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## Rajnath Singh cautions against rising threat of 'white collar terrorism'

### Defence Minister says professional degrees alone cannot prevent terror

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 02: Asserting that terrorism is no longer confined to the uneducated, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday cautioned against the rising threat of "white-collar terrorism" in the country.

Speaking at the 104th foundation day of Bhupal Nobles' University in Udaipur, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), referred to the Nov 10, 2025 blast in Delhi. "Terrorism should not be viewed as a problem limited to the uneducated. In the Red Fort blast individuals having professional degrees were involved," Singh said.

The Defence Minister said, "Those involved in the incident were doctors. The case has shown that education without values and character can have serious consequences for the society."

Singh said the purpose of education should not be confined



to professional achievement alone but should include the development of morality, ethics and a sense of responsibility.

He added that knowledge must be accompanied by wisdom to ensure it was used in a constructive manner.

Rajnath Singh said India was moving steadily towards achieving self-reliance in defence production and would be capable of meeting its weapons requirements domestically

within the next 15 to 20 years.

Singh said the emergence of startups in the defence sector had strengthened indigenous innovation and reduced dependence on imports.

He said many of these enterprises were developing technologies based on practical requirements while aligning with international benchmarks.

The defence minister said India's innovation landscape had undergone a shift in recent

years. He noted that the country had improved its position in the Global Innovation Index, rising from 76th in 2014 to 39th in 2024. He added that the digital economy now contributed a larger share to national income and that India had become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.

Singh said rapid technological change required society to remain informed and adaptable. He stressed that the availability of data and information was no longer a challenge, but the ability to apply knowledge responsibly remained a concern.

The Defence Minister also spoke about India's growing presence on the global stage, saying the country's views were receiving greater attention at international platforms.

He said India should aim to become a developed nation by 2047, with progress measured not only by economic indicators but also by social responsibility.

He said | [More on P6](#)

## Over 340 killed in 2,356 accidents on Jammu–Srinagar Highway in two years

### SSP describes 2025 as challenging year for traffic management on NH-44

Umair Gull Ganie

Ramban, Jan 02: More than 340 people lost their lives in about 2,300 road accidents on the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway over the past two years, officials said on Friday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, National Highway, Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "As many as 1,056 road accidents were reported on the highway in 2025, claiming 170 lives. In comparison, 1,300 accidents occurred in 2024, resulting in 173 fatalities."

Sharing the enforcement data for 2025, the SSP said that a total of 88,700 challans were issued during the year, imposing fines amounting to Rs 10.61 crore, of which around Rs 3 crore was realised.

He said 497 vehicles without valid documents were



seized, while five FIRs were registered against habitual traffic violators.

He said that special enforcement drives were conducted throughout the year to curb traffic violations. "As many as 153 special drives were carried out across the highway jurisdiction, focusing mainly on visible offences such as the use of pressure

horns, overloading and non-use of seat belts," he said.

Referring to the challenges faced by the Traffic Police in the year 2025, the SSP said, "The year proved to be challenging for traffic management on the highway, especially as heavy monsoon rains caused extensive damage at multiple locations, including Ramban and | [More on P6](#)

## Weather to remain dry for 3 days; fog to become dense in Jammu

- No major activity expected till Jan 15
- Feeble WD may affect region btw on Jan 5, 6

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 02: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather from January 3 to 5, with partly cloudy skies expected between January 7 and 15.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) dense to very dense fog is likely at a few places over the plains of the Jammu division during the next three days.

The Indian Meteorological Centre in Srinagar stated that daytime maximum temperatures across the Kashmir

division remained below normal on Friday, while night temperatures were close to seasonal averages.

Srinagar recorded a maximum of 0.1°C against a normal of 7.7°C and a minimum of -2.4°C, indicating a departure of 2.5°C below normal. Pahalgam recorded a low of -6.2°C, while Gulmarg experienced -7.0°C overnight, with snow depth at 5 cm, reflecting lingering winter conditions in higher altitudes.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city reported a maximum of 6.0°C and a minimum of 7.2°C, slightly below seasonal norms. Bani, Batote, Katra, and Kathua reported minimum temperatures ranging between -3.0°C and 6.1°C.

The department also said that areas like Banihal, Batote, and Bhandarwah | [More on P6](#)

## LG Sinha unveils SMVDSB's Panchang Calendar & Diary for 2026



KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 02: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday unveiled the Panchang Calendar-2026 and the official diary of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) at Lok Bhavan.

The 2026 Panchang, curated under the expert guidance of eminent scholars and priests, serves as a comprehensive spiritual guide for devotees. It provides detailed information

on auspicious dates (tithis), festivals, and religious observances for the year 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the Shrine Board's efforts in preserving timeless spiritual traditions while ensuring modern utility for pilgrims. He observed that such initiatives strengthen the spiritual connect of devotees across the globe and underscore the Shrine Board's commitment to service.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief

Executive Officer, SMVDSB briefed that the calendar also highlights several landmark initiatives of the Shrine Board dedicated to devotees, community welfare and environmental sustainability.

The board has also taken up green Trikuta Hills initiative, an environmental drive aimed at preserving the natural sanctity of the Shrine's surrounding; the provision of free Langar Sewa for devotees; the Swachhata | [More on P6](#)

## Seasonal rainfall deficit prevails in J&K

- Shopian, Kishtwar, Leh worst affected
- UT records 39% rainfall shortfall from Oct 1 to Dec 31

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 02: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir recorded a significant deficit in seasonal rainfall from October 1 to December 31, 2025.

According to the IMD data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the overall rainfall for the region was 77.5 mm, 39 per cent below the long-term normal of 127.7 mm.

South Kashmir's Shopian

district recorded the largest shortfall, with 21.8 mm of rainfall, 78 per cent below normal. Kishtwar and Ladakh (Leh) followed closely, with deficits of 76 per cent and 72 per cent, respectively, the data stated, adding, other districts facing significant shortfalls included Pulwama (-52%), Baramulla (-58%), Ganderbal (-48%), and Srinagar (-51%). Kupwara also experienced below-normal rainfall, with 60.6 mm recorded against the normal 170.9 mm, a departure of 65 per cent.

The data revealed that Ramban, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, and Anantnag reported deficits ranging from 22 to 39 per cent. Budgam saw rainfall fall 59 per cent short of the seasonal average.

A few districts bucked the trend, recording | [More on P6](#)

## Mukesh Singh appointed DGP Ladakh

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Jan 02: The Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday appointed senior IPS officer Mukesh Singh as the Director General of Police (DGP), Ladakh, with immediate effect.

According to an order issued by the MHA, a copy of which is in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Mukesh Singh, an AGMUT cadre officer of the 1996 batch, has been posted as DGP, Ladakh on repatriation from Central deputation, until further orders.

The order, approved by the competent authority, also announced other postings of IPS officers of the AGMUT cadre. (KNO)

## Kashmir's only cancer centre faces criticism over lack of advanced diagnostic tests

Patients, doctors demand modern molecular, genetic, cytogenetic facilities at SKIMS

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jan 02: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura — the only tertiary care cancer treatment centre in Kashmir — is facing serious criticism from patients and healthcare professionals over the non-availability of several crucial and advanced diagnostic tests required for accurate detection, staging, and monitoring of cancers.

Despite catering to



thousands of cancer patients from across the Valley and adjoining regions, SKIMS currently lacks access to a wide range of essential investigations that are considered standard of care in modern oncology. As a result, a majority of patients

are being compelled to travel to hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir, mainly in Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities, for both diagnosis and treatment.

While a small section of patients can | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir's rooftops turn power producers, hit 40 MW by year-end

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Jan 02: In Kashmir valley, more than ten thousand households have installed rooftop solar systems in 2025 under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the current installed capacity stands at 39-40 Megawatts (MWs).

"Till the month of February, there was a total installed capacity of 2-3 MWs but the local implementing agency, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had installed rooftop solar systems with capacity of nearly 40 MWs till the December

end," the official said.

It also said at least 40-50 feeders in Kashmir valley are enjoying the electricity supply round the clock.

"Almost all of the areas having AT&C losses of less than 20 percent are receiving the 24 hours power supply," the official added.

The official further informed that more than 6.52 lakh smart meters have been installed in Jammu and Kashmir till the month of November.

It includes installation of 2.81 lakh smart meters in the past two years under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and Prime Minister's Development Package. | [More on P6](#)

## Elderly woman missing since Nov found dead in Kreeri

KNO Correspondent

Baramulla, Jan 02: The body of an elderly woman, missing for nearly two months, was recovered on Friday in Kreeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, ending an anxious search that began in early November.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the deceased identified as Atiqah Begum, of Kreeri, had gone missing from her home on November 5, 2025. Her family had filed a missing report at Police Station Kreeri the same day after she failed to return home.

The locals informed police after noticing the body, following which a team | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir's endangered Hangul population rises to 323 at Tral breeding centre

### » Steady increase since 2008 offers hope for species' recovery » Experts call for continued habitat protection, conservation efforts

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Jan 02: In a positive development for wildlife conservation in Jammu and Kashmir, the population of the endangered Kashmiri Hangul (Cervus hanglu hanglu) at the Tral Conservation Breeding Centre has increased to 323 in 2025, up from just 127 in 2008, according to the latest census data compiled by the Wildlife Protection Department.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO) that the increase, though modest, is significant given the sharp and alarming decline the species has witnessed over the last century. Historical records indicate that the Hangul population stood at around 5,000 individuals nearly 118 years ago.

Continuous habitat loss, human disturbance, poaching, and ecological degradation reduced their numbers drastically, eventually leading to the species being declared critically endangered.



Wildlife Warden South Kashmir, Suhail Ahmad, said that sustained and scientific conservation efforts at the Hangul Conservation Breeding Centre in Shikargah, Tral, have played a crucial role in stabilising and gradually increasing the population.

"The Hangul conservation breeding centre at Shikargah Tral, spread over 2.5 hectares, has been made fully functional. The entire area has been properly fenced with a power fence to minimise threats and

prevent intrusion," Ahmad said.

He added that the improved infrastructure has significantly reduced risks from predators, stray animals, and human interference, creating a safer and more controlled environment for the endangered species.

Experts point out that Hangul populations in natural forest areas continue to face serious challenges. Rapid urbanisation, encroachment into forest land, grazing pressure, and disturbance due to

tourism and infrastructure projects have fragmented their habitat, making survival increasingly difficult.

"Hangul is a critically endangered animal, and their numbers in natural forests are very low due to continuous disturbance and other ecological issues," Ahmad explained. "To overcome this, the government established the breeding centre to increase their population under controlled conditions."

