



Terrorism, drug mafia will always remain under our 'gun sight': DGP Prabhat

» Vows to end anti-national, anti-social activities

» Says JKP runs 10 drug de-addiction centres, 3000 treated this year

Yogesh

Kathua, Dec 22: Maintaining that Jammu and Kashmir Police are keeping a close watch on terrorism and all other forms of crime, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, on Monday said that force is committed to end anti-national and anti-social activities in the Union Territory.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 14th police martyrs memorial T20



cricket tournament 2025-2026 in Kathua, the DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that whether it is drugs, gangsters, mafia or any other kind of crime—especially terrorism—everything will remain in the sight of the police gun, adding that the constant aim and objective of the force is to

stamp out all such anti-national and anti-social activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said sporting events are being organised in the name of 1,620 brave martyrs and that, in recognition of such bravery, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has so far received one Ashok Chakra, seven Kirti Chakras, 33 Shaurya Chakras, 1,866

gallantry medals and 2,347 other awards.

"We always stand firmly with the families of our martyrs. Through our welfare fund, we provide them with financial assistance to the best of our ability," the DGP said.

He said Special Police Officers (SPOs) are also provided ex-gratia assistance, adding that an amount of Rs 1 lakh is given for the marriage of daughters of martyrs and that all expenses for children's education up to Class 12 are waived.

DGP Prabhat said that under the annual sports calendar, the Martyrs Memorial Football Tournament has already been held in Srinagar, while the Martyrs Memorial Cricket Tournament is currently underway in Kathua.

He said that a cricket tournament in memory of Shaheed Aman is | [More on P6](#)

Cabinet okays proposals for 5-marla plots to flood-hit, salary hike for VLWs

KNO Special Correspondent

Jammu, Dec 22: The Cabinet on Monday gave its nod to the policy for allotment for five marlas of land to people affected by floods and enhancement in salary for Village Level Workers (VLWs), sources said.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and was attended by all ministers, cleared several proposals submitted by different departments.

They said the cabinet gave its go-ahead to the proposal for allotment for five marlas of land to people affected by cloudbursts and floods earlier this year.

"It also cleared the



proposal to designate District Panchayat Officers (DPOs) in Assistant Commissioner Panchayat offices as Block Development Officers (BDOs)," they said.

According to sources, the Cabinet further approved the proposal to enhance the salary of Village Level Workers (VLWs) / Multipurpose Workers (MPWs) from

Level-2 to Level-4.

Besides, it gave its nod to a capital infusion of Rs 118 crore in the Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank and Jammu Central Cooperative Bank to improve their financial health.

The proposals cleared by the Cabinet will now go to Lieutenant Governor for approval. (KNO)

Snowfall spurs surge in railway travel across J&K

■ Officials say Vande Bharat running at full capacity

■ Dr Farooq praises rail connectivity

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Dec 22: Inclement weather in Jammu and Kashmir has prompted a surge in passengers at railway stations, with many preferring train travel between Jammu and Srinagar over road transport, officials said on Monday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the recent snowfall in the valley led to a surge of local passengers

and tourists, putting additional pressure on railway services. He said the railways have made arrangements to manage passengers amid ongoing snowfall and rainfall across the region, which has disrupted road traffic.

Two Vandai Bharat trains are currently running between Srinagar and Katra in both directions, the official said, adding, "If passenger rush increases in the coming days, we will write to higher authorities for additional trains."

He said the Katra-Srinagar rail service is operating at full capacity to accommodate travellers affected by disrupted road movement.

Tourists also praised the railway service, saying it made their travel | [More on P6](#)

Rain, snow ease chill; weather to stay cloudy in J&K

■ Wet weather improved air quality

■ Further precipitation expected

■ Partly cloudy conditions forecast till Dec 29

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Dec 22: Cold conditions across Jammu and Kashmir showed some improvement on Monday following fresh snowfall in higher reaches and rainfall in the plains, which affected large parts of the region, even as the



Photo: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Meteorological Department has forecast further precipitation during the next 12 hours.

Popular hill stations and tourist destinations, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg and

Pahalgam, received fresh snowfall ranging between about five and 18 inches, as per reports obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). | [More on P6](#)

DIPR condoles demise of Abdul Ahad Farhad

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Dec 24: Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari on Monday expressed deep sorrow and profound grief over the demise of Abdul Ahad Farhad, a renowned poet, writer and noted broadcaster, terming his passing as an irreparable loss to the literary and cultural heritage of Kashmir.

In this connection, a condolence meeting was held at the office of the Joint Director Information Kashmir, which was attended by officers and officials of the department.

The participants recalled the invaluable contributions of the late Abdul Ahad Farhad to Kashmiri literature and culture and paid rich tributes to his enduring literary legacy. They also remembered his famous and gentle voice, | [More on P6](#)

Aru Valley's Aamina dreams of cricket stardom

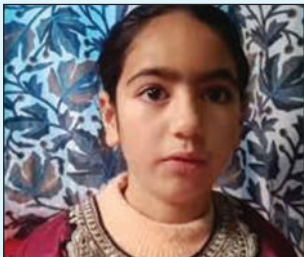
Cricketer Smriti Mandhana says 'I'm cheering for you'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Dec 22: In the serene meadows of Aru Valley in Pahalgam, where snow-clad peaks meet gurgling mountain streams, a small girl's big dream has struck a chord across the country.

According to the details collected by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Aamina, a 3rd standard girl from the picturesque hamlet of Aru Valley in South Kashmir, dreams of becoming a cricketer one day—and her inspiration is none other than Indian women's cricket star Smriti Mandhana.

The heartwarming moment



came to light after renowned film director Kabir Khan shared a post on social media, capturing the innocence, hope and raw passion for cricket that thrives even in Kashmir's remote corners.

"Walking with my camera in Kashmir always rewards me with | [More on P6](#)

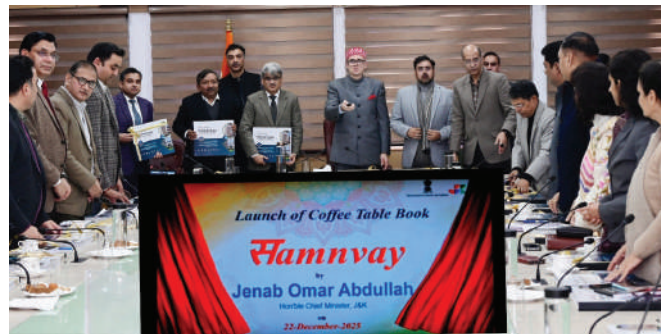
CM Omar releases coffee-table book 'Samnvay'

Publication chronicles J&K's digital transformation

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday released a coffee-table book titled 'Samnvay', which showcases the digital transformative journey of Jammu and Kashmir and documents the key projects and technological contributions of the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) in J&K.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Science & Technology and Information Technology Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department Shantmanu; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta;



Commissioner Secretary GAD/ Information M. Raju; Secretary IT Piyush Singla; Special Director BISAG-N; Secretary School Education; CEO JKeGA, and other senior officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister lauded BISAG-N for crafting practical, innovative solutions to complex governance challenges in Jammu

and Kashmir, noting that many of these solutions have relevance beyond J&K. He said J&K's unique geography and climatic conditions necessitate a strong push towards digitisation, as technology enables uniform delivery of public services irrespective of location.

"Digitising governance and services ensures that people of

Jammu and Kashmir receive the same quality of service, whether they live or work in remote areas or urban centres," the Chief Minister observed.

Calling Samnvay a comprehensive snapshot of this cooperation, the Chief Minister said the publication offers an overview of how technology-driven interventions have supported administrative efficiency and service delivery.

Thanking the Director General of BISAG-N and his entire team for their sustained efforts, CM Omar Abdullah expressed hope that Samnvay would be the first of many such publications documenting future projects and milestones, as the Government of Jammu and Kashmir continues to leverage technology for better governance in the | [More on P6](#)

Year-Enders 2025

■ 15,319 pilgrims assisted during Amarnath Yatra

■ Operations include 33 fire, 14 snow rescues

■ 746 awareness progs organised

■ Officers honoured with DGP's Golden Disc & NDRF DG Commendation awards

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Dec 22: Jammu and Kashmir's State Disaster

SDRF conducts 110 rescue operations, trains 55,955 people across Kashmir



Response Force (SDRF) recorded a year of steady preparedness and field activity in 2025, carrying out more than 110 rescue operations, organising 768

awareness programmes and training 55,955 citizens across Kashmir Valley.

Data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO) reveals that SDRF personnel were deployed for multiple emergencies, including fires, snow rescues and flood responses, while also assisting over 15,000 pilgrims during this year's Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY).

According to officials, the force responded to 14 fire incidents, one landslide, lives rescued 05, besides providing large-scale assistance to pilgrims during SANJY in August.

Monthly operational breakdown (Jan–Nov 2025)

January: 5 rescue operations, 67 awareness | [More on P6](#)

J&K gears up for year-long mega youth engagement program

CS dedicates exclusive portal for UT-wide activities

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 22: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday launched a dedicated portal for the implementation of a Mega Youth Engagement Programme across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The launch took place in the presence of several Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and senior officers.

The programme will be steered by the Planning, Development & Monitoring



Department (PD&MD) in coordination with multiple line departments to ensure large-scale, structured and

meaningful engagement of youth across J&K.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for comprehensive, well-planned and youth-centric activities to channelize the energy, creativity and talent of young people in a productive direction.

He impressed upon departments such as Youth Services & Sports, Culture, Skill Development, School Education, Higher Education and DIPR to design a wide range of activities | [More on P6](#)

Deputy CM meets delegations in Jammu, assures prompt redress of public grievances

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Monday asserted on ensuring amicable redress of public grievances and seamless delivery of services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, while interacting with various public delegations at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, assured them that all their issues and concerns would be looked into for speedy redress at the appropriate forum.

He instructed the officers to address the public issues on priority while ensuring prompt service delivery at people's doorstep.

During the interaction, the Deputy Chief Minister met the delegations from different districts of J&K, including students, job aspirants,



aspiring entrepreneurs, representatives of business associations, civil society organisations and scores of individuals. The delegations apprised him of their concerns,

demands and other pressing issues.

He reiterated the need for timely service delivery and maximum coverage of beneficiaries under various welfare and

developmental schemes of the government. He emphasised on ensuring timely completion and quality work execution of developmental activities undertaken across J&K.

SMC Commissioner reviews EESL street-light project

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Monday chaired a high-level review meeting with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to assess the status and performance of street-lighting and other energy efficiency initiatives being implemented across the city.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, detailed discussions were held on the functioning of energy-efficient LED street lights, with particular emphasis on improving illumination levels, reducing power consumption, and ensuring uninterrupted lighting in residential areas, commercial hubs, and major traffic corridors. The Commissioner underscored that efficient street lighting is a critical civic service, directly contributing to public safety, pedestrian comfort, night-time mobility, and overall urban aesthetics.

Reviewing project milestones, the Commissioner stressed the need for strict adherence to quality standards, timely completion of pending works, and robust maintenance mechanisms. He highlighted that prompt repair and replacement of faulty street lights, especially in densely populated and vulnerable areas, must remain a top priority to ensure public convenience and safety. Challenges related



to maintenance, fault reporting, and response time were examined in detail. The Commissioner directed EESL to further strengthen on-ground monitoring and ensure that the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) is implemented effectively, with clear accountability of vendors. The importance of coordinated action between SMC field wings and EESL teams was also emphasized to enable faster resolution of issues.

