

Snowfall in higher reaches chills Kashmir; dense fog in Jammu

Gulmarg coldest at minus 8.6°C | Met predicts temp dip till Jan 10 | Mughal Road closed

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 06: With higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley receiving fresh snowfall on Tuesday, minimum temperatures fell across most parts of Kashmir, while dense fog affected normal movement in parts of the Jammu region, officials said.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in the Kashmir Valley, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, while the airport registered minus 4.8 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund settled at minus 3.0 degrees, Pahalgam at minus 6.8 degrees, Kupwara at minus 3.1 degrees and Kokernag at minus 2.0 degrees.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 8.6 degrees, Pampore minus 3.0 degrees, Awantipora



minus 2.4 degrees and Budgam minus 3.9 degrees.

Anantnag registered minus 5.6 degrees, Baramulla minus 4.0 degrees, Bandipora minus 3.1 degrees, Pulwama minus 5.4 degrees and Shopian minus 6.0 degrees.

Kulgam recorded a minimum

of minus 0.2 degrees. Ganderbal, Sonamarg and Zethan Rafiabab were initially reported as not available, while later data showed Zethan Rafiabab at minus 5.5 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of [| More on P6](#)

If separated, Jammu will face Ladakh's fate: CM Omar Abdullah

Says any attempt to redraw boundaries on religious lines will have far reaching consequences

Unexpected events
» in 2025 tested administration

Upcoming budget
» session, tourist season major tests for govt

PM Modi should respond
» firmly on killings of Hindus in B'desh

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Jan 06: Asserting that further division of Jammu and Kashmir on religious lines can have far reaching consequences, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday castigated Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders for claiming that Jammu only may get



statehood.

The Chief Minister while responding to a query of a reporter about the claims of BJP leaders, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "They have already spoiled Ladakh by making it a UT. If they now want to do the same to Jammu, then let them do it."

He said the Centre had "failed to effectively administer Ladakh after separating it from Jammu and Kashmir."

"They couldn't control Ladakh. Why are they now trying to spoil Jammu?" Abdullah asked, adding that such statements reflected political failure. "Somewhere their politics has failed. That is why they are

now talking about the statehood for Jammu," he said.

The Chief Minister also questioned why the idea was not implemented earlier. "When all this was being done in 2019, why didn't they do it then?" he said, and cautioned against any attempt to redraw political boundaries on communal grounds. "On what basis do they want to separate Jammu? On the basis of religion?" he asked.

The Chief Minister also spoke about the challenges being faced by his government. "Six days have passed in the New Year and nobody knows what all we will have to face," he said.

Recalling last year's developments, the Chief Minister said unexpected events had tested the administration. "Last year, nobody thought there would be a Pahalgam attack. Then there was [| More on P6](#)

Forces bust terrorist hideout in north Kashmir

Arms, ammunition recovered

KNO Correspondent

Kupwara, Jan 06: Security forces on Tuesday busted a terrorist hideout in the forest area of Putshai Lolab in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

The operation, officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was launched by a joint team of the Army, BSF and Jammu and Kashmir Police after receiving credible inputs about the presence of a terrorist hideout in the dense forest belt.

Following the inputs, the joint forces started a cordon and search operation in the area.



During the search, forces detected and destroyed a concealed hideout and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from the spot.

The recoveries included 34 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, 18 rounds of 9 mm ammunition, one pistol magazine, one Pakistan-made [| More on P6](#)

J&K Govt introduces new classification for grant-in-aid expenditure

Depts directed to provide component-wise details of projected funds

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jan 06: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has decided that Grant-in-Aid expenditure will no longer be booked under a single head but classified into three distinct categories.

In a circular, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Finance Department has intimated that the newly adopted heads are 031—GIA (General), 035—GIA (Creation of Capital Assets) and 036—GIA (Salary).

The move comes after the Principal Accountant General, J&K, advised the Union Territory Government to adopt this classification.

In two separate communiqués, the Principal Accountant General informed the Finance Department that booking expenditure against Grant-in-Aid under a single detailed head "028—Grant-in-Aid" is not in conformity with the recommended classification structure.

"Accordingly, it has been recommended that expenditure on Grant-in-Aid be booked under distinct detailed heads, viz. GIA-Creation of Capital Assets, GIA-General, and GIA-Salary, as part of the exercise on Rationalization and Harmonization of Primary

Units of Appropriation (PUA)/ Object Heads (OH)," reads the Finance Department's circular.

The move is part of a rationalization and harmonization initiative aimed at achieving pan-India uniformity in the economic classification of government expenditure. The initiative will also facilitate comparability of identical classes of expenditure across Union Territories, State Governments, and the Union Government.

In a letter dated September 10, 2025, the Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General of India had written to J&K's Chief Secretary, advising adoption of a [| More on P6](#)

34% power deficit likely in January

NRPC predicts 1277 MWs shortfall

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jan 06: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness power deficiency of more than 34 percent during the peak demand in the month of January, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) officials said.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh during the peak demand will likely have a power deficit of 34.2 percent against the available power position.

The updated anticipated power supply position for January-2026 for both the Union Territories reveals that there will be a peak



availability of 2460 Megawatts (MWs) against the requirement of 3737 MWs—keeping a loophole of 1277 MWs.

However, the official documents also said that representatives of HP SLDC, Punjab SLDC and J&K SLDC informed that the shortfall would be met through real-time exchanges and Banking [| More on P6](#)

CM Omar rolls out new tourism calendar, website

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Jan 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled the 2026 calendars of the Tourism Department and the Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation at the Civil Secretariat.

The calendars highlight prominent tourist destinations and tourism-related infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. Congratulating the concerned departments, the Chief Minister observed that such initiatives would contribute significantly to the



promotion and wider publicity of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential.

"These calendars are not merely annual publications; they are visual narratives of Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty and evolving tourism

infrastructure," he observed.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the official website of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. The portal has been designed to publicise tourism events and destinations,

maintain digital archives, and provide comprehensive information related to tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. The website also integrates useful links to Jammu Tourism, JKTDC, J&K Cable Car Corporation and other allied organisations, offering all relevant information on a single platform.

The Chief Minister said a modern, dynamic digital presence is crucial for effective outreach. "The new Tourism Kashmir website would be informative and will serve as a comprehensive, single-window platform [| More on P6](#)

Omar inaugurates Ski training course at Gulmarg, Sonamarg

Waris Fayaz

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday virtually inaugurated Integrated Ski Training Course being held simultaneously at Gulmarg

and Sonamarg.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the initiative aims to promote winter sports and tourism across leading destinations in the Union Territory. "The programme aims to provide certified training to [| More on P6](#)

CM directs clear timelines for road, bridge projects

Lays foundation of ₹119 crore works, inaugurates ₹33 crore projects



KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday undertook a comprehensive review of the projects being executed by the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department at a high-level meeting held at the PWD Conference Hall,

Gandhi Nagar here.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of R&B projects worth 119 crore through virtual mode and also e-inaugurated R&B projects worth 33 crore.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder [| More on P6](#)

Bla youth found dead, family alleges murder

KNO Correspondent

Baramulla, Jan 06: A 26-year-old youth was found dead here in North Kashmir on Tuesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) body of Rayees Ahmed Mir was found at Delina, following which his family alleged murder.

Family members told reporters that Rayees was at home till late Monday night but was found dead in the nearby market area this morning.

Alleging murder, the family demanded a thorough probe and stringent action against accused involved in what they termed a "planned killing." They urged the authorities to ensure justice for the victim.

Meanwhile, [| More on P6](#)

CM lays foundation of Dak Bungalow at Bagh-e-Bahu

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a Dak Bungalow of Public Works Department (R&B) at Bagh-e-Bahu here, marking another step towards strengthening public infrastructure.

The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, along with senior officers and engineers of the Public Works Department and other dignitaries.