According to | [More on P6](#)



MSME ministry organises series of EAPs in Kashmir

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 02: Ministry of MSME, through its Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Srinagar, organised district-wise Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JK-RLM) UMEED.

The programmes, as per an official statement, were conducted in the districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Kupwara and Baramulla.

The programmes were coordinated by Mohamed Tariq Ishtiaq, Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME, in close coordination with the respective District Programme Managers (DPMs) of JK-RLM.

The primary objective of these programmes was to motivate women beneficiaries

towards entrepreneurship and to create awareness about various schemes and facilities offered by the Ministry of MSME, District Industries Centres (DICs), and other supporting institutions.

The programmes witnessed active participation from the banking community, wherein bankers elaborated in detail on the financial support and facilitation available to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM, including credit linkage and other banking services.

The programmes served as an effective platform for capacity building, financial awareness, and entrepreneurial motivation among women, fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development at the grassroots level.

JDA allots alternate plots to Ring Road-affected families in Jammu

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JANUARY 2: The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) Friday conducted a draw of lots for allotment of 22 (19 plots of size 25'x50' and 03 plots of 30'x60') alternate plots in lieu of plots affected by the Ring Road Project at Kot Bhalwal Housing Colony, Jammu.

The initiative, as per an official statement has marked a significant milestone in resolving an issue that had

remained pending for over a decade, providing long-awaited relief to the affected allottees.

The draw of lots was held on 02.01.2026 at the JDA complex in a fair and transparent manner, in presence of the concerned allottees and JDA officers and officials.

Vice Chairman, JDA, Rupesh Kumar, stated that JDA is committed to resolve long-standing public issues through transparent and fair manner while ensuring

equitable rehabilitation as per the established norms.

The allottees expressed happiness and satisfaction over the transparent conduct of the draw of lots. They thanked the Jammu Development Authority for resolving a long-pending issue that had been awaiting resolution for more than a decade.

The initiative reflects JDA's continued commitment towards citizen-centric governance, resolution of legacy issues and smooth implementation of major infrastructure projects.

NOTICE

My Sons name was mentioned in Adhaar Card as Zulkarnain Bin Wahid While actual name of my son is Mohammad Zulkarnain Bajard Now I want to correct my son name in his Adhaar Card. If anybody having any objection he/she may contact within 7 days to the Concerned Department

Abdul Wahid Bajard  
F/o Mohammad Zulkarnain Bajard  
Adhaar No. 461147326015  
R/o Mulnar New Theed, Srinagar

ARMY GOODWILL SHOOl, WUZUR

REQUIREMENT OF A PGT (MATHS) TEACHER (ON CONTRACT BASIS)

1. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of PGT (Mathematics) on contract basis at Army Goodwill School, Wuzur, for teaching student from classes 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.

2. Essential Qualifications:

- Post Graduate in Mathematics from a recognized university.
- B.Ed Diploma in Teaching from a recognized institution.
- More than 01 year of prior teaching experience in a recognized school.
- Desirable : Proficiency in spoken and written English, ability to conduct co-curricular activities, and computer literacy.

3. Nature of Appointment :

Contractual basis, for a period of 11 months.

4. Interested candidates may submit their applications along with CV, photocopies of educational qualifications, experience certificates and a recent passport sized photograph to the office of the Principal, Army Goodwill School, Wuzur on or before 14 Jan 2026.

5. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. No TA/DA is admissible.

Sd/-  
Principal  
Army Goodwill School, Wuzur

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](mailto:hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in)

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Re-tender Corrigendum 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
(For Sl. No 02 & 03 of e-NIT) .

Subject: 1. Installation of 03 No. Tube Well at various locations Khimber location Khimber constituency Hazratbal in District Srinagar. Tender ID. 2025\_PHE\_294130\_9.

2. Installation of Bore Well & Tube Well at various locations in Chatterhama location Chatterhama (W73) constituency Hazratbal in District Srinagar. Tender ID. 2025\_PHE\_294130\_10.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 52/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/ Camp/11167-78, dated: 03-11-2025.

Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_294130\_7 & 8.

Due to "NO Response" for the above subject mentioned works with tender ID advertised vide e-NIT No. under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-01-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM. Now, the fresh dates as under:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	12-01-2026 Up-to 03:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	13-01-2026 Up-to 01.00 PM

NOTE:

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

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./17207-18  
Dated: 01-01-2026

DIPK-9622/25  
DATED: 02-01-2026

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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER  
POSHAN PROJECT URI

Subject: Advertisement of posts for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Uri.

Advertisement Notice No.: 05 CDPO-URI of 2026

Dated: 01-01-2026

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas, for the engagement of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN PROJECT URI on "Honorarium basis". The application along with required documents should reach to the office of Child Development Project Officer Poshan Uri near Toll Post Lagama with in 15days from the date of publication of the said notice against proper receipt.

S.No	District	Project	Name of Panchayat	Vacancy of Sanginis (Anganwadi workers)	
				Panch Ward No.	Name of Anganwadi Centre
01	Baramulla	URI	Kundi Barjalla	07	Posh Mohalla
02			Rampore	01	Sheikh Mohalla
03			Garkote-B	04	Upper Latehmar

Criteria for Selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) Shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022, Dated:30-11-2022 and Order no. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated 28.04.2023 i.e,

- ❖ Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible (age shall be calculated on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of calendar year i.e 01-01-2026).
- ❖ The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- ❖ The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AWC is located. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. Wherever there is any dispute as to residence for any reason then residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM shall be considered.
- ❖ Minimum Education qualification should be 10+2 and maximum graduation.
- ❖ Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be granted purely on academic merit basis & there shall not be any interview.
- ❖ In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retired AWW the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.
- ❖ Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
- ❖ In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form:

- ❖ Panch Ward Certificate and voter list issued by BDO concerned.
- ❖ Unmarried certificate issued by Tehsildar, if name of candidate appears with parents in voter list.
- ❖ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- ❖ Date of Birth Certificate.
- ❖ Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
- ❖ If candidate belongs to family of retired AWW, Copy of document proof.
- ❖ Non employment Certificate from Gazetted Officer.
- ❖ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
- ❖ Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.
  - All Documents submitted along with the application form for engagement of Sangini (AWW) are correct, without any mismatch, duplicity or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
  - Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Sanginis (AWWs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
  - The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sangini (AWW)

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

Sd/-  
Child Development Project Officer  
Poshan Project Uri

No:-CDPO/URI/Adv/2025-26/771-788

(ANNEXURE-I)

Dated:- 01-01-2026

Advt Notification No. & Date \_\_\_\_\_

Form Sr. No. \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)

- Name of the District:- Baramulla
- Name of the Poshan (ICDS) Project-URI
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
- Panch Ward no..... of Panchayat Halqa .....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) .....
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters) .....
- Marital Status: - (Married/ Un-Married) .....
- Husbands Name (if married) .....
- Permanent Address: Mohalla.....
- Village.....Panch Ward no.....
- Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
- Block..... Pin code.....
- Mobile No:..... Email ID: .....
- Date of Birth: / / (in words) .....
- Age as on 01-07-2024: .....Years .....months.....Days
- Academic Qualification:

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	%age
1	10+2					
2	Graduation					

- Does candidate belong to family of retired AWW (Yes / No).....
- Documents attached.
  - ❖ Panch Ward Certificate and voter list issued by BDO concerned.
  - ❖ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
  - ❖ Date of Birth Certificate.
  - ❖ Un-married certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned, if the name of candidate appears with parents in the voter list.
  - ❖ Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.
  - ❖ If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, then copy of e-ticket of ration card.
  - ❖ Non-employment Certificate.
  - ❖ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.
  - ❖ Affidavit.

UNDERTAKING

Signature of Candidate

I.....D/o,W/o.....R/o.....do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

Signature of Candidate

Photograph of the applicant duly attested

FORMAT FOR PANCH WARD CERTIFICATE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This is to certify that the candidate namely.....D/o,W/o.....R/o.....is residing in Panch Ward .....of Panchayat Halqa.....

It is further certified that her name is enlisted in electoral / voter list of the panch ward at S. No.....

No:

Dated:  
Signature of

Block Development Officer.....

DIPK-9644/25  
DATED: 02-01-2026



## Pahalgam's 'Little Star' Melts Hearts

### 11-year-old Pony rider goes viral

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 02: In the beautiful meadows of Pahalgam, an 11-year-old pony rider named Sarfaraz has become the talk of Kashmir and the internet. A short video capturing the young boy's warmth,

professionalism and charm while guiding tourists has gone viral, earning him the nickname "Little Star of Pahalgam." In clips shared widely across Instagram and other social platforms, Sarfaraz is seen not only expertly handling his pony but also guiding tourists

along the route and helping them take photographs.

In one of the viral clips, Sarfaraz can be seen confidently leading his pony through Pahalgam, engaging warmly with visitors, and assisting them with photo poses — all with an effortless smile. "He's a gem

of a kid," said one tourist who filmed the viral clip. "Sarfaraz didn't just guide us, he made the whole experience joyful."

Meanwhile, local residents and tourism operators say Sarfaraz embodies the heart of Kashmiri hospitality and grace that continues

to define the Valley's tourism culture. Many hailed him as an inspiration for the younger generation who sustain their families through honest work in the tourism sector.

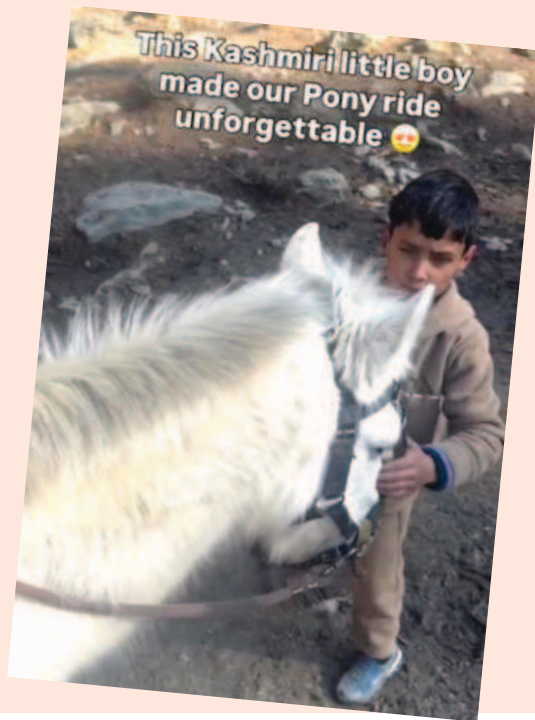
"The boy may be small, but when it comes to hospitality, he's second to none,"

said Abdul Rashid, a local pony owner.