The meeting also discussed the future roadmap for expanding energy-efficient street lighting, including

the adoption of smart lighting systems, centralized monitoring, and advanced technologies aimed at improving operational efficiency and reducing long-term costs.

It was decided that EESL will submit a detailed progress report along with revised timelines, while SMC will enhance inter-departmental coordination to expedite clearances and facilitate smooth implementation. Joint inspection teams will conduct regular field verifications to ensure optimal performance of installations.

DC Budgam reviews banking performance, calls for faster credit flow

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 22: The 93rd District Level Review Committee cum District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) meeting of District Budgam was held Monday at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting, as per an official statement, undertook a comprehensive review of the performance of banks in the district with regard to deposits, advances and overall credit delivery as on 30 September 2025, including a year-on-year comparison.

The Lead District Manager, Mohammad Muzaffar, presented a detailed overview of the district's banking performance.

It was informed that during the second quarter of FY 2025-26, substantial progress has been achieved under Priority Sector Lending (PSL), reflecting focused efforts towards inclusive credit flow. Against an annual priority sector lending target of Rs. 2263.6 crore, banks have so far achieved Rs.1168 crore, registering an overall achievement of 51.65 percent.

The meeting was further informed that total deposits in Budgam district increased from Rs.5050.13 crore as on 30 September 2024 to Rs. 5138.11 crore as on 30 September 2025,

registering a growth of Rs.87.98 crore (1.74%).

Similarly, total advances rose from Rs.5346.98 crore to Rs.5467.82 crore, reflecting an increase of Rs.120.84 crore (2.25%). The overall Credit Deposit (CD) ratio of the district stood at around 106 percent, indicating a robust and healthy flow of credit. At present, 11 banks are operating in Budgam through a network of 101 branches.

Senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) participated in the meeting through video conferencing and provided valuable guidance on strengthening banking performance, improving credit outreach and enhancing financial inclusion.

Representatives of major banks including J&K Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, J&K Grameen Bank, J&K State Cooperative Bank, Canara Bank, Axis Bank and UCO Bank actively participated in the deliberations.

Officers from various line departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture, KVIB, District Industries Centre (DIC), Employment, NRLM, Handicrafts and Handloom also attended the meeting and reviewed progress under various government-sponsored schemes including Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry sectors.

DC Budgam visits Sheikhpura Pandit Colony

Inspects development works of area

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Monday visited Pandit Colony, Sheikhpura budgam. Various issues related to essential services were raised by members of pandit colony sheikhpura, the DC gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the Pandit community.

Interacting with the members of Sheikhpura Transit-Camp Welfare Committee, the DC, as per an official statement, was apprised of various civic, safety and infrastructure-related concerns including repair and replacement of damaged trench manholes and covers, augmentation of street lighting with new low tension electric lines, construction of a proper drainage system to address water logging, repair and resurfacing of internal roads, landscaping and beautification of the colony, and installation of covered metal dustbins for improved sanitation.

The DC on-spot, redressed some of the grievances and assured the residents that all genuine issues raised would be addressed on priority.

Baramulla DLCC reviews COTPA implementation

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 22: A quarterly review meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) on the implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa.

During the meeting, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), as per an official statement, Baramulla apprised the chair of the achievements recorded under the Tobacco Youth Campaign. It was informed that extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities were conducted across the district, training was imparted to field staff, and sustained

enforcement drives were carried out. As a result, 227 challans were issued for violations of COTPA provisions.

It was further informed that the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Baramulla has achieved nearly 70 percent compliance of educational institutions under the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) norms, reflecting significant progress in safeguarding students from exposure to tobacco.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the coordinated efforts of all stakeholder departments and stressed the need for continued inter-departmental convergence, effective enforcement, and community participation to further strengthen tobacco control initiatives across the district.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR NEAR J&K BANK, (ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: to-exenmidrsrinagar@jk.gov.in

Gist of Short-Term e-NIT No. 33 OF 2025-26, Dated: -20-12-2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e- tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for:-

S No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost	EMD Amount	50 % Exemption Allowed for SSI/MSE	Completion Period	Class/ Registration Type (Qualification criteria)
1	Repairs to rotor of 425 HP capacity, 3 phase, vertical induction motor of pumping unit no. 02 at Lift Irrigation Scheme Lethpora Stage-1st.	100.00	Rs.45820.00	916.00	Yes	14 Days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ other firms having relevant experience.

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender Document fee, EMD in the form of CDR/FDR,

Pre-qualification. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ. The critical dates are as tabulated below: -

i	Publish Date	20-12-2025 at 1600 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	20-12-2025 from 1600 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N.A
iv	Bid submission start date	20-12-2025 from 1600 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N.A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	27-12-2025 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	29-12-2025 at 1230 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date / time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Budgetary Provisions
Position of AAA	Accorded under order No. 10-MCO OF 2025-26 Dated: -08-05-2025
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No. 115 of 2025-26 Dated: 10-12-2025

No. MIDS/Ts/4545-50
Dated: -20-12-2025

DIPK-9217/25
DATED:22-12-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Srinagar

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

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

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1ST OF RE-TENDER CORRIGENDUM 1ST.

Subject: Construction of Machine Drilled Hand Pump Operated Bore Well at Ajas Bandipora Near House Of Zahoor Ahmad and Tariq habib and Others in District Bandipora. (Sl. No. 18) Tender ID 2025_PHE_286817_19.

Reference: 1. This office Re-Tender Corrigendum 1st issued vide endorsement No: JS- PHE GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 15803-12, dated: 11-12-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286817_18.
2. This office e-NIT No. 41-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 6291-6304, dated: 02-09-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. No. 2025_PHE_286817_18.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 19-12-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S. No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	30-12-2025 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	31-12-2025 01.00 PM

NOTE:

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

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

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./16212-222
Dated: 19-12-2025

DIPK-9232/25
DATED: 22-12-2022

KASHMIR
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AT ALL LEADING
STALLS

Snowfall mesmerises tourists in Gulmarg

WARIS FAYAZ

Gulmarg, Dec 22: The season's first major snowfall has transformed the famous ski resort of Gulmarg into a pristine winter paradise, rekindling the Valley's tourism spirit and winning the hearts of visitors from across the country.

Tourists, delighted by the snowfall and Kashmiri hospitality, have called on people nationwide to visit the region and experience its real charm and warmth.

A group of tourists from Assam, who were among the many to witness the first flakes said that they were overwhelmed by the experience. "It's like heaven here. The beauty, the peace and the warmth of people – everything is beyond imagination. We want everyone to come and see the



real Kashmir, not the one shown on social media," they said, describing the Valley as completely safe and welcoming.

For first-time visitors, the snowfall turned into a memory of a lifetime. "It's great to be here in Gulmarg. The arrangements, hospitality and security are excellent. People are very caring and respectful; it truly feels like home," said a tourist from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, who lauded local hoteliers and guides for their courteous service.

Others who revisited the Valley after years said they were amazed by the change in atmosphere. "I came back after two decades, and I'm really impressed. We went to Lal Chowk in Srinagar yesterday; everything was peaceful and vibrant. There's no fear; only beauty and

development," said another visitor. Tourism stakeholders, equally relieved by the snowfall, expressed optimism about the season ahead. "We were eagerly waiting for this snow, and Alhamdulillah it's finally here," said Tufail Ahmad, a local guide in Gulmarg. "This snow is a blessing. It will give a huge push to the tourism sector and skiing activities. We're hopeful for more in the coming days."

It is noteworthy that after several weeks of dry weather, nearly 10 inches of snow blanketed Gulmarg's meadows overnight, turning it into a picture-perfect destination. The snowfall ended a prolonged dry spell that had raised concern among tourism stakeholders and adventure operators ahead of the winter season—(KNO)

Inclement weather disrupts traffic, airways

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Dec 22: Fresh snowfall and rain in the Kashmir on Monday disrupted air and vehicular movement, while traffic on the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained slow due to single-lane movement at several stretches.

The cold conditions across J&K eased slightly following fresh snowfall in higher reaches and rainfall in the plains, even as the Meteorological Department forecast further precipitation over the next 12 hours.

The Traffic Police said movement on the National Highway has been regulated from 4 pm on December 22 and will continue till 4 pm on December 23 due to the breakdown of two heavy motor vehicles.

TRAVEL ONLY AFTER CONFIRMING HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

In view of inclement



weather and a forecast of snowfall and rainfall over the next few days, commuters have been advised to travel only after confirming road conditions through official channels.

Passenger light motor vehicles were advised to prefer daytime travel on the Jammu–Srinagar axis, while heavy motor vehicles were asked to avoid night travel

due to congestion between the Nashri tunnel and NAV-YUG tunnel.

"Subject to fair weather and improved road conditions, two-way traffic of light vehicles and regulated movement of heavy vehicles was planned on NH-44 in coordination with the Traffic Control Unit Ramban," the officials added. Meanwhile, the Kisht-

war–Sinthan–Anantnag road, Srinagar–Sonamarg–Gumri road and Mughal Road were closed for vehicular movement due to snow accumulation, while security forces convoy movement was allowed after clearance from traffic authorities.

The Gurez–Bandipora road was also closed following snowfall, while several interior roads in north Kashmir were cut off due to snow accumulation, even as the administration initiated snow clearance operations.

Travellers were urged to follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion.

2 FLIGHTS CANCELLED
IndiGo and SpiceJet airlines had to cancel two flights from Srinagar airport due to low visibility. In a post on X, the airport said, "Passengers are advised to check their flight status with the respective airline for the latest updates and alternate arrangements."—(KNO)

Over 6,500 cat bite cases reported at SMHS

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Dec 22: Kashmir is witnessing a sharp and worrying rise in cat bite cases, with over 6,500 incidents reported at the Anti Rabies Clinic (ARC), SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, this year so far, highlighting serious gaps in pet care, vaccination, and awareness among cat owners.

Official data reveal that over 6500 cat bite cases were reported at ARC SMHS this year, and cat bite cases are more than dog bite cases reported at ARC.

An official at ARC SMHS told KNO that the surge is largely attributed to the increasing trend of keeping cats as pets, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, without following basic animal healthcare norms.

"Cats do transmit rabies, similar to dogs, but unfortunately, many owners believe cats are harmless and do not require vaccination. We are seeing a consistent rise in cat exposure cases. Now more than half of the animal bite cases



reaching our clinic are due to cats," the official said.

He added that many pet owners fail to vaccinate, deworm, or provide timely medical care to their cats, which significantly increases the risk of zoonotic diseases—illnesses that can spread from animals to humans.

The official said that pet ownership in Kashmir has increased steadily over the past few years, with cats becoming popular companion animals. Unlike livestock that provide economic returns,

pets are kept for companionship and emotional support, making responsible ownership crucial, he added.

"Anyone who intends to keep a pet must be mentally and financially prepared to meet its needs—proper feeding, shelter, healthcare, and behavioural management. There is no point in bringing an animal home if due care is not ensured," the official said.