The proposed G+2 Dak

Bungalow has been designed as a modern facility, prioritizing functionality. It will comprise well-appointed suites, a VIP suite room, dining area, kitchen, reception and waiting areas, laundry and housekeeping facilities, besides lifts and staircases.

In addition, the facility will also house a gymnasium, a recreational hall and a meeting hall, enhancing its utility and ensuring comfort and convenience for visiting dignitaries and officials.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of creating quality infrastructure that meets contemporary standards and serves [| More on P6](#)

Over 50% of children aged 5-9 in J&K have high triglycerides

Can lead to major health problems if not addressed early, say doctors

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jan 06: It is a concerning development for the people of Jammu and Kashmir that more than 50 per cent of children aged 5 to 9 years are found to have high levels of triglycerides, a type of fat in the blood.

According to the 'Children in India 2025' report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 50.2% of children in this age group in Jammu and Kashmir have elevated triglyceride levels. Triglycerides are fats stored in the body and used for energy.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer



(KNO), doctors explained that while normal triglyceride

levels are a part of healthy metabolism, unusually high levels

indicate imbalances in how the body processes fats.

They said persistently elevated triglycerides in adults are known risk factors for heart disease, stroke, and metabolic disorders, and similar risks are present even when such abnormalities are detected in childhood.

Dr Shahid Ahmad Bhat, a paediatrician, warned that children with high triglycerides are more vulnerable to obesity, insulin resistance, and early signs of cardiovascular disease later in life.

He added that elevated triglyceride levels often do not produce immediate symptoms but, if left untreated, can contribute to the early buildup of

fatty deposits in arteries, narrowing blood flow and increasing the risk of heart disease and stroke in adulthood. Other associated health issues include obesity, type 2 diabetes, pancreatitis, and more.

Doctors said that children are not immune to lifestyle-related diseases, as modern diets and sedentary habits are accelerating their risk of health problems traditionally seen in adults. Factors contributing to high triglycerides in children include increased consumption of sugar and deep-fried foods, more screen time, reduced physical activity, genetic predisposition, [| More on P6](#)

SKUAST-J transforming agriculture, livelihoods in Jammu: Dy CM

Reviews flood repair works, HADP, JKCIIP, other schemes with VC

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JANUARY 06: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday said that Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu is playing a pivotal role in transforming the lives and strengthening the economy of Jammu region through knowledge-based interventions in agriculture, animal sciences and allied sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, remarked this during a meeting held with the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J, Dr. B. N. Tripathi, at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu. During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister was briefed about the progress and impact of key flagship initiatives in the region. These included Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKCIIP and other centrally and UT-sponsored schemes that are benefiting a wide spectrum of farmers and stakeholders across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised the need for effective implementation



of these schemes to ensure maximum outreach and tangible benefits at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Chief Minister also enquired about the student enrolment trends and academic programmes being offered by the University, including courses in Dairy Technology, Biotechnology, Veterinary Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. He

underlined the importance of supporting and promoting progressive farming in horticulture, agriculture, animal sciences and allied sectors to boost economy and livelihoods.

The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the status of infrastructure development and flood repair works at the main campus of SKUAST-J and its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs),

which suffered damage due to the recent floods in Jammu. He was informed that a detailed assessment report outlining the infrastructure losses has been submitted to the government for timely restoration and repair of the affected facilities.

The Vice Chancellor raised several issues related to the welfare and overall development of the University and sought government's intervention for their early redressal. He highlighted the need for sustained support to strengthen research, extension services and academic infrastructure. Assuring full support, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the present government is firmly committed towards promoting the academic excellence, scientific research and innovation in higher education institutions.

He said that SKUASTs will continue to receive necessary assistance to further empower the farmers, boost agricultural productivity and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Harleen Kaur reviews NH projects, stresses quality & timelines

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JANUARY 6: Director Highways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), Harleen Kaur, Tuesday chaired a review meeting on ongoing National Highway projects at the office of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by senior officers of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The progress of various ongoing highway projects was reviewed in detail, with a focus on physical and financial status, timelines and key implementation issues.

The Director Highways emphasized timely completion of projects, strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and effective coordination among all concerned agencies. She asked the officers to resolve the existing bottlenecks expeditiously and ensure smooth execution of works.

The meeting concluded with directions to further strengthen the monitoring mechanisms and accelerate project implementation to enhance connectivity and public convenience.

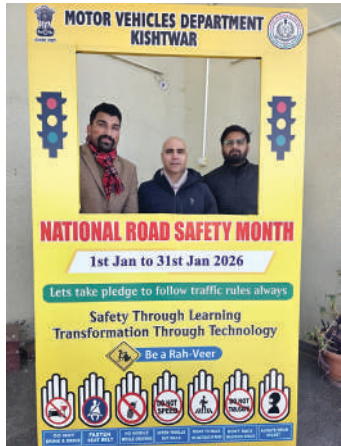
Selfie booth at DC Office Kishtwar promotes road safety awareness

KT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 06: As part of the National Road Safety Month 2026, a Road Safety Selfie Booth was installed at DC Office Kishtwar to promote road safety awareness and encourage responsible driving behavior.

The initiative, as per an official statement, was formally launched by the Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who took the first selfie at the booth, followed by ACR, Idrees Lone, ARTO Tasleem Wani, AO DC Office, Daleep Kumar & other District Officers/Officials and the general public, symbolising the administration's commitment to safer roads and adherence to traffic rules.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that road safety is a collective responsibility and awareness is the key to saving precious lives. "Innovative initiatives like the Road Safety Selfie booth helps in connecting with people in a positive and engaging manner, especially the youth and encourage them to follow traffic rules in their day-to-day



lives," he noted.

The DC urged citizens to strictly adhere to road safety norms by wearing helmets and seat belts, avoiding rash driving and over-speeding for the welfare of the entire society.

ARTO, Tasleem Wani said that the selfie booth aims to engage the employees as well as the public, in spreading awareness about road safety measures such as wearing helmets and seat belts, avoiding over-speeding and following traffic regulations.

JKTPO holds export awareness, e-commerce drive in Ramban

KT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JANUARY 6: As part of its continuous efforts to strengthen the export ecosystem across the Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, organised an Export Awareness cum E-commerce On-boarding Drive in District Ramban Tuesday.

The workshop, as per an official statement, saw enthusiastic participation from over 60 local entrepreneurs, self-help groups, artisans and farmers, who actively engaged with experts and expressed a keen interest in obtaining Importer Exporter Codes (IEC) and onboarding their businesses on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and other national and international e-commerce platforms.

The programme was organised in collaboration with the District Administration Ramban and the ODOP Team- DPIIT and under the guidance of Managing Director JKTPO, Sudershan Kumar. The drive sought to empower local entrepreneurs,



artisans, MSMEs and producer groups by imparting practical knowledge and resources that enables them to access global markets through exports and digital trade channels.

The event began with a welcome address by Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Shakeeb Ahmad Rather- the Chief Guest. In his remarks, the CPO appreciated JKTPO's consistent outreach at the district level and its efforts to generate awareness about export opportunities and e-commerce integration among local enterprises. He highlighted Ramban's potential under the One District One Product (ODOP) and

District as Export Hub (DEH) initiatives, particularly focusing on the district's unique organic produce, traditional crafts and agri-based products. He further emphasized the need for branding, packaging and effective market positioning to enhance the global visibility of local products.

Subject experts and representatives from key organisations such as FIEO, ECGC and GeM delivered insightful sessions on export documentation, financing avenues, market linkages, risk coverage mechanisms and digital business opportunities.

Participants were also guided through processes related to IEC registration, export financing, branding and GeM on-boarding, helping them understand how to leverage technology for market expansion and export growth.

The initiative marks yet another significant step in JKTPO's continued endeavour to promote export-led growth and district-level market linkages under the District as Export Hub Scheme and the ODOP initiative.