The video, now circulating widely across Instagram and other social platforms, has been reshared by travel pages and influencers, praising the innocence and authenticity that shines through—(KNO)



**"A short video capturing the young boy's warmth, professionalism and charm while guiding tourists has gone viral, earning him the nickname "Little Star of Pahalgam." In clips shared widely across Instagram and other social platforms, Sarfaraz is seen not only expertly handling his pony but also guiding tourists along the route and helping them take photographs.**



## Gol restores financial powers of Ladakh LG

KNO

Srinagar, Jan 02: In a significant development, the Union Finance Ministry has restored the financial powers of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. The Ministry has delegated authority for appraisal and approval of projects up to Rs 100 crore to the administrators/LGs of Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Lakshadweep.

According to a communicate, these powers have been granted under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules (DFPRs), 2024.

As per the conditions laid down by the Ministry the Administrators must exercise these powers in consultation with the respective UT's Secretary (Finance) or Financial Advisor and approvals can only be



given after ensuring adequate budgetary provisions.

The letter states that the delegated powers cannot be further re-delegated.

It further states that details of all proposals sanctioned under these powers must be submitted quarterly to the Department of Expenditure through the Ministry of Home Affairs by the end of July, October, January, and April. As per the communicate, the powers of administrators and

LGs to sanction expenditure from in-principle approval to final approval, including appraisal will continue under Rule 16 of DFPRs, 2024, but only after schemes are duly appraised and approved by the competent authorities.

This decision holds particular significance for Ladakh, where political and non-political groups had objected to the Union Government's earlier move to withdraw the LG's authority to approve projects up to Rs 100 crore—(KNO)

## Margan, Sinthan Top trekking, camping banned for safety



KNO

Anantnag, Jan 02: The authorities in Anantnag district have banned trekking, camping, hiking and other similar outdoor activities in Margan Top, Chauhar Nag and Sinthan Top areas, citing security and public safety concerns.

According to an order, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kokernag said that inputs from police and security agencies indicated security vulnerabilities in certain high-altitude and forested areas falling under Sub-Division Kokernag.

He also mention the recent incidents in which some individuals attempted to cross police checkpoints during late night hours, raising serious safety concerns.

He said that unrestricted movement and outdoor activities in these sensitive areas could adversely affect public safety and security. The order will remain valid for two months unless withdrawn or extended. The Station House Officer Larnoo has been directed to ensure strict implementation of the order and regulate movement at all check-points, while general public has been strictly advised to comply, with authorities warning that any violation will invite action under law—(KNO)

## Cardiologist urges winter heart attack precautions

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Jan 02: Senior Critical Care Specialist Dr Showkat Shah on Friday urged people to take precautions during the winter season for preventing heart attacks and strokes.

Dr Shah said, "People should keep themselves warm by dressing in layers and using hats, gloves and warm socks to prevent rapid heat loss."

He advised avoiding sudden physical exertion in cold conditions, such as heavy shovelling, and recommended indoor exercise or proper warm-up before any activity.

Highlighting the importance of hydration, Dr Shah said that dehydration during winter can thicken the blood, increasing the risk of clot formation. "People should drink adequate warm fluids and eat a healthy diet," he added.

Dr Shah advised the people to eat fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, lean meats and fish, low-fat dairy products, and healthy fats like olive oil and avocado.



He recommended following dietary patterns such as the DASH or Mediterranean diets.

Dr Shah cautioned against excessive consumption of salt, sugar, sweetened beverages, refined carbohydrates, alcohol, processed foods, saturated fats and trans fats, which are known to raise blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Emphasising lifestyle changes, he strongly advised quitting smoking, calling it one of the most preventable causes of heart disease and a major risk factor for heart attacks. He also recommended sound sleep of

seven to eight hours daily and effective stress management through meditation, deep breathing or engaging in hobbies. Dr Shah urged patients with hypertension, diabetes or high cholesterol to take their prescribed medications regularly and not neglect heart medicines during winter.

He appealed to the public to remain alert to warning signs such as chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness or nausea, and to seek immediate medical attention if such symptoms appear, stating that early diagnosis and timely treatment can save lives—(KNO)

## Baramulla-Uri highway hit by landslide, traffic snarled

WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Jan 02: Vehicular traffic on the Baramulla-Uri road remained suspended for several hours on Friday after landslides struck the highway amid ongoing road-widening works, triggering panic among commuters and bringing movement on both sides to a halt.

Officials confirmed that no injuries or vehicle damage occurred, but recurrent incidents during earth-cutting have heightened fears of worse incidents in winter.

"Clearance operations were taken up immediately after the landslide occurred," an official said.

"Fortunately, no one was hurt, and efforts were made on priority to remove debris and restore the road," said an on-duty police official, adding that traffic was gradually allowed from both sides after clearance.

The project site in-charge said the slide



occurred during ongoing excavation work. "Such incidents sometimes happen during construction, but our teams acted swiftly to clear the road and ensure the safety of commuters. We diverted Uri-bound traffic via Khadniyar while allowing Baramulla-bound vehicles after one-way clearance," he said.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, said the landslide was a result of ongoing

construction activities and that mitigation measures are being taken to prevent future occurrences.

"We are adopting scientific methods of earth-cutting to avert such incidents. Any illegal activities contributing to instability will be dealt with strictly. Earlier, a mining work near Drangal was stopped after it triggered a major slide and posed a risk to lives," the DC said.

Similarly, District

Mineral Officer (DMO) Baramulla, Zulfikar Ahmed Bhat, clarified that Friday's landslide was not linked to illegal mining activities. "The incident occurred due to construction-related excavation, not due to any unauthorised extraction work," he said.

Locals, however, expressed concern over recurrent landslides along the stretch, urging authorities to expedite safe and sustainable construction practices to avoid further disruptions.

They report long traffic jams, hours long halts and repeated diversions as earth cutting, excavation and muck dumping narrow the existing carriageway at multiple spots.

It is noteworthy that the Baramulla-Uri stretch of the Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri highway is being widened to improve traffic flow, support tourism and border trade and ease movement towards Uri and frontier areas—(KNO)

## CBK chargesheets 108 in Sumbal corruption scam

KNO

Srinagar, Jan 02: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) on Friday said to have filed a chargesheet against 108 accused persons in a massive embezzlement and fake appointment case linked to the Electric Division Sumbal.

The accused include senior engineers, accounts officers, bank officials and fake appointees, allegedly involved in siphoning off crores of

rupees in government funds.

According to a statement, Mega Corruption Racket Bust: Economic Offences Wing Kashmir (Crime Branch J&K) filed Chargesheet against 108 accused individuals.

The statement reads, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Srinagar of the Crime Branch has submitted the charge-sheet in FIR No. 25/2018 under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 201 and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) read

with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act before the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Baramulla. The charge-sheet has been filed against 108 accused persons in connection with a major case involving embezzlement of Government funds and illegal appointments in Electric Division Sumbal.

It reads, the accused include 15 Executive Engineers, 06 Assistant Accounts Officers, 01 Accounts

Assistant, 06 Head Assistants, 04 Senior Assistants (including the kingpin Mushtaq Ahmad Malik S/o Sonaulah Malik R/o Aragam, Bandipora), 04 Junior Assistants and 01 Orderly, all of whom were posted in Electric Division Sumbal. The charge-sheet also names 25 officers and officials of J&K Bank, Branch Sumbal Sonawari, besides 46 fake employees who were illegally appointed.

*Continued on*  
[www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)

## JKTPO holds export, e-commerce drive in Reasi

KT NEWS DESK

Reasi, Jan 2: As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the export ecosystem in the Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, organized the Export Awareness cum E-commerce On-boarding Drive in District Reasi on Friday.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration and the ODOP Team- DPIIT, under the guidance of Sudershan Kumar, Managing Director JKTPO.

The initiative aims to empower local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs and producer groups by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools to access

international markets through exports and online platforms.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Joint Director/ Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

In his remarks, he appreciated the efforts of JKTPO in reaching out to the grassroots level to create export awareness and build the capacity of the local enterprises. He highlighted the potential of Reasi's unique products, including traditional crafts and agri-based produce, under the One District One Product (ODOP) and District as Export Hub (DEH) initiatives, emphasizing the importance of branding and marketing them globally.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 90+ local

entrepreneurs, self-help groups, artisans and farmers, who actively engaged in discussions and expressed interest in obtaining Importer Exporter Codes (IEC) and registering their products on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and other e-commerce platforms.

Representatives from key organizations such as FIEO, ECGC and GeM delivered insightful sessions on export documentation, financial support schemes, risk mitigation and digital trade opportunities.

Expert speakers also guided participants through the processes of IEC registration, export financing options, branding strategies and onboarding for e-commerce and GeM platforms.

*Continued on*  
[www.kashmirthunder.in](http://www.kashmirthunder.in)



EDITORIAL

Decline In Road Accidents Shows Power Of Multi-Pronged Approach

The reported 15% decline in road accidents and a more significant 22% drop in fatalities across rural Kashmir in 2025 is a hard-won victory for public safety and a testament to the power of coordinated civic action. Each percentage point represents lives saved, families spared from unimaginable grief, and communities made more secure. This positive trend, announced by the Traffic Police, deserves recognition and serves as a vital model for sustained road safety

campaigns everywhere. This success stems from a commendably holistic strategy that moved beyond mere punitive enforcement. The key has been the integration of awareness, engineering, and community partnership. While strict enforcement laid down the law, the parallel focus on behavioural change, evidenced by rising seatbelt and helmet compliance, struck at the root cause of recklessness. Furthermore, the collaboration with engineering authorities to

rectify accident-prone ‘black spots’ addressed critical infrastructure deficits that passively contribute to tragedies. This multi-pronged approach acknowledges that road safety is a shared responsibility, not a police mandate alone. The involvement of educational institutions, NGOs, and student volunteers has been particularly impactful. By embedding road discipline into civic consciousness from a young age, these campaigns foster a culture of responsibility that

outlasts any single drive. The acknowledgement of the media’s role also highlights how consistent public messaging can shape social norms for the better. However, this milestone must be a foundation, not a finish line. The goal must be to institutionalise these gains and push for zero preventable deaths. The proposed plan for 2026, focusing on technology-based monitoring and smarter surveillance, is a logical next step. Yet, continuous investment in road engineering,

especially in treacherous hilly stretches, and relentless public engagement remain irreplaceable. Kashmir’s rural roads have shown that a systematic, empathetic, and collective effort can bend the curve of tragedy downward. This progress lights the way forward, proving that with sustained commitment from authorities and citizens alike, every journey can be safer. Let this success in 2025 fuel the resolve to make 2026 even safer.

