employment.

While addressing the Rajya Sabha Vaishnaw, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, the USBRL project significantly

boosted connectivity and economic activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the 272-km USBRL project—recently commissioned, linking Kashmir with the rest of the country—has helped apple growers transport produce to major markets and facilitated movement of essential commodities such as cement to Kashmir. It has also eased passenger travel and strengthened all-weather connectivity.

“The project has helped apple farmers in transporting apples to different parts of the country. Besides providing connectivity and easing passenger flow towards Kashmir, it has also helped in transporting commodities like cement to the valley,” the minister said.

The minister said that surveys for further | [More on P6](#)

120TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

'He remains in people's hearts': NC leaders pay tributes to 'Sher-e-Kashmir'

Party Chief Spokesperson urges LG to clear reservation file, calls for full metering



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Dec 05: The National Conference (NC) on Friday paid glowing tributes to its founder and towering leader,

late “Sher-e-Kashmir” Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, on his 120th birth anniversary, recalling his unmatched contribution towards shaping Jammu and Kashmir's political | [More on P6](#)

Sher-e-Kashmir's life & work remain guiding force, says CM

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 05: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday paid homage at the Mazar of Sheikh Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, recalling the unparalleled role played by the iconic leader in shaping the political and social landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

Braving the sharp winter cold, the Chief Minister visited Naseembagh,

Hazratbal, where he led the commemoration held on the 120th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah — founder of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, former Chief Minister of J&K and one of the most influential leaders in the region's modern history. Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, popularly revered as Sher-e-Kashmir, is remembered for his | [More on P6](#)

Fog, dry weather to continue across Valley

Improved night temps offer temporary relief

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Dec 05: Night temperatures recorded an improvement across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with most stations in the Valley and Jammu region showing a rise from previous nights, while the Meteorological Department said that fog and dry weather will continue across the Kashmir Valley.

Sub-zero conditions, however, continued in several higher reaches of the Union Territory, officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

In the Kashmir Valley, Srinagar settled at 0.4°C, marking a rise after several freezing nights. Qazigund stood at minus 0.2°C, while Pahalgam recorded minus 1.8°C and Gulmarg 0.0°C. Kupwara | [More on P6](#)

IndiGo breakdown hits flyers in Srinagar, Jammu

Endless waits, no clarity on refunds leaves passengers fuming

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Dec 05: Chaos and frustration continued to grip air travellers on Friday as IndiGo Airlines faced large-scale operational disruptions, forcing mass cancellations and long delays at both Srinagar and Jammu airports.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the day saw scenes of confusion at both airports, with passengers travelling for medical emergencies, weddings, official work and more left stranded for hours without clear communication from the airline.

Officials said that 41 flights were cancelled across J&K, 11 in Jammu and 30 in Kashmir, including 39 of IndiGo and two of



other airlines.

At Srinagar International Airport alone, 28 scheduled IndiGo flights were cancelled, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded for hours. The remaining flights operated with minor delays.

“We have been receiving repeated calls regarding IndiGo operations. Over 30 flights scheduled for today have been cancelled, of which 28 were IndiGo and two of

other airlines,” an official from Srinagar airport said.

Rafiq Ahmad, a passenger at Srinagar airport who was scheduled to fly to Delhi, said he had been waiting since early morning with no clear update. “First they said the flight is delayed, then cancelled. There's no proper announcement or assistance people are just sitting helplessly,” he told KNO.

Meanwhile, Jammu airport also witnessed | [More on P6](#)

Strengthen security grid: IGP Kashmir to officers

Reviews monitoring of under-trial cases in Kashmir zone

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 05: IGP Kashmir V. K. Birdi, IPS, chaired a review meeting on the ongoing monitoring of under-trial cases with district SSsP, Law Officers and Pairvi Officers of Kashmir Zone at PCR Kashmir today. The meeting was attended by all range DIsG, district SSsP, Law Officers, Public Prosecutors and Pairvi Officers.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), IGP Kashmir opened the session by outlining the agenda. District SSsP then gave brief presentations on their progress in case disposal and follow-up, especially in ensuring convictions in under-trial and under-investigation



cases. The discussions covered general crime matters, with a special focus on NDPS and UAPA cases, absconders and other offenses. The status of preventive actions and pending inquest proceedings was also reviewed.

IGP appreciated the efforts of district heads and Law Officers in crime prevention and stressed the need to further strengthen the quality of investigations. He underlined the importance of improving conviction rates through better

investigation practices, greater use of scientific tools and a stronger follow-up system, particularly for narcotics and terror-related cases.

He also took stock of the overall security situation in the Kashmir Zone. He emphasized the role of non-kinetic measures, including strengthening the security grid, setting up dynamic nakas and maintaining regular surveillance of ANES.

In conclusion, the IGP reaffirmed the J&K Police's commitment to maintaining safety and security in the region. He encouraged officers to uphold transparency and accountability, and to ensure timely disposal of cases to secure convictions and protect the rights and safety of citizens. (KNO)

J&K gets new 379 MBBS, 118 PG seats for 2025-26: GoI

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Dec 05: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed that the National Medical Commission (NMC) Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted one new medical college along with 379 MBBS seats and 118 postgraduate seats for the academic session 2025–26.

As per official figures submitted in the Lok Sabha, the ministry, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has approved the expansion of medical

educational institutes and seats across the country. “The fresh allocation places J&K among the states and Union Territories that witnessed an increase in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical intake this year.”

Stating the breakup wise figures, the ministry said that J&K's newly sanctioned seat capacity comes as part of 44 new medical colleges and 11,732 UG seats added nationwide for the upcoming academic session.

Officials further said the approvals | [More on P6](#)

Unscheduled power cuts hit Oxygen-dependent patients

Consumers urge PDD to provide electricity as per schedule

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Dec 05: Repeated and prolonged power outages across several areas of Kashmir have pushed residents to the edge, with families of oxygen-dependent patients saying the situation has become “unbearable” as temperatures continue to dip.

Locals from different areas of Kashmir told the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that despite paying monthly tariffs on time, electricity is being snapped unpredictably—sometimes for hours during peak evening and night hours.

Residents said that the lack of a proper power supply schedule has made daily life extremely difficult, and in many homes, patients who rely on oxygen concentrators or other medical devices are experiencing serious distress.

“My father needs oxygen support round the clock. Every time the power | [More on P6](#)

CM lays foundation of two commemorative gates at Hazratbal Shrine

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 05: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday laid the foundation stone for two commemorative gates — Bab-ul-Salam and Bab-ul-Noor — at the revered Dargah Hazratbal, marking a significant step toward preserving the shrine's heritage while enhancing its infrastructure and the overall experience for devotees and visitors.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, and other concerned officials.



The twin gateway structures, featuring artistic calligraphy and aesthetic enhancements,

are being constructed at a total cost of ₹129.68 lakh, with each gate estimated at ₹64.84 lakh.

Diagnostic services functional, MRI unit undergoes maintenance: GMC Srinagar



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and its associated hospitals (SMHS/SSH) and other partner facilities have successfully maintained uninterrupted diagnostic services over the past two days despite the scheduled shutdown of the MRI unit at Shireen Bagh.

During the 48 hour period, a total of 67 MRI scans and 220 CT scans were completed across the network, ensuring that patients who required imaging continued to receive care without delay.

The MRI, as per an official statement issued on Friday, at Shireen Bagh was taken offline on 4 December 2025 for an urgent de-icing and repair procedure. A routine inspection had revealed ice buildup in the magnet's venting system, which could have led to a helium leak and posed a safety risk to patients and staff. Prompt maintenance is essential to restore the unit to optimal performance and guarantee long-term safety.

Logistic support, including patient transport and technical staff, was mobilised to move individuals whose scans were scheduled at Shireen Bagh to other GMC Srinagar facilities, allowing the workflow to continue smoothly.

The hospital administration thanks patients, staff, and partner institutions for their cooperation and reaffirms its commitment to maintaining seamless diagnostic services throughout the maintenance period and beyond.

CS inaugurates 3-day Sharda calligraphy exhibition in Jammu



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 05: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday inaugurated a three day exhibition of Sharda Calligraphy paintings by eminent artist Subash C Razdan at the G R Santosh Gallery, Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony, as per an official statement was attended by Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma; Padma Shri Rajinder Tickoo; Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums K K Sidha; Secretary Kala Kendra Dr Javid Rahi; noted art historian Dr Lalit Gupta; acclaimed artist Gokal Dambi and eminent writer P N Koul. The event was organized by Kala Kendra Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary said that the exhibition is unique as it highlights Sharda, the ancient Kashmiri script with a history of thousand years. He emphasised the need to revive and preserve this script, which

forms an important cultural link to the roots and identity of Kashmir. He appreciated that Kala Kendra, as a premier centre for art in Jammu & Kashmir, continues to provide essential support and facilities to local artists in the fields of visual and performing arts.

Atal Dulloo also highlighted that the Gayan Bhartam Scheme, launched by the Prime Minister, will significantly contribute to preservation, conservation and documentation of cultural heritage, ensuring continuity of knowledge for the future generations.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the work of Subash C Razdan and urged the public to visit the exhibition to witness this rare art form.

Addressing the gathering, the Principal Secretary Culture informed that the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages has recently signed an MoU with the University of Kashmir

to introduce a Diploma in Calligraphy, aimed at promoting and conserving calligraphy traditions in Sharda, Urdu and Devanagari scripts.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr Javid Rahi stated that the exhibition is showcasing 50 works of Subash C Razdan. The objective of the event is to exhibit age-old Sharda script, artistically portrayed through rare calligraphy paintings that are exceptional both in visual and expression, he added.

Speaking at the event, Gokal Dambi noted that the exhibition reflects a continuity of cultural ethos preserved over centuries.

Dr Lalit Gupta described Razdan's work as rich, distinct and deeply rooted in spirituality and Shaivism.

Padma Shri Rajinder Tickoo remarked that the artworks open new dimensions of Kashmiri Shaivism-inspired art and stressed the need for their proper documentation.

DC Baramulla inaugurates court room for ADC, ACR at DC Office Complex

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 05: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Friday inaugurated a newly established Court Room for the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) within the DC Office Complex Baramulla.

The dedicated space, as per an official statement has been created to streamline hearings, improve accessibility, and ensure faster disposal of revenue-related matters. The facility will also help decongest public areas within

the office.

To reduce the inconvenience faced by the general public visiting the office for grievances, routine matters, and court-related issues, the new facility will enable both officers to cater to the daily public rush more efficiently.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the initiative will strengthen public service delivery and provide a more organized environment for hearings and grievance redressal.

The inauguration was attended by senior officers of the district administration and staff members of the DC Office.

انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ محمد صدیق وانی (ریٹائرڈ ملازم کشمیر یونیورسٹی) ولد مرحوم غلام رسول وانی ساکنہ کوہلی پورہ خانیاں حال بابا پورہ حبہ کدل سرینگر مورخہ ۲۴ دسمبر کو اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب کریں اور لواحقین کو صبر عطا کریں۔ آمین۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع کوہلی پور خانیاں نزد یک سٹی سنٹرل سکول میں 7 دسمبر 2025 بروز اتوار صبح 10:30 بجے انجام دی جائے گی۔

سگوواران
وانی حساندان

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PAMPORE
e –NIT No. 13 of 2025-26

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K Fresh e-tenders on percentage rate basis are invited from approved & eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works: -

S.No.	Name of the work	Amount	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Class of Tender	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	Construction of the additional room at the Sub-Divisional Office, at LIS Lethpora.	6.11 lacs	2220	600	C&D	45 days	M.H. 2702	Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore

Position of Funds: Approved under M.H. 2702
Position of AAA & TS: Accorded

Terms and conditions:-

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:-

1	Publishing date	04-12-2025 (06:00 PM)
2	Download date start	04-12-2025 (06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission start date	04-12-2025 (06:00 PM)
4	Bid submission date ends	10-12-2025 (06:00 PM)
5	Bid opening date	11-12-2025 (06:00 PM)
6	Submission of Performance security (PS)	The successful bidder has to provide 5% of advertised cost as performance security within 07 days after opening of financial bid which shall be released only after the completion of DLP period

2. Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt/e-Challan under M.H.0701-PWD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore (tender inviting Authority), and Earnest Money /Bid Security in shape of CDR / FDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore (tender receiving Authority).

3. The date and time of opening of technical bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their email address. The Financial bids shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore (Tender Receiving Authority).

4. The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of (90) days from the date of opening of bid.

5. The earnest Money shall be forfeited if:-

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

b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within (7) days after fixation of contract.

6. Instructions to Bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

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

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in para (1).

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all requisite documents with bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black & white in PDF option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt / e-challan under(M.H.0701 –PWD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Construction Division Pampore and earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR as applicable pledged to tender receiving authority must be uploaded with the technical bid.

9. Price Escalation and Taxes:- The percentage wise cost be quoted by the bidder and the percentage rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes in vague till completion of work ,unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of all taxes and cess etc shall be made from the bills of the contractor on Gross amount of the bill as per the prevailing rates.

10. Bidders are advised to use "My documents" area in their user on e-tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

11. Instructions to bidder (ITB):-

1.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their Bids:-

(1) Registration Card duly renewed for the current financial year.

(2) Acknowledgement/ certificate w.r.t filing of GST Returns of previous quarter/ month as the case may be

(3) Acknowledgement/ certificate w.r.t filing of Income Tax Returns of previous financial year

(4) Contact No. / e-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.

(5) PAN No. and GST No.

(6) Card Verification Letter.

(7) BOQ.

(8) Every participant supplier/ contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government department/ Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder**

11.2 The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work & its surroundings before submission of bid.

11.3 Nothing shall be paid on account of dewatering at site unless specified in the BOQ and shall be deemed to have been included in the quoted percentage rate tendered.

a) All other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form (25) double.

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Construction Division,
Pampore

No. PICD/CC/3098-3113
Dated:- 04-12-2025

DIPK-8750/25
DATED: 05-12-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 116 OF R&B/ANANTNAG/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ 9671-80, DATED 04-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Centra Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
	Laying of RCC Slabs and approaches of culvert at Wopzan.	40.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.90 + (18% GST Amount 6.10)	1100	80000/-	02 Working Seasons	Road Sector UT Capex Budget	AAV & BEE Class Only
	Upgradation of Zipora Dal road.	39.37 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 33.37 + (18% GST Amount 6.00)	1100	78740/-	02 Working Seasons	Road Sector UT Capex Budget	AAV & BEE Class Only

Project Authority: R&B Department.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No. 39 of SE/R&B/Ang/AAA of 2025-26, Dated 02.12.2025. Position of TS: Accorded.

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

S.no	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-12-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 04-12-2025 To 10-12-2025 (05:00 PM) (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 04-12-2025 To 10-12-2025 (05:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 10-12-2025 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	11-12-2025 (11:00 AM)

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt and the Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/ Bid.

All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

1. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

6. The rates quoted in the BOQ are exclusive of GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.

7. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

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

9. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:

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

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

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

10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

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

DIPK-8734/25
DATED: 05-12-2025

Sd/- (Er Syed Ishfaq Ahmad) Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

CS reviews RS 1,000 Cr PM-ABHIM health projects

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Dec 05: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday held a meeting to conduct a comprehensive review of several key projects underway in the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department. The review covered the progress of Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) being established across districts under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), developments made under the Emergency COVID Response Package-II (ECRP-II), expansion of IHIP, adherence to IPHS standards, and the status of NCDC laboratories and VRDL facilities across J&K.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, H&ME; Mission Director, NHM; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Managing Director, HSCC; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook project-wise appraisal of all ongoing works, particularly the CCBs, and directed HSCC to significantly scale up manpower and machinery by at least three times to ensure timely completion within the scheme deadline.

He underscored that the release of funds under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes is directly linked



to the submission of Utilization Certificates, stressing the importance of full fund utilisation before the closure of the schemes.

Reviewing the physical and financial progress, availability of skilled and unskilled manpower, and the improvement recorded since the last review in June 2025, the Chief Secretary instructed the MD, HSCC to intensify on-ground monitoring and field visits.

He highlighted that projects amounting to over Rs 800 Cr under PM-ABHIM and Rs 166 Cr under ECRP-II must be completed within stipulated timelines for the funds of such a magnitude can't be arranged later for completion of these projects here.

He further called for enhancement of IPHS scores across health facilities, noting that higher certification reflects improved service quality and public trust. Stressing the importance of

strengthening disease surveillance and diagnostics, he directed expedited efforts for establishing NCDC laboratories in Jammu and Srinagar.

Updating on the infrastructure progress, the Secretary, H&ME informed that procurement processes for equipment are being contemplated out to ensure immediate operationalisation of facilities post-completion. Under PM-ABHIM, he revealed that two 100-bedded CCBs are under construction at GMC Jammu and District Hospital Budgam, while seven 50-bedded CCBs are coming up at GMC Kathua, GMC Rajouri, GMC Doda, GMC Anantnag, SKIMS Medical College Bemina, and District Hospital Kulgam.

Additionally, 20 District Integrated Public Health Labs (DIPHLs) and 287 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) are being set up across the UT.

He also gave out that under

ECRP-II, work is underway on seven more 50-bedded CCBs at GMC Udhampur and the District Hospitals of Reasi, Pulwama, Kupwara, Poonch, Shopian, and Ganderbal.

The MD, NHM, Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary, presented a detailed status report, highlighting location-wise progress of CCBs and DIPHLs, along with comparative improvements since the previous review.

He informed that regular assessments and field inspections are being conducted to accelerate execution. The meeting also reviewed the establishment of 79 Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (UAAMs), of which 53 have been completed with efforts underway to achieve completion by March 2025 itself. The SNO, NHM, Dr. Harjeet Rai, presented progress on the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), a digital surveillance system

of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

He informed that J&K ranks among the top five States/UTs at the national level, with 3,796 health facilities mapped on the platform, enabling real-time monitoring of syndromic, presumptive, and laboratory-confirmed cases.

He added that over the past year, 133 outbreaks affecting 3,250 individuals and resulting in 8 deaths were reported through IHIP. The platform also tracks dog bite, snake bite, and dengue cases on a real-time basis.

The progress on establishing NCDC Laboratories at Kot Bhalwal (Jammu) and Srinagar was also reviewed. Regarding IPHS compliance, it was informed that 3,526 out of 3,533 health facilities have undergone assessment, with 1,992 facilities scoring between 50-69%, 198 between 70-79%, and 160 facilities scoring above 80%, the highest category under the standards.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the functioning of Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) at the Government Medical Colleges of Jammu and Srinagar, including their expanding portfolio of diagnostic investigations and ongoing research projects on viruses such as Influenza and Rotavirus for the benefit of people of the UT.

J&K youth power house of talent: Javed Dar



WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Dec 05: Asserting that the government is stepping up efforts to strengthen sports infrastructure across major towns in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister Javed Dar on Friday said that J&K youth are power house of talent and no stone will be left unturned to help them achieve their goals.

Talking to the reporters after formally laying the foundation stone for the Nagbal Playfield development project here in North Kashmir, Dar reaffirmed the government's commitment to nurture young

talent. "Youth of this area had been seeking a sports ground for several years, and this project will cater to their aspirations," he added.

The Minister said that the government is focused on creating modern playing facilities to encourage youth participation in sports.

Lauding the Sports Department and the J&K Sports Council, the minister said both have played a vital role in expanding sports infrastructure across erstwhile state. He noted that several new playfields worth lakhs of rupees have been developed.

The government, he said, plans to extend similar infrastructure to major towns of Baramulla and Sopore where interest in football and cricket is growing rapidly.

The minister said two synthetic football grounds will be developed this year to offer all-weather playing conditions. "There is no shortage of talent here, our job is to provide the right infrastructure and opportunities", he emphasized—(KNO)

Chorus grows for age relaxation of JKAS aspirants

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Dec 05: Political parties and student bodies on Friday urged the Jammu & Kashmir Government to approve the age-relaxation proposal for the Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKAS). The People's Democratic Party (PDP) appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to approve the government's proposal to increase the upper age limit for JKAS. PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra said that granting approval before the examination would allow candidates to appear without uncertainty.

Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone criticized the administration's handling of the issue, saying the delay was creating confusion and affecting candidates' preparation. He claimed that the

file regarding age relaxation was reportedly moving between offices without a final decision, and urged the government to issue a clear statement. Lone highlighted that the average upper age limit for All India open merit candidates is 38 years, while in Jammu & Kashmir it remains capped at 32 years. The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) also expressed concern over the prolonged uncertainty. National Convenor Nasir Khuehami said repeated assurances, including from the Chief Minister's office, had failed to resolve the matter, leaving aspirants anxious despite years of preparation. The JKAS preliminary examination is scheduled for December 7, and candidates have called for a timely decision on the age-relaxation proposal to ensure their participation without legal or administrative obstacles—(KNO)

NC observes Sheikh Abdullah's 120th birth anniversary

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar/Jammu, Dec 05: The National Conference on Friday paid rich tributes to its founder, late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, on his 120th birth anniversary.

A senior NC leader said that commemorative events were held across the Union Territory, including Naseem Bagh, Srinagar and Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

In Srinagar, NC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah while addressing party workers and supporters, remembered Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah as a leader who gave voice to the voiceless. "The progress we see today is the result of Sheikh Sahib's vision and courage. His politics was rooted in service, compassion, and justice," he said, as per KNO.

Dr Farooq also called for unity and discipline within the party and urged young and educated men and women to take active roles in politics ahead of upcoming Urban Local Body and Panchayat elections.

He defended the government's performance, noting that major powers rest with the Lieutenant Governor, but affirmed that the NC would fulfill its promises over the next four years. "The best tribute to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah is to carry forward his mission of justice, equality and people's welfare," he said.