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PATTAN

Email: - bdo-pattan@jk.gov.in

2ND NOTICE

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE – LOT NO. 1 (IRON SCRAP)
Auction notice for disposal of dead stock and scrap material
(Detailed as per GFR-2017)

Date: 06-01-26

No.: BP/Estt/2052

FOR DISPOSAL OF UNSERVICEABLE / OBSOLETE STORES AND SCRAP MATERIAL

The Block Development Office, Pattan invites bids for open public auction of unserviceable/obsolete iron scrap material on "as is, where is" and "whatever there is" basis, strictly as per the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017.

1. DETAILS OF MATERIAL FOR AUCTION

(Iron Scrap): A collection of miscellaneous iron scrap including, but not limited to, iron grills, iron gates, iron shutters, barbed wire, iron frames, rods and other ferrous metal items.

2. INSPECTION OF MATERIAL

Location: BHQ Pattan

Dates: From 07-01-2026 onwards

Timing: 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM (up to 11:00 AM on the day of auction)

Contact Person: Wasim Rather – 7006393244

3. AUCTION DETAILS

Mode of Auction: Open Public Auction

Date of Auction: 14-01-2026

Time of Auction: 11:00 onwards

Auctioneer: Auction shall be conducted by committee of the office as per GFR-2017.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Sale on "as is, where is and whatever there is" basis.
- EMD 5,000/- (cash/CDR in favour of BDO Pattan) to be deposited before/on auction day.
- 25% payment immediately, balance 75% within 03 working days, failing which EMD shall be forfeited.
- Material to be lifted at bidder's own cost within 03 working days after full payment.
- All applicable taxes, GST, TCS, TDS, etc. shall be borne by the successful bidder.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction without assigning reasons.
- Detailed terms & conditions available at the office of the BDO, Pattan.

Sd/=
Block Development Officer
Pattan

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PATTAN

Email: - bdo-pattan@jk.gov.in

2nd Notice

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE – LOT NO. 2 (OBSOLUTE FURNITURE)
Auction notice for disposal of dead stock and scrap material
(Detailed as per GFR-2017)

Date: 06-01-26

No.: BP/estt/2053

FOR DISPOSAL OF UNSERVICEABLE / OBSOLETE STORES AND SCRAP MATERIAL

The Block Development Office, Pattan invites bids for open public auction of unserviceable/obsolete iron scrap material on "as is, where is" and "whatever there is" basis, strictly as per the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017.

1. DETAILS OF MATERIAL FOR AUCTION

(FURNITURE): Obsolete and unserviceable furniture including wooden tables, chairs, benches, desks, cupboards, racks and other wooden items

2. INSPECTION OF MATERIAL

Location: BHQ Pattan

Dates: From 07-01-2026 onwards

Timing: 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM (up to 11:00 AM on the day of auction)

Contact Person: Wasim Rather – 7006393244

3. AUCTION DETAILS

Mode of Auction: Open Public Auction

Date of Auction: 14-01-2026

Time of Auction: 11:00 onwards

Auctioneer: Auction shall be conducted by committee of the office as per GFR-2017.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Sale on "as is, where is and whatever there is" basis.
- EMD 5,000/- (cash/CDR in favour of BDO Pattan) to be deposited before/on auction day.
- 25% payment immediately, balance 75% within 03 working days, failing which EMD shall be forfeited.
- Material to be lifted at bidder's own cost within 03 working days after full payment.
- All applicable taxes, GST, TCS, TDS, etc. shall be borne by the successful bidder.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction without assigning reasons.
- Detailed terms & conditions available at the office of the BDO, Pattan.

Sd/=
Block Development Officer
Pattan

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PATTAN

Email: - bdo-pattan@jk.gov.in

2nd Notice

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE – LOT NO. 3 (MISC SCRAP)
Auction notice for disposal of dead stock and scrap material
(Detailed as per GFR-2017)

Date: 06-01-26

No.: BP/ESTT/2054

FOR DISPOSAL OF UNSERVICEABLE / OBSOLETE STORES AND SCRAP MATERIAL

The Block Development Office, Pattan invites bids for open public auction of unserviceable/obsolete iron scrap material on "as is, where is" and "whatever there is" basis, strictly as per the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017.

1. DETAILS OF MATERIAL FOR AUCTION

(Miscellaneous Scrap): Ac. collection of mixed miscellaneous scrap including old tiles, broken items, discarded materials, unusable office junk and other miscellaneous waste.

2. INSPECTION OF MATERIAL

Location: BHQ Pattan

Dates: From 07-01-2026 onwards

Timing: 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM (up to 11:00 AM on the day of auction)

Contact Person: Wasim Rather – 7006393244

3. AUCTION DETAILS

Mode of Auction: Open Public Auction

Date of Auction: 14-01-2026

Time of Auction: 11:00 onwards

Auctioneer: Auction shall be conducted by committee of the office as per GFR-2017.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Sale on "as is, where is and whatever there is" basis.
- EMD 5,000/- (cash/CDR in favour of BDO Pattan) to be deposited before/on auction day.
- 25% payment immediately, balance 75% within 03 working days, failing which EMD shall be forfeited.
- Material to be lifted at bidder's own cost within 03 working days after full payment.
- All applicable taxes, GST, TCS, TDS, etc. shall be borne by the successful bidder.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction without assigning reasons.
- Detailed terms & conditions available at the office of the BDO, Pattan.

Sd/=
Block Development Officer
Pattan

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PATTAN

Email: - bdo-pattan@jk.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice regarding proposed auction of obsolete / dead stock / scrap material

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public, vendors, and all concerned that the Block Development Office, Pattan proposes to conduct public auction for disposal of obsolete, unserviceable, dead stock and scrap material lying within the premises of Block Headquarters (BHQ), Pattan, strictly in accordance with the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017.

The material proposed for auction broadly includes iron scrap, obsolete furniture, and miscellaneous scrap items, as detailed in the respective Public Auction Notices (Lot No. 1, Lot No. 2, and Lot No. 3), and shall be auctioned on "as is, where is" and "whatever there is" basis. Any individual, vendor, firm, or agency having any objection, claim, or representation with regard to the proposed auction or ownership/ interest in the said material is hereby directed to submit the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of 7 (seven) days from the date of issuance of this notice.

Failure to submit any objection within the stipulated time shall be construed that no objection exists, and the department shall proceed with the auction process without any further notice, and no claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter.

This notice is issued in public interest to ensure transparency and to avoid any future dispute.

Sd/=
Block Development Officer
Pattan

No.: BP/Estt/2051 Dated: - 06-01-26

DIPK-9722/25

DATED: 06-01-2026

Blaze guts commercial units in Barzulla

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 06: A massive fire broke out in a commercial unit at Bulbul Bagh, Tengpora area near Old Barzulla here on Tuesday evening, gutting several adjoining sheds and sending thick plumes of toxic smoke billowing into the sky.

Eyewitnesses said the fire erupted around 5:07 pm, quickly spreading from one unit to another that housed carpet, foam, hardware and paint thinner stores, where materials that fuel the blaze and made firefighting operations extremely hazardous.

Officials said that multiple fire tenders from different stations were pressed into service. The operation lasted for more than five hours, and is still ongoing.

"Large quantities of highly flammable materials like foam and thinner made the blaze extremely difficult to control.



The operation was prolonged, but the fire is now largely under control," said Dr Mir Aqib Hussain, Assistant Director, Fire & Emergency Services Srinagar, while speaking to media, as at the site.

He said that several fire service personnel sustained injuries during the operation, and one suffered suffocation due to toxic fumes.

However, sources told KNO

that among the injured are two persons identified as Fayaz Ahmad and Mohammad Imran, both firemen. They were shifted to hospital.