The World Order After 2025

While the term “polycrisis” can be useful in describing the tangle of threats the world currently faces, it fails to capture our role in creating – or finding a way out of – our current situation. While profound disruption carries acute risks, it also provides a rare opening for far-reaching transformation.

Yuen Yuen Ang

For a mathematician, 2025 might stand out for being a “perfect square”: 45 multiplied by 45, a rare symmetry. But its significance goes far beyond numerical elegance – it marks the year the postwar global order expired, and a new one was about to be born.

Eighty years ago, as the world emerged from World War II, the victorious Western Allies designed a system intended to prevent another catastrophic conflict. The result was a global order based on three intertwined promises: geopolitical stability anchored by American leadership, industrial progress that would steadily raise living standards, and globalization that would spread prosperity through trade and integration.

That postwar order delivered real achievements. In the West, a burgeoning middle class enjoyed political freedom and economic prosperity. Globally, hundreds of millions of people were lifted out of poverty. For a time, the direction of history seemed clear, and, particularly after the end of the Cold War, even inevitable.

But, with hindsight, we can see that the postwar order carried the seeds of its demise. Authority was concentrated within Western-led institutions that claimed to speak for the world. US hegemony often led to overreach and hubris: a generation of wars in the Middle East proved costly, and confidence in the US model’s superiority obscured the reality of domestic decay.

Globalization entrenched a lopsided bargain. Low-cost manufacturing in poor countries allowed consumers in rich countries to buy abundantly, but at a global environmental cost. As firms in America and Europe moved their production overseas, local communities lost jobs and vitality. At the same time, financialization made it easier to accumulate wealth simply through speculation



and stock-price inflation, further enriching the richest without delivering social value.

The 2008 financial crisis was an early warning. US policymakers stabilized the system but did not repair it. Inequality rose and politics grew angrier. By the time Donald Trump was re-elected to the US presidency, his political rise was no longer an aberration. It was the bill coming due.

The accumulated stress became impossible to ignore in 2025, particularly in the former ruling powers. Transatlantic alliances once thought permanent were ruptured. Trade wars and protectionist industrial policy signaled the end of frictionless trade. Populism in democracies revealed a deeper loss of trust in elite institutions, and immigrants became an easy scapegoat.

Add the worsening impact of climate change and it is little wonder that Western

leaders and thinkers have been feeling overwhelmed by the “polycrisis.”

The term rightly describes the tangle of global dangers. But it fails to diagnose their root causes, validating fear but obscuring responsibility. It also frames Western shocks as global threats, while overlooking the agency of the rest of the world, also known as the global majority.

Rather than simply naming the death of the old, we must ask what might replace it. After all, while profound disruption carries acute risks, it also provides a rare opening for deep transformation. That is why we should view this moment not as a polycrisis, but as a “polytunity” – a generational opening for global transformation from the margins.

Some contours of the new world order – three in particular – are already visible. Geopolitically, it will be characterized by

multipolarity, with the US and China as the two largest powers but neither as a single hegemon. Such a diffusion of power need not lead to chaos if non-dominant countries take more responsibility for delivering global public goods and find creative means to collaborate.

Moreover, AI will transform how humans live and work. Depending on how it is regulated and used, AI could lead to a greater concentration of power and wealth, but it could also lower barriers to knowledge and productivity – for example, through translation, tutoring, and rapid problem-solving – especially for communities long excluded from elite networks.

Lastly, globalization will not disappear, but its form will change. Long, fragile supply chains optimized purely for efficiency are giving way to shorter, more resilient ones.

Today’s developing countries can no longer count on exporting to rich markets to generate growth; instead, they must also cooperate with their neighbors and dismantle regional barriers to trade.

Whether the world seizes the polytunity or succumbs to the polycrisis depends fundamentally on mindset. Even as Western political and economic dominance wanes, Western narratives of disruption as despair continue to dominate. Yet nowhere is a mindset shift more urgent than among the global majority, which has more potential for agency today than it ever did before.

Such a mindset must be adaptive, inclusive, and moral – what I call AIM. To be adaptive is to discover and enable possibilities, not just control risks. To be inclusive is to eschew one-size-fits-all models in favor of bespoke solutions that harness indigenous knowledge and capabilities. And to be moral is to question how asymmetrical power has shaped dominant ideas and voices, while amplifying those that have historically been marginalized.

An earlier “perfect square” year was 1600, heralding the Age of Enlightenment that would transform Europe and, eventually, the world. The Enlightenment championed reason and freedom, but it also justified empire and domination – not only of the West over the rest, but also of humans over nature. We have a chance to do better: to build a more plural, more equal, and more ecologically grounded world order.

But the future that emerges after 2025 depends crucially on the worldview we choose. Lamenting the polycrisis reinforces paralysis, whereas embracing the polytunity encourages change.

Yuen Yuen Ang is Professor of Political Economy at Johns Hopkins University, where she directs The Polytunity Project and The Multipolar World & US-China Roundtables.

Source: Project Syndicate

When Our New Year Resolutions Fail

Every year, many of us bravely announce our resolutions for the new year. A glass of champagne on New Year’s Eve might add to our confidence in our ability to do better in the coming year and save more, spend less, eat better, work out more, or binge-watch less.

Janina Steinmetz

Every year, many of us bravely announce our resolutions for the new year. A glass of champagne on New Year’s Eve might add to our confidence in our ability to do better in the coming year and save more, spend less, eat better, work out more, or binge-watch less. But most of our resolutions fail. Even within the first weeks after New Year’s Eve, the majority of people have given up on them.

Yet, not all tales of failure are the same, because the way you talk about the failure matters for your own motivation and other people’s confidence in your ability to try again. So what can we do after we’ve given up on our resolution? We’ve announced our good intentions to friends and family and now must admit failure. Research has shown the way you word your failed resolution can affect how people view it. And understanding the reasons most resolutions don’t work out can help us see it through in the future. Indeed, you can talk about your resolutions in a way that will make your failure more understandable and will sustain your motivation to keep going.

A constructive way to discuss your failed resolution is to focus on the controllability of the failure. Research shows that most resolutions will require some investment of time and of money. For example, getting in shape takes time for exercise and also normally requires money for a gym membership



or for workout equipment. Because both of these resources are essential for pursuing our goals, many failed resolutions are due to the lack of either time or money, or both. When talking about a failed resolution in the past, I’ve showed in my own research that we should focus on how lack of money contributed to this failure, rather than lack of time. In my 2024 study, people read about fictional as well as real panel participants who failed either due to lack of money or lack of time.

Most participants felt the person whose failure was caused by lack of money would have more self-control going forward and was going to be more reliable at pursuing

their goals. This effect occurred because lack of money is seen as something that cannot be controlled very easily, so if this caused the failure, there wasn’t very much the person who failed could have done about it. In this research, most of the failed resolutions were related to weight loss, better eating, or working out in the gym. Participants felt the same whether the person who failed was a man or a woman, presumably because it’s plausible that everyone needs some time and some money to pursue various goals regardless of gender or the specific resolution. The role of controllability takes a different form when it comes to thinking about how

we can do better next time.

Research also shows the way we view time matters when it comes to failure. For the past, it’s better to think about things outside of our control that can help to take the negativity out of failure and bolster the belief that we can do better. This can mean, for example, to consider how our failure was due to lack of money or other resources outside of our control. For the future, however, take an active perspective on time. Look at your schedule and make active decisions how to allocate time to your goal pursuit, by scheduling gym sessions or blocking time to prepare healthy meals. This can help to give us the motivation to try again because we’re not victims of our busy schedules.

A study published in October 2025 that focused on how a lack of time contributed to failures showed that people can get back a sense of control by talking about “making time”, instead of “having time”. People who discussed their failures as an issue of not having made the time felt like they could do things differently in the future, and were more motivated to do so. This is because “making time” suggests active control over one’s time and schedule, instead of “having time” that leaves us passive. For example, if you say you didn’t make the time to work out, that means you can make the time in the future if you choose to do so.

In contrast, if you say you didn’t have time to work out, it feels like this lack of time is outside of your control and could happen

again, preventing you from pursuing your exercise goals. Another reason so many people struggle to keep to their new year resolution may be because they were too ambitious, or they neglected that joy and pleasure keep us going. We need not only to have a goal in mind. Finding joy in the journey and belief in the ability to change is also important. For example, someone might want to get in better shape and work out more, but when they actually try to go to the gym, they lack the confidence to sign up for a class. Without some fun, it’s hard to follow through on a resolution even if we really want to pursue the goal.

So, try to think of ways you can make the goal more enjoyable to work on and remind yourself you are capable. The trend for new year resolutions isn’t a bad thing in itself. Although it might seem a bit paradoxical to start virtuous habits right after a big night with alcohol and overeating, research shows that we can indeed benefit from the “fresh-start” effect in which a new beginning in the calendar can provide a clean slate to start better habits. But we don’t have to wait for the calendar to give us a fresh start. We can choose to make our own resolution (maybe a Valentine’s or Easter resolution?) to boost the motivation to pursue our goals.

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## Forest Minister holds meetings to address water, tribal affairs issues

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 02: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday held a series of meetings with several legislators and public delegations to review and discuss issues related to departments under his charge.

The deliberations primarily focused on matters concerning the Public Health Engineering (PHE), Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) and Tribal Affairs.

During the interactions, as per an official statement, a broad spectrum of issues of public importance were taken up in detail. These included the availability and augmentation of drinking water supply, irrigation and flood management works under I&FC, concerns of tribal communities, timber supply-related matters and service-related issues of employees of the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Development Corporation Limited (JK FDCL).

Special emphasis was laid on resolution of compassionate appointment related cases



and long-pending pensionary matters of JK FDCL employees. These issues were discussed comprehensively in presence of the Managing Director, JK FDCL, with a view to ensuring timely and fair redressal.

The legislators who met the Minister included Ch. Muhammad Akram, Iftikhar Ahmed, M.Y. Tarigami, Nizam ud Din Bhat, Bharat Bhushan, Mushtaq Guroo, Arjun Raju, Javid Iqbal, Hasnain Masoodi and Peerzada Feroze Hmad

Shah.

They highlighted constituency-specific and sectoral issues requiring administrative attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the legislators and members of the public delegations, assuring them that all their genuine issues would be examined for resolution in a time-bound and result-oriented manner.

He directed the concerned officers to initiate prompt

follow-up action and stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure early resolution of each issue.

Reiterating Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to public welfare, the Minister emphasized that strengthening basic services, safeguarding employee rights and addressing region and community specific concerns remain top priorities of the present dispensation.

## Satish Sharma inspects FCI godowns, emphasises quality foodgrains for PDS

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 02: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, ARI and Training, Satish Sharma, Friday conducted surprise inspection of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in Jammu to take first hand stock of the storage, quality and distribution mechanism of food grains meant for public consumption.