In Jammu, the commemorative function at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan was chaired by Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma offered floral tributes, recalling Sheikh Sahib's contributions to social justice, secularism and land reforms. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said, "Sheikh Sahib not only uplifted the people of Jammu and Kashmir economically and socially but also stood as a towering symbol of secularism across the subcontinent."

He also criticised the BJP for



"polluting the atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir by communalising the allotment of seats at the Vaishno Devi Medical College," asserting that "NEET recognises only merit, not religion."

"Any attempt to communalise the selection process will create hatred and division, which the National Conference will not allow under any circumstances."

Minister Satish Sharma also, highlighted the achievements of the Omar Abdullah government, noting that it had presented the first full budget for J&K since the loss of statehood, earmarked Rs: 815 crore for agriculture, initiated the establishment of a J&K Skill & Entrepreneurship University, restored the historic Darbar Move, approved one-time age relaxation for JKCEE-2025 aspirants and revised the reservation policy, which now awaits final approval from the Lieutenant Governor.

He added that initiatives such as free transport for women and enhanced ration quotas mark a decisive shift toward governance focused on welfare and inclusive development.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary Jammu, while recalling Sheikh Abdullah's legacy, said: "Sheikh Sahib's greatest achievement was not just shaping the politics of Jammu & Kashmir, but awakening a people giving

them a voice, a dignity, and a dream of justice that continues to inspire generations."

Echoing him, Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta said: "Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Sahib transformed the destiny of Jammu & Kashmir by replacing fear with hope and inequality with opportunity."

"His land reforms empowered the poor, his politics gave dignity to the unheard, and his vision laid the foundation of modern Kashmir. Generations may debate his decisions, but none can deny that he reshaped the soul of the Valley with courage, compassion and an unshakable belief in his people."

Gupta said as demanding restore statehood to J&K by bringing restoration of Statehood bill in the current Parliament session.

Meanwhile, a special Quran Khawani was organised by Senior Leader G H Malik. All the district presidents Jammu Province organized events at their district headquarters i.e Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Doda Rural (Bhaderwah), Rajouri Urban, Rajouri Rural, Poonch, Gool-Gulabgarh, Reasi, Udhampur Urban, Udhampur Rural, Kathua Urban, Kathua Rural and Billawar (Org).

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the mausoleum of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, a statement said.

He recalled the unparalleled role played by the

iconic leader in shaping the political and social landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

At the mausoleum, the Chief Minister, accompanied by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Several Ministers, Speaker Legislative Assembly Advocate Abdul Raheem Rather, Members of Legislative Assembly among others, offered floral tributes. Special prayers (Fateha) were also offered, seeking peace for the departed soul and reaffirming a collective pledge to uphold his values, the statement added.

The statement future reads, speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that Sher-e-Kashmir's life and work remain a guiding force for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah envisioned a society built on dignity, equality and communal harmony, and his message continues to resonate across generations. The Chief Minister added that Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah stood for self-reliance, justice and peace at a time when the subcontinent was marked by turbulence and division, and that his ideals would continue to inspire future generations. "A large number of people were present at Naseem Bagh to honour the legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and recall his monumental contributions to the political and social awakening of the region," it reads—(KNO)

One of two AIIMS in J&K operational, other under construction



RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Dec 05: Jammu and Kashmir has two All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), with one fully functional and the other still under construction, union ministry informed Lok Sabha on Friday. As per officials, AIIMS Vijaypur in Samba district of Jammu is functional while the AIIMS in south Kashmir's Awantipora remains under construction.

The Union Health Ministry informed that out of 22 approved AIIMS across India, 18 are functional, four institutes including Awantipora region are yet to be completed. "Completion timelines, the Ministry stated, depend on factors such as availability of encumbrance-free land, regulatory clearances, and site-specific issues," the ministry said. It also said that the government is monitoring the progress of under-construction institutes to ensure timely completion—(KNO)

LoP Sharma lays Rs 17 Cr Paddar-Nagseni road project foundation



KNO

Kishtwar, Dec 05: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma Friday laid the foundation stone for KP Galhar-Chingnana road via Lower and Upper Bronan.

LoP Sharma said that it is a landmark step toward fulfilling a long-pending demand of the people of Paddar and Nagseni.

Sharma on this occasion, said that the improved road connectivity is the backbone of regional development. "This Rs 17 crore prestigious project will significantly ease travel, enhance accessibility, and boost socio-economic growth across the entire belt." He further added that the project reflects the collective will of the people who have consistently

raised this demand and finally seeing it taking shape.

"The KP Galhar-Chingnana road will transform mobility for thousands, connect remote habitations, and ensure faster access to essential services. This is a strong example of how people's genuine needs must guide development priorities," LoP Sharma said. Sharma reaffirmed his commitment in ensuring the development for every village, especially those that have long remained neglected.

He expressed hope that the work on the road will be completed in a time-bound and transparent manner—bringing long-term benefits to the region. He congratulated the people of Paddar-Nagseni and assured them of continued support in all upcoming developmental initiatives—(KNO)

J&K sees highest POCSO case disposal in 5 years: GoI

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Dec 05: Jammu and Kashmir has registered 42 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases in 2025 out of which 23 cases were disposed of during the same year—marking the highest disposal count in the last five years, officials said on Friday.

The official figures shared by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice in the Lok Sabha states that J&K has recorded a notable increase in disposing of cases registered under POCSO Act in 2025 in comparison to previous years.

As per the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), J&K registered 42 POCSO



cases in 2025, while 23 cases were disposed of during the year.

In previous years, official figures reveal that the region witnessed lower disposal trends with 7 cases disposed off in 2021, ten in 2022, four in 2023 and six cases were disposed off in the year 2024.

The Ministry also provided a

decade-long overview of pendency.

About the infrastructure for speedy trials, the union government said four Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) are currently functional in J&K, including two exclusive POCSO courts.

These courts established under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme have so far disposed of 338 cases since its inception. "494 cases remain pending as of September 30, 2025."

The Ministry further informed the House that the FTSC Scheme has been extended till March 2026, with a focus on strengthening exclusive POCSO courts to ensure time-bound disposal—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Bridging The Gap In J&K's Border Areas

The launch of a major infrastructural overhaul in Jammu & Kashmir's border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme –Phase II (VVP-II) is a policy shift of profound significance. For decades, these remote habitations have symbolised a stark paradox. They are our territorial sentinels, yet they have often remained on the margins of development. Chief Secretary's review meeting, focusing on saturating 124 strategic villages with roads, electricity, telecom, and television connectivity, finally

acknowledges that national security is inextricably linked to human security and dignity. Underdeveloped border regions create a sense of alienation and vulnerability. By transforming these villages into "prosperous, sustainable and secure communities", the government aims to integrate them firmly with the national mainstream. More than building infrastructure, the step is about building trust. When a household in Tulail Valley gets reliable electricity, or a village in Kupwara gains 4G connectivity, it represents

the tangible presence and commitment of the state. It tells residents they are not outposts to be endured, but valued citizens to be empowered. The programme's three-pronged strategy of saturating existing schemes, strengthening infrastructure, and generating sustainable livelihoods is commendably holistic. Roads and telecom enable access to markets, education, and healthcare. Tourism initiatives and cultural preservation, as highlighted in the plan, can unlock economic potential rooted in local

heritage. The difficult terrain of districts like Kupwara and Bandipora has historically defied easy solutions. The success of VVP-II will hinge on relentless execution, adaptive governance, and meticulous monitoring. The appointment of nodal officers, the use of geo-tagging, and the operational Digital VVP Portal are steps in the right direction. Crucially, this must be a collaborative, "whole-of-government" endeavour, as the Chief Secretary said, with seamless coordination between departments and agen-

cies. This initiative is a long-term investment in the nation's territorial and social fabric. By ensuring that the glow of development reaches our farthest frontiers, we fortify the very idea of India. The vibrant village of the future will be one where a child can stream educational content, a farmer can check market prices, and a family feels connected to the country's heartbeat. That is the ultimate goal, and it is a mission worthy of the resources and resolve now being marshalled.

Nari Shakti To Vikas: Focus Must Shift To Women-Led Progress

Lakshmi Puri

Gender equality and women's empowerment is the organising idea for our brighter todays and our transformed tomorrows. In this age of acceleration, we cannot afford to wait another century to achieve gender parity. The cardinal concept of nari shakti (women's power) and of women as devis (goddesses), which is India's civilisational gift to the world, must now move from symbolic reverence to practical power and take our virasat (tradition) of respect for women into a vikas (development) pathway of women-led sustainable development.

When the freedoms and life chances of half of humanity expand, societies are re-wired. Gender equality is an ideal in its own right and also a powerful force multiplier of social, economic, political, technological and environmental progress. The 2015 McKinsey Global Institute report, the 2024 analysis using National Family Health Survey data, and EY's India@100 work, together make a compelling economic case: Closing gender gaps can add 20 to 30% to GDP and is indispensable for India to become a \$28-trillion economy by 2047.

India is living through a demographic moment. Our young population will yield a dividend only if it becomes a female dividend. Fertility is declining and the ambitions of girls and young women are rising; India now has near parity in higher education and around 43% of STEM students are women. After years in which women's work was pushed into informality and invisibility,



female labour force participation has begun to climb again and must translate into better quality, formal and future-ready jobs.

A defining feature of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been targeted flagship programmes in which women are the principal labharthi (beneficiaries), combined with transversal programmes in infrastructure, health, education and social protection that are gender responsive. Scholarships, hostels and reserved seats have lifted women's presence in higher and technical education and opened pathways into the knowledge, health, green and care economies. Digital missions and rural

programmes have trained tens of millions of women and put smartphones with affordable data and Jan Dhan accounts in their hands, giving direct access to information, markets and services.

Flagship schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, PM MUDRA, Swachh Bharat and PM Awas have put clean energy, access to credit, sanitation and secure housing in crores of women's names, while schemes such as the Sukanya Samriddhi and Lakhpati Didi have enabled direct benefit transfers into their bank accounts and rising incomes. The next level must move them decisively from labharthi to adhikar pati, from recipients of entitlements to full rights holders and decision makers in the economy and society. That is the essence of achieving SDG 5 on gender equality by 2030.

Intersectionality in India means that many women face multiple layers of disadvantage through poverty, caste, tribe, religion, disability or location. The abolition of instant triple talaq has strengthened Muslim women's rights in marriage. The election of Droupadi Murmu, a woman from an Adivasi background, as President of India embodies how far a marginalised woman can rise in a republic, deepening its commitment to gender and social justice. The tomorrow we must build is one in which such trajectories are systemic and widespread rather than exceptional.

Freedom from violence remains the non-negotiable foundation of a gender equal society. Ending violence against women and girls in all its forms, from domestic abuse and trafficking to work-place harassment and online hate, must stay at the top of the agenda,

together with sustained investment in women's health and in sexual and reproductive rights that guarantee autonomy and dignity.

Political voice and leadership multiply the impact of every other intervention and give women the power to shape tomorrow's rules. At the grassroots, 33% to 50% reservations in panchayats and urban local bodies have created 1.5 million women leaders. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, reserving one third of seats in the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies for women, is a historic step towards real parity in lawmaking and governance. Women are reshaping electoral outcomes, as seen recently in Bihar, as conscious voters rewarding governments that deliver on safety, mobility, education, health and livelihoods.