Meanwhile, thick black smoke rising from the site was visible from several parts of Srinagar, triggering panic among residents and traders in the area. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and the extent of damage is

being assessed.

SELF-STYLED REPORTERS CREATE CHAOS

But amid the chaos and courage of firemen, another troubling scene played out, one that once again put 'media ethics' under the spotlight in Kashmir valley and especially Srinagar city.

Several self-styled "reporters" with mics and mobile cameras were seen crowding the site, obstructing fire-fighters and even entering restricted zones to "go live" on social media. Among them, a local garment shop owner who runs a social media page was seen posing as a reporter with a microphone.

"Are we really here for this?" a journalist at the scene remarked. "More mics, fewer firemen that's what it looked like today. Media ethics have truly gone for a toss."

The firefighting operation was still underway when last reports came in—(KNO)

Only workable solution is to keep J&K united: Rana

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 06: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs Javed Rana on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir has already faced multiple divisions and warned that any further fragmentation would harm its stability and unity.

Talking to reporters here, Rana said, "There is no public demand for separate statehood from the Pir Panjal or Chenab regions. The focus should remain on inclusive development rather than political separation."

Rana recalled past divisions of the region. "There was a time when Jammu and Kashmir was a full-fledged state, extending up to the borders. People across regions were emotionally connected. Parts went to Pakistan, Gilgit-Baltistan was given to Pakistan, and Ladakh was separated," he said. He questioned the logic behind new statehood proposals. "Those who earlier divided J&K are now talking about creating new states. How many Pir Panjal regions or Chenab regions exist?"

Rana reiterated that the strength of Jammu and Kashmir lies in unity. "The government is committed to tribal empowerment and inclusive development. Further split will only harm the region," he said, adding, "The only workable solution is to keep J&K united."

Reiterating that government is committed to empower tribal communities, Rana said, "At the

start of this New Year, we organised an interaction programme with tribal communities in Kashmir province. The initiative was aimed at directly hearing from tribal people about their issues and needs."

He said education remained the government's top priority in tribal areas. "Our focus is to remove the burden of educational deprivation. Tribal hostels are being upgraded and new ones established.

Education is the key to empowerment," he said.

Rana listed ongoing initiatives, including the Dhardi Aba scheme to uplift marginalized communities, and highlighted efforts to promote eco-tourism, homestays, and border tourism to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

He said development must reach communities living in remote and border areas, including Shina, Balti, Pahari, and Gujar-Bakarwal populations.

The Minister said institutional mechanisms had been strengthened for better delivery of welfare schemes. "We are ensuring effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act. District-level Forest Rights Committees have been formed, and a Project Monitoring Unit under the Tribal Research Institute has been created to handle research, policy, and execution," he said.

Acknowledging ongoing challenges in essential services, Rana said clean drinking water remained a concern even in Srinagar. "We are working on completing projects in Sajki and Amritsar areas to improve supply," he said—(KNO)



DC Srinagar inspects new GMS Gangbug building



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jan 06: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday visited Gangbug area of the District and conducted an on-site inspection of the initiation of work on construction of new building for Government Middle School (GMS) being carried.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur and other senior Officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

During the visit, the DC carried out an onsite assessment of the works initiated to construct new building for Government Middle School Gangbug to fulfil long pending demand of the local population and enhance educational infrastructure and learning

conditions for students in the area.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining quality standards and ensuring timely completion of the project as per approved specifications. The DC directed the concerned Officers to closely monitor the progress of work so that the facility is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

During the visit, local residents of the area also accompanied the Deputy Commissioner. They expressed hope that the new school building would provide improved classrooms and better educational facilities, contributing to a more conducive academic environment and ensuring enhanced access to quality education to students of Gangbug and adjoining areas.

Jammu boy detained for sharing info with Pak terror handlers

YOGESH

Jammu, Jan 06: Punjab Police have detained a 15-year old boy from Jammu and Kashmir for allegedly sharing sensitive information with handlers in Pakistan.

According to the details available, the teenage boy from Bari Brahmana presently residing in bordering Sujanpur of Pathankot district in Punjab was providing information to people sitting in Pakistan.

"Police received intelligence inputs that the boy was in contact with Pak handlers and was providing information concerning the country's security to military officers, ISI and frontal organisations running terror modules in that country," Senior

Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pathankot, Daljinder Singh Dhillon, told reporters here.

"His mobile phone contains contact numbers of anti-national elements and terrorists based in Pakistan with the intent to spread unrest in India," he added.

"Sensitive information, photos, videos, and espionage-related material concerning Indian Army locations were stored in his phone and he was reportedly roaming in Punjab's Madhopur area after coming from Jammu and Kashmir. Accordingly, a case under various sections of the Official Secrets Act stands registered," the SSP said, adding, "The boy visited many social media platforms and fell into the trap of Pakistani agencies.

Drugs 2nd biggest threat to J&K after terrorism: DIG Zamaan



SAJID RAINA

Baramulla, Jan 06: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police for North Kashmir Range Maqsood Ul Zamaan on Tuesday said drug abuse has emerged as the most serious challenge in Jammu and Kashmir after terrorism. He asserted that police are carrying out sustained action to tackle the growing menace.

Speaking to reporters here at DPL Bandipora, Zamaan said North Kashmir Police had achieved notable results in recent months by recovering sizeable

quantities of narcotics and arresting several people involved in drug trafficking.

"Stringent legal provisions were being invoked against offenders, and several accused had been detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act to disrupt organised drug networks," he said.

The DIG said police action was not limited to arrests alone, adding that properties linked to drug traffickers were also being attached and seized to break the financial backbone of the illegal trade. "The law enforcement

agencies could not combat the drug problem in isolation and underlined the importance of public participation in addressing the issue," he said, adding that community cooperation was essential for identifying traffickers and preventing drug abuse at the grassroots level, particularly among youth.

Responding to queries, Zamaan said virtual private networks were often misused to hide illegal activities, and their misuse was being closely watched, as it could pose risks to national security.

On the security situation along the Line of Control, the DIG said North Kashmir remained a sensitive border region, but robust security measures were in place to counter infiltration attempts.

He said the area was under constant surveillance and security forces were maintaining a high level of alertness.

"Police would continue to intensify operations against drug trafficking while simultaneously engaging with the public to curb the spread of narcotics in the region," the DIG said—(KNO)

GMC Anantnag's Cath Lab: A lifeline for cardiac care

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Anantnag, Jan 06: The state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory (Cath Lab) at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has emerged as a major boon for patients across south Kashmir and adjoining regions, significantly improving access to timely and advanced cardiac care.

An official at the GMC Anantnag informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the facility has completed more than 2,000 cardiac procedures in just eight months since becoming operational, marking a new chapter in the region's public healthcare delivery.

The growing capability of the Cath Lab was demonstrated on January 5, 2026, when the Department of Cardiology at GMC Anantnag performed eight primary angioplasties within a record time of 12 hours—from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm—for patients suffering from acute heart attacks. The achievement is being widely seen as a reflection of the rapid and robust development of the cardiology programme at the institution.

The average door-to-balloon time—a critical parameter in heart attack management—was maintained between 15 and 20 minutes, which is nearly 30 minutes faster than internationally accepted benchmarks, the official said, adding that early intervention within this time frame significantly reduces heart

muscle damage and improves survival outcomes.

All the angioplasty procedures were conducted through the radial route (via the arm), which is now considered a safer and more patient-friendly approach as it lowers the risk of complications and enables faster recovery.

Despite the varied clinical profiles of the patients—ranging from young individuals to elderly and high-risk cases—all procedures were successful. Notably, every patient was stable and discharged the following morning, underscoring the efficiency and quality of care provided.

Before the establishment of the Cath Lab at GMC Anantnag, patients from south Kashmir districts such as Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian often had to rush to Srinagar or even outside Jammu and Kashmir for urgent cardiac interventions. This not only caused delays in treatment but also added to the emotional and financial burden on families.