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Surprise security checks held across Srinagar

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Dec 22: In a surprise operation, Srinagar Police, assisted by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, intensified security checks across multiple areas of the city on Monday.

An official said that joint teams conducted coordinated frisking drives and vehicle inspections at several busy locations. The operation brought shops, commercial complexes and vehicles under close scrutiny as part of heightened surveillance measures. "The exercise was aimed at maintaining vigilance and ensuring overall public safety," he added.

"The coordinated exercise, a preventive security measure, covered several zones including Magarmal Bagh, Maharaj Bazar, Hari Singh High Street, Sarai Bala, Old Secretariat, Tankipora and

Jehangir Chowk," the official said, adding, "Moreover, teams from Shaheed Gunj, Shergarhi Police Station set up joint checkpoints to inspect vehicles, scanning passenger compartments, and verifying documents.

Parallel checks were also carried out around business establishments and other high pedestrian-footfall areas. Commuters and traders reported increased movement of uniformed personnel through market corridors, with random bag and identity checks being conducted.

According to officials, the operation was part of a broader grid review across central Srinagar, aimed at strengthening the visibility and response readiness of ground units. Similar checks are likely to continue in the coming days depending on the security assessment of different zones—(KNO)

AIMSA seeks PM Modi's help for students stranded in Bangladesh

KNO

Srinagar, Dec 22: Amid growing concerns over security and well-being of Indian students in Bangladesh, the All India Medical Students' Association (AIMSA) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his immediate and urgent intervention to ensure their safety and protection.

In its letter to the Prime Minister, AIMSA has expressed deep concern over what it described as "grave and distressing" conditions being faced by Indian students pursuing education in Bangladesh.

The association said it has been receiving alarming messages from students as well as their families in India, highlighting an atmosphere of fear, uncertainty and emotional distress.

The medical students' body emphasized that thousands of Indian students opt to study medicine abroad with implicit trust in the Government of India, believing that the nation will stand firmly by them in times

of crisis. AIMSA noted that the current situation demands swift diplomatic engagement and decisive protective measures to restore confidence and ensure their safety.

"Indian medical students pursue education overseas with deep trust in the Government of India. In moments like these, timely intervention becomes not just necessary but morally imperative," the letter reads.

The AIMSA has urged the Prime Minister's Office, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and the concerned Indian missions, to take immediate steps on a priority basis. Specifically, the association has requested the government to ensure the physical safety and protection of all Indian medical students stranded in Bangladesh, strengthen on-ground support through the Indian Embassy and related missions, and establish clear, timely and transparent communication channels with students and their families.

The association stressed that lack of clear information has further aggravated anxiety among parents, many of whom are deeply worried about the safety of their children in a foreign country.

"Given the gravity and urgency of the situation, we humbly request that this matter be taken up on a top-priority and emergency basis," the AIMSA said, adding that continuous communication and visible support from Indian authorities would go a long way in reassuring the affected students.

AIMSA vice President Dr Momin Ahmad Khan exuded hope that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, prompt and compassionate action will be taken to safeguard the lives, dignity and future of Indian medical students abroad.

The issue has once again brought into focus the vulnerabilities faced by Indian students studying overseas and the need for robust crisis-response mechanisms to ensure their safety during uncertain times—(KNO)

Police organizes de-addiction awareness seminar



KNO

Srinagar, Dec 22: J&K Police in Srinagar have organised a Drug de-addiction awareness (Seminar & Play) under Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-2026 at Govt. Higher Secondary School Mujgund, Srinagar.

The programme was attended by SP City West Srinagar Imtiaz Ahmed-JKPS, SDPO West Bemina Majid Mehboob-JKPS, SHO Police Station Shalteng/ Parimpora and Incharge Police Post Qamarwari. Around 300 students from GHSS Mujgund and other nearby schools participated enthusiastically in the event.

The Principal of GHSS Mujgund, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad, Advocate Javid Iqbal, Molvi Suhail Ahmad, and local residents of the Mujgund area were also present on

the occasion. They addressed the gathering and appreciated the efforts of the participants while highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-free society. They have appreciated all the winners/ participants in the said event. Apart from above, the prizes of cash reward of Rs. 9000/-, Certificates/ Momentous were awarded to the best performers and other participants to encourage and motivate the youth.

J&K Police reiterated its commitment to engaging with students and the community to create awareness about social evils and to promote a healthy, drug-free society through proactive initiatives under the Civic Action Programme—(KNO)

MVD intensifies traffic enforcement drive

419 licences revoked, 469 suspended in last 3 weeks

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Dec 22: In pursuance to the directions of the Secretary to Government Transport Department Jammu & Kashmir, the Motor Vehicles Department (Enforcement Wing) has launched a special traffic enforcement drive across the Union Territory to curb traffic violations and enhance road safety.

The drive, being conducted in line with the decisions of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee on Traffic Management System in Jammu and Srinagar, focuses particularly on habitual offenders and

serious traffic violators. Enforcement teams have intensified checking at strategic locations and are taking strict action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy towards traffic violations, the Transport Department stated that such special enforcement drives will continue in the larger interest of public safety. Citizens have been urged to strictly follow traffic rules and cooperate with enforcement agencies to make roads safer.

During the last three weeks of December 2025, a large number of

violators were booked for offences including over-speeding, wrong-side driving, overloading, driving without a helmet or seat belt, illegal halting, juvenile driving and other violations. As a result, 469 driving licences were suspended, while 419 licences were revoked or disqualified. Additionally, 1,024 cancellation notices were issued to driving licence holders involved in NDPS-related cases, habitual traffic violations and other serious offences.

As part of the school transport safety drive, 174 school and college buses were audited, and buses found

deficient were rejected and barred from operation until compliance with safety norms is ensured.

Alongside enforcement, the department also intensified road safety awareness activities, organizing 676 awareness camps, sensitization programmes and public outreach initiatives across the Union Territory.

"The objective of the special enforcement drive is not merely to penalise violators, but to save precious human lives by promoting strict adherence to traffic laws," an official of the Transport Department said.

EDITORIAL

Ensuring Polio-Mukt Jammu & Kashmir

The successful execution of the Pulse Polio drive across Jammu & Kashmir stands as a vital testament to organised public health resolve. The campaign, aimed at administering oral polio vaccines to every child under five, is a critical safeguard for the community's future and a bulwark protecting the hard-earned polio-free status of the region and the nation. Such large-scale immunisation efforts embody a profound commitment to

preventive healthcare. The sheer scale of the operation, with thousands of booths, mobile teams, and tens of thousands of frontline health workers, highlights a coordinated machinery dedicated to reaching the last child, even in the most remote and difficult terrains. The dedication of these workers, who tirelessly ensure that the 'two drops' reach every household, forms the backbone of this success and deserves our deepest appreciation.

The significance of this campaign extends beyond the immediate act of vaccination. It reinforces a culture of proactive health consciousness, that community protection is a shared responsibility. The call for parents and guardians to ensure their children participate is a reminder that public health triumphs are built on a partnership between the state and its citizens. Sustaining a polio-free environment requires this very vigilance, where high

immunisation coverage acts as a collective shield against the potential re-emergence of the virus. As we acknowledge this achievement, the focus must now remain unwavering on the ultimate goal: total and permanent eradication. This requires maintaining rigorous surveillance systems, ensuring no child is missed in subsequent rounds, and integrating this momentum into the broader framework of routine immunisation. The drive must

also catalyse efforts to strengthen overall primary healthcare infrastructure. The fight against polio is a marathon, not a sprint. Each successful campaign brings us closer to the finish line, protecting not just individual children but also securing the health of the entire society. It is a mission where there is no room for complacency, and every child vaccinated represents a step toward a safer, healthier future for all.

The Sustainable Harnessing And Advancement Of Nuclear Energy For Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025

Press Information Bureau

What is Nuclear Energy?
Nuclear energy is the use of controlled atomic reactions to produce power. At its core, it relies on splitting atoms in a process called fission, which releases large amounts of heat. This heat is then used to generate electricity without producing greenhouse gases. Globally, nuclear energy is valued as a clean, dependable source that complements renewable options like solar and wind.
At a time when India is reimagining the future of its energy landscape, a new legislative step has emerged to guide the country toward a more advanced and resilient nuclear ecosystem. The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, reflects the government's effort to modernize the laws governing the nuclear sector. It brings together various elements of nuclear development under a single, comprehensive structure, aiming to create a more streamlined and future-ready system. The Bill focuses on a forward-looking approach and its role in shaping India's long-term energy pathway. As a significant piece of legislation, it marks an important moment in the country's broader journey toward building a secure and sustainable energy future.
Evolution of India's Nuclear Laws
India's nuclear power journey has been guided by a series of landmark legislations that ensured the peaceful use of atomic energy while safeguarding national interests. Each step reflected the country's growing confidence and maturity in managing nuclear technology responsibly.
Ø The Atomic Energy Act, 1962, replaced the earlier 1948 law and laid down the foundation for India's nuclear programme. It empowered the government to regulate atomic energy for peaceful purposes, ensuring strict control over research, development, and use of nuclear materials.
Ø Amendments in 1986, 1987, and 2015 in the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 gradually opened the sector beyond the Central Government, allowing government companies and joint ventures to participate in nuclear power generation. The amendments reflected India's intent to expand capacity while keeping strategic oversight intact.
Ø The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, introduced a no-fault liability regime, ensuring compensation in case of nuclear incidents. This law provided clarity on

responsibility and built public trust by prioritizing safety and accountability in nuclear operations.
Rationale Behind The Bill
At this stage of India's energy transition, the country is revisiting the foundations of its nuclear framework to match present-day needs and future ambitions. Over the decades, India's nuclear programme has matured, its technological capabilities have strengthened, and its clean-energy goals have expanded. These developments have created the need for a modern, comprehensive legislation that reflects today's realities and tomorrow's requirements.
Present Outlook
India's nuclear energy programme has maintained a steady role in the country's electricity mix and is now poised for significant expansion.
Stable Contribution: Nuclear power has consistently accounted for around 3% of total electricity generation, with a share of 3.1% in 2024-25.
Installed Capacity: The present nuclear capacity stands at 8.78 GW.
Planned Expansion: With the indigenous 700 MW and 1000 MW reactors being developed through international cooperation, the capacity is projected to rise to 22.38 GW by 2031-32.
Nuclear Energy Mission
Announced in Union Budget 2025-26, it allocates 20,000 crore to drive design, development, and deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
Target: At least five indigenously designed SMRs to be operational by 2033, strengthening India's clean energy roadmap.
Initiatives by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC):
200 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)
55 Mwe (Megawatt electrical) SMR-55
Up to 5 MWth (Megawatt thermal)
High-temperature gas-cooled reactor for hydrogen generation.
Strategic aim: Position India as a leader in advanced nuclear technologies while ensuring sustainable energy security.
Long-term Mission: The Government has announced a Nuclear Energy Mission to achieve 100 GW by 2047, aligning with India's clean energy goals.
Why India Needs to Scale Nuclear Power
India's growing energy demands and clean energy commitments make a strong case for expanding nuclear capacity. Round-the-clock

electricity is vital for emerging needs such as data centres and advanced industries, yet existing laws do not provide the flexibility or speed required for such growth. To meet the national target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 and advance long-term decarbonisation by 2070, a modern legal framework is essential, which enables wider participation, leverages indigenous resources, and integrates innovation with safety.
Taken together, these developments highlight the need for progressive legislation that can repeal the 1962 Act and the 2010 liability law. A unified legislation allows India to expand the role of nuclear energy in its overall energy mix, encourage innovation, support non-power applications, and continue to uphold the highest standards of safety, security, safeguards, and liability. In this way, the bill serves as a natural progression of India's evolving nuclear journey and provides a foundation for the sector's future growth.
Defining Elements of the Legislation
As India moves toward a more modern and future-ready nuclear energy structure, the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, lays down a set of focused provisions to strengthen governance, safety, and institutional mechanisms. Its key objectives can be understood through the following major elements:
Private Sector Integration: The Bill permits private companies to participate in India's nuclear sector, enabling them to undertake plant operations, power generation, equipment manufacturing, and selected activities such as the fabrication of nuclear fuel including conversion, refining and enrichment of uranium-235 up to such threshold value, or production, use, processing or disposal of other prescribed substances. In addition, all activities that involve radiation exposure must obtain prior safety authorisation from the regulatory authority.
Activities Under Exclusive Central Government Purview: Under the Bill, certain sensitive nuclear fuel-cycle activities are reserved exclusively for the Central Government or its wholly owned institutions. These include enrichment or isotopic separation of prescribed or radioactive substances (unless otherwise notified), management of spent fuel such as reprocessing, recycling, radionuclide separation, and high-level waste handling, production and upgradation of heavy water, and any other facilities or activities specifically notified by the Government.