Culture is an infrastructure of meaning through which societies understand themselves and imagine their future. For centuries it was built from a male vantage of patriarchy, even in civilisations that worshipped the feminine divine. Today, women across the creative industries, from media and literature to cinema, music, sport and digital content, are rewriting that script and reclaiming the Devi idea so that reverence is expressed as equal rights, equal respect and shared responsibility in the home, the economy and the public sphere.

The next level of transformation must now be led as much from offices, board rooms, laboratories and digital platforms as from parliaments. Every institution, from government departments and political parties to universities, research councils, startups and large corporations, must build

gender parity into its DNA. This means gender equal education to jobs value chains, where girls move from classrooms into careers in science, technology and artificial intelligence across the wider Industry 4.0 ecosystem. It means corporate leaders and chief executives committing to parity in recruitment, retention, re-entry and promotion, and to many more women in senior management and on boards. It also means a research and innovation system and a start-up culture where women founders, scientists and creators can access credit, mentorship and markets on equal terms.

During its G20 presidency, India placed women-led development at the centre of the agenda, securing commitments on bridging the digital gender gap, raising women's labour force participation, and expanding women's entrepreneurship and leadership. Empowered women are the great transformers of our age. As transformed women who transform their families, communities, countries and the world, they unlock demographic advantage and enable women and girls to live lives of freedom, choice and dignity. If India sustains and amplifies this movement, its civilisational second coming as a leading power will be fast forwarded by a journey to Viksit Bharat (developed India) by 2047 that is lit and led by Nari Shakti.

The author is a former assistant secretary general of the United Nations and a leading global advocate of gender equality and women-led development. The views expressed are personal.

Creative Writing As Play Therapy

How fostering your artistic capacities can help you nurture your inner child

Matthew Clemente

Over the past year, we have been working closely with colleagues here at Boston College to develop a psychologically rich, humanities-informed Creative Writing Master's Program oriented toward professionals and clinicians who want to hone their craft as writers while deepening their understanding of the human psyche. The idea behind this undertaking is simple: Great writing and great thinking go hand in hand, and creative writing is a fundamentally psychological endeavor.

Indeed, authors often speak of the therapeutic nature of writing and see the practice as essential to their mental health. Why this is the case, however, is rarely theorized, with writers insisting that they can't not write but not fully understanding why. A little commented upon essay by Freud, delivered before an audience of laypersons in 1907, may shed some light on the subject.

In "Creative Writing and Day-Dreaming," Freud likens the exertions of an author toward his craft to the efforts of a child at play. Noting that "The opposite of play is not what is serious but what is real," he insists that the creative writer is doing something akin to the child in creating a fantasy world, one he takes seriously and invests himself in even though he recognizes it as at odds with reality.

For Freud, of course, the word "fantasy" does not carry the pejorative connotation that it often does for us. Our fantasies are an important part of our mental life and we neglect or disavow them at our peril. It is better, Freud thinks, to cultivate our fantasies—recognizing them always as such and yet nevertheless taking them seriously—in order to do something productive with them. This allows us to nurture our inner child—an aspect of ourselves that needs to be nurtured—while at the same time



holding fast to the important distinction between the fictions we play at and the lives we live.

By Freud's telling, creative writers—and artists of all stripes—provide incredible examples of how to healthfully convert one's wishes and illusions into something beneficial. What is more, the fantasies of artists enrich not only their own lives but the lives of others as well. Like the child who invents a game that attracts the attention and delight of his playmates, "the writer's imaginative world ... can become a source of pleasure for the hearers and spectators at

the performance of the writer's work."

That's all well and good for creative writers, one might object, but what about the rest of us who lack the capacity or inclination to express ourselves through art? What about we who have "ceased to play" and have been "labouring for decades to envisage the realities of life with proper seriousness"? Is there no opportunity for us to "throw off the too heavy burden imposed on [us] by life and win the high yield of pleasure afforded" by playfully creating fictive worlds and entertaining unrealities?

To this, Freud responds that we are

all creative writers in some sense. Like Nietzsche, who insists that each of us becomes an artist when we dream, Freud notes that "a piece of creative writing, like a day-dream, is a continuation of, and a substitute for, what was once the play of childhood." Said differently, we all fantasize like the writer. We all build dream worlds in which our deepest wishes and fears can be explored and played out in the safety of our own imaginations. The only difference is that artists and children do so openly while the rest of us guard our creations from the eyes of others:

People's phantasies are less easy to observe than the play of children. The child, it is true, plays by himself or forms a closed psychical system with other children for the purposes of a game; but even though he may not play his game in front of grown-ups, he does not, on the other hand, conceal it from them. The adult, on the contrary, is ashamed of his phantasies and hides them from other people. He cherishes his phantasies as his most intimate possessions, and as a rule he would rather confess his misdeeds than tell anyone his phantasies.

Such shame stifles one's creativity, or at the very least prevents one from experiencing it with the freedom and enjoyment of a child at play. And yet, it is the child within us that is most in need of the release that playful imagining provides. It is the artist that exists in all of us that is begging to come out when we flee the "too heavy burden" of our daily reality and instead choose to imagine life otherwise—better, more prosperous, more just.

Would that we all could nurture this deeply human need. Would that we all could allow our inner child to play. Perhaps, if we learn to see ourselves not as serious adults but serious artists—creative writers ever imagining life anew—we will be better able to.

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Matthew Clemente, Ph.D., is the Director of Research and Curriculum at the Center for Psychological Humanities and Ethics at Boston College. David Goodman, Ph.D., is the Center's Executive Director and serves as Dean of the Woods College of Advancing Studies.

Source: Psychology Today

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

Forest Minister, CM's Advisor assure support as CCIK pushes tourism, eco protection

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kashmir (CCIK) Friday held its executive meeting in Srinagar.

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani attended the meeting.

The meeting, as per an official statement focused on strengthening Kashmir's tourism ecosystem, protecting fragile environmental assets and improving the public utilities essential for sustainable development.

The CCIK presented key issues impacting the tourism and hospitality sector including provision of timber for houseboat repairs, a long standing demand crucial for preserving Kashmir's heritage tourism.

The Chamber emphasised the need to diversify Kashmir's tourism offerings through eco-tourism, adventure tourism and development of eco-friendly resorts and luxury camping facilities in forest zones. It urged the government to streamline the single-window clearance



system for Pollution Control Committee approvals.

The CCIK highlighted that the existing multi-tiered approval processes have become a major bottleneck in execution of tourism, hospitality and infrastructure projects. It observed that a simplified and time-bound mechanism would significantly improve the compliance and enhance the investment climate.

Addressing the public utility challenges, the CCIK drew attention to the irregular water supply faced by the hoteliers in Pahalgam, compounded by limited tanker services. They appealed the Jal Shakti Minister to intervene and ensure reliable

water availability across key tourist destinations, particularly during peak seasons.

Environmental conservation dominated the discussions, with CCIK expressing serious concern over the deteriorating condition of Dal, Nigeen, Wular, Anchar and other wetlands.

The Chamber called for a comprehensive cleanup drive and strict, encroachment-free protection measures, while requesting formal inclusion in all government-led consultations on water resource management. The Chamber demanded immediate restoration and long term conservation action on the worsening state of Babademb Lake.

To enhance Kashmir's tourism appeal, the CCIK proposed branding the region as a premier wedding destination, leveraging its natural beauty and cultural heritage. The Chamber also sought a review of entry fee structures at Aru and other tourist sites to ensure that pricing remains competitive and visitor-friendly.

Responding to the extensive submissions, Minister Javed Ahmed Rana and Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani assured the business community that all their genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound and priority-driven manner.

They assured complete support from the present

dispensation towards promoting sustainable tourism, safeguarding ecological assets and strengthening public service delivery to guarantee a safe and enriching experience for the visitors.

The Minister reiterated that the government would take every possible measure to upgrade tourism facilities, bolster environmental protection efforts and improve the overall service ecosystem in Kashmir.

The meeting was chaired by CCIK President Tariq Ghani and attended by office bearers and key members including Hussan Khan, Dr. Imran, Aatif Khan, Ajaz Khan, Ashiq Bhat, Zubair and Umar Jan Wani.

Sector-specific concerns were raised by the representatives from the houseboat, travel, hospitality and handicraft sectors.

Industry leaders Manoor Paktoo (Houseboats), Wahid Malik (SKAL), Akram Siah (Travel Trade), Baber Chowdary (JKHARA) and Mudasir (Handicraft Sector) also participated in the deliberations.

The officials from PHE, I&FC, Tourism and Forest Departments were present to note the concerns and provide departmental insights.

Sakeena Itoo pays tributes to Sheikh Abdullah on his 120th birth anniversary



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Friday paid rich tributes to Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah on his 120th birth anniversary.

In a grand ceremony held in his remembrance at the historic mausoleum of the great leader at Qaid Mazaar, Naseem Bagh Hazratbal, Minister Sakeena Itoo offered special prayers and laid floral wreaths, recalling Sher-i-Kashmir's unparalleled contribution to the socio-political awakening of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister, as per an official statement, described Sheikh Abdullah as "a towering statesman whose vision of empowerment, dignity, and justice

continues to inspire generations". She added that the enduring legacy of championing the rights and aspirations of the people by Sher-i-Kashmir remains a guiding light for entire Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister emphasized that Sher-i-Kashmir's principles of secularism, inclusivity, and grassroots empowerment hold deep relevance in today's times. She reaffirmed the Government's commitment to carry forward his mission with sincerity and dedication, ensuring that his ideals continue to shape policies aimed at welfare, unity and progress.

The Minister further said that by remembering this day of great leader, we remind ourselves of his lifelong struggle for the rights, dignity and empowerment of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Floriculture Dept declares winners of Chrysanthemum Garden reel, photo contests

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: The Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Kashmir has announced the winners of the Reel and Photography Competitions organised to engage the youth in promotion and publicity of the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden, which was opened to the public on 25th October 2025.

The development of the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden is a vital step toward creating year-round engagement opportunities for local visitors and tourists and making the autumn season more vibrant and floriferous, thereby boosting Kashmir's autumn tourism sector.

These competitions, as per an official statement issued on Friday, form a part of the Department's ongoing initiatives to engage youth and promote garden tourism, reflecting its commitment to fostering

creativity, participation, and appreciation of Kashmir's rich floral heritage.

A committee, with representatives of the Department, Information Department and NIFT Srinagar, constituted for the purpose evaluated the entries based on various pre-defined guidelines and selected the top performers for both categories. 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners in each competition will receive a citation along with a cash prize of ₹20,000, ₹10,000 and ₹5,000 respectively.

In the Reel Competition, Aziz-ul-Rehman, Siraj-ud-Din and Aqib Bashir secured the 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

In the Photography Competition, Mohammad Aslam Bhat, Ansar Ahmad and Aziz-ul-Rehman were adjudged 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

The date for the felicitation ceremony of the winners will be announced separately.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar rooftop solar scheme

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 5: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Friday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna.