During the visit, the Minister, as per an official statement, inspected various sheds where foodgrains are stored and took stock of the condition of stocks maintained by the FCI. He specifically directed the authorities to ensure proper segregation of foodgrains, stressing that only high-quality grains should be issued to the consumers under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Satish Sharma also examined the stock registers and records related to procurement and distribution. He visited the quality testing laboratory within the FCI premises. He reviewed the procedures being followed for testing both fresh and stored food grains.

The Minister directed the



officers present to strictly adhere to quality control norms and ensure that no substandard or unfit food grains are supplied to the people. He said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is fully committed towards safeguarding the interests of consumers and ensuring food security for every household.

"The priority of the government is to provide people with safe, nutritious and quality foodgrains. Any laxity in

storage, handling or distribution will not be tolerated," the Minister asserted.

He instructed the officials to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms and conduct regular inspections of storage facilities so that the integrity of food grains is maintained from procurement to distribution.

Senior officers from FCI and the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs accompanied the Minister during the inspection.

## ADC Bhaderwah inspects tehsil library, interacts with students



KT News Desk

BHADARWAH, JANUARY 02: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Sunil Kumar Bhutyal Friday inspected the Tehsil Library Bhaderwah and reviewed the facilities available for students.

During the visit, the ADC interacted with the students and gave them tips on disciplined study habits and the effective use of library resources.

The ADC, as per an official statement, encouraged students to make maximum use of books and learning material available in the library to enhance their academic performance and overall knowledge. He also stressed the role of libraries in nurturing a reading culture and supporting competitive exam preparation. Necessary directions were issued to the concerned officials for further improvement of library facilities to create a better learning environment for students.

## Divisional level training on Digital Crop Survey launched in Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 02: The Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Friday organised a Divisional-Level Training and Capacity Building Programme for officers on Digital Crop Survey (DCS) here in the Conference Hall-Krishi Bhawan. The programme is being conducted by the Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Jammu.

The training programme, as per an official statement, was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta and was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Sanjay Anand; SMS (RL), Dharmesh Vaid; DAO (Extension) Samba, Harvinder Singh; District Horticulture Officer Samba, Revti Raman Sharma; Programme Officer, Gurbaksh Singh and Technical Officer, Sandeep Dogra, besides officers from the Agriculture Department.

Addressing the officers, Director Anil Gupta emphasised the use of digital technology in transforming the agriculture sector. "Digital Crop Survey is a flagship initiative under AgriStack, being implemented in Jammu & Kashmir, aligning with the Government of India's vision of digital transformation of agriculture," he said. He further added that the Digital Crop Survey is a crucial initiative for generating accurate and real-time crop data, which would significantly help in improved planning, enhanced

transparency and effective implementation of farmer-centric schemes. He urged the officers to strive for meticulous field-level implementation of the survey to achieve the desired outcomes and strengthen the agricultural data ecosystem.

In his address, Joint Director (Extension), Sanjay Anand highlighted the operational aspects of the Digital Crop Survey and underscored the role of field functionaries in ensuring data accuracy and timeliness. He called upon the officers to actively engage with farmers during the survey process and to adhere strictly to prescribed protocols for reliable and standardised data collection.

The divisional-level training programme is being conducted from January 02 to January 21, 2026, with the participation of Agriculture Department officers from all districts of the Jammu Division.

On the first day, officers from District Samba were imparted training and similar training programmes would be organised for officers from the other districts in the coming days till January 21, 2026.

The phased training would ensure that officers from all districts are adequately equipped to undertake the Digital Crop Survey in all identified 1,035 villages of Jammu division.

During the technical sessions, Technical Officer, Sandeep Dogra imparted hands-on training to the participants on the use of Digital Crop Survey mobile application, fundamentals of Digital Crop Survey and AgriStack and the process of creating user IDs for field surveyors.

## SMC Commissioner reviews commercial complex

Inspects Jhelum Riverfront, Gonikhan market works

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 2: With a clear focus on strengthening municipal finances through optimal asset utilisation, the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) (Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Friday conducted an extensive on-site inspection of key municipal assets and ongoing Smart City works across the city.

He was accompanied by the Joint Commissioner, Suhail Ul Islam, Chief Revenue Officer, and other senior officers of the Corporation.

The inspection commenced at the SMC Commercial Complex at Hari Singh High Street, where the Commissioner reviewed concerns raised by shopkeepers and assessed proposals for façade renovation and restoration of parking facilities.

Emphasising the need to unlock the full revenue potential of municipal assets, he directed officers to ensure improved functionality, enhanced aesthetics, and better traffic management to increase footfall and commercial activity.

Reviewing the status of vacant shops in the complex, the Commissioner, as per an official statement, issued firm directions for initiating the auction of remaining commercial spaces in a transparent, competitive, and time-bound



manner. He underscored that efficient monetisation of municipal properties is a critical component of sustainable revenue generation and financial self-reliance of the Corporation.

Subsequently, the Commissioner along with the Chief Engineer, SSCL, inspected ongoing works at the Jhelum Riverfront, particularly the underground Cabling project.

Stressing the strategic importance of the Riverfront as a high-value urban asset, he instructed executing agencies to augment manpower and resources immediately to ensure timely completion, thereby enhancing the area's economic, tourism, and commercial potential.

The inspection tour also covered Gonikhan Market, where underground ducting and

allied infrastructure upgradation works are in progress.

The Commissioner reviewed execution on site and directed strict adherence to timelines, while ensuring minimum disruption to traders and the general public. He reiterated that timely completion of infrastructure projects directly contributes to improved business environments and revenue growth.

Reaffirming the administration's priorities, the Commissioner stated that strengthening revenue generation through efficient asset management, accelerated project execution, and transparent processes remains central to SMC and SSCL's urban governance agenda, alongside improved service delivery and citizen-centric development.

## DC Poonch reviews SRO-43 cases at district-level committee meeting

KT News Desk

POONCH, JANUARY 02: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee in his office chamber to assess the SRO-43 cases of next of Kin of civilians and belt force personnel killed in the militancy related incidents.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Shafket Hussain Bhatt; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mohammad Sayeed; representatives from BSF Khanetar, 6-Sector RR and other concerned officers.

The ADC gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. Discussing the cases, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for timely disposal of the same, noting that the affected families have high hopes from the government.

The DC also directed the concerned departments to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that all necessary formalities and verifications are completed well in time for SRO-43 cases.

## Govt approves liquidation of J&K SCARD bank, assures depositor protection

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 02: The Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank Ltd. has, over a period of time, been experiencing persistent operational and financial challenges. These challenges have primarily arisen due to deficiencies in governance and internal control systems, weak loan recovery performance, and constraints in accessing refinancing support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). As per an official statement issued on Friday, taken together, these factors have adversely impacted the financial health and normal functioning of the Bank.

The issues relating to the Bank have been examined in depth by the Cooperative

Department in close consultation with NABARD. Based on its supervisory assessments, NABARD has advised a regulated, closely monitored, and structured course of action, with the primary objective of safeguarding the interests of depositors and other stakeholders, while ensuring an orderly, transparent, and legally compliant process. In pursuance of these recommendations, the Cooperative Department has undertaken and completed a special Know Your Customer (KYC) verification exercise covering all account holders, including depositors and loanees, across all branches of the Bank, including the Head Office and Regional Office. This exercise was aimed at verifying the authenticity of account holders and ensuring that the interests of genuine depositors are duly

identified and protected in any future course of action.

It is further informed that the Government has approved the proposal relating to the liquidation of the J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank Ltd., with specific directions that the Cooperative Department shall work out a clear proposal for safeguarding the interests of the depositors. Accordingly, the Department has formulated a practical, phased, and legally compliant line of action strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, with due care to ensure minimal inconvenience to depositors. The Department is presently awaiting the requisite prior sanction in writing from NABARD as mandated

under section 74(4) of the J&K Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 to proceed further, which is expected shortly.

The Cooperative Department fully acknowledges the concerns and anxieties of depositors and assures them that protection of their interests remains its foremost priority. All actions are being taken with due diligence, transparency, and appropriate regulatory oversight to ensure that depositor claims are addressed in a fair, systematic, and orderly manner.

The Cooperative Department remains in close coordination with the concerned departments of Jammu and Kashmir and regulatory institutions and reiterates its commitment to act responsibly, lawfully, and in a depositor-centric manner, in the larger public interest.

## DC Kathua reviews progress under 'Catch the Rain' campaign

KT News Desk

KATHUA, JANUARY 02: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the headway achieved under the Catch the Rain programme being implemented under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in the district.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the planning and execution of water conservation works taken up under the ambit of Catch the Rain 2.0. The emphasis was laid on effective rainwater harvesting, rejuvenation of water bodies and creation of sustainable water conservation assets.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for proper mapping of all water sources and water conservation assets created across the district to ensure comprehensive profiling and better planning. He



emphasised regular up-dation of progress by all stakeholder departments on the designated portal by uploading geo-tagged photographs to maintain transparency and real-time monitoring. The DC also laid emphasis on taking up water conservation works strictly within the scope and mandate of the respective stakeholder departments and ensuring timely reporting of physical and financial progress on the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidhari portal.

Emphasising community involvement, the Deputy

Commissioner called for intensifying efforts to motivate public participation in water conservation initiatives. He underscored the importance of creating awareness among local communities to promote judicious use of water and strengthening grassroots-level water management.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Surinder Mohan Sharma, Chief Planning Officer, Ranjeet Thakur, ACD, ACP, CAO, CHO, DFO, DEPO, XEN PHE, XEN Flood Control and other concerned officers.



## Husband's financial dominance in matrimonial discord does not amount to cruelty: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 02: Financial dominance of a husband over his estranged wife in a soured marital relationship is not an act of cruelty, the Supreme Court has said while highlighting that a criminal litigation cannot become a "gateway to settle scores and pursue personal vendettas".

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan made the observation while quashing a criminal case lodged against an estranged husband by his wife, alleging cruelty and dowry harassment.

Setting aside a Telangana High Court verdict that had refused to quash the FIR, Justice Nagarathna said, "The monetary and financial dominance of the accused-appellant, as alleged by the complainant-respondent No.2, cannot qualify as an instance of cruelty, especially in the absence of any tangible mental or physical harm caused. "The said situation is a mirror reflection of the Indian society, where men of the households



often try to dominate and take charge of the finances of the women, but criminal litigation cannot become a gateway or a tool to settle scores and pursue personal vendettas."

Justice Nagarathna, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, refused to consider the act of seeking details of expenses of the money sent by the estranged husband as an act of cruelty.