Licensing and Safety Oversight: Establishes a structured system for granting, suspending, or cancelling licences and safety authorisations for nuclear energy production and use.
Graded Liability Structure: In contrast to existing laws that impose a single statutory cap on operator liability, the SHANTI Bill establishes a graded liability framework. Under this framework, the limits on operator liability are detailed in the Second Schedule of the bill and vary according to the type and characteristics of the nuclear installation.
Regulation of Non-Power Applications: Provides a regulatory framework for the use of nuclear and radiation technologies in health care, agriculture, industry, research, and other peaceful applications.
Exemption for Certain Activities: Allows exemption from a license for limited activities like research, development, and innovation-related work.
Civil Liability Framework: Introduces a practical and balanced civil liability regime for addressing nuclear damage.
Statutory Body: Grants formal statutory recognition to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to strengthen regulatory independence and authority.
Enhanced Safety, Security, and Safeguards: Improves systems for security, safeguards, quality assurance, and coordinated emergency preparedness and response.
Central Government Acquisition Rights: Vests exclusive acquisition rights with the Central Government in specific cases related to nuclear activities.
Dispute Redressal Mechanism: Establishes an Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council to facilitate the redressal of disputes.
Appellate Tribunal Provision: The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, set up under the Electricity Act, 2003, will serve as the appellate authority, empowered to hear appeals under provisions of the bill and any additional matters as notified by the Central Government.
Claims Commissioner Appointment: Empowers the Central Government to appoint Claims Commissioners for adjudicating compensation claims related to nuclear damage.
Ø Nuclear Damage Claims Commission: Provides for a dedicated Commission to handle cases involving severe nuclear damage and ensure timely adjudication.
Safeguards and Strategic Oversight:
At the core of the bill lies a strong emphasis on maintaining India's strategic control over its nuclear ecosystem. Even as the

- Key Takeaways
- The Bill consolidates and modernises India's nuclear legal framework.
 - It enables limited private participation in the nuclear sector under regulatory oversight.
 - It strengthens statutory regulation by granting statutory recognition to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
 - It supports India's clean-energy transition and the long-term objective of achieving 100 GW nuclear energy capacity by 2047.

sector opens up to private participation, the Bill ensures that critical functions remain firmly under sovereign oversight.
Ø Control of Sensitive Domains: The Government retains exclusive authority over the nuclear fuel cycle, waste management, and all security-related operations.
Regulatory Strengthening: The reforms reinforce safety standards and enhance India's nuclear governance framework for future expansion.
Protection of Strategic Autonomy: The nuclear energy sector in the bill is structured in a way that does not compromise national security or India's independent decision-making.
Coordinated Oversight Mechanisms: Enhanced safeguards and monitoring systems ensure consistent compliance across all nuclear activities.
Conclusion:
The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, stands as a pivotal step in shaping the next phase of India's nuclear journey. By modernising the legal framework and strengthening institutional oversight, it creates the foundation for a more efficient, innovative, and secure nuclear ecosystem. The Bill supports India's long-term vision of expanding clean, reliable energy while ensuring that strategic interests remain fully protected. As the country moves toward greater energy independence and technological advancement, this legislation can play a defining role in driving the growth of India's nuclear power and broader energy landscape.

Does Telling The Truth Make You More Attractive?

Wendy L. Patrick

Interpersonal attraction comes in many forms, from personal appearance to body language, attire to behavior. It also includes chemistry formed through character and conversation. Yet in today's world, where anyone can "dress the part" or "talk the talk," we wonder how we somehow gravitate towards some people over others, even at first impression. Research reveals some cues about the personal traits that cause us to be attracted to certain people over others.

The Appeal of Authenticity

Leanne ten Brinke et al. (2025) studied the impact of truth-telling on attraction.[i] They began by noting the reality that despite the frequency of deception within interpersonal interaction, we rarely doubt the sincerity of others. Yet indirect evaluations of honesty versus dishonesty may differ even without suspicion about veracity. They showed across three studies that target individuals were perceived as more attractive when they were telling the truth as opposed to when they were lying, a result they also found was mediated by the target individual's openness and warmth. They found the "truth attraction effect" was stronger



for female targets than male, but unaffected by the gender of the judge. As a practical matter, ten Brinke et al. state that their findings suggest that we may be more likely to approach people who are honest, even

when we are not actively judging their veracity.
Attraction, Approach, and Authenticity

In addition, regarding the ebb and flow of conversation, ten Brinke et al. found that participants were less attracted to deceptive targets during critical questions (the "truth/lie moment") as compared to baseline questions, where all targets were honest. They also found that when targets told both truths and lies, they were perceived as more attractive when telling the truth than when lying about the same topic.

Regarding gender differences, they found that the truth attraction effect appeared to be stronger for female targets, and that impressions of openness and warmth may mediate these effects. Regarding a possible explanation, they note that being unpleasant, uncooperative, and providing little detail are behavioral predictors of deception.

The Social Costs of Deception Versus Disclosure

Because at least to some extent, social life is impacted by attraction and attractiveness, ten Brinke et al. note that their findings that people may be motivated to approach truth-tellers rather than liars indicate the potential costs of deception in

everyday life. This observation could arguably impact the ways in which people seek to be more honest in their daily interactions, both personal and professional.

Considering the contemporary value of truth through transparency, many people already share much of their lives both on and offline, sometimes withholding private details to ensure the safety of self and family. Yet as a best practice when sharing appropriately, both publicly and privately, from genuine compliments to describing background and work experience, honesty is apparently the best policy in more ways than one.

References

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- Wendy L. Patrick, J.D., Ph.D., is a career trial attorney, behavioral analyst, author of Why Bad Looks Good, Red Flags, and co-author of the revised New York Times bestseller Reading People.

Source: Psychology Today

Year Ender...

High imports, low generation: J&K's power crisis deepens in 2025

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Dec 22: As the year 2025 nears its end, the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir experienced cycles of increased dependency on imports, seasonal uncertainty in generation, and "decaying infrastructure" - causing an unreliable power supply and public frustration.

However, the government has made an effort to reduce outages and improve the financial position of the power sector through different developments including the installation of smart meters and upgrading the infrastructure.

Previously, the authorities had promised of doubling the hydro electricity generation by 2026 that had provided a glimmer of hope for a future of an unrestricted power supply but the stories of 2025 provide a more realistic view of how long and difficult it will be to achieve that future.

In 2025, the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) published a series of stories, highlighting issues and developments that took place this year.

Power import dependency

Till the 3rd week of December-2025, Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity—a stark dependency that leaves the region vulnerable as it grapples with an 800 MW power deficit.

The officials had informed that the region was importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that during the other hours, the region is importing electricity ranging from 2400 MWs to 2800 MWs.

Another official said that the actual power demand for Kashmir region is around 2400-2500 MWs and in case of Jammu division, it varies from 1400-1500 MWs.

"As of now Jammu and Kashmir has a power deficiency of nearly 800 MWs. The total power availability as of now is 3100-3200 MWs," the official said.

'85% reliability on coal, solar power'

On February-20, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir was relying on more than 85 percent of coal and solar power amid acute deficit of hydro power generation.

Officials of Power Development claim that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90 percent.

A top official of PDD in the month had informed that "At present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar energy that is being procured from the other states because as of now we don't have a local power generation."

Procuring of nearly electricity from power markets

In August-2025, with the minimal power generation availability, Jammu and Kashmir was procuring approximately 40-50 percent of electricity from the imported power markets during lean season.

The news agency KNO quoting the official documents had reported that "From the total imported power, it is seen that the power procurement by Jammu and Kashmir from the market is approximately 40-50 percent during lean season."

The documents further said that due to non-availability of internal generation during winter months, Jammu and Kashmir imports power from the interstate network.

Power deficiency projections

In the last week of September, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness an energy deficit ranging from more than 4,200 Megawatts (MWs) to 10,000 MWs in the next ten years.

"J&K and Ladakh is likely to witness energy deficit ranging from 4293 MUs to 9929 MUs in different years from 2024-25 to 2034-35 with the existing and planned capacity addition," the official documents had revealed.

The official documents further reveal that a study was carried out considering existing capacity and planned capacity. "It was observed that the total unserved energy in the year 2034-35 is about 8730 MU," it reads.

20% surcharges ToD proposal

The Power Development Department (PDD) had proposed an extra 20 percent charge on electricity consumption during morning and evening hours in the Valley.

The Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has sought approval from Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) to impose a 20 percent surcharge on all categories of consumers except for the agriculture sector during peak hours, when demand is at its highest due to the

bone-chilling cold in the Valley.

According to a petition filed before the JERC for J&K and Ladakh, KPDCL has proposed the surcharge for different consumer categories, including domestic households. The JERC, a quasi-judicial body, is empowered to approve or reject tariff proposals.

Additional 4600 MW power requirement likely

On September-30, KNO reported that amid 'unserved energy' predictions in coming years, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to require more than 4600 Megawatts (MWs) of power other than the planned capacities to meet electricity demands.

The official figures had revealed that Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 4625 MWs of power in the coming nine years amid the predictions of 'unserved energy'.

"As J&K is likely to have unserved energy in coming years there is a need to contract non-fossil capacities for meeting energy requirements other than the planned capacities. The additional quantum of capacities required (other than already planned) to be contracted is about 2438 MW from Coal, 1200 MW from solar, 987 MW of DRE till 2034-35."

50% surge in power demand likely

KNO in the 3rd week of November reported Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness growth in power demand by nearly 50 percent in a decade.

The official documents in this regard had stated that the authorities have projected that Jammu and Kashmir will likely have an extra power demand by 49.42 percent by the year 2034-35.