During the meeting, Executive Engineers of KPDCL Handwara and Kupwara were directed to give special focus to increasing the pace of the installation of rooftop solar panels so that maximum households are benefitted with the scheme which aims to reduce the power bill of the consumers.

On the occasion, various vendors raised their issues before the chair about pendencies from different bank branches in disbursal of the loan applications. The DC, as per an official statement, directed the Lead District Manager and cluster head to



ensure clearing of all pending cases within a weeks' time positively. He directed the KPDCL to hold door to door survey so that the interested households are facilitated. Vendors were also directed to ensure pending installations in next 10 days.

The DC also directed KPDCL to complete pending inspections and vendor handling smart metering to

ensure speedy installations smart meters for scheme beneficiaries.

It was informed that in the district 1152 solar rooftops have been installed through this scheme.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Executive Engineers of PDD Kupwara and Handwara, AEEs, Cluster head JK bank, LDM, and registered vendors.

2-day trainee products sale begins at Numaish Gah in Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: A two-day Trainee Products' Sale, organised by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, began at Kashmir Haat, popularly known as Numaish Gah, here on Friday.

Craft products made by trainees in 432 Training Centres across all 10 districts of Kashmir Division as well as hand-knotted woollen carpets made under Massive Carpet Scheme are on display and sale on extremely affordable prices, without adding the cost of labour.

In a press handout issued, a spokesman of the department stated that visitors in large number turned up at Kashmir Haat to buy handmade products, on cost-to-cost raw material basis. "District stalls are expected to record good sales with many buyers making purchase of GI-tagged Pashmina

Shawls and Stoles, Crewel curtains, Sozni-embroidered shawls, Zari & Aari embroidered suits, tweed cloth, Chain Stitch rugs and cushion covers, Tapestry, Gabb and Namda products as well as papier mache and willow wicker souvenir and decor items," he said, adding the sale will conclude tomorrow at 5.00 pm.

The spokesman stated that the hand-knotted woollen carpets made by weavers under Massive Carpet Scheme also received an overwhelming response with many carpets sold.

The Department also organised an awareness camp for trainees where they were sensitized about various flagship and welfare schemes of the department like Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, Financial Support for Cooperatives & Karkhandar Schemes, the spokesman added.

IRCS celebrates international volunteer Day-2025

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: International Red Cross Society (IRCS) J&K Kashmir celebrated International Volunteer Day at SKUAST-K, Shalimar, Srinagar on Friday.

The Day long function, as per an official statement, was attended by the students, faculty members of SKUAST-K

and the Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Speaking during the event, Honorary Treasurer IRCS J&K, G.A. Qureshi spoke about the importance of volunteerism for peace and development. We need volunteers to work together for the common good and contribute in achieving the sustainable Development Goals, he said. He also highlighted the

role of Red Cross Volunteers in nation building and in rendering selfless services to the people not only during calamities and emergencies but also in the socio-economic development efforts.

During the event, it was revealed that the IRCS J&K has conducted 12 Blood Donation camps in which 656 blood points were collected during

the period 1st April to 31th October 2025. Besides, 8 First Aid camps were organized covering 600 beneficiaries.

Similarly 10 First Aid Training programmes were also conducted covering 183 beneficiaries during the same period. Besides, Rs 1,29,18,634 were also provided to the needy and deserving persons as Medical and Financial Assistance.

Students and faculty members of SKUAST-K, Shalimar also spoke on the occasion.

A first Aid training program was also conducted to equip students with essential life-saving skills. The resource person, Dr. Shailendra Kaur demonstrated practical techniques for handling emergencies such as bleeding, fracture, burns and unconsciousness.

DLSA Srinagar holds legal awareness programme on POSH, dowry laws, waste management

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 05: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar Friday organised a comprehensive Legal Awareness Programme on the POSH Act, Dowry and Maintenance Laws, and Solid Waste Management at the Legal Literacy Club of Government Model Higher Secondary School, Mujkund.

The programme, as per an official statement was conducted under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority and held under the supervision of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Srinagar, and Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The primary objective of the programme was to educate students and staff about important legal provisions and their social responsibilities.

The event witnessed



enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and staff members of the institution. The awareness session focused on sensitizing participants about women's rights, legal protection against sexual harassment at the workplace, dowry-related offences, maintenance laws, and the significance of proper solid waste management for ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

The resource persons for the programme included Panel Lawyers and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, delivered

informative and practical insights, explaining the legal provisions in a simple and effective manner.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-answer session, during which students actively raised queries and sought clarifications on various legal issues.

The participants highly appreciated the efforts of the District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar for organizing such an informative and socially relevant programme aimed at empowering young minds through legal awareness.

Awareness programme organised at Krishi Bhawan Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, DECEMBER 05: To mark the observance of World Soil Day, the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu organised a special awareness programme for farmers at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo on Friday. As many as 50 women and men farmers from different parts of Jammu district participated in the event.

Director Anil Gupta, as per an official statement, presided over the event as the Chief Guest and interacted with farmers on the significance of soil health for sustainable agriculture. He emphasized the critical importance of maintaining soil health for ensuring higher crop productivity and long-term agricultural sustainability. He urged farmers to regularly get their soil tested and make proper use of the Soil Health Cards for scientific nutrient management.

Later, Soil Health Cards were distributed among the participating farmers. The Directorate also presented certificates of appreciation to the laboratory staff for their dedicated service and contribution toward providing accurate and timely soil analysis.

Earlier, the programme began with a welcome address by Agriculture Chemist, Vinod Kumar Sharma. He said "World Soil Day serves as a reminder of



our collective responsibility to protect and enrich the soil, which forms the foundation of agriculture."

Assistant Soil Chemist, Chander Shekhar Sharma, Assistant Biochemist, Deepak Singh and Assistant Agriculture Chemist, Ravinder Gupta were the Resource Persons. They highlighted the importance of soil testing, balanced nutrition and sustainable soil management practices essential for crop productivity and environmental conservation.

Farmers were later taken for a laboratory exposure visit, where officials demonstrated soil testing methods, equipment handling and the analytical procedures, giving farmers a practical understanding of how soil parameters are assessed to support informed agricultural decisions.

DLSA Budgam conducts outreach on upcoming National Lok Adalat

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 05: In view of the upcoming 4th National Lok Adalat, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam organised an Awareness Programme across various areas of the district. The event was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Budgam.

The primary objective, as per an official statement issued on Friday, of the programme was to raise awareness about the National Lok Adalat as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. The speakers emphasized its benefits, including speedy, cost-effective, and amicable settlement of disputes, reduction of court backlogs, and enhanced access to affordable justice for all citizens. Interactive sessions were also conducted to facilitate better understanding among participants. DLSA Budgam deputed Deputy LADC and Assistant LADC as resource persons for the programme. They highlighted the key features, procedures, and advantages of the Lok Adalat system, encouraging the public to utilize this effective forum for dispute resolution.

In addition, the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Budgam conducted door-to-door awareness campaigns to educate the general public about the 4th National Lok Adalat, ensuring wider outreach and greater community participation.

Jammu Railways conducts 'Samvad' to improve waste management, hygiene



KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 05: Indian Railways regularly issues guidelines to enhance passenger amenities at trains and stations, focusing on comfort, cleanliness, and safety. Recently, the Railway Board issued special instructions for waste management on trains.

In accordance with this, on Friday, a special 'Samvad' session was conducted in the Jammu Division by the commercial team under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal. The session involved the pantry car and housekeeping staff of Train No. 12238, along with RPF, Government Railway Police, and ticket checking personnel.

The objective was to train staff on collecting waste in sealed bags and disposing of it at designated stations, while also inspecting the train's passenger amenities and security

measures. Special instructions were provided to pantry car and housekeeping staff on adopting new techniques for water management and maintaining hygiene standards to ensure continuous supply and quality of food. The OBHS (On-Board Housekeeping Services) staff received training on coach cleaning, water monitoring, and engaging with passengers regarding related concerns.

During the session, Singhal reviewed the identity cards and medical certificates of pantry car and OBHS staff. He also conducted security checks of all coaches with the RPF and Railway Police.

Singhal stated, "This 'Samvad' is part of a campaign to make the cleanliness and hygiene system on trains more effective and organized, with a focus on hygienic food and passenger safety. Our main goal is to enhance passenger comfort and security."

IEI JKSC hosts two-day national workshop to empower non-engineer builders



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 05: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu & Kashmir State Centre (IEIJKSC), inaugurated the first day of its two-day national workshop, "Zabaan-o-Bunyad: Empowering Non-Engineer Builders through Urdu-Medium Technical Training," at its Srinagar auditorium on Friday.

The event brought together a diverse community of masons, carpenters, labourers, and field technicians who form the backbone of the construction sector, reaffirming their vital role in transforming engineering concepts into physical reality besides Corporate & Executive Committee Members of IEIJKSC, Engineers, planners, academicians, etc.

Additional AC Coach added to Jammu-Delhi Rajdhani Express

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 05: To improve passenger convenience and ensure smooth travel, the Northern Railway's Jammu Division has decided to add an extra AC coach to the Jammu-Delhi Rajdhani Express. This measure aims to accommodate passengers affected by recent flight cancellations and facilitate their journey.

From December 5 to 11, an additional AC 3-tier coach with 72 seats will be attached to Train No. 12426/12425 operating on the Jammu-Delhi route. This will help stranded air travelers reach their destinations comfortably by rail.

Senior Divisional



Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, said, "This decision has been made to prioritize passenger convenience during these challenging times. Due to recent flight cancellations, we have arranged for an extra AC coach to accommodate affected passengers. The railway is committed to providing the best possible facilities, and passengers can contact 139 or their nearest railway station for further information."

India not neutral, it's on side of peace: PM Modi to Putin on Ukraine conflict



PTI

New Delhi, Dec 05: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday strongly backed the latest efforts to end the war in Ukraine and conveyed to Russian President Vladimir Putin that India will stand shoulder-to-shoulder in all peace efforts to find an amicable solution to the conflict.

The Ukraine issue figured prominently at the annual summit talks between the two leaders that is aimed at further shoring up a nearly eight-decade bilateral partnership that remained in firm footing notwithstanding fractious geopolitical environment and tensions.

In his televised opening remarks at the summit, Modi said India is not neutral as it is on the side of peace to end the Ukraine conflict.

"We have been holding discussions following the start of the Ukraine conflict. As a close friend, you have been regularly apprising us on the situation. I think trust is a major strength," Modi said.

"We all should find the path

of peace. I am aware of the latest efforts and I am confident that the world will turn to peace," he said.

"I have always said that India is not neutral; India has a side and that side is peace. We support all peace efforts and we are standing shoulder-to-shoulder in all peace efforts," he said.

On his part, the Russian president said Moscow is working towards a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Putin was accorded a red carpet welcome on Thursday evening on his first visit to India in four years. It is also his first trip to India since the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022.