With the Cath Lab now fully functional, GMC Anantnag is catering to a wide geographical catchment area, providing life-saving cardiac care to patients from Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Banihal, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Rajouri.

Health officials said this decentralisation of specialised services has been crucial in saving lives, particularly during the golden hours of heart attack management.

The rapid progress of the

cardiology department is being attributed to the leadership of Principal and Dean Prof. Dr Rukhsana Najeeb, under whose patronage the institution has expanded specialised services at an unprecedented pace.

The Department of Cardiology is headed by Dr Syed Maqbool, supported by a dedicated team of senior cardiologists—Dr. Shamim Iqbal, Dr Showkat Hussain Shah and Dr Shahood Kakroo. "Together, the team has worked to establish a comprehensive cardiac care programme that now offers almost all advanced interventional procedures that were previously unavailable in south Kashmir," the official said.

Doctors at GMC Anantnag said the successful completion of 2,000 procedures within such a short span reflects not only clinical expertise but also improved infrastructure, streamlined emergency protocols, and round-the-clock availability of trained staff.

Health experts believe that the Cath Lab at GMC Anantnag represents a turning point for public healthcare in south Kashmir, particularly for economically weaker sections who rely heavily on government institutions for specialised treatment.

"With timely angioplasty now available locally, precious lives are being saved. Patients no longer lose critical time on long road journeys to Srinagar," said a doctor, adding that the focus now is on further expanding services and strengthening

No final fare hike decision yet: RTO Kashmir



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Dec 07: Stating that no final decision has been taken on the fare hike yet, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir Qazi Irfan on Tuesday said that only recommendations for enhancement have been submitted to the government.

Irfan while talking to reporters here said, "Drivers should not rush into increasing fares as final decision is awaited."

The RTO said, "The transport department last notified fares for different categories of vehicles in 2021. Since then, various stakeholders, including transporters, have demanded a revision of rates citing inflation and rising operational costs."

He said proposals received from stakeholders were examined at the RTO level and subsequently forwarded to the office of the Transport Commissioner. "After detailed deliberations with stakeholders, including transporters from across J&K, the proposals were

placed before the Transport Fare Fixation Committee," he said.

Irfan added that in the last meeting of the committee, all key stakeholders were consulted and a proposal recommending a percentage increase in fares was finalized and submitted to the government. "The proposal is now with the government, which will decide whether to accept it as it is or make changes. Only after government gives its nod the rates will be revised," he said.

Advising transporters and drivers, the RTO Kashmir said they should not act hastily. "Any fare hike before official notification is illegal. Rates can be increased only after the government issues a formal order," he added.

Appealing to passengers, Qazi Irfan said, "Anyone facing overcharging or any inconvenience can lodge a complaint by texting or sending a WhatsApp message or audio note to 9622002432. Strict action will be taken against drivers or vehicles found violating the prescribed rates"—(KNO)

MLA Kupwara thanks Rijiju for vital projects



KNO

Kupwara, Jan 06: MLA Kupwara Mir Muhammad Fayaz on Tuesday said that the Central Committee of the PMJKV has approved the installation of an MRI facility and the establishment of schools in the Kupwara constituency.

In a post on X, Mir expressed his gratitude to Union Minister

Kiren Rijiju and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ram Singh, for their support in securing these approvals.

"This development is a significant step towards improving healthcare and education infrastructure in Kupwara," Fayaz said. "I thank the Ministry of Minority Affairs for their cooperation and look forward to more progress in the region"—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Need To Reinstate Vigilance In Food And Consumer Safety

The inactivity of the Enforcement Wing of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department is a direct affront to the economic security and health of citizens. When public announcements of "reactivation" and "zero-tolerance" fail to translate into consistent, visible action on the ground, they erode more than just market discipline; they shatter public trust in governance itself. The situation, where price manipulation and food adulteration are alleged to run rampant with little deterrence, is untenable and demands immediate, unequivocal correction. The core function of this

enforcement machinery is not a seasonal festival activity but a perpetual civic duty. Its absence creates a vacuum where unethical traders operate with impunity, burdening household budgets and jeopardising public health with adulterated goods. The assurances from officials, however well-intentioned, ring hollow when shopkeepers and residents across the Valley report never seeing an inspector. This gap between policy pronouncement and practical implementation points to a critical institutional failure, whether due to a lack of resources, political will, or administrative rigour. Citizens are not asking for the

extraordinary; they are asking for the basic enforcement of existing laws. This requires a systematic, transparent, and accountable revival. First, the Enforcement Wing must be empowered and mandated to conduct regular, surprise inspections across all districts, with findings made public. Second, a streamlined, accessible grievance redressal system—possibly an app or dedicated hotline—must be established so consumer complaints trigger mandatory inspections. Third, punitive actions must be meaningful and widely publicised to act as a genuine deterrent. Token fines are ineffective; penalties must hurt

malpractices where it matters most—their profitability and operational licenses. Market integrity is a cornerstone of social justice. Allowing a free-for-all in the pricing and quality of essentials is a tax on the poor and a betrayal of the government's duty to protect the consumer. The administration must move beyond statements and demonstrate, through unannounced raids and published enforcement logs, that the guardian of the marketplace is not missing, but is actively and effectively on duty. The people's patience is not indefinite, and their right to fair trade is non-negotiable.

Mission 100% Electrification: Powering The Future Of Indian Railways

Press Information Bureau

A Silent Revolution on the Tracks
India's Railways, once powered largely by diesel, are now rapidly shifting to electric trains. This marks a major leap towards a modern and sustainable future. With wires spreading across the network under Mission 100% Electrification, the rail system is becoming faster and more efficient. This transformation represents India's strong commitment to reducing pollution. It ensures a cleaner environment and smarter transport for the nation. Today, almost the entire rail network runs on electric traction. Renewable energy, like solar power, is also being integrated across stations and operations. The focus is clear: greener trains, reliable power, and a cleaner environment.

A Century of Progress: Journey of Railway Electrification in India

India's railway electrification story began in 1925, when the country's first electric train, powered by a 1500 Volt DC system, ran between Bombay Victoria Terminus and Kurla Harbour. It was a short route, but a historic leap: the first operational use of electric traction in India, signalling the dawn of energy-efficient, higher-capacity rail travel.

Progress in the early decades was modest. By the time India gained independence, only 388 Route Kilometers (RKMs) had been electrified, with coal and diesel locomotives continuing to dominate the tracks. Over the years, electrification expanded steadily, but the real transformation took shape over the last decade, when Indian Railways intensified its push toward cleaner and more efficient operations.

The impact has been remarkable. Electrification has accelerated from just about 1.42 km per day between 2004 and 2014 to an average of more than 15 km per day between 2019 and 2025. The pace underscores a transformative shift in how quickly the network is being modernised. Electrified track share rose from 24% in 2000 to 40% in 2017, and crossed 96% by the end of 2024. Today, that century-long journey is approaching its finish line. As of November 2025, India has electrified an impressive 69,427 RKMs, covering about 99.2% of its railway network, out of which 46,900 RKMs have been electrified between 2014 and 2025.

What began a hundred years ago on a short suburban stretch in Bombay has grown into one of the world's most extensive and nearly complete electrified rail systems. Electrification now stands at the heart of Indian Railways' mission to reduce emissions, enhance efficiency, and deliver a greener, faster future for the nation.