The official further clarified that the peak demand will be more than the average growth saying that the region may likely witness an increase in power demand by 6 percent each year from 2025-26 to 2034-2035.

'Persistent unsatisfactory reporting'

In 2025, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) had found persistent unsatisfactory reporting status of Renewable energy (RE) from Jammu and Kashmir.

NRPC in a meeting had said that Northern Regional Load Despatch Center (NRLDC) representative has informed, "On the basis of status of July month, it is evident that reporting status of some of the constituents that is Renewable energy (RE) stations, SLDC-HR, SLDCPS, SLDC-J&K, SLDC-HP, SLDC-Delhi, NTPC, NHPC and RAPs are not satisfactory and need improvement."

"Further, persistent unsatisfactory reporting status of Punjab and J&K was also highlighted," reads the NRPC document.

The NRPC has further anticipated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh may face a shortfall of 2 percent of electricity in the ongoing month as per the revised peak demand.

The committee however said that the representative of J&K SLDC informed them that the shortfall in J&K would be met through Real time exchanges.

'Shortage' of power in 2034-35

In October this year, KNO published a story stating that with the present and other planned Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA), Jammu and Kashmir will likely be unable to meet and cater the power demands of consumers in the upcoming nine years.

A study by the Government of India (GoI) reads, "The study has analyzed the daily and monthly pattern of unserved energy in the year 2034-35, it can be seen that contracted capacity (present and planned) is unable to meet the demand."

"It can be seen that during the high demand of winter months, the proportion of unserved energy is high," reads the study.

Besides, the report further reveals that the surplus capacity is available with states due to RE availability, demand variation etc.

"The pattern of surplus capacities for J&K and Ladakh has been observed as below. This capacity can be shared with other states which might result in reduced fixed cost burden on the utilities resulting in further reduction in the cost for consumers," it reads.

The report further suggests that J&K and

to September in the range of 230-740 MW for 2027-28 as shown below which can be shared with other states.

'29% un-served annual energy by 2034-35' In an awful revelation, authorities in 2025 had said that Jammu and Kashmir may face 29 percent of 'forced load shedding' of annual power in the year 2034-35.

Besides, the authorities have further projected that in the coming ten years, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of power demand is likely to increase by more than four percent in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Authorities in a report have projected that "Electrical energy demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh is increasing with a CAGR of 4.2 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35 as forecasted by 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India."

It has further said that the projections of J&K also indicate that electrical energy demand may increase with a CAGR of 4.07 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35.

"For satisfying resource adequacy that is meeting the electricity demand reliably and at affordable cost, the UT needs to methodically plan its capacity expansion either by investing or by procuring power," it reads.

4-hour power cuts in high-loss areas

The government in the last week of October had informed the Legislative Assembly that PDD was imposing a curtailment of four hours in those areas having highest technical and commercial losses on local feeders.

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

"No unscheduled cuts were imposed in Kashmir valley during the last winter despite substantial increase in power demand on account of heating load at a time when the power availability from own generation sources remains limited," the government had said.

About the power curtailment, PDD had informed that that detailed schedules of power curtailment indicating, feeder-wise, the maximum curtailment daily depending upon the loss level of the feeders were formulated and except for addressing urgent and accidental system requirements, no unscheduled distress curtailment was allowed or undertaken.

'Unhealthy power factor'

In Kashmir valley, there is no power capacitor available for the local DISCOM to improve the quality in electrical systems by compensating for reactive power and improving power factor.

The official revealed that the Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) has provided the capacitors to industrial consumers to keep healthy power factor.

"In the meeting, it was informed from the J&K side that presently no capacitors are available in Kashmir DISCOM although capacitors have been provided by industrial consumers to keep healthy power factor," reads the documents of (MoP).

The documents further states that it was also discussed that TCC and NRPC had recently accorded approval from forum for installation of capacitors by Rajasthan, Uttarakhand DISCOMs.

"The proposals were then submitted by respective states to PSDF and PSDF also had positive views of providing funds for installation of capacitor banks. PSDF funds were frozen for some time but now PSDF has started approval for some of the schemes," it reads.

'Persistent low voltage issue'

Amid increasing power demand, Jammu and Kashmir in 2025 on contrary reeled under persistent low voltage issues, reveals the report.

The report reveals that "Low voltage related issues of J&K and Ladakh (UT) have been regularly shared by NRLDC with CEA and CTUIL in Grid-India's quarterly operational feedback report as well."

"The issue has been continuously raised in NRPC as well as OCC-meetings, still the issues of low voltage persist in J&K especially Kashmir valley," it reads.

Besides, the report further states that power is being imported by J&K

from 400KV Moga-Kishenpur D/C lines and 400KV Jalandhar-Samba D/C lines.

"It is being noticed that heavy power is being drawn by 400kV lines from Moga to Kishenpur during winter months whereas the power flow on 400kV Jalandhar-Samba is not that high," it reads.

The Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) in the report further said that it has been discussed and suggested on numerous occasions earlier to J&K to plan and expedite commissioning of reactive power devices especially capacitors at lower voltage level to improve the voltage profile in valley area and also avoid large sums payable as reactive energy charges.

'34% power deficit' likely'

Amid persistent cold temperatures, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficit of more than 34 percent in the month of December.

The officials had said that in the anticipated power supply position in the northern region for December-2025, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to have a power shortage of 34.2 percent.

The official figures reveal that there is an availability of just 2460 Megawatts (MWs) against a requirement of 3737 MWs in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It also reveals that there is a shortage of 1277 MWs.

Variation of 700 MWs power during day time

In the last week of July, KNO reported that in the backdrop of low voltage issues during the day time, Jammu and Kashmir is facing a variation of nearly 700 Megawatts (MWs) of power' in comparison to other hours.

The official documents had revealed that in view of low voltage during the day hours from 9Am to 2Pm, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited has a Available Transfer Capability (ATC) and Total Transfer Capability (TTC) of 2700/2800 MWs of power.

However, during the other hours except for 9Am to 2Pm, there is an ATC and TTC capacity of 3400/3500 MWs of power—highlighting the need of improving the grid and other major infrastructures that can help in increasing the voltage during the day hours.

'500 MW' power deficit in December

The Power Development Department (PDD) in the first week of December was facing a 'shortage of nearly 500 Megawatts (MWs) to meet the actual power demand' in Kashmir valley—plunging residents into extended blackouts.

An official had informed that in the first week of December, "The actual peak power demand in Kashmir is at least 2400 MWs but the local Discom (Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) this year so far has been able to cater only 1900 MWs."

About the unscheduled power cuts, the official had said that "The power outages are primarily because of the unauthorised use of power. People mostly in the flat rate areas are not using power judiciously and that is one of the main reasons for the power tripping. "As of now 60 percent of the areas in Kashmir are flat rated."

Over 41% AT&C losses

Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department this year was reeling under high Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) with the figures suggesting the loss of more than 41 percent till the financial year 2023-24.

Among the both DISCOMs, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) till March-2025 was facing extra 21 percent AT&C in comparison to the Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDC).

In the year 2020-21, JPDC was facing 30 percent of AT&C while the KPDCL was reeling under 65 percent of losses.

Similarly, in the financial year 2021-22, there were 37.5 percent AT&C losses

95% electricity import

Energy deficit could reach 10,000 MW by 2034-35

'29% un-served annual energy likely'

34.2% power deficit anticipated for Dec-2025

Revenue generation increased by 250%

Power purchase costs rising at 3.6% annually

High AT&C losses

Persistent low voltage

in Jammu DISCOM and 63.26 percent in Kashmir DISCOM.

The official figures further reveal that in the year 2022-23, JPDC was grappled with 35.4 percent of AT&C losses and KPDCL with 59.59 percent.

Likewise, in the previous fiscal there was a total of 41 percent AT&C losses across the DISCOMs with 31 percent in JPDC and 51.98 percent in KPDCL.

250% increase in revenue generation

The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) has recorded nearly 250 percent increase in revenue generation in the past five financial years.

Since 2019-20 till previous fiscal, PDD has collected Rs 16,974 Crore revenue from its consumers.

From the total revenue generated, the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) sees 176 percent increase.

The official figures further reveal that Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDC) 73.58 percent increase in revenue generation in past five financial years

It reveals that JPDC has collected Rs 8906.31 Crores since 2019-20 till previous fiscal year while KPDCL has collected Rs 8068 Crores.

Non-tax power tariff revenue increases by 11%

In Jammu and Kashmir, power tariff share in non-tax revenue has increased by 11 percent in four years.

An official had informed KNO that "Power tariff's share in non-tax revenue grew from 56 percent to 67 percent since Financial Year-22."

It further states that the power is a critical driver of economic development in Jammu and Kashmir, with the government focusing on optimizing power generation and enhancing infrastructure to ensure a reliable, 24 hours supply at affordable rates.

"Key initiatives include expanding hydel power plants, promoting rooftop solar panels for households, encouraging solar energy in agriculture, and upgrading transmission networks to support uninterrupted supply and export surplus power to other states for revenue generation," the official said.

The official further said that the major contributors to own revenue resources are GST, power tariff, excise, sales tax, water user charges and taxes on vehicles.

"The proportion of these six revenue resources has increased from 86 percent in FY-22 to 93 percent in FY-25," the official said.

3.60% annual increase in electric power purchases

In the past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases while the growth stands at only 2.45 percent.

An official had said, "Over the past years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases, as per extrapolated data."

"When considered on a per capita basis, the growth rate stands at 2.45 percent per year, reflecting the region's increasing energy demand. This growth is also in line with the region's population increase, which has been growing at an annual rate of 2.14 percent during the same period," the official said. -(KNO)

CS for optimal utilisation of PM-VBRY for employment generation in J&K

KT News Desk

Jammu, Dec 22: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday reviewed the implementation of the Prime Minister's Viksit Bharat RozgarYojana (PM-VBRY) in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized the need for employers across the Union Territory to fully leverage the scheme to address unemployment and promote inclusive economic growth.

Those who attended this meeting besides the ACS, APD; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD and Secretary, L&E includes Labour Commissioner; Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Jammu; Director, Employment and other concerned officers.

Chairing a meeting in this regard, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a significant opportunity for both employers and employees, urging stakeholders to maximize its benefits in line with the scheme's objectives. He noted that effective utilization of the



scheme would not only incentivize job creation but also help youth secure sustainable employment across various sectors.

He maintained that the scheme offers tangible financial benefits to employers while ensuring meaningful employment opportunities for the youth. Employers in J&K must come forward to make optimal use of this initiative for mutual benefit and broader socio-economic development here, he remarked.

Providing an overview of the scheme, Regional Provident

Fund Commissioner, Jammu, Sumeet Singh informed the meeting that PM-VBRY is a flagship Central Government initiative aimed at generating over 3.5 crore jobs nationwide during the period 2025–2027. He stated that the scheme provides financial incentives of up to 3,000 per month to employers for hiring additional employees registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

In addition, the scheme includes a one-time cash

incentive of 15,000 for first-time job seekers, thereby encouraging formal employment and enhancing social security coverage. The initiative is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment through the EPFO.

The meeting underscored the importance of awareness generation among employers and eligible beneficiaries to ensure widespread adoption of the scheme and effective realization of its employment-generation goals across Jammu and Kashmir.