"Courts have to be extremely careful and cautious in dealing

with complaints and must take pragmatic realities into consideration while dealing with matrimonial cases, where the allegations have to be scrutinised with greater care and circumspection in order to prevent miscarriage of justice and abuse of process of law," the bench observed.

The court termed the discord over the expenses as a reflection of "the daily wear and tear of marriage" and held that such actions cannot be categorised as

cruelty under section 498 (subjecting a married woman to cruelty by her husband or his relatives) of the Indian Penal Code.

The bench said after a careful consideration of an earlier judicial dictum, none of the offences alleged against the accused husband is made out.

"In fact, we find that the allegations of cruelty, mental harassment and voluntarily causing hurt against the accused-appellant herein have been made with a mala-fide intent with vague and general allegations," the court said in its December 19 order.

The verdict came on an appeal filed by the husband against the April 27, 2023 order of the high court refusing to quash the FIR against him and his family members.

The apex court clarified that the observations made in the verdict shall not come in the way of any matrimonial or other proceedings pending between the parties, which shall be decided on their own merits and in accordance with law.



Javid Ahmed Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday

## Delhi HC upholds 2014 acquittal order, underlines principle of double innocence



PTI

New Delhi, Jan 02: The Delhi High Court has upheld a trial court's order acquitting an accused in a robbery case, saying it could only interfere with the verdict if the findings were "perverse".

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri, hearing an appeal filed by the prosecution against the November 2014 order of a sessions court acquitting the accused, underlined the principle of "double presumption of innocence" and said the trial court's order was

well-reasoned.

In an order dated December 17, the court said, "It is trite law that an appellate court must be slow to interfere in an appeal against acquittal unless the findings of the trial court are shown to be perverse."

"The principle of double presumption of innocence, which operates in favour of an accused after acquittal, is well-settled," it added.

The legal principle of double presumption of innocence operates at two levels. One, under the fundamental

principle of criminal jurisprudence that every person shall be presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law, and two, the accused having secured an acquittal, the presumption of innocence is further reinforced, the judge pointed out.

Concurring with the trial court's observation that the Delhi Police was unable to establish the accused's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the high court said the order of acquittal was "plausible, well-reasoned and supported by the evidence".

## Wife's interim maintenance cannot be determined with mathematical precision: HC

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 02: The Delhi High Court, while enhancing a woman's interim maintenance, has said the amount cannot be determined with mathematical precision. Justice Amit Mahajan has also said that "mere earning in foreign currency" does not entitle the wife to claim maintenance by "mechanically converting the husband's foreign income into Indian currency".

The court was hearing revision petitions filed by the woman and her husband against a May 2023 order of a family court awarding Rs 50,000 as monthly interim maintenance. The wife had sought an enhancement of the amount, while the husband had contested the award order.

In an order dated December 23, the court said, "The determination of interim maintenance is not an exercise capable of mathematical precision."

"More often than not, particularly in cases where one of the spouses is employed abroad and has failed to place a complete and candid disclosure of income before



the court, the assessment necessarily involves a degree of estimation and informed guesswork," it added.

The court said it could not embark upon a roving or final inquiry at the interim stage and was required to arrive at a reasonable figure on the basis of available material, surrounding circumstances, lifestyle indicators and the admitted earning capacity of the earning spouse.

"It stands admitted that the husband is gainfully employed with Amazon.com Services LLC as a software engineer and he has also not denied that he is residing in the US.

"It is also admitted that the wife is unemployed, and the wife had specifically asserted that her husband has been earning approximately Rs 1.76 crore per annum," the court pointed out.

It noted that the wife had submitted an affidavit regarding the husband's income in US dollars and the conversion rates prevailing at the relevant time.

"In the present case, it is undisputed that the husband is earning in foreign currency and is residing in the US. Consequently, he is also required to incur expenses in foreign currency, and the standard as well as the cost of living in the US cannot be equated with that prevailing in Delhi," the court observed.

It, however, said the entirety of the husband's income could not be equalised or proportionately mirrored in the amount of maintenance.

"Mere earning in foreign currency does not, by itself, entitle the wife to claim maintenance by mechanically converting the husband's foreign income into Indian currency and applying the formulae evolved by Indian courts without due regard to the attendant circumstances," the court said.

It then enhanced the interim maintenance amount to Rs 1 lakh per month based on a broad, reasonable and rounded-off assessment.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Rajnath Singh cautions

educational institutions have a key role in shaping this future by encouraging innovation, ethical thinking and solution-oriented research. (KNO)

### Over 340 killed

Udhampur."

During that period, he said, the priority of the Traffic Police was regulation rather than enforcement, with all available manpower deployed to ensure smooth movement and safety of commuters. "Once the situation improved, traffic police teams resumed enforcement with renewed vigour," he said.

The SSP said public cooperation with Traffic Police has improved and stressed that strict adherence to rules by commuters would further enhance safety on the highway.

He also said that the 25-kilometre stretch between Ramban and Banihal is currently single-lane due to ongoing work, adding that occasional damage caused by shooting stones hampers progress but work continues.

Appealing to commuters, the SSP urged them to follow traffic advisories before undertaking their journey on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. (KNO)

### Seasonal rainfall

near-normal or above-normal rainfall. Doda recorded 135.7 mm, just 8 per cent below normal, while Rajouri saw 100.5 mm, only 1 per cent below average, the data stated, adding, Poonch stood out as the only district with above-normal rainfall, recording 109 mm, 26 per cent higher than normal. Reasi (104.9 mm) and Samba (48 mm) also saw rainfall within or slightly below normal ranges.

The IMD data further indicated extremely low rainfall in high-altitude areas, with Kargil registering only 3.7 mm and Leh 1.9 mm, marking departures of 71 and 72 per cent from their respective normals.

Meanwhile, MeT officials said the

below-normal rainfall could impact soil moisture levels and winter crops in many districts.

"The rainfall pattern has been uneven across the region, with some districts receiving adequate precipitation while others remain water-stressed. Localised measures and irrigation planning may be required to mitigate the shortfall," they added. (KNO)

### LG unveils SMVDSB's

Abhiyan, reinforcing the message of cleanliness and collective responsibility along the pilgrimage route, and the dedication of five temples to the public in District Reasi, symbolizing the Board's efforts to enrich the spiritual landscape of the region.

Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO, SMVDSB and other senior officers of SMVDSB were present at the unveiling ceremony. (KNO)

### Weather to remain

experienced sub-zero night temperatures due to clear skies and calm conditions.

Weather forecasts indicate that January 6 may bring generally cloudy conditions, with light snow possible over isolated higher reaches of North and Central Kashmir.

However, plains and lower elevations are expected to remain dry, with no significant precipitation predicted.

The department advised residents, especially in Jammu plains, to exercise caution while commuting due to dense fog conditions, which could reduce visibility and impact travel.

Meanwhile, Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, said that minimum temperatures have remained on the higher side for several days, with overnight cloudiness leading to a slight rise in readings across all stations.

"Looking ahead, no major weather system is expected till January 15, though a feeble WD may affect the region between January 5 and 6, bringing cloudy conditions and light snowfall in isolated higher reaches of North and Central Kashmir," he added.

The overall weather is likely to remain dry, with a slight increase in cold but low chances of any significant temperature drop, he said. (KNO)

### Elderly woman

rushed to the spot and took the body into possession, official said.

The body was later shifted to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities. A post-mortem examination was carried out to ascertain the cause of death, officials added.

Police said an investigation had been initiated to determine the circumstances surrounding the woman's death. The incident triggered shock in the area, with locals calling for a thorough probe into the case. (KNO)

### Kashmir's rooftops

Pertinently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah last week had said that nearly 48 percent households in Srinagar enjoy uninterrupted electricity supply following a successful Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) trial with zero power cuts.

The Chief Minister, in a post on X had congratulated KPDCCL on making another 83 areas in Srinagar 24-hour power zones following a successful RDSS trial with zero power cuts.

"With this, 108 areas in Srinagar now enjoy round-the-clock, uninterrupted electricity supply, benefiting 1.25 lakh households, nearly 48% of the city. Similar upgrades are underway in other districts to ensure 24x7 power supply," he said. (KNO)

### Kashmir's only

afford the financial burden of travel, accommodation and private testing, the majority — particularly those from rural and economically

weaker backgrounds — are left to suffer due to delayed or incomplete treatment.

Details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that several critical investigations are unavailable or inaccessible at SKIMS. These include HLA Typing for Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT), essential for matching donors and recipients in blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma; Chimerism Testing to assess transplant success; Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) Testing to detect microscopic cancer cells post-treatment; Bone Marrow Biopsy with Extended IHC Panel to identify specific cancer subtypes; and stool tests for Clostridium difficile, vital for chemotherapy patients vulnerable to infections.

Other unavailable tests include Quantitative CMV PCR for Cytomegalovirus infections, Galactomannan & Procalcitonin Tests for early detection of fungal and bacterial infections, drug level monitoring for immunosuppressive and chemotherapy drugs, advanced genetic testing such as Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), Cytogenetics by FISH, and several specialised molecular and cytogenetic tests critical for diagnosis, prognosis, and targeted therapy.

The details of tests unavailable at Cancer Institute SKIMS were given through an RTI by a noted RTI activist, M M Shuja.

Oncologists said the absence of these tests leads to delayed diagnosis, inaccurate staging, inability to monitor treatment response, higher relapse risks, and preventable deaths.

A senior oncologist, requesting anonymity, said, "Cancer treatment today is precision-based. Without molecular diagnostics and genetic profiling, we are often treating patients blindly."

While Jammu has seen upgrades in testing facilities, especially with the operationalisation of AIIMS Jammu, Kashmir remains affected by the diagnostic gap.

A lymphoma patient from south Kashmir told KNO "I was referred to Delhi just for tests, spending over Rs 1.5 lakh before treatment even began. Poor patients simply give up."

Due to these deficiencies, referrals outside

the Valley have surged. Many patients sell land, livestock, or take loans to continue treatment, while others discontinue therapy altogether due to financial constraints. Healthcare activists warn that this diagnostic gap is creating a two-tier cancer care system—one for those who can afford treatment outside Kashmir, and another for those who cannot.

Patients, civil society groups, and medical professionals are demanding immediate upgrades to SKIMS' diagnostic laboratories, the establishment of molecular oncology and cytogenetics units, and a clear, time-bound roadmap for comprehensive cancer care in Kashmir.

Until these measures are implemented, experts fear that Kashmir's cancer patients will continue to suffer silently, not because of a lack of disease, but due to inadequate diagnostic support at the region's only cancer institute. (KNO)

### Kashmir's endangered

officials, the long-term plan is to eventually release healthy individuals into protected natural habitats once their numbers reach a sustainable level and suitable forest conditions are ensured.