PM Modi personally received the Russian leader with a hug at the Palam airport before traveling together in a white SUV to the prime minister's official residence for a private dinner.

The conversation between the two leaders over dinner is known to have set the tone for the 23rd India-Russia summit talks that is expected to produce a number of tangible outcomes to further broaden the time-tested relationship.

Boosting defence ties, insulating India-Russia trade from external pressure and exploring cooperation in small modular reactors are set to be the focus of the summit.

The Russian leader's visit to New Delhi has assumed greater significance as it is taking place against the backdrop of rapid downturn in India-US relations.

Following the Modi-Putin talks, the two sides are expected to ink a plethora of agreements, including one on facilitating the movement of Indian workers to Russia, and another on logistical support under a broader framework of defence cooperation.

It is learnt that under the trade basket, Indian exports to Russia are expected to significantly increase in areas of pharma, agriculture, food products and consumer goods.

The move comes amid concerns in New Delhi over a ballooning trade deficit in favour of Russia. India's annual procurement of goods and services from Russia amounts to around USD 65 billion, while Russia's imports from India stand at around USD 5 billion.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Whether Pahalgam

friendship as "steadfast like a pole star" and said that the world has witnessed upheavals over the decades but ties between New Delhi and Moscow have remained resilient.

The 2030 roadmap, he said, reflected a "common priority" to elevate economic engagement and widen cooperation in critical sectors.

PM Modi also underlined the importance of concluding a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union at the earliest, noting that it would significantly boost trade volumes despite global tariff and sanctions pressures.

RUSSIA READY TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED FUEL SUPPLIES TO INDIA

Putin, in his remarks, expressed confidence that bilateral trade can reach USD 100 billion annually, and said Russia was ready to ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies to India.

The Russian president said cooperation in energy including nuclear remains a key pillar of the strategic partnership.

He highlighted prospects for collaboration on small modular nuclear reactors and floating nuclear power plants, areas that Moscow is keen to explore with India.

PM Modi said cooperation in critical minerals between the two countries will strengthen supply chain security worldwide.

Both leaders reiterated that India and Russia, along with other like-minded partners, continue to work for a just, multipolar and balanced global order. (KNO)

CM Omar hails

when such an achievement seemed impossible. "Even decades later, people still prefer SKIMS for its doctors, treatment and care," he said.

He lauded the institute's doctors, nurses and staff for their dedication, calling SKIMS the "most trusted healthcare institution in Jammu and Kashmir."

Highlighting the need to ease patient load, the CM said, "People should not have to come to SKIMS for routine treatment. We will strengthen district and sub-district hospitals so that tertiary institutes like SKIMS can focus on advanced care."

The Chief Minister also e-inaugurated several new facilities, including the Linac Bunker for cancer treatment, Digital MRD, Paediatric Emergency Unit, Digital X-Ray services, a 10 MVA Transformer, and a Patient-cum-Attendant Park.

Notably, the 43rd Foundation Day was attended by Health Minister Sakeena Itoo, Minister for Rural Development Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Dr M. Srinivas, Director AIIMS (virtually), Director SKIMS Dr M. Ashraf Ganie and senior faculty members.

CM Omar also congratulated the SKIMS team for their efforts in research, education and patient care, expressing hope that the institute continues to grow as a beacon of healthcare in the region.

"Let this government lay the foundation and the next one complete it," he said, showing gratitude to SKIMS staff for their decades of compassionate service. (KNO)

Fog, dry weather

registered 0.2°C and Kokernag 0.8°C.

Some southern and central districts continued to record temperatures below freezing. Pampore stood at minus 3.0°C, Pulwama minus 2.6°C, Shopian minus 2.5°C, Anantnag minus 1.3°C and Budgam minus 0.6°C. Srinagar Airport posted minus 1.0°C and Awantipora minus 1.2°C.

Baramulla settled at 1.8°C and Ganderbal at minus 0.2°C. Among the coldest locations, Sonamarg recorded minus 1.2°C and Zojila minus 18.0°C. Zethan Rafiabab stood at minus 1.4°C.

In the Jammu region, temperatures remained relatively higher compared to the Valley. Jammu recorded 8.8°C, while Katra posted 8.5°C.

Banihal settled at 1.2°C, Batote 5.5°C, Bhaderwah 1.9°C and Kathua 6.8°C. Jammu Airport registered 9.5°C, the highest in the region. Udhampur stood at 3.6°C, Ramban 4.8°C, Samba 3.0°C, Rajouri 2.6°C, Kishtwar 6.0°C and Reasi 7.0°C.

In Ladakh, severe cold continued across most stations. Leh settled at minus 7.2°C and Kargil at minus 6.2°C. Drass recorded minus 5.7°C, Nubra Valley minus 5.4°C and Padum minus 9.1°C. Nyoma registered minus 15.2°C, Tangste minus 10.3°C and Upshi minus 10.1°C. Stakna stood at minus 7.6°C, Chuchot minus 8.3°C and Khatse minus 4.1°C. Garkone was the warmest location in the Union Territory at 0.6°C.

According to the Meteorological Department, December 5 will remain generally cloudy with the possibility of very light snowfall over isolated higher reaches of north and central Kashmir.

December 6 and 7 are expected to remain generally dry. On December 8, skies may turn partly to generally cloudy with a brief spell of light snowfall over isolated high-altitude pockets.

From December 9 to 13, the weather is expected to remain mostly to partly cloudy across the UT with no major activity anticipated.

December 14 and 15 are also expected to see partly to generally cloudy conditions. A similar pattern is likely on December 16 and 17, with the chance of light snowfall over isolated higher reaches of north and central Kashmir.

The department has issued an advisory stating that shallow to moderate fog will continue at many places in the Kashmir division and at isolated places in Jammu, affecting visibility during morning and evening hours.

Meanwhile, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said the weather is expected to remain dry over the next 10 days.

He said a couple of weak Western Disturbances may pass during this period, but rain or snowfall activity is unlikely for now.

According to him, pollution levels are expected to increase further in the coming days, while water levels may continue to drop. (KNO)

'He remains in

and social landscape.

Leaders and party workers assembled at Naseem Bagh, where floral tributes were offered amid emotional recollections and renewed pledges to carry forward Sheikh Abdullah's mission of peace, dignity and welfare.

Parties, senior leaders, as per the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), paid tributes. NC leader and MLA Zadibal constituency, Tanvir Sadiq, said Sher-e-Kashmir's service to Kashmir is unforgettable, and his work for education, healthcare and social upliftment continues to inspire generations.

"He remains in people's hearts, and on his birth anniversary, we offer Fatiha and inaugurate the Bab-ul-Salam and Bab-ul-Noor gates at Dargah," Sadiq said.

The MLA urged the Lieutenant Governor to take an early decision on the pending reservation file, saying the NC had already completed all formal steps when in government. "Whatever we were supposed to do as the government or as a political party, we did that. Now, we expect the LG to decide on the file that has been submitted," he said.

He called for complete metering of electricity consumption across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure transparency and enable the government to provide relief to households. "We want full metering so that the government can provide 200 units of electricity free to the people," he added.

The Health and Education Minister Sakeena Itoo termed Sheikh Abdullah's contribution as "immeasurable". "He built institutions like SKIMS, saved countless lives and worked with deep compassion for his people. His vision lives in every heart," she said.

Speaker Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather described "Sher-e-Kashmir" as "the tallest leader of the state who sacrificed his life for the welfare of people," adding that his contribution towards upliftment and empowerment will be remembered forever.

Member of Parliament (MP) Aga Ruhullah, in a post on X, wrote: "Today, as we commemorate the 120th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah sb, we are reminded not only of his towering political stature but also of his unwavering commitment to justice, dignity, and the rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir."

He wrote: "Sheikh Sahib and his colleagues symbolised political courage, resilience, and the collective aspirations of our people. Sheikh Abdullah sahab and devoted his life to challenging oppression and dismantling structures of exploitation. It is our responsibility to uphold these values and carry forward the mission he and his colleagues dedicated their lives to. Let this day renew our commitment to unity, justice, and democratic rights."

Notably, the event witnessed wide participation from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Dr Farooq Abdullah, CM's sons Zahir and Zamir Abdullah, Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and several senior leaders and MLAs, who reaffirmed their commitment to Sheikh Abdullah's vision of equality and people's empowerment. (KNO)

Sher-e-Kashmir's life

transformative politics, his emphasis on empowerment and social upliftment, and the deep imprint he left on the collective identity of Jammu and Kashmir. He was the father of NC President and former J&K Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and grandfather of current Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

At the mausoleum, the Chief Minister, accompanied by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Several Ministers, Speaker Legislative Assembly

Advocate Abdul Raheem Rather, Members of Legislative Assembly among others, offered floral tributes. Special prayers (Fateha) were also offered, seeking peace for the departed soul and reaffirming a collective pledge to uphold the values Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah championed.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that Sher-e-Kashmir's life and work remain a guiding force for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah envisioned a society built on dignity, equality and communal harmony, and his message continues to resonate across generations.

The Chief Minister added that Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah stood for self-reliance, justice and peace at a time when the subcontinent was marked by turbulence and division, and that his ideals would continue to inspire future generations.

A large number of people were present at Naseem Bagh to honour the legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and recall his monumental contributions to the political and social awakening of the region.

USBRL project

rail expansion in the region—including the 46-km Baramulla-Uri new line and the 118-km Banihal-Baramulla doubling—have been completed and Detailed Project Reports stand prepared.

Covering the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla, the USBRL project is among the most challenging railway projects undertaken post-independence, owing to the fragile Himalayan terrain.

The project includes the world's highest railway bridge—the Chenab Bridge in Reasi—which stands 359 metres above the riverbed with an arch span of 467 metres. It also features Indian Railways' first cable-stayed bridge over Anji Khad, with a deck 331 metres above the riverbed.

As part of its socio-economic impact, more than 215 km of approach roads, a tunnel, and over 320 small bridges were constructed, improving connectivity for local communities.

Following the commissioning of the valley section, four Vande Bharat services have been introduced between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar, in addition to DEMU/MEMU services operating on the Qazigund-Srinagar and Srinagar-Baramulla stretches.

The Ministry said further progress on new connectivity proposals will depend on consultations with stakeholders and clearances from bodies including NITI Aayog and the Finance Ministry. (KNO)

IndiGo breakdown

chaotic scenes, with long queues at refund counters and no clarity on rescheduling. "We were told to wait for hours without any confirmation. Some passengers have been promised refunds, others are still unsure," said a stranded passenger.

Officials at Jammu airport confirmed that 11 IndiGo flights were cancelled, while operations of other carriers remained largely unaffected.

According to reports the disruptions have

originated from IndiGo's internal compliance measures following new DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) safety directives, compounded by crew shortages, which have caused widespread operational turbulence nationwide, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials at both Srinagar and Jammu airports said that other airlines operated as per schedule, with minimal impact reported. (KNO)

J&K gets new

were processed by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) after evaluating proposals as per NMC's Minimum Standard Requirements, which include mandatory teaching hospital infrastructure, bed strength, diagnostic facilities, skill labs, hostels, libraries, and other academic components.