FTA with New Zealand to significantly deepen bilateral economic engagement: Govt

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 22: The free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand will significantly deepen bilateral economic engagement, enhance market access and promote investment flows, India said in a statement on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon on Monday announced the firming up of a "historic" FTA between the two countries.

The two prime ministers held a phone conversation, following which the announcement on the FTA was made.

"The two leaders jointly announced the successful conclusion of the historic, ambitious and mutually beneficial India-New Zealand free trade agreement," the statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It said the two leaders agreed that the conclusion of the FTA



in a record time of nine months reflects the shared ambition and political will to further deepen ties between the two countries.

"The FTA would significantly deepen bilateral economic engagement, enhance market access, promote investment flows, strengthen strategic co-operation between the two countries, and also open up new opportunities for innovators, entrepreneurs, farmers, MSMEs, students and youths of both countries across various

sectors," the MEA said.

It said both leaders expressed confidence in doubling bilateral trade over the next five years as well as an investment of USD 20 billion in India from New Zealand over the next 15 years.

"The leaders also welcomed the progress achieved in other areas of bilateral cooperation such as sports, education, and people-to-people ties, and reaffirmed their commitment towards further strengthening of the India-New Zealand partnership," the MEA said.

Resilience in economy due to coordinated fiscal, monetary policies: RBI bulletin

PTI

Mumbai, Dec 22: Coordinated fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies have helped build resilience in the economy, which is not fully immune to the external sector headwinds, said a Reserve Bank bulletin released on Monday.

Continued focus on macro-economic fundamentals and economic reforms should help unlock efficiencies and productivity gains to firmly keep the economy on the high-growth trajectory amidst a fast-changing global environment, said an article published in the RBI's December Bulletin.

The year 2025 brought about an unprecedented shift in global trade policies, marked by a move towards bilateral renegotiations on tariffs and terms of trade, it said.

Its ripple effects on global trade flows and supply chains are still unfolding. This has led to heightened global uncertainties and concerns about the prospects for global growth, said the article on state of the economy.

"The Indian economy was not fully immune to the external sector headwinds. Coordinated fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies have helped to build resilience over the year," it said.

The article said the Indian



economy, supported by resilient domestic demand in Q2:2025-26, grew at its fastest pace in the last six quarters.

High-frequency indicators for

November suggest that overall economic activity has held up with demand conditions remaining robust. Headline CPI inflation edged up but continued

to remain below the lower tolerance level.

Further, financial conditions remained benign, and the flow of financial resources to the commercial sector remained robust, the article said.

India's current account deficit moderated in Q2:2025-26 over the same period last year, supported by a lower merchandise trade deficit, robust services exports, and strong remittance receipts.

"Bolstered by strong domestic demand, the economic growth has been robust. Benign inflation outlook provided adequate space for monetary policy to support growth," the article said.

The article also said that

during April-October 2025, FDI remained higher than last year both in gross and net terms.

Gross inward FDI remained steady in October with Singapore, Mauritius and the US accounting for more than 70 per cent of total FDI inflows.

However, net FDI was negative in October, mainly due to high repatriation and outward FDI.

On the other hand, during 2025-26 so far (up to December 18), net FPI registered outflows, driven by equity segment.

FPI flows turned negative in December following inflows in the previous two months.

"The uncertainty surrounding the India-US trade deal and

investors' caution around high domestic valuations kept net FPI flows to India muted in recent months," the article said.

Also, the Indian rupee (INR) depreciated against the US dollar in November, pressured by the strengthening of the US dollar, muted foreign portfolio flows, and uncertainty surrounding the India-US trade deal.

The volatility of INR, as measured by the coefficient of variation, moderated in November from a month ago and remained relatively lower than most major currencies. In December so far (up to 19), the INR depreciated by 0.8 per cent over its end-November level.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Terrorism, drug

organised in Kishtwar and that the Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held in Jammu at the beginning of next year.

"Besides this, under the Civic Action Programme, we are organising many sporting activities. The Jammu and Kashmir Police believes that for peace and harmony to prevail in society, it is very important to engage the youth and support them through sports," he said.

He said that in September, the police organised the "Jashn-e-Dal" event at Dal Lake, which included various boating races, while in July the "Pedal for Peace" cycle rally was held in Srinagar. He said that a marathon titled "Run for Peace" was organised with 4,210 participants and that the Jammu "Run for Unity" will be organised on December 28, with participation expected to exceed last year's figure of 3,000.

The DGP said that for 148 sporting activities conducted at the district level, police headquarters has allocated dedicated funds to all districts.

He said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police runs 10 drug de-addiction centres across the Union Territory, where treatment and counselling are provided, adding that around 3,000 people have received treatment at these centres this year.

On youth engagement, DGP Prabhat said that under the Bharat Darshan programme, more than 1,000 youths have been sent to different parts of the country this year.

He also said that two police personnel, who are wrestlers, have won gold medals at the World Games held in Birmingham, USA. (KNO)

Jammu airport

Airport witnessed steady passenger movement and consistent flight operations during 2025, reflecting the growing demand for air travel in the region.

"Despite operational challenges, including weather-related disruptions, coordinated efforts by all stakeholders ensured safe, efficient and passenger-friendly operations. With the new terminal building progressing steadily, 2026 is expected to be a transformative year, significantly improving capacity, infrastructure and the overall passenger experience," he said.

Officials also said that despite occasional weather-related disruptions, flight operations remained largely smooth throughout the year.

The airport currently operates flights to Srinagar, Leh, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Indore, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru, with efforts underway to add more routes in 2026.

One of the year's key milestones, officials said, has been the construction of the new terminal building at Belicharana, which is about 45 percent complete. They said the terminal is expected to be a major infrastructural boost once completed next year.

They added that the upcoming terminal will be capable of handling 4.5 million passengers annually, with a peak-hour capacity of 2,000 passengers. Spread over 56,693 square metres, the facility will feature 13 aircraft parking stands, along with parking for 250

four-wheelers and 200 two-wheelers. (KNO)

Rain, snow ease

The snowfall was keenly awaited by skiers, Christmas and New Year revellers, and stakeholders associated with the tourism sector.

Although cold conditions showed some improvement, minimum temperatures across the region remained below normal, with several towns in the Kashmir Valley recording sub-zero readings.

South Kashmir's Pulwama district recorded the coldest minimum at -3.2°C, followed by Shopian at -2.9°C and Awantipora at -2.2°C.

Central Kashmir's Srinagar district registered -0.4°C, Qazigund and Pahalgam -1.0°C each, while Gulmarg and Kulgam recorded 2.0°C and 1.2°C respectively.

In Jammu division, Katra recorded the lowest at 10.0°C, Jammu Airport 11.0°C, while Banihal and Bhaderwah registered 3.8°C and 4.4°C, respectively.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum of -4.2°C. Some stations, including Zojila Pass, Kargil, Doda, and Zethan Rafiabab, did not report data. The figures were compiled by Kashmir Weather.

The Meteorological Department has forecast further precipitation during the next 12 hours till Monday night. From December 23 onwards, the weather across Jammu and Kashmir is expected to remain partly cloudy until December 29.

It has forecast the possibility of light rain or snowfall over higher reaches at isolated places from December 30 to January 1, while January 2 and 3 are likely to be partly cloudy.

It advised travellers and transporters to follow traffic and administrative advisories. Moderate to dense fog is expected to persist over the plains of Jammu division during the next seven days.

Meanwhile, the rainfall and snowfall had a positive impact on air quality across the Valley. The Meteorological Department said the Air Quality Index (AQI) showed significant improvement following the rain.

"There has been a clear improvement in air quality due to the rainfall. After this spell, the weather is expected to remain dry and cold from December 23 to December 30," another official said.

An advisory issued by the department warned that higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts could receive moderate to heavy snowfall, especially during the night.

Travellers and transporters were advised to plan their journeys carefully and follow official advisories. (KNO)

Snowfall spurs

more comfortable than road transport. "We were worried about reaching Srinagar, but the Vande Bharat train made the journey smooth and hassle-free despite the snowfall," Pooja Sharma, a traveller, told KNO.

National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah also travelled from Katra to Srinagar aboard the Vande Bharat train.

Abdullah, who started his journey from

Katra—the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi—praised the railway link for providing year-round connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

"The train has been a great advantage. Even when flights are cancelled or roads are blocked, it continues to operate, helping the people of the valley," he told reporters. (KNO)

CM Omar releases

months and years ahead.

Aru Valley's Aamina

magical moments," Kabir wrote. "Like this little girl in Aru who wanted me to tell @smriti_mandhana that she is her favourite player. I hope Smriti gets to see this post. Or the boys whose playground has a mountain stream as the boundary. If you hit a six, the ball will flow all the way down the valley into the Jhelum river."

The post quickly gained attention for its vivid imagery and emotional depth, highlighting how sport—especially cricket—has become a powerful dream for children even in far-flung regions with minimal facilities. In Aru, children often play cricket on uneven grounds, surrounded by mountains, with nature itself becoming part of the game.

What made the moment even more special was Smriti Mandhana's warm and encouraging response. The Indian cricketer replied to the post, saying: "Please give the little champ in Aru a big hug from me and tell her I'm cheering for her too!"

Mandhana's words instantly turned Aamina's quiet dream into a moment of national recognition. For many in Kashmir, especially young girls, the response symbolized hope, representation and the belief that dreams are valid regardless of geography or circumstance.

Locals say children in Aru Valley grow up amid breathtaking beauty but limited opportunities. Despite the lack of proper playgrounds, coaching facilities or equipment, their love for cricket remains undeterred. "Our children play wherever they can—fields, roads, even near streams," said a local resident. "They watch matches on mobile phones and dream big."

Aamina's story has resonated widely on social media, with users praising Mandhana for her humility and encouragement, and calling for greater support for sports infrastructure in rural and remote areas of Kashmir. (KNO)

DIPR condoles

which resonated in almost every household through Radio Kashmir and All India Radio, leaving a lasting impression on generations of listeners.

Abdul Ahad Farhad was remembered as a mentor and a father-like guide to many journalists and media professionals. He was widely admired for his humility, kindness, deep knowledge, and lifelong dedication to the preservation and promotion of the Kashmiri language, Sufi traditions, and cultural heritage.

The Joint Director Information Kashmir conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the

departed soul.

J&K gears up

with clearly defined timelines, focus areas and identifiable target groups.

The Chief Secretary underlined that the programme calendar should clearly reflect village-wise and block-wise schedules, with specific dates earmarked for each activity. He stressed that all initiatives must be aligned to the interests and aspirations of the youth, ensuring inclusivity and maximum outreach.

He further directed the concerned departments and Deputy Commissioners to conceptualize district-specific programmes, extending down to the Panchayat level, so that youth from even the remotest areas get an opportunity to participate. Emphasizing the importance of ownership and participation, he said the events should provide a ready platform for young people to showcase their talent, sharpen their skills and pursue their interests.