Wildlife experts have welcomed the rise in numbers but caution that much more needs to be done to secure the future of Kashmir's iconic deer.

"The increase from 127 to 323 is encouraging, but it is still far below what is required for a genetically viable population," a senior wildlife official said. "Strong habitat protection, community awareness, and strict enforcement against forest encroachment are essential alongside breeding programmes."

The Hangul, also known as the Kashmir stag, is the state animal of Jammu and Kashmir and holds immense ecological and cultural significance. Conservationists believe that with consistent efforts, scientific management, and public cooperation, the species can be pulled back from the brink of extinction.

For now, the rising numbers at Tral offer a rare note of hope in Kashmir's fragile conservation landscape. (KNO)



Social media should take responsibility of content they publish: Vaishnaw

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 02: Social media firms should take responsibility for content they publish and a standing committee has already recommended a tough law to fix accountability of platforms, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

The Centre has earlier this week warned online platforms -- mainly social media firms -- of legal consequences if they fail to act on obscene, vulgar, pornographic, paedophilic and other forms of unlawful content.

"Social media should be responsible for the content they publish. Intervention is required," Vaishnaw said here on the sidelines of a Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) event.

He was replying to a question on AI app Grok generating indecent and vulgar images of women.

Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi has also written to the minister seeking urgent intervention on increasing incidents of AI apps being misused to create vulgar photos of women and post them on social media.

"The standing committee has recommended that there is a need to come up with a tough law to make social media



accountable for content they publish," Vaishnaw said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has recommended that the government make social media and intermediary platforms more accountable with respect to peddling fake content and news.

The committee has endorsed the view of stakeholders, such as enforcing transparency in algorithms, introducing stricter fines, and penalties for repeat offenders, establishing an independent regulatory body, and using technological tools like AI to curb the spread of misinformation, etc.

On December 29, Meity asked

social media firms to immediately review their compliance framework and act against obscene and unlawful content on their platform, failing which they may face prosecution under the law of the land.

The advisory followed Meity noticing that social media platforms have not been strictly acting on obscene, vulgar, inappropriate, and unlawful content.

Public policy firm IGAP, Partner, Dhruv Garg, said MeitY advisory to intermediaries does not establish any fresh legal obligations, it rather reiterates that safe harbour protection hinges entirely on strict adherence to due diligence requirements laid

out in the IT Rules, 2021.

"Significant social media intermediaries are subject to stricter due diligence benchmarks. They must also deploy automated content moderation tools. The advisory signals that in light of widespread obscene content circulation, reactive content takedowns are inadequate, and platforms must actively fulfil their legal responsibilities or they may face criminal prosecution," he said.

Luthra and Luthra Law Offices India, Senior Partner, Sanjeev Kumar, said Meity's advisory unequivocally states that non-compliance with the IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021 may result in legal consequences, including prosecution under the IT Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), and other applicable criminal laws, and such consequences may extend to intermediaries, platforms, and their users.

"This operates alongside the potential loss of safe-harbour protection under Section 79, exposing non-compliant entities to direct liability. The cumulative impact of these provisions heightens legal, financial, and reputational risk, making adherence not only a statutory duty but a business imperative," he said.

Ahmedabad flower show exhibiting city's vibrant spirit, love for nature: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 02: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday complimented the hosting of an international flower show in Ahmedabad and said it brings together creativity, sustainability and community participation, while beautifully showcasing the city's vibrant spirit and love for nature.

The 14th edition of the Ahmedabad International Flower Show has been organised by the city's municipal corporation.

The prime minister in a post on X said, "The Ahmedabad Flower Show brings together creativity, sustainability and community participation, while beautifully showcasing the city's vibrant spirit and love for nature."

Sharing a few pictures of the flower show on social media, he said, "It is also commendable how this flower show has grown in scale and imagination over the years."

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the flower show was organised taking inspiration from Prime Minister



Narendra Modi.

Patel, in a post on X, said, "The creation of two Guinness World Records at the 14th Flower Show organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation this year is a matter of immense joy and pride for all of us."

"With the world's largest flower 'mandala' and the world's largest flower portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji, the Ahmedabad Flower Show has registered

a hat-trick of world records for the third consecutive year," Patel said.

Visitors are expected to see impressive floral sculptures and displays based on Indian festivals, classical dance forms, mythological stories, important development projects, sports themes, and much more.

A separate kids' zone is also been earmarked, which is going to display future infrastructure plans.

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan inaugurates upgraded runway at IAF base in Car Nicobar Island

PTI

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan 02: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday inaugurated the upgraded runway at the IAF's Car Nicobar air base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The CDS arrived in Car Nicobar island around 11.30 am and was welcomed by Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, commander-in-chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and several other senior officials.

"The CDS inaugurated the resurfaced and upgraded runway at the Indian Air Force's Car Nicobar Air Base," an official said.

Located nearly 535 km from Sri Vijaya Puram, Car Nicobar in Nicobar district suffered the maximum damage during the 2004 Tsunami.

"The upgraded runway will give more strength to the eastern front due to its



direct strategic oversight of the Malacca Strait - a global maritime lifeline/passage for international trade and energy supplies through ships. It will give the Indian Air Force (IAF) more ability for quick air operations," the senior official said.

The apron areas have been expanded for smooth aircraft movement, he said, adding that the "facility will help the Indian Air Force to carry out long-range firing exercises in a minimal time." "The visit

of CDS highlights the strategic importance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for national security and our focus on 'Act East' policy, and the Prime Minister's vision for security & growth for all in the region," a senior Command official said.

The CDS will also inaugurate a storage facility and will pay a visit to the Tsunami Memorial, he added.

"The visit of CDS highlights the strategic importance of the Andaman

and Nicobar Islands for national security and our focus on 'Act East' policy, and the Prime Minister's vision for security & growth for all in the region," a senior Command official said.

Later, Gen Chauhan interacted with senior officials and highlighted the geostrategic potential of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while emphasising the critical role played by ANC towards nation building as well as for supporting military operations in the area.

He also reviewed the operational role of Andaman and Nicobar Command, ongoing infrastructure development, and the level of joint services integration among the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

The CDS emphasised the importance of seamless coordination to strengthen surveillance, deterrence and rapid response capability in the region.

Never cross fine line between self-respect & ego: Rajnath



PTI

Udaipur, Jan 02: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday emphasised the importance of understanding the delicate balance between self-respect and ego, and urged people not to cross the fine line between the two.

"While the feeling of self-respect is important, it should never transform into arrogance," Singh said at the 104th foundation day event of the Bhupal Nobles' University here.

He pointed out that sometimes even an arrogant person may claim to have a high degree of self-respect, highlighting the thin line between the two emotions.

"I want to tell all children that ego should never come into our lives," he said.

Reiterating that while self-respect should be nurtured, it must never turn into arrogance, Singh said, "The feeling of self-respect should be strong, but arrogance should never take root."

Jaishankar launches IIT-Madras Global, move to make institute a multinational university



PTI

Chennai, Jan 02: Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday launched an initiative aimed at positioning the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) as the world's first multinational IIT with campuses, research and startups abroad.

Anchored in the institute's world-class faculty, advanced infrastructure and strong industry linkages, the initiative, IITM Global, seeks to drive innovation and entrepreneurship with a clear focus on societal impact.

IIT Madras, through this initiative, also targets to expand its global presence by enabling international research, innovation, startup engagement, and academic

collaborations.

Speaking on India assisting foreign countries, Jaishankar said, "An IIT Madras Campus in Tanzania is a way by which Indian foreign policy has leveraged the capabilities of an institution here to make a huge impact"

As part of the IITM Global rollout, the institute has signed a series of high-impact memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with leading multinational institutions and partners across key global regions.

These include three MoUs in the United States, one in the United Kingdom, three in Germany, three in Dubai, three across the Asia-Pacific region, including Singapore and Malaysia, and six under the India-for-Global initiative.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL-SHAKTI (I& F.C.) DIVISION, BARAMULLA

e-NIT No. 13-IFCD. Bla. Of 2025-26

Dated: 01/01/2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, e-tenders on percentage basis (in Single Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Government, for the following nature of works as shown hereunder: -

S. No.	Name of the work	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money CDR (In Rs.)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	M.H. of Account	Tender ID
1	Crate Protection Work on Left Side of OFC from Khanpora to Kitchama RD 176.00 to RD 177.00 Kms.	83.22	166440/-	90 Days	AAY	5000/-	4711- UT Capex	2026 IFC_299570_1
2	Construction of Masonry Protection Wall on Left Side of River Jhelum (OFC) at Kralltang Sopore RD 148.96 Kms.	78.09	156180/-	90 Days	AAY	5000/-	4711-UT Capex	2026 IFC_299570_2

Position of Fund = Budgetary Provision under UT Capex Budget for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27.

Position of A.A.A. = Accorded.

Position of T.S. = Sanctioned.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#).

S. n o	Date of Publishing	01-01-2026 from 1800 Hours
1	Start of downloading	01 -01-2026 from 1800 Hours
2	Bid submission start date	01-01-2026 from 1800 Hours
3	Bid Submission end date	08-01-2026 upto 1800 Hours
4	Date of opening of Tender	08-01-2026 at 12:00 Noon

Note: The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in the online submission of bids due to any reason whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to thoroughly read and understand the Terms and Conditions & instructions provided in Annexure A as well as the Special Conditions of Contract detailed in Annexure B respectively, prior to submitting their bids. Submission of the tender shall be deemed as confirmation that the bidder has read, understood, and accepted all terms and conditions stipulated therein.

Dated: 01-01-2026

No: I&FCDB/CS-30/7932-51

DIPK-9603/25

DATED: 02-01-2026

(Annexure-A)

Executive Engineer  
Irrigation & FC Division  
Baramulla

Terms & Conditions

1. The tenders shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#).

2. The tenders uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on date mentioned above, in the office of the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e., Executive Engineer Jal-Shakti (I&FC) Division Baramulla.

3. The complete bidding process will be online.

4. Bidders must be accompanied with Earnest Money in the shape of CDR, FDR and cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan/ Receipt under M.H. 0702 (mentioning therein NIT No., S. No. & Name of work), in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation & F.C. Division, Baramulla & date on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice. The tender for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of tenders. The treasury Challan and CDR used in previous e-NIT shall also be entertained.

5. Earnest money in favour of Successful bidder shall be released after production of Performance Security @ 3% of the value of the contract and Additional Performance Security be provided in case of Abnormally Low Bid as per the Circular of the Finance Department (Codes Division) Civil Secretariat, Jammu/ Srinagar vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025.