Status Snapshot: Wiring the Final Miles

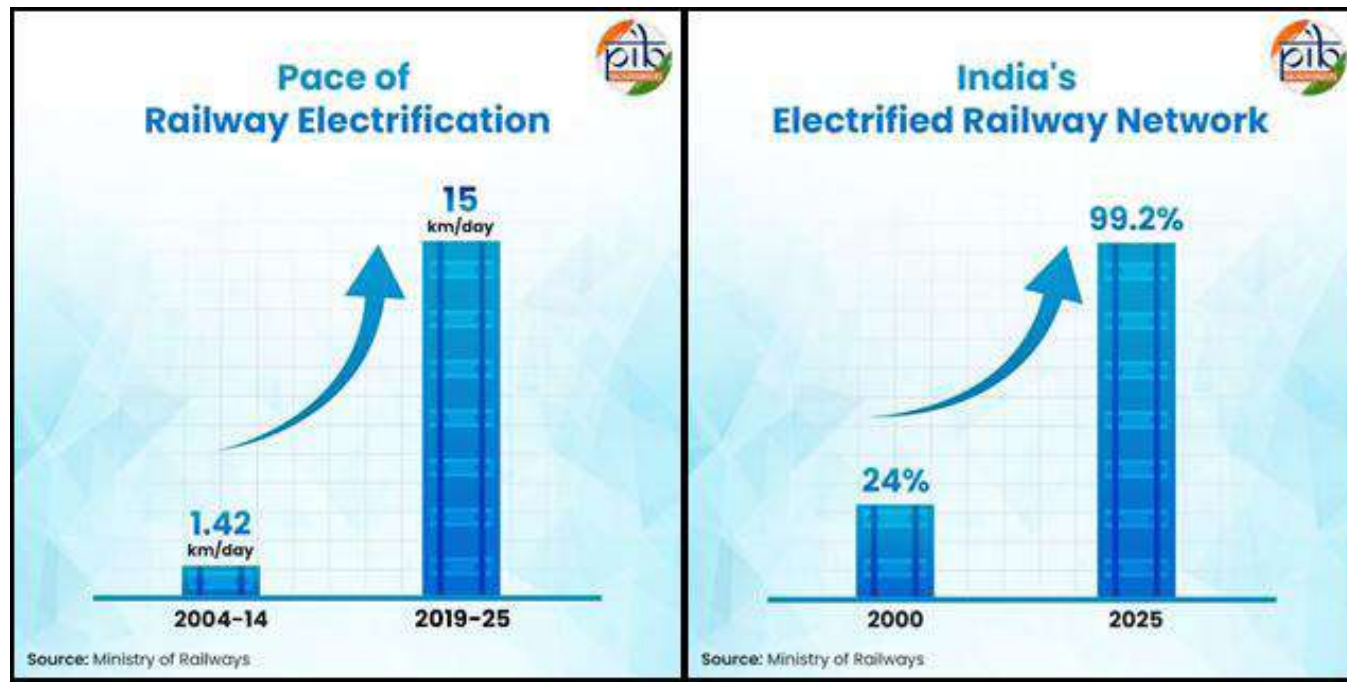
With 99.2% of India's 70,001 RKM Broad Gauge network already electrified, Indian Railways stands on the threshold of complete electrification, marking a transformative achievement in sustainable, efficient, and future-ready rail transport. The state-wise details are as follows.

Railway Electrification Across States

25 States/Union Territories are 100% electrified, with no remaining BG route kilometers pending.

Only 5 States have residual sections under electrification, together accounting for just 574 RKM, or 0.8% of the total BG network.

Rajasthan has a total of 6,514 BG RKM, of which 6,421 RKM are electrified, representing 99% electrification, leaving a balance of 93 RKM. Tamil Nadu has a total of 3,920



RKM, with 3,803 RKM electrified, which is 97%, and a remaining balance of 117 RKM. Karnataka's total is 3,742 RKM, with 3,591 RKM electrified, making it 96%, and a balance of 151 RKM. Assam has a total of 2,578 RKM, with 2,381 RKM electrified, at 92%, leaving 197 RKM yet to be electrified. Goa has a total of 187 RKM, with 171 RKM electrified, which is 91%, and a balance of 16 RKM.

Why Electrification Matters

Railway electrification stands as a cornerstone of India's sustainable transport and economic growth strategy. Beyond reducing adverse environmental impact, it strengthens energy security, enhances operational efficiency, and drives inclusive development across regions. The benefits of electrification extend from faster and more efficient train operations to catalysing industrial and rural growth along railway corridors, making it a powerful enabler of national progress.

Global Benchmarking: India in Perspective

Achieving 99.2% railway electrification, Indian Railways has positioned itself firmly among the world's leading rail networks. A comparison with major international railway systems highlights how electrification levels vary globally and underscores the scale and significance of India's progress.

According to the International Union of Railways (UIC) report from June 2025, Switzerland has achieved 100% railway electrification. China's railway electrification stands at 82%, while Spain has 67%. Japan's railways are 64% electrified, and France has an electrification rate of 60%. Russia's railway electrification is at 52%, and the United Kingdom has the lowest among these, with 39%.

This global comparison illustrates India's standing among advanced railway systems and reinforces the strategic importance of sustained electrification in achieving efficiency, sustainability, and international competitiveness.

Railways on Solar Power: Lighting the Future

With the growing focus on sustainable and efficient transportation, Indian Railways is increasingly prioritising electric traction as it is more environmentally friendly and also about 70% more economical than diesel traction. With regard to Indian Railways'

Mission for 100% electrification, two significant positive developments stand out:

The commitment to electrify the entire Broad Gauge network in mission mode, ensuring an environmentally friendly, clean, and green mode of transportation for the public.

The strategic decision to tap into renewable energy, particularly solar power, by leveraging the vast stretches of land available along railway tracks.

Major Solar Capacity Deployment

Indian Railways' transition toward renewable energy marks a decisive step in building a greener and more sustainable transport system. The scale and speed of solar adoption across the network underline this commitment.

Unprecedented Capacity Growth: As of November 2025, Indian Railways has commissioned 898 Mega Watt (MW) of solar power, a remarkable leap from just 3.68 MW in 2014, reflecting nearly a 244-fold increase in solar capacity.

Nationwide Clean Energy Footprint: This solar power is now installed at 2,626 railway stations, showcasing widespread adoption of clean energy solutions across diverse geographical and operational zones.

How Solar Energy Supports Railway Electrification

Solar energy contributes to the goal of electrification in multiple ways:

Supporting Electric Train Operations: Out of the total 898 MW of solar capacity commissioned, 629 MW (about 70%) is being utilised for traction purposes, meaning the solar power generated contributes directly to the electricity requirements of electric train operations. This reduces reliance on conventional grid electricity for traction.

Meeting Non-Traction Energy Needs: The remaining 269 MW of solar capacity is used for non-traction purposes such as station lighting, service buildings, workshops, and railway quarters. By meeting these energy needs with solar, Indian Railways reduces conventional energy use and electricity costs in a clean and sustainable way, improving overall energy security and operational efficiency across the network.

Engineering the future of Electrification

Indian Railways is increasingly adopting modern technologies and innovative construction methods to improve efficiency, safety, and speed in railway electrification

projects. By reducing manual dependence and embracing mechanisation, project execution has become faster, more reliable, and of consistent quality.

Cylindrical Mechanised Foundation

Traditional overhead electrification (OHE) foundations required intensive manual excavation and slowed project progress. The adoption of cylindrical foundations installed through mechanised augering has streamlined the process, reducing labour effort and significantly saving time.

State-of-the-Art Automatic Wiring Train

The Automatic Wiring Train enables simultaneous installation of catenary and contact wires with accurate tension control. This advanced system speeds up the wiring process and ensures the timely completion of electrification works.

More Than Modernisation, A Movement

Electrification is redrawing the energy profile of Indian Railways, turning an age-old system into a contemporary powerhouse. What was once a diesel-driven giant is rapidly evolving into a sleek, electrified network that moves millions with less noise, less cost, and less carbon. It's not just modernization, it's momentum. Railway electrification in India is no longer just a technical upgrade; it is a national story where infrastructure meets aspiration, and where every newly energized route becomes a promise of faster, greener, and more connected journeys ahead.