Highlighting the diversity of engagement envisioned under the programme, the Chief Secretary called for inclusion of activities spanning sports, education, skill development, art and craft, folk traditions, culture and other creative and constructive youth-centric domains.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need to make the newly launched portal more dynamic and interactive by integrating it with the 'My Bharat' portal. He advised that photographs and videos of completed events be uploaded regularly to generate wider interest and participation, along with details of attendance, beneficiaries and outcomes.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning, Ashish ChanderVerma, while highlighting the progress made so far, informed that Steering Committee meetings are being held regularly to provide direction and momentum to the programme. He expressed confidence that the initiative would successfully engage a large segment of youth across the UT through one or more activities.

He further informed that the portal would become more illustrative and impactful once the year-long Mega Youth Engagement Programme formally begins from February 2026.

Meanwhile, Special Secretary, PD&MD, Owais Ahmed, presented a detailed overview of the portal and briefed the meeting on the activities uploaded so far. He shared the status of actions taken following the previous review meeting held in November and informed that 522 events have already been uploaded by various departments.

He added that hundreds of additional activities are in the pipeline, which will be uploaded after passing through a three-tier maker-checker-approver process to ensure quality, relevance and alignment with the objectives of the Youth Engagement Programme.

SDRF conducts 110

programmes, 3,413 participants. Several fire rescues were also reported.

February: 5 rescue operations, 70 awareness events, 3,559 participants. Routine readiness

exercises conducted.

March: 5 rescues, 46 awareness drives, 2,286 participants trained.

April: 8 rescue operations, 88 awareness programmes, 5,963 participants and one life saved.

May: 9 rescue operations, 84 awareness events, 8,802 trained participants, the season's peak for fire preparedness.

June: 6 rescues, 64 awareness drives, 5,553 trained participants.

July: 10 rescue operations, 77 awareness sessions, 6,999 participants. Pre-Amarnath Yatra deployments began this month, and one life saved.

August: 22 rescue operations, 70 awareness events, 5,335 participants trained; 15,319 pilgrims assisted during SANJY, the year's largest mobilization and one life saved.

September: 33 rescue operations, the highest monthly total of 2025, along with 86 awareness programmes and 8,983 participants. The month also recorded 14 flood rescues and two animal assists.

October: 6 rescue operations, 68 awareness drives, 4,399 participants and 02 life saved.

November: 5 rescue operations, 48 awareness programmes, 4,683 participants.

Training and community outreach
In total, the SDRF organised 746 awareness programmes across districts, sensitising 55,955 citizens to disaster response techniques, including first aid, search and rescue and fire safety. The highest number of participants was recorded in September (8,983), followed by May (8,802) and July (6,999).

An SDRF official told KNO that 2025 focused on community capacity-building. "Even without major calamities, we prioritise training and preparedness at every level, schools, panchayats and pilgrim routes," the official said.

Awards and recognition
The year 2025 brought several commendations for SDRF officers and personnel.

Masroor Ahmad Mir (JKPS), Commandant, SDRF 1st Battalion Srinagar, received both the DGP's Golden Disc and the NDRF Director General's Commendation Disc. Other awardees of the NDRF DG's Disc include DySP Mohammad Faisal Khan, SI Ab Rashid Khoker, ASI Lateef Ahmad Najar and constables Taimour-ul-Ayoub, Tajmul Hussain and Sajad Ahmad.

Officials said these awards reflect the force's commitment to operational discipline, inter-agency coordination, and humanitarian efficiency during 2025.

Fleet and field deployment
The SDRF operated with a fleet comprising rescue vans, troop carriers, TATA Sumos, crew cabs and LP buses, which were deployed during fire responses, flood rescues and SANJY duties.

Preparedness over panic
Officials also said that 2026 will focus on expanding early warning systems, mock drills and climate-adaptive response planning. "Preparedness is a daily discipline, not a reaction," an SDRF officer told KNO, adding that the force aims to further strengthen its coordination with civil agencies in the coming year. (KNO)

GCC flags climate, pollution concerns at meet with Forest Minister



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Monday reiterated that protection of the environment is a shared responsibility and called for a collective approach towards preserving the natural resources for the posterity.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was speaking during an interaction with a delegation of the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), led by its Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Ganie, former Advisor to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation raised a range of issues pertaining to environmental degradation and urged the government to adopt robust conservation and preservation measures across Jammu and Kashmir.

Acknowledging the concerns raised, Rana said that while environmental challenges are being faced

globally, Jammu and Kashmir is no exception. "Our ecosystem is under stress and there is an urgent need for collective and coordinated efforts to address the environmental challenges confronting our region," he said.

"We must identify areas where the government, civil society and communities can work together to improve the overall environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir," The Minister assured that the issues and suggestions put forth by GCC would be considered for better management of environmental issues. The department will assess the feasibility of the proposals, identify areas for improvement and take appropriate steps for their effective implementation, he said.

Emphasising the need for unity, he added that safeguarding the environment that sustains us all has become imperative now more than ever.

Earlier, Khurshid Ahmad Ganie and other members

of GCC stressed that the government must take concrete steps to deal with the growing threats of environmental degradation and climate change in Jammu and Kashmir. They cautioned that failure to preserve and protect the natural resources could lead to severe consequences, including an increased frequency of natural calamities. The GCC members drew attention to the alarming retreat of glaciers, which serve as a lifeline for drinking water and irrigation in the region and urged the government to formulate long-term strategies for their protection.

They also highlighted the sharp rise in vehicular pollution due to the increasing number of private vehicles and stressed the need to strengthen the public transport system and explore innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating condition of wetlands in Kashmir,

the delegation underlined the urgent need for their protection. They noted that wetlands act as natural sponges that help prevent floods and must be safeguarded against encroachment and other forms of environmental degradation.

The GCC members brought to the Minister's notice the recurring incidents of tree felling saying that the elements of nature are deeply interconnected, with disturbances in one area having far-reaching consequences for human survival.

They also emphasised that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) should be made mandatory for all developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir prior to their execution.

Other key issues raised included regeneration of forest cover, rejuvenation of degraded forests, compensatory afforestation, protection of wetlands and revival and restoration of springs.

The delegation also highlighted the concerns

related to the Jal Shakti Department, calling for continuous monitoring of water quality. They pointed out that turbidity in piped water often increases during rainfall near source areas and stressed the need for timely intervention.

Additionally, the GCC discussed flood protection measures for the Jhelum and Tawi rivers and urged the government to ensure urgent execution of flood mitigation plans to protect vulnerable areas from future flood events.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology and Environment; Chairman, Pollution Control Committee; Chief Wildlife Warden; Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir; Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Kashmir; CEO, WUCMA; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu and Director, Planning and Statistics, Jal Shakti Department.

Agriculture Minister inaugurates ICAR KVK zonal workshop at SKUAST Jammu



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, DECEMBER 22: The annual zonal workshop of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of ICAR-ATARI, Zone-I for the year 2024-25 began on Monday at the Baba Jitto Auditorium, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Chatha.

The workshop, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar.

The three day workshop, to be held from December 22 to 24, has brought together the key stakeholders of agricultural research and extension from across northern India to review performance, share best practices and chart future strategies for strengthening the farmer-centric extension services.

The inaugural function was held in presence of Dr. Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi, as the guest of honour; Professor B. N.

Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Parvender Sheoran, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana and statutory officers of the University.

Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu, highlighted the pivotal role of KVKs as frontline extension institutions. He emphasized the importance of convergence between the research, extension and development departments for effective technology dissemination and farmer empowerment.

In his inaugural address, Javid Ahmad Dar lauded the contribution of KVKs in transforming agriculture at the grassroots level. He stressed the need to strengthen farmer-centric extension services, promote diversification, value addition and agri-entrepreneurship and ensure timely dissemination of scientific innovations to farmers. He also appreciated the role of SKUAST-Jammu and ICAR-ATARI in fostering sustainable and inclusive agricultural development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister emphasized the urgent need to educate and sensitize the farmers about climate-related

challenges and equip them with knowledge and skills to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The Minister underscored that awareness, capacity building and timely advisory services through institutions like Krishi Vigyan Kendras are essential to help the farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions and ensure sustainable agricultural growth.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Rajbir Singh highlighted the evolving role of KVKs in promoting climate-resilient agriculture, agri-entrepreneurship, digital extension and skill development. He underscored the importance of outcome-oriented extension approaches and accountability mechanisms for achieving sustainable agricultural growth.

In his presidential address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. B. N. Tripathi stated that SKUAST-Jammu has been consistently strengthening research-extension linkages through frontline demonstrations, on-farm trials and diagnostic services. He informed that the University has significantly expanded its national and international collaborations through MoUs.

DC Srinagar reviews district capex, CDF works Stresses timely, quality execution

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting with concerned departments at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review the progress of ongoing development works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, SMC, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Block Development

Officers, all District/Sectoral Officers, Engineers and other concerned. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took a sector wise review of ongoing works taken up as well as new works taken under District Capex Budget and CDF for the financial year 2025-26.

The DC emphasized the need for time-bound completion of all pending works and directed departments to accelerate the execution of works approved for the current financial year, ensuring corresponding financial progress alongside physical achievements. The DC directed departments to accelerate execution of approved/allotted works and ensure that physical progress is matched with corresponding financial progress and

instructed all departments to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines for completion of sanctioned projects. The DC underlined that timely completion is essential for the effective utilization of public funds and for ensuring that developmental benefits reach the people without delay.

The District Statistics and Evaluation Officer was directed to conduct time-bound physical verification of all ongoing and completed works to ensure quality, transparency, and accuracy in reporting.

The DC emphasized that coordinated efforts, strict monitoring and accountability at every level are crucial for the successful implementation of developmental projects across the district.



Tahir Sajad; Medical Superintendent GUHS, Dr. Mohammad Sultan Parry; District Ayush Officer, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Payar; Assistant Director Ayush, and Divisional Nodal Officer AAM, KashmirSpeaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of continuous professional development for healthcare workers, especially in the AYUSH sector to ensure quality and accessible healthcare services for the public. He highlighted that such training initiatives play a vital role in upgrading skills, improving data management, and aligning healthcare delivery with current standards.

The DC appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of continuous professional development of healthcare professionals aimed to strengthen clinical competencies, improve service delivery and enhance the overall effectiveness of AYUSH healthcare services at the grassroots level.

'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore Kulgam admin holds citizen-centric camps

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, DECEMBER 22: As part of Good Governance Week 2025 and under the Sushasan Sapta initiative, the "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" campaign continued across District Kulgam with the objective of taking governance to the doorsteps of the people.

Grievance redressal camps, as per an official statement, were organised at the block, tehsil and panchayat levels, where district and sectoral officers listened to public grievances and ensured their prompt redressal. The camps witnessed active participation from the public, who raised issues related to various departments.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, also visited several areas of the district, interacted with the people, and personally listened to their demands and concerns, with several issues resolved on the spot.

He also visited District Hospital Kulgam, where he took stock of patient care and the availability of facilities, and instructed the concerned authorities to ensure the best possible patient care.

Meanwhile, issuance of certificates to beneficiaries such as RBA, Legal Heir, Income, Character and Blood Relation Certificates was also carried out.

Additionally, awareness and registration camps were held to educate citizens about various government schemes and facilitate on-the-spot registrations.

SCERT holds ECCE orientation programme for cluster heads, HOIs in Srinagar

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 22: In a bid to strengthen the implementation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in schools, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers (JKASW) and support of UNICEF, organised one-day orientation programme for 100 selected Heads of Institutions (HOIs) and Cluster Heads from 10 districts of the Kashmir division at SCERT, Srinagar.