6. The successful bidder has to mobilize his resources like men machinery, material for deployment immediately at multiple spots immediately as an when directed by Engineer I/C at site during any emergency as arise telephonically/SMS/WhatsApp or Verbally however in case of failure the work shall be got executed through other means at the risk responsibility cost of successful Bidder. The number of men machinery and material deployed at multiple spots shall have to be sufficient to tackle the situation during peak flood / Irrigation hours or at other spots e.g. breaches/ overflows etc.

7. Any item or items of work found necessary for execution at site and not covered in the allotted items of the stage contract will be paid as per SOR 2022 with over all allotted appreciation / Depreciation of the stage contract and the items not included in SOR 2022 will be paid as per LMR or analyzed rates respectively whichever is found lowest.

8. Instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process: Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the Downloads option as well as from Bidder Manual Kit on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](#) as per information Technology Act 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from approved vendor.

9. Bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

10. Bids will be opened online as per time scheduled mentioned in Para 3.

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

11. Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all necessary documents like Registration Card duly renewed/ PAN / G. S. Tin/, Latest GST Return/ Earnest Money Deposit in shape of CDR / and treasury Challan/receipt under M.H. 0702, Appendix-I & Appendix-II in respect of each work as mentioned in the e-NIT.

12. Note: can all document on 100 dpi with black and white option.

13. The payment shall be made only after funds are available under proper head of account by this office.

14. In Accordance with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir Finance Department Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025, every participating supplier/ contractor has to mandatory disclose the bank Account Number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of Bid Submission. No payment shall be released by the Government Department/ Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST Registration number of the successful bidder.

15. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate list / quantity schedule, cost of such item/items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/items in the allotment of contract.

16. Crates for the above works shall be supplied departmentally as per the prevailing rates if available in the divisional stores.



## China military drills near Taiwan 'unnecessarily' raise tensions: US

AFP

Washington, Jan 02: Chinese war games around Taiwan "unnecessarily" spiked tensions in the region, the US State Department said Thursday, calling on Beijing to "cease its military pressure."

"China's military activities and rhetoric toward Taiwan and others in the region increase tensions unnecessarily. We urge Beijing to exercise restraint, cease its military pressure against Taiwan, and instead engage in meaningful dialogue," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a statement.

Beijing launched missiles and deployed dozens of fighter jets, navy ships and coast guard vessels on Monday and Tuesday to encircle Taiwan, saying the drills simulated a blockade of the self-ruled island's main ports.

Taipei condemned the exercises as "highly provocative."

China claims that democratic Taiwan is part of its territory and has refused to rule out using force to annex it.

"The United States supports peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and opposes unilateral changes to the status quo, including by force or coercion," Pigott said. China again defended the drills as "legitimate" on Friday, and warned countries to "stop stirring up trouble on



the Taiwan Strait issue."

"We urge relevant countries and institutions to strictly abide by the one-China principle," a Chinese defense ministry spokesman said in a statement responding to calls for restraint, including from the United States.

US President Donald Trump said Monday he was not concerned about China's live-fire drills, appearing to brush aside the possibility of counterpart Xi Jinping ordering an invasion.

"I have a great relationship with President Xi. And he hasn't told me anything about it," Trump told reporters when

asked about the exercises.

"I don't believe he's going to be doing it," Trump said in apparent reference to an invasion. Beijing's show of force came after the Trump administration approved an \$11 billion arms package for Taiwan.

The United States has been committed for decades to ensuring Taiwan's self-defense, while staying ambiguous on whether the US military would intervene in an invasion.

China's latest exercises were the sixth major round of maneuvers since 2022 when a visit to Taiwan by then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged Beijing.

## China launches new 'upgraded' missile destroyer

PTI

Beijing, Jan 02: The Chinese navy has commissioned a new "upgraded" missile destroyer as it's expanding its fleet at a breakneck speed to catch up with the US naval strength.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has commissioned a new Type 052D guided missile destroyer named Loudi, which features upgraded radar, weapon and network systems, official media here reported on Friday.

Zhang Shengwei, a crew member of the Loudi, was quoted by state-run Global Times as saying that the new-type warship adopts a new system and architecture, giving it enhanced combat capabilities in air defence, sea attack and task force command.

The Loudi can not only conduct long-range assault and strike missions against its targets, but also defend friendly ships in defensive missions, Zhang said.

Observers say the new ship's addition highlights the

feverish pitch at which the Chinese navy is expanding its fleet, adding a ship a month.

According to a recent BBC report, the Chinese navy has emerged as the world's largest, operating 234 warships compared to the US Navy's 219 ships.

Between 2019 and 2023, China's four largest shipyards - Dalian, Guangzhou, Jiangnan and Hudong-Zhonghua - produced 39 warships with a combined displacement of 550,000 tonnes, according to a study by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

With the addition of Loudi, the Chinese navy has added 11 combat vessels, including the aircraft carrier Fujian, in 2025. In addition to building its own fleet, China is supplying modern naval ships and submarines to its all-weather ally Pakistan. Last month, China launched a fourth Hangor-class submarine, named Ghazi, for Pakistan. It is the second Pakistani submarine to be named after Ghazi. The first one was blown up near the Visakhapatnam port during the 1971 war with India.

## Mamdani thanks family from 'Kampala to Dilli' vows to govern 'audaciously'

PTI

New York, Jan 02: Indian-origin politician Zohran Mamdani vowed to govern "expansively and audaciously" and deliver an agenda of affordability for New Yorkers as he thanked his family from "Kampala to Dilli" after being sworn-in as the 112th Mayor of New York City.

Mamdani was administered the oath of office by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont at a ceremonial inauguration outside City Hall on Thursday, the seat of New York City government, on New Year's day.

He was formally sworn-in as New York City's 112th Mayor by New York Attorney General Letitia James at a private ceremony held at the turn of the new year on December 31 in an old subway station here.

He became the first South Asian and Muslim elected to helm the largest city in the US.

In his nearly 25 minute speech to New Yorkers after taking the oath of office Thursday,



Mamdani said that "beginning today, we will govern expansively and audaciously. We may not always succeed. But never will we be accused of lacking the courage to try."

He vowed that under his administration, City Hall will "deliver an agenda of safety, affordability, and abundance, where government looks and lives like the people it represents, never flinches in the fight against corporate greed, and refuses to cower before challenges that others have deemed too complicated."

Indian-descent Mamdani is the son of renowned filmmaker

Mira Nair and Columbia University professor Mahmood Mamdani. He was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and moved to New York City with his family when he was 7. Mamdani became a naturalized US citizen only recently in 2018.

Mamdani thanked his parents, who were present for the swearing-in ceremony, as well as his wife Rama Duwaji for their support. He also expressed gratitude to his family from Uganda to India.

"Thank you to my parents, Mama and Baba, for raising me, for teaching me how to be in this world, and for having brought me to this city. Thank you to

my family, from Kampala to Dilli. And thank you to my wife, Rama, for being my best friend, and for always showing me the beauty in everyday things," he said.

Thousands of Mamdani's supporters, from youth to the elderly, braved freezing temperatures on January 1 and stood for hours outside and near City Hall, cheering him and celebrating his victory and inauguration at a block party organized on the occasion.

They said the New Year was ushering in an era of hope and promise as the new Mamdani administration begins its term in the city.

## India to tour Bangladesh for 3-match ODI, T20I series in Sep

PTI

Dhaka, Jan 02: The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Friday announced it will host India for a three-match ODI as well as T20I series to be played in September this year.

However, it is not clear if BCCI will agree to travel to Bangladesh in prevailing conditions with no stable government in place.

According to a media release by the BCB, the three ODIs will be played on September 1, 3 and 6, while the T20Is will be played on September 9, 12 and 13.

The Indian team will reach Bangladesh on August 28 for their limited-overs affair.

In July last year, India's tour of Bangladesh was called off indefinitely and the six-match white-ball tour was deferred for more than one year. "The



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have mutually agreed to defer the white-ball series, three ODIs and three Twenty20 Internationals, between Bangladesh and India in August 2025 to September 2026," the BCCI had said in a statement last July.

"This decision has been reached following discussions

between the two Boards, taking into account the international cricketing commitments and scheduling convenience of both teams."

"The BCB looks forward to welcoming India in September 2026 for this eagerly anticipated series. Revised dates and fixtures for the tour will be announced in due course," it added.

## Was told I'll never play for Australia: Khawaja on racial stereotypes, criticism from media, former players

REUTERS

Melbourne, Jan 02: Usman Khawaja said he hoped his long Test career, which will come to an end with his retirement after the fifth Ashes clash, inspires youngsters who are "different" that playing cricket for Australia is possible.

The top-order batter, who turned 39 last month, announced on Friday that he would be retiring from international cricket after his 88th Test, which will start at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

Khawaja made his Test debut at the same ground in the final match of the 2010-11 Ashes series and has since scored 6,206 runs at an average of 43.39, including 16 centuries.

More than his runs, however, Khawaja was a standard-bearer for diversity in Australian cricket, given he was born in Pakistan before being raised in Sydney from the age of five.

"I hope I've inspired many children along the way, particularly those who feel that they are different, those who feel that they don't belong, or those others tell that they will never make it," Khawaja told reporters at a press conference.

"I felt all these things growing up and trying to be an Australian cricketer, but seeing is believing? And I'm here to tell you that you can do whatever you want. Just got to keep trying. "I'm a proud Muslim



coloured boy from Pakistan who was told that he would never play for the Australian cricket team. Look at me now. You can do the same."

Khawaja batted for most of his Test career at the top of the middle-order but lost his spot in the side for the 2021-22 Ashes series to Marnus Labuschagne.

He was, however, called up at the last minute when Travis Head contracted COVID-19 ahead of the Sydney Test and revived his career with centuries in both innings.

OPENING WITH WARNER After that, Khawaja moved up to form a successful opening partnership with David Warner, who retired from Test cricket after the SCG Test two years ago.

In this Ashes series, he injured his back in the opener in Perth and missed the second Test before initially being dropped from the team for the third in Adelaide. He was again

recalled at the eleventh hour after Steve Smith suffered a bout of vertigo and, batting at number four rather than opening, scored 82 and 40 as Australia won by 82 runs to clinch the series and retain the urn.

Khawaja said his treatment by the media after the back injury in Perth was proof that he was still treated differently from other players because of his background.

"The way the media and the past players came out and attacked me... I copped it for about five days straight," he recalled.

"It was quite personal in terms of things like, 'He's not committed to the team. He was only worried about himself. He played this golf comp the day before. 'He's selfish. He doesn't train hard enough. He didn't train the day before the game. He's lazy. These are the same racial stereotypes I've grown up with my whole life.

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