Before Goals, Pause And Honour Your Journey

Asha Iyer Kumar

It's that time of the season when life slowly comes to a pause and people return to themselves, leaving their external businesses outside the door. Resolutions, reflections, goal-setting and a smattering of philosophy take centre stage, and a fresh blueprint for life ahead is chalked out. The first week of the New Year is filled with renewed optimism about the times that would ensue and the leaps we would make in the next twelve months.

As the year was drawing to a close, an acquaintance on LinkedIn posed a question — 'What goals and lessons are you planning to bring into 2026? Let's inspire each other with our answers.' I sat with the question for a bit, and confessed that I was

Key Takeaways

- Indian Railways has electrified about 99.2% of its network by November 2025, making it one of the world's most extensively electrified rail systems.
- Electrification pace has surged from 1.42 km/day (2004–2014) to over 15 km/day in 2019–2025, marking a massive acceleration in modernization.
- By November 2025, Indian Railways expanded its solar power capacity to 898 MW, up from 3.68 MW in 2014, marking a transformational growth in

not setting any concrete goals as of now. I was merely going to take stock — of how far I have come from what I was, and what corners I have turned to get to this point of success. I was going to defy the phrase 'no looking back' and seriously look at my past to acknowledge the distance I have stridden, the milestones I have reached, and the footprints I have left on those whose lives I have touched.

Self-acknowledgement: is that something we have forgotten to put on our to-do list in our hurry to be proactive and future-ready? If yes, it is the first thing we must do - not just on the occasion of a new Gregorian year, but periodically. Every once in a while, we must ask ourselves: Where am I today? How did I get this far? — and then turn that thought over in the mind. Count every small win and compliment ourselves for the effort we took to make that victory possible. No accomplishment, big or small, could have arrived without putting ourselves out there; without exposing ourselves to risks; without taking chances; without being resilient; without self-belief; without falling and faltering; without learning.

It is only when we allow ourselves this quiet contemplation about our own past that we realise we are more worthy than we give ourselves credit for. That's when gratitude and fulfilment gush into our life, shifting our understanding of what success truly means. Currently, we define ourselves more by how we are perceived by the world than by self-estimation — a huge disservice to our talent, perseverance, endeavours, and triumphs.

Of course, planning and setting goals give us direction, but the courage to expand our horizons comes from recognising how steadfast we have been. We may not have come as far as we aspired, but staying stuck in cynicism and self-doubt can only hold us back. What propels us forward is self-recognition — not grandstanding — but an intimate acceptance of who and what we are today, by dint of hard slog.

We have all been through the harsh winters and sultry summers of life. We have hung in there. We have driven on the roughest roads, and we have arrived here — and for this, we all deserve congratulations.

Internally, many of us still critique ourselves for not having done better or reached that elusive point of success. This habit of focusing on what was not attained keeps us in despair. We may have miles to go before we sleep, but while we are awake, let us pat ourselves on the back for making a difference — to our lives and to others - with our resolve and resilience. We are our own heroes with inspiring backstories — and nothing should take away from that truth.

The writer is a Dubai-based author, columnist, independent journalist and children's writing coach; views are personal

CS finalises plan to transform skilling ecosystem in J&K

‘Strengthen industry–academia linkages to ensure greater applicability, job orientation of skilling programmes’

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 06: In a major initiative aimed at making the population of J&K future-ready for emerging employment opportunities, the Skill Development Department on Tuesday presented a comprehensive and forward-looking roadmap to Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to transform the skilling ecosystem of the UT.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Vice-Chancellors of local Universities, Director IIM Jammu, Managing Director, J&K Bank, Secretary, Education; MD, Skill Mission and representatives from premier institutions including IIT, NIFT and other reputed academic and professional institutions.

While reviewing the roadmap, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need to explore the concept of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Jammu & Kashmir for the creation of better and high-quality employment opportunities. He also suggested developing fellowship programmes to create a strong pool of skilled human resources within the UT.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the overall framework of the plan, stating that it incorporates all essential constituents required for skilling different sections of the population, making it inclusive and forward-looking

in character.

He, however, stressed that the roadmap should be made more practical, outcome-driven and implementable, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all participating institutions, including national-level institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs, Universities, SKIMS and other professional institutions.

Emphasising employability, the Chief Secretary called for strengthening industry–academia linkages to ensure greater applicability and job orientation of skilling programmes, making them market-aligned and future-ready.

He further directed that the roadmap be circulated among various stakeholders including Universities, academic institutions and relevant government departments for comments and suggestions so that the final document becomes more effective and impactful in terms of outcomes.

Presenting the roadmap, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, informed that the plan will be implemented over the next five years, with the objective of empowering individuals across Jammu & Kashmir through industry-aligned skilling, ensuring inclusive growth, enhanced employability and long-term economic resilience.

Elaborating on the vision, the Secretary stated that the



overarching goal of the roadmap is to empower every individual in Jammu & Kashmir to secure a gainful livelihood through market-aligned skilling, thereby unlocking opportunities in both the present and future economy. The Secretary further divulged that the proposed outcomes include exposure to skilling for 6–7 lakh school students, structured skill courses for 2–2.5 lakh college students, and technical or short-term skilling for 5–6 lakh youth and working-age individuals, promoting lifelong learning across relevant trades. He added that the roadmap is structured around four integrated tracks, each addressing a specific stage of the skilling and employment lifecycle.

Detailing the implementation strategy, Director, Skill Development Department,

Shahzad Alam, stated that the first track, ‘Foundational Skilling in Schools’, focuses on compulsory exposure to vocational and 21st-century skills for students from Classes 6 to 12th. He elaborated that the students will be introduced to trades, services, digital economy, local entrepreneurship and work-place readiness through structured modules, exposure visits, school-level skill hackathons and psychometric career assessments to help them identify their interests and capabilities in addition to academic performance. Dedicated coordinators, mobile skilling vans, teacher training led by SCERT, and school-level skilling committees will support effective implementation.

The second track, ‘Career Launchpad in Colleges’, targets

college students, senior secondary pass-outs and fresh graduates. It proposes the introduction of minor skilling courses, summer internships, finishing school modules and accessible coaching for competitive examinations such as JEE and NEET.

Under this track, stackable and high-demand courses will be delivered in blended mode. Academic credits for skilling, stipends for internships and structured placement support will help bridge the gap between education and employment. Governance will be ensured through college skilling committees and apex-level administrative monitoring.

The third track, ‘Industry-Ready Technical Skilling’, focuses on strengthening ITIs, polytechnics and technical institutions through a

hub-and-spoke model, diversified course offerings, introduction of dual systems of training and flexible entry–exit pathways aligned with NSQF levels.

Under this track Polytechnics are proposed to evolve into a J&K Skills University framework, supported by centres of excellence, faculty development programmes, infrastructure upgrades and strengthened apprenticeship linkages with MSMEs.

The fourth track, ‘Upskilling and Lifelong Learning’, addresses the needs of the existing workforce and the informal sector. It promotes short-term skilling convergence, mid-career skill upgradation and competitive examination preparation under the Lakshya Scheme, with special focus on the 30–45 age group.

The track also emphasises recognition of prior learning (RPL) for artisans and traditional workers, entrepreneurial skill development and institutionalising lifelong learning as a social and economic norm. Model short-term skill centres are proposed in every district, along with upskilling vouchers, loan support and scholarships to ensure effective implementation.

The Chief Secretary was also briefed on the proposal for a unified, end-to-end job listing platform for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, integrating international, national and UT-level employment opportunities.

The platform aims to address fragmented job ecosystems, improve job discovery and tracking by creating a verified talent pool and unlock overseas employment potential too.

For international recruitment, a structured strategy has been outlined, including youth preference mapping, establishment of migrant resource and foreign language centres, partnerships with global recruitment agencies, and end-to-end visa and contract facilitation. Successful models from states such as Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka and Meghalaya were cited, with scope for collaboration through the proposed J&K Overseas Employment Corporation.