The ministry during the session further highlighted that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for establishing new medical colleges attached to district hospitals, Baramulla and Kupwara are among the J&K's aspirational districts that are eligible for priority consideration, while Rajouri falls under tribal district categorisation. (KNO)

Unscheduled power

goes off, his breathing gets laboured. We are living in constant fear," said Aashiq Ahmad, a resident of Pulwama.

He added that running the device on an inverter or generator is not always possible due to rising fuel and battery costs.

In Shopian, residents complained that despite assurances, the electricity supply is erratic and far from meeting winter requirements.

"We are not asking for 24x7 power. All we want is a fixed schedule so we can plan our day and manage the needs of elderly and sick family members," said Suhail Lone, a local shopkeeper.

Families with infants and elderly people said the outages during early mornings and late evenings—when temperatures drop sharply—are the hardest to deal with. Many households have shifted to firewood and gas heaters, adding to expenses and safety worries.

Several areas reported that the voltage drops sharply even when power is restored.

"Most of our appliances have either burnt or developed faults. Low voltage is as big a problem as the outage itself," said residents of Kulgam's Yaripora hamlet.

People urged the Power Development Department (PDD) to issue a clear and realistic load-shedding schedule and ensure it is followed on the ground.

"We aren't against curtailment, but the cuts should be announced and managed properly. The current situation is chaotic," said Shabnum Jan from Anantnag.

Local residents have appealed to the administration to intervene, especially to safeguard households with medical emergencies.

"If the government can't ensure uninterrupted power, at least they should provide scheduled supply so that oxygen-dependent patients won't suffer," said another resident.

Meanwhile, officials from the Power Department said they are aware of the issues but attributed the curtailments to an increased winter load and said that they are trying level best to provide scheduled supply. (KNO)

Apple, Google, Samsung resist India's plan for permanent location tracking on devices

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 05: India's government is reviewing a telecom industry proposal to force smartphone firms to enable satellite location tracking that is always activated for better surveillance, a move opposed by Apple, Google and Samsung due to privacy concerns, according to documents, emails and five sources.

A fierce privacy debate erupted in India this week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was forced to rescind an order requiring smartphone makers to preload a state-run cyber safety app on all devices after activists and politicians raised concerns about potential snooping.

For years, the Modi administration has been concerned its agencies do not get precise locations when legal requests are made to telecom firms during investigations. Under the current system, the firms are limited to using cellular tower data that can only provide an estimated area location, which can be off by several meters.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which represents Reliance's Jio and Bharti Airtel, has proposed that precise user locations should only be provided if the government orders smartphone makers to activate A-GPS technology - which uses satellite signals and cellular data - according to a June internal federal IT ministry email.

RBI trims policy interest rate by 25bps to 5.25%, loans to get cheaper



PTI

Mumbai, Dec 05: Shrugging off concerns over the depreciation of rupee, the RBI has cut interest rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent in a bid to further bolster economic growth, which rose to a six-quarter high of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year.

The development is expected to make advances, including housing, auto and commercial loans cheaper.

Announcing the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to cut the short-term lending rate or repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance.

The rate cut comes on the back of the consumer price index (CPI) based headline retail inflation ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last three months.

AdvertisementIndia's retail inflation dropped to a historic low of 0.25 per cent

in October 2025, marking the lowest level since the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series was introduced. Besides, the Indian economy has clocked better-than-expected GDP growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter. However, the rupee declined to historic low and crossed 90 against a dollar earlier this week making imports costlier, raising fears of rise in inflation. Rupee has depreciated by about 5 per cent so far this year.

The RBI has sharply raised growth projection to 7.3 per cent from earlier 6.8 per cent for the current financial year.

The central bank has been tasked by the government to ensure that CPI-based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Based on the recommendation of the MPC, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 bps each in February and April, and 50 basis points in June amidst easing retail inflation. The retail inflation is trending below 4 per cent since February this year. It eased to historic low in October, aided by an easing of food prices and favourable base effect.

Drop 'Lord' title for British rulers from textbooks, official records: BJP MP in RS

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 05: BJP leader Sujeeth Kumar on Friday urged the Centre to remove the title 'Lord' when referring to British Viceroy and Governor Generals in school textbooks, NCERT publications, government documents and official websites, saying the practice perpetuates a "colonial mindset" even 75 years after independence.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Kumar highlighted the widespread use of the title across educational and official materials. "I did a random check of all these websites, documents, and school textbooks, and this is what I found," he said.

The BJP MP pointed out that NCERT history textbooks for Classes 8 and 12 contain numerous references to Lord Curzon, Lord Mountbatten, Lord Dalhousie and Lord Leighton, among others.

Similarly, he claimed that official websites of the Ministry of Culture, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and even the Raj Bhavan, now renamed 'Lok Bhavan' of Bihar, continue to use the title for British colonial administrators.

"During British rule, the colonial rulers used and abused the power to give titles for their imperialistic designs and to promote this false narrative of racial superiority. This was a title given by the British to the British for the British needs," Kumar said.

He questioned why India should



continue placing British officials "on a demigod-like pedestal" by calling them Lords, especially when many committed "horrendous and barbaric crimes" against Indians, while the country's own freedom fighters are not accorded similar reverence.

"A vibrant democracy like ours, which also is the largest and oldest democracy on earth, should not continue this practice as it perpetuates a colonial mindset, goes against the spirit of social equality, and also goes against the letter and spirit of our own constitution," the BJP leader added.

Kumar drew parallels with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to rename Rajpath as Kartavya Path, describing it as more than ceremonial symbolism.

"This change reflects a shift from the colonial attitude to a more

duty-oriented name. It reflects a shift away from colonial symbols and towards civic responsibility, towards our national pride," he said.

The MP also referenced the Prime Minister's speech on the 76th Independence Day from the Red Fort, where Modi outlined the Panch Pran (five resolves) for the Amrit Kal -- the 25 years leading up to India's centenary of independence in 2047. The second resolve, Kumar noted, emphasizes liberating the nation from any trace of the "slavery mindset."

"In no part of our existence, not even in the deepest corners of our mind or habits, should there be any ounce of slavery. We have to liberate ourselves from the slavery mindset, which is visible in innumerable things within and around us," Kumar said.

Adults can be in live-in relationship even without attaining marriageable age: Rajasthan HC

PTI

Jaipur, Dec 05: The Rajasthan High Court has ruled that two consenting adults are entitled to be in a live-in relationship even if they have not yet reached the legal age for marriage, underscoring that constitutional rights cannot be curtailed on that ground.

Justice Anoop Dhand delivered the judgement while hearing a plea for protection filed by an 18-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man from Kota, who

told the court that they were living together out of free will.

The couple told the court that they had executed a live-in agreement on October 27, 2025.

The petitioners alleged that the woman's family opposed the relationship and had threatened to kill them, and that their complaint to the Kota police went unaddressed.

Opposing the petition, public prosecutor Vivek Choudhary argued that because the man had not attained 21 years -- the minimum legal age

for marriage for men -- he should not be permitted to be in a live-in arrangement.

The court dismissed the argument, saying the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution cannot be denied merely because the petitioners are not of marriageable age. "The state has a constitutional obligation to safeguard the life and liberty of every individual," the judge observed, adding that live-in relationships are not prohibited or criminalised under Indian law.

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AWANTIPORA

(COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION AWANTIPORA)

E-Mail Id: adc-awantipora@JK.gov.in

Phone/Fax: 01933 247047

Subject:- Notice under section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 for Acquisition of land measuring 05M & 01S required for construction of 1x15 mtr Span Plate Girder Bridge in estate Sheikh Mohalla Hariparigam Tehsil Awantipora

NOTICE

Whereas, the land specification of which are given below is required in village Sheikh Mohalla Hariparigam Tehsil Awantipora, District Pulwama for the construction of 1x15 mtr Span Plate Girder Bridge in estate Sheikh Mohalla Hariparigam Tehsil Awantipora.

S No	Khewat No.	Khata No.	Name land owner as per Jamabandi column of khana Milkiyat	Name of Tenant as per Jamabandi	Survey No.	Area with Type of Land as per Jamabandi			Name present Occupant as per Khasra Paimaish			Area taken up		
						K	M	S				K	M	S
	152	1856	Mohd Yousuf S/o Hassan, Mohd Maqbool Sb Qadir, Mehraj ud din S/o Mohd Maqbool, Mohd & Gula Ss/o Assad, Mst Fatima D/o Mohda, Gh Hassan, Gh Ahmad Ss/o Mohd Yousuf, Mst Hanifa W/o Qamar ud din, Zahoor Ah Ads/o Mohd Yaseen, Aijaz Ah son, Fancy, Sami Ds/o Ab Majeed Rs/o Hariparigam	Khud Kasht	1057	1	3	x	Nisar Ahmad, Mohd Shafi, Mohd Yaseen, Mehraj ud din Sons, Yasmeena, Shahzada Ds/o Mohammad Maqbool, Mst Fatima D/o Mehda Rs/o Hariparigam Tehsil Awantipora	x	5	1		

Whereas, the preliminary notification under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Re settlement Act 2013 was issued vide this office Notification No. 03 of 2025 dated 30/08/2025 for calling upon the objections if any from the interested persons/landowners. The same was got published in the official gazette on 25th September 2025 in Volume 138 and in the two daily newspapers viz. Mirror of Kashmir, Aftab, Nigabhan Dated 02/09/2025 and wide publicity was also made. During the stipulated period of time no objection was received by this Collectorate.

Whereas, the case was examined by the "appropriate Government" District Collector who after considering the report submitted by the Collectorate was satisfied that the land is required for public purpose. Whereas. the "Appropriate Government" District Collector has issued declaration under Section 19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Re settlement Act 2013 vide Notification No.07 of Rev/LA of 2025 Dated 02/12/2025 under endorsement No. DCP/LA/2025/476-83 Dated 02.12.2025, stating that land 05K & 01Sirsai under Khasra No.1057 situated in estate Sheikh Mohalla Hariparigam, Tehsil Awantipora is required for Public Purpose i.e. Of 1x15 mtr Span Plate Girder Bridge in estate Sheikh Mohalla Hariparigam Tehsil Awantipora and directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner/Collector Land Acquisition to proceed ahead.