The orientation workshop, as per an official statement, was facilitated by Senior Academic Officer, Sheikh Gulzar Ahmad and JKASW team.

The JKASW team edited the participants on the finer aspects of ECCE and the critical role of AAYAs (ECCE Helpers) in education. The

workshop, a first of its kind, witnessed participation of 10 cluster heads/HOIs from each district on the role of AAYAs (ECCE Helpers) in education. The workshop is expected to enhance understanding of the Cluster Heads on the effective implementation of ECCE with the defined role of AAYAs.

The workshop was presided by Joint Director SCERT, Syed Shabir who emphasized the critical role of AAYAs in education and the need to incorporate innovation in education. Furthermore, he extended appreciation to JKASW for facilitating training of 3000 AAYAs and stressed on such collaborative partnerships in the future in this direction.

Executive Director JKASW, Ashfaq Ahmed Mattoo highlighted the key role of NGOs in the initiatives for ECCE and hoped for support and cooperation from SCERT in the future.

AYUSH, Mission Shakti organise health camps in Doda

KT NEWS DESK

DODA, DECEMBER 22: The Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW)-Mission Shakti in collaboration with the AYUSH Department, organized twin health camps at Parisha and Palash Doda under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The camps aimed at strengthening preventive healthcare among students, with a special emphasis on early screening and timely intervention. Qualified medical professionals conducted systematic health examinations of students to assess general health parameters and rule out potential ailments. The students were also educated about disease prevention, adolescent health concerns and the

importance of maintaining overall physical and mental well-being. Free medicines were provided to the students strictly as per medical advice. The medical team also sensitised students on the importance of personal hygiene, balanced nutrition and adopting healthy lifestyle practices from an early age. The programme was attended by Gender Specialist, Humarah Balwan (Mission Shakti), Dr. Vikas Ahmed and Junior Pharmacist, Nighat Parveen from the AYUSH Department.

The speakers highlighted the significance of regular health check-ups, awareness about common health concerns and the crucial role of preventive care in ensuring the holistic development and well-being of children and adolescents.

Pope offers gentle critique of Vatican culture in Christmas greeting reminiscent of past

AP

Rome, Dec 22: Pope Leo XIV urged Vatican cardinals on Monday to put their ambitions of power and personal interests aside, as he followed in Pope Francis' footsteps and used a Christmas greeting to gently criticise his closest collaborators.

"Is it possible to be friends in the Roman Curia?" Leo asked the cardinals and bishops who make up the Curia, as the Holy See bureaucracy is known. "To have relationships of genuine fraternal friendship?"

The fact that Leo asked the question suggests that the American pope knows well that the Curia remains a difficult and sometimes toxic workplace, one that Francis would often eviscerate in his annual Christmas addresses.

Leo didn't repeat Francis's more biting critique — that Vatican clergy sometimes suffer from "spiritual Alzheimer's," the "cancer" of cliques, the "corruption" of ambition and "self-absorbed" idle gossip — and his tone was far more gentle and constructive.

But the underlying message remained. Leo, who was very close to Francis and worked in the Vatican for two years before



his election, didn't shy away from Francis' tradition of urging the Christmas occasion to urge Vatican bureaucrats to examine their consciences and change their ways for the good of the church.

"At times this bitterness finds its way among us as well, when, after many years of service in the Curia, we observe with disappointment that certain dynamics — linked to the exercise of power, the desire to prevail, or the pursuit of personal interests — are slow to change," Leo said.

"Amid daily toil, it is a grace to find trustworthy friends, where masks fall away, no one is used or sidelined, genuine support is offered, and each person's worth and competence are respected,

preventing resentment and dissatisfaction."

After Francis's sometimes tumultuous 12-year pontificate, in which the Argentine Jesuit at times alienated conservatives and some in the Vatican bureaucracy, Leo has generally sought to be more of a peacemaker, prizing unity.

He called on Monday for Vatican bureaucrats to work to forge communion within the church and beyond.

"In a world wounded by discord, violence and conflict, where we also witness a growth in aggression and anger, often exploited by both the digital sphere and politics, Christmas invites everyone to work for peace and universal fraternity," he said.

China to impose up to 42.7% provisional tariffs on EU dairy products

PTI

Beijing, Dec 22: China will impose up to 42.7% of provisional tariffs on dairy products including milk and cheese imported from the European Union, its Commerce Ministry said Monday.

The elevated duties, which take effect Tuesday, were based on preliminary results from an investigation opened by China's Commerce Ministry in August 2024 as tensions between Beijing and Brussels flared. Beijing reviewed subsidies provided by EU countries for their dairy and other farm products.

Beijing's probe was launched as part of tit-for-tat measures as the EU investigated Chinese subsidies on electric vehicles, and later imposed tariffs as high as 45.3% on China-made EVs.

China had initiated other probes into European brandy and pork imports as counter measures for the EU's tariffs on Chinese EVs. It had also urged the EU to scrap its EV tariffs.

The temporary duties on EU dairy imports will range from 21.9% to 42.7%, according to the Commerce Ministry, and will cover a basket of dairy products, including fresh and processed cheese, blue cheese, milk, and cream with a fat content exceeding 10% by weight. The ministry said preliminary findings from its investigation determined that subsidies provided by the EU and EU member states for their dairy products had damaged China's dairy industry. Beijing's probe into EU dairy

products covered subsidies given under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and subsidies offered to farmers by EU countries including Italy, Ireland and Finland, the Commerce Ministry said in August 2024.

China's relationship with the EU is fractious, with the Chinese trade surplus with the EU recently coming into the spotlight. The EU runs a significant trade deficit with China, at more than 300 billion euros (\$352 billion) last year.

Last week, Beijing announced it was imposing up to 19.8% tariffs on EU pork



imports -- significantly lower than preliminary tariffs of up to 62.4%.

It accused the EU of dumping pork and pig by-products in the country, selling them at cheap prices which in turn harmed its domestic pork industry.

In July, Beijing also announced up to 34.9% tariffs on brandy imported from the EU -- including cognac from France -- although several major brandy brands had received exemptions.

Tickets for Ranchi leg of Hockey India League 2026 go live

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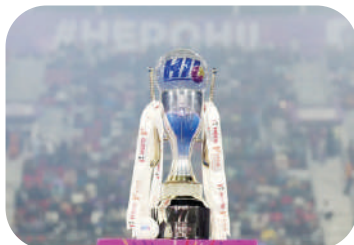
New Delhi, Dec 22: Hockey India on Monday announced that tickets for the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26 will be free for fans eager to watch the games, as part of their effort to expand the sport's fanbase across multiple cities live.

The Women's HIL starts on December 28th in Ranchi and concludes on January 10th. The Men's HIL begins on January 3rd in Chennai, then moves to Ranchi from January 11th. The final leg will be held in Bhubaneswar, known as the cradle of hockey, from January 17 to 26.

Ticket sales for the Ranchi leg of Hero HIL started today at 1100 hours, while tickets for Hero Men's HIL Chennai will be available from Wednesday at 1100 hours. Like the previous edition, Hockey India is committed to bringing the sport to every part of the country and making it more accessible for its passionate fans.

Hockey India League (HIL) governing

committee chairperson Dilip Tirkey said, "We have once again decided to offer free tickets for hockey fans to come and enjoy all the matches across Chennai, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar. While the women's matches will be in Ranchi, the men's HIL will be played across three cities. We want to fill the hockey stands with fans who wish to see their favourite stars in action. We will have some of the world's top players this season and we are eager to witness some fantastic hockey over the span of a month."



Hockey India League (HIL) governing committee member Bholu Nath Singh echoed similar sentiments and said, "Hero HIL will be a month-long celebration of hockey, and we invite the hockey fans to come watch #hockeykajashn. It was our aim to increase the fanbase for our sport across regions, and we look forward to packed stadiums throughout the season."

National Herald case Delhi HC seeks Gandhis' reply on ED plea against trial court order

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 22: The Delhi High Court on Monday asked Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others to respond to a plea by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging the order of the trial court that refused to take cognisance of its chargesheet against them in the National Herald case.

Justice Ravinder Dubeja issued notice to the Gandhis and others on the main petition as well as on the ED's application seeking a stay on the December 16 trial court order, which held that cognisance of the agency's complaint in the case was "impermissible in law" as it was not founded on an FIR. The



high court listed the matter for further hearing on March 12, 2026.

Besides Gandhis, the high court issued notices to Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda, Young Indian, Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari on

the ED's plea.

While Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented the ED in the case, senior advocates Abhishek Singhvi and R S Cheema represented the Gandhis.

In its order, the trial court had said that an

investigation and the consequent prosecution complaint (equivalent to a chargesheet) pertaining to the offence of money laundering is "not maintainable" in the absence of an FIR for the offence mentioned in the schedule to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). It said the agency's probe stemmed from a private complaint and not an FIR.

During the hearing on Monday, Mehta contended that the trial court with its view has gone "horribly wrong" and this would affect other cases also.

He said after investigation, the ED officials gather evidence and other material and, like the police files a report, the ED files a prosecution complaint.

Rohit says he considered retirement after 2023 World Cup final defeat

PTI

New Delhi, Dec 22: In a stunning revelation, former India captain Rohit Sharma on Sunday (December 21, 2025) said he contemplated retirement after the heartbreaking loss to Australia in the 2023 ODI World Cup final as he "felt that the sport had taken everything out of me."

Under the captaincy of Rohit, the Indian team enjoyed a dream run in that tournament at home and marched into the final with nine consecutive wins. However, Australia dashed their hopes in the game that mattered the most, with Travis Head scoring a match-winning hundred.

From Wankhede to The Oval: A look at Rohit's career-defining knocks following Test retirement "After 2023 World Cup final, I was completed distraught and felt like I didn't want to play this sport anymore because it had taken everything out of me and I felt I had nothing left," Rohit said during a Masters Union event.

"It took some time and I kept reminding myself that this is something



I truly love, that it was right in front of me, and I couldn't let it go so easy. Slowly, I found my way back, regaining the energy and getting myself moving again on the field.

"Everybody was extremely disappointed, and we just couldn't believe what had happened. It was a very tough time for me personally because I had put everything into that World Cup not just two or three months before it, but ever since I took over the captaincy in 2022," he added. Rohit, who has retired from T20Is and Tests and was removed from ODI

captaincy earlier this year, continues to play the 50-over format and would like to end his career with one final attempt at the 2027 World Cup.

"My only goal was to win the World Cup, whether it was the T20 World Cup or the 2023 World Cup. So when it didn't happen, I was completely devastated. There was no energy left in my body. It took me a couple of months to recover and bring myself back," said Rohit.

Less than a year after that loss to Australia in Ahmedabad, Rohit led the Indian team to the

T20 World Cup title in the Americas, but overcoming the pain of the defeat in November 2023 was extremely difficult.

"I guess when you invest so much into something and don't achieve the result, it's a very natural reaction. That's exactly what happened with me. But I also knew that life doesn't end there.

"It was a big lesson for me how to deal with disappointment, reset, and start fresh. I knew that something else was coming the 2024 T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies and I had to shift all my focus towards that.

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