Now, therefore, in terms of Section 21 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Re settlement Act 2013, notice is hereby given to the interested persons/landowners that the government intends to take possession of the land detailed particular of which are mentioned above and that the interested persons shall state the nature of their respective interests in the land and the amount and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests, their claims to rehabilitation and resettlement along with their objections, if any, to the measurement made under section 20, and to appear personally or by an agent or advocate before the Collector Land Acquisition (Additional Deputy Commissioner) Awantipora at Additional within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

No: ADC/Awp/LA/25/739-45
DATED: 04/12/2025

Mushtaq Ahmad Lone KAS
Additional Deputy Commissioner Collector Land Acquisition Awantipora
DIPK-8730/25
DATED: 05-12-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

E-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2025-26/75/3507-12
Date: 04-12-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item Percentage basis from Registered / reputed / experienced firms Registered with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments for the below mentioned repair works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	General Overhauling of Hot water Generator with allied works at CHC Beerwah Budgam for the year 2025-26.	1.76	200.00	3520/-	20 days

Note:-

- Project Authority: - Directorate of Hospitality and protocol, J&K.
- AAA: -Administrative Approval accorded by Directorate Health Services Kashmir vide No. 108/DHSC of 2025 Dated: - 03-12-2025
- Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/47 of 12/2025 Dated: - 04-12-2025.
- Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04-12-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 04-12-2025 to 15-12-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 04-12-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	15-12-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	16-12-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight*, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of equivalent to / in the range of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee of the value of the Contract from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./ Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note:-

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional Office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.
- A. Cover-II shall contain:
 - Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
 - The complete bidding process will be online.
 - The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
 - Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
 - Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar /blacklist such firm(s).
 - Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
 - Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
 - Bidders / Firms shall mandatorily disclose GST-linked Bank Account Number as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025; Dated: - 08.07.2025
 - The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

DIPK-8767/25

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-2025-26/75/3507-12

DATED: 05-12-2025

Dated: - 04-12-2025

New Trump strategy vows shift from global role to regional

AFP

Washington, Dec 05: President Donald Trump's administration said in a long-awaited new strategy document Friday that the United States will shift from its historic global role toward increasing dominance in Latin America and vigorously fighting migration.

The national security paper, meant to flesh out Trump's norms-shattering "America First" worldview, signals a sharp reorientation from longstanding US calls to refocus on Asia, although it still identifies China as a top competitor.

The strategy also brutally criticized allies in Europe and said that the United States will champion opponents to European Union-led values, including on immigration.

Breaking with decades of attempts to be the sole superpower, the strategy said that the "United States rejects the ill-fated concept of global domination for itself."

It said that the United States would also prevent other powers from dominating but added: "This does not mean wasting blood and treasure to curtail the influence of all the world's great and middle powers."

The strategy called for a "readjustment of our global military presence to address urgent threats in our Hemisphere, and away from theaters whose relative import to American national security has declined in recent decades or years."

The strategy speaks in bold terms of pressing US dominance in Latin America, where the Trump administration has been striking alleged drug traffickers at sea, intervening



to bring down leftist leaders including in Venezuela, and loudly seeking to take charge of key resources such as the Panama Canal.

The strategy cast Trump as modernizing the two-century-old Monroe Doctrine, in which the then young United States declared Latin America off-limits to rival powers, then from Europe.

"We will assert and enforce a 'Trump Corollary' to the Monroe Doctrine," it said.

- Championing Europe 'resistance' - Trump has sharply reversed many longstanding US principles since returning to office in January.

He rose to political prominence demanding sweeping curbs on immigration to the United States, fanning fears that the white majority was losing its status, and since taking office has ordered drastic and high-profile raids to deport undocumented people. "The era of mass

migration must end. Border security is the primary element of national security," the strategy said.

The strategy made clear that the United States under Trump would aggressively pursue similar objectives in Europe, in line with far-right parties that have made strong gains in much of the continent.

In extraordinary language in speaking of close allies, the strategy said: "Cultivating resistance to Europe's current trajectory within European nations."

Germany quickly hit back, saying that it does not need "outside advice." The strategy pointed to Europe's lower share of the global economy — which is the result largely of the rise of China and other emerging powers — and said: "This economic decline is eclipsed by the real and more stark prospect of civilizational erasure."

"Should present trends continue,

the continent will be unrecognizable in 20 years or less."

As Trump seeks an end to the Ukraine war that would likely favor Russia gaining territory, the strategy accused Europeans of weakness and said the United States should focus on "ending the perception, and preventing the reality, of NATO as a perpetually expanding alliance."

- Less on Middle East and Africa - The strategy paid comparatively little attention to the Middle East, which has long consumed Washington.

Pointing to US efforts to increase energy supply at home and not in the oil-rich Gulf, the strategy said: "America's historic reason for focusing on the Middle East will recede."

The paper said it was a US priority for Israel to be secure, but stopped short of the fulsome language on Israel used even in the first Trump administration. On China, the strategy repeated calls for a "free and open" Asia-Pacific region but focused more on the nation as an economic competitor.

After much speculation on whether Trump would budge on Taiwan, the self-ruling democracy claimed by Beijing, the strategy made clear that the United States supports the decades-old status quo, but called on allies Japan and South Korea to contribute more to ensure Taiwan's defense from China.

The strategy predictably puts little focus on Africa, saying the United States should transition away from "liberal ideology" and an "aid-focused relationship" and emphasize goals such as securing critical minerals.

Lebanon urges UNSC delegation to press Israel to respect ceasefire

AFP

Beirut, Dec 05: Lebanese President Joseph Aoun urged a United Nations Security Council delegation on Friday to pressure Israel to respect a year-old ceasefire and to support his army's efforts to disarm Hezbollah.

Despite a November 2024 ceasefire that was supposed to end more than a year of hostilities between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group, Israel has kept up strikes on Lebanon and has also maintained troops in five south Lebanon areas it deems strategic.

Aoun "stressed the need to pressure the Israeli side to implement the ceasefire and withdraw, and expressed his hope for pressure from the delegation," according to a statement from the presidency.

He also noted "Lebanon's commitment to implementing international resolutions" and asked the envoys to support the Lebanese army's efforts to disarm non-government groups. The Lebanese government ordered its military to fully disarm Hezbollah in August, and the army expects to complete the first phase of its



plan by the end of the year.

The UN delegation visited Damascus on Thursday and after its meeting with Aoun was due to inspect the border area in southern Lebanon on Saturday, accompanied by US envoy Morgan Ortogus.

The visit comes as Lebanese and Israeli civilian representatives held their first direct talks in decades.

On Thursday, Information Minister Paul Morcos quoted Aoun calling the initial negotiations "positive" and stressing "the need for the language of negotiation — not the language of war — to prevail." That same day, Israel struck four southern Lebanese towns, saying it was targeting Hezbollah infrastructure including weapons depots to stop the

group from rearming.

UN peacekeepers called the strikes "clear violations of Security Council resolution 1701," which ended the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel. The peacekeepers also said their vehicles were fired on by six men on three mopeds near Bint Jbeil on Thursday. There were no injuries in the incident.

"Attacks on peacekeepers are unacceptable and serious violations of resolution 1701," the international force added. Hezbollah refuses to disarm but has not responded to Israeli attacks since the ceasefire. It has, however, promised a response to the killing of its military chief in a strike on Beirut's southern suburbs last month.

Ashes 2025-26: Australia races clear of England to seize control of second Test

AFP

Brisbane, Dec 05: A relentless Australia seized a 44-run lead over England in the day-night second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Friday, with aggressive opener Jake Weatherald and Steve Smith leading the charge.

By stumps the hosts had not only reeled in England's first-innings 334 but raced clear, ending a draining day two on 378-6 in front of a big and boisterous crowd at a humid Gabba.

A decent lead is shaping as crucial, with the pitch likely to deteriorate in the coming days.

"That was a crucial last hour there for us. To get to the end of play six down



gives us a bit of time in the morning in that day session," said Marnus Labuschagne, who cracked 65.

At stumps, Alex Carey, who was dropped first ball and again on 25, was not out on 46 with Michael Neser on

15, but England's pace cartel made in-roads under lights in the evening session.

Australia was cruising at 291-3 before the expensive Brydon Carse removed Cameron Green (45) and Smith (61) in four deliveries to

rekindle hope as England's short-ball tactics paid off.

The bowlers, though, lacked consistency and were guilty of too many loose deliveries with Australia plundering 51 boundaries, while four easy catches were put down.

Weatherald, in only his second Test, slammed 12 fours and a six in a punchy knock before being trapped lbw by Jofra Archer with an angled yorker.

Labuschagne -- Australia's form batsman with a slew of centuries in domestic cricket -- was similarly assured as the shadows moved over the ground.

But as he looked destined for another ton, England captain Ben Stokes got the

crucial breakthrough with a nick to wicketkeeper Jamie Smith.

"Obviously the boys played well," said Labuschagne. "We probably let them in a little bit there through that middle session, but it's a nice day."

Smith, wearing black adhesive anti-glare strips under his eyes to help with the Gabba lights was the big wicket.

Once he got in, the veteran skipper appeared immovable, but Carse tempted him into a hook shot that Will Jacks caught spectacularly at backward square leg.

Travis Head, Australia's wrecking-ball hero in the first Test win at Perth, fell before tea for 33.

Messi vs Muller — Two FIFA World Cup winners lock horns in MLS Cup final

REUTERS

Mexico City, Dec 05: Inter Miami and the Vancouver Whitecaps step into an unprecedented Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup final on Saturday, each chasing its first Philip F. Anschutz trophy in a spectacle fuelled by the renewed rivalry between Lionel Messi and Thomas Muller.

With ticket prices at record highs, the free global broadcast will reach more than 100 countries, while the MLS is rolling out its most ambitious production yet for a final featuring two of Europe's stars. At 38, Messi produced the season Inter Miami had hoped for when it brought the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner to Florida, with him steering the club to its first MLS Cup final and setting an all-time assist record of 405 along the way. The Argentine captain had 29 goals and 19 assists in the regular campaign, plus six goals and seven assists in the postseason.

Longtime Bayern Munich talisman Muller, who arrived in Vancouver in August, was instrumental in driving the campaign of the CONCACAF Champions Cup runner-up, delivering seven goals and three assists across seven regular-season matches.

The head-to-head between the two veterans tilts the contest towards the German, with him



winning seven of their 10 meetings, including two Bayern thrashings of Barcelona in the Champions League in 2013 and 2020 and Argentina's painful defeat in the 2014 World Cup final. "Perhaps they rely on him a little more than this team relies on me," the 36-year-old Muller said of Messi and Inter Miami after Vancouver beat San Diego in the Western Conference final. "This is a final I wanted. The good thing is not only playing against the best player who has ever played our sport and who continues to do so, but I think when you have a match like this, more people see you. "If you play with these great players and names, then it's a little more exciting for more people around

the world. It's a perfect situation for everyone involved."

As Muller suggested, the match-up's profile has lifted the entire event, driving record demand and the most ambitious broadcast MLS has ever assembled. According to marketplace TickPick, this year's final is the most expensive MLS Cup on record, with an average ticket purchase price of USD 565, surpassing the previous USD 501 high from 2022.

MLS and Apple have matched that demand with their largest production ever, promising "the most immersive broadcast yet" with more than 30 cameras, drones, robotic goal units, referee cams and isolated feeds on players and coaches around Chase Stadium.

Saturday, 6th December

MOVIES

SCHEDULE

DHURANDHAR (A)
HINDI ATMOS - 01:15 PM, 05:30 PM
HINDI - 10:05 AM, 11:15 AM, 02:20 PM, 06:35 PM

TERE ISHK MEIN (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 10:00 AM, 03:25 PM, 06:45 PM

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