A two-tier recruitment model has also been proposed, covering both international and national/UT-level placements, supported by API integration with job portals, corporate tie-ups, district employment offices and mandatory publication of government job notifications on the Mission YUVA platform.

The participating stakeholders took this occasion to share their valuable inputs on strengthening institutional frameworks, leveraging available infrastructure and manpower, and ensuring coordinated implementation to make the skilling ecosystem a major success across the length and breadth of J&K in the months to come.

IT Secretary reviews hiring of Meghraj cloud services in J&K

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 6: Secretary Information Technology (IT), Piyush Singla Tuesday chaired a significant meeting in his office chamber focused on the hiring of Meghraj Cloud Services, a critical initiative to strengthen government IT infrastructure and accelerate digital transformation in Jammu and Kashmir.

CEO J&K, Special Secretary IT Department, Director Finance, State Informatics Officer of NIC, and other officials were present in the meeting, ensuring comprehensive stakeholder input.

The discussions, as per an official statement, look deeply into the project’s foundational elements, including its conceptualization and detailed scope definition to align with operational needs.

Participants thoroughly reviewed approval mechanisms and implementation timelines, addressing financial concurrence and fund availability to secure necessary budgetary support.

Key resolutions covered preparation of the Service

Level Agreement (SLA) document for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), execution of the MoU with NICS and service provider streamlined release of payments, and a clear roadmap for the operationalization of Meghraj cloud services, constitution of requisition committee for looking after the modalities.

Secretary IT said that Meghraj cloud services mark a transformative step toward providing secure, scalable, and sovereign cloud infrastructure tailored for public sector applications, enhancing data management, cyber security resilience, and service delivery efficiency.

He stated that it aligns seamlessly with national priorities under Digital India, promoting innovation in government operations while safeguarding sensitive information through robust compliance and local hosting capabilities.

The meeting’s outcomes pave the way for rapid advancement, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a leader in adopting advanced cloud technologies for governance.

Labour Commissioner reviews implementation of Labour Codes in J&K

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 06: Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Labour Codes in the Union Territory.

The Labour Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the ongoing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign and emphasised inclusive sensitization of the stakeholders to the provisions and objectives of the Labour Codes for effective on-the-ground implementation. “Effective implementation of the labour codes requires active participation and informed engagement of all concerned stakeholders, including employers, HR managers, workers and unorganised sector workers”, he stressed.

Earlier, the Assistant Labour Commissioners briefed the meeting about the initiatives undertaken at the



district level to disseminate information on Labour Codes. They informed that a series of awareness workshops, interactive sessions and meetings have been organised with employers, industrial units, trade unions, HR professionals and workers to familiarize them with the key provisions of the Labour Codes. “Special focus has been laid on explaining compliance requirements, workers’ welfare measures and grievance redressal mechanisms,” the meeting was told.

The ALCs further informed that targeted sensitization drives have been carried

out for unorganised workers through field visits, community-level interactions and collaboration with local stakeholders. IEC material has been widely circulated and on-ground outreach activities have helped in building awareness among workers about their rights, social security benefits and safety provisions under the Labour Codes.

The Labour Commissioner directed the department to prepare a comprehensive and structured action plan focusing on mass-scale sensitization of stakeholders through intensified IEC activities

and capacity-building programmes. He highlighted the importance of making stakeholders fully aware of their rights, responsibilities and the benefits envisaged under the Labour Codes to ensure smooth and effective implementation. He further underscored the need for targeted outreach initiatives to cover unorganised workers and other vulnerable sections, ensuring inclusive awareness and participation across sectors.

The Assistant Labour Commissioners and the Deputy Labour Commissioners shared their field-level experiences and assured full cooperation in implementing the directions issued during the meeting. The Labour Commissioner reiterated the department’s commitment to strengthening labour governance through awareness, capacity building and stakeholder engagement for the successful implementation of Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir.

6-week disaster management training begins for police at CTI Kot Bhalwal

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 06: A Six-week “Basic Disaster Management Training course” for (47) Police personnel nominated by PHQ J&K of different districts of Jammu Province was inaugurated Tuesday by Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu Z.N Manhas at the Central Training Institute (CTI) HG/CD, Kot Bhalwal.

Dy SP SDRF, Dinesh Gupta; Dy.SP Training SDRF Principal CTI HG/CD Kot-Bhalwal, Rohit Dev Singh and other staff members were also present.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Commandant SDRF, as per an official statement, highlighted the aim and objectives of the “Basic Disaster Management Course.” “The core aim is to train manpower including the police personnel in disaster management techniques. They have to act as first responders at the time of disaster,” he added. He encouraged the police personnel to equip themselves with essential skills to act effectively as the first responders in disaster-affected areas.

Infrastructure in Gujjar & Bakarwal hostels being strengthened: Rana

Engages tribal voices to shape inclusive development agenda

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 06: In a major outreach initiative reflecting the government’s commitment towards participatory and inclusive governance, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, Tuesday chaired an exclusive interactive session with the eminent personalities from the tribal communities of Kashmir division at Srinagar.

The day long interaction, as per an official statement, brought together a distinguished gathering of tribal artists, writers, poets, social activists, conservationists, public representatives and community leaders, providing a meaningful platform for direct dialogue between the government and grassroots voices. The session was aimed at capturing the lived experiences and informed suggestions to refine the government’s policies and programmes for tribal welfare.

Addressing the gathering, Javed Ahmad Rana described the interaction as a collaborative effort rather than a routine

meeting. He stressed that genuine tribal upliftment must be shaped by the aspirations and lived realities of the communities themselves.

“This interaction reflects our shared responsibility towards inclusion, empowerment and dignity of tribals. Development can be sustainable only when it is guided by the voices of those it seeks to serve,” the Minister said.

He underlined the critical role of domain experts, elected representatives and socially influential voices in shaping effective policies and monitoring their execution, particularly in remote and tribal dominated areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

“This approach fosters collaborative governance, where policy intent aligns with the ground realities. When community wisdom and administrative action move together, public welfare outcomes become meaningful and lasting,” Rana observed.

The Minister urged the writers, artists, poets and civil society leaders to take the lead in initiatives for the welfare of tribal and other vulnerable communities. He noticed that their cultural and social influence places them in a unique position to guide and mobilize society.

He said the interactive session would serve as a strategic platform for sustained engagement,



enabling the government to respond to the evolving social, cultural and economic needs of tribal populations.

Emphasising the vision of “Responsive Governance,” he assured participants that the insights shared would directly inform the future policy frameworks.

Education emerged as a key focus area during the deliberations. Rana reiterated that tribal

education remains a top priority of the government, with special emphasis on quality residential education through upgraded hostels, timely scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students and organized educational exposure programmes to ensure that no tribal child is left behind.

He informed that infrastructure in Gujjar and Bakarwal hostels is being strengthened alongside implementation of

the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (ERMS) to ensure quality education.

Highlighting the importance of balancing development with tradition, the Minister stressed the need for systematic documentation and preservation of tribal history, languages, art and oral traditions. He said cultural preservation is central to strengthen tribal identity and self-respect and institutions

like the Tribal Research Institute would play a pivotal role in this effort.

On livelihood generation, the Minister emphasized promotion of eco-tourism through tribal homestays, particularly in border and remote areas and strengthening of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to add value to forest produce. These initiatives, he said, are designed to enable tribal communities to become self-reliant entrepreneurs while maintaining ecological balance.

Reaffirming the government’s commitment to tribal rights, Minister Rana emphasized that implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) remains a priority, with focused efforts to ensure legal security over land and forest resources through strengthened institutional mechanisms.

He stated that the Omar Abdullah led Government is fully committed to the comprehensive development and well being of tribal population across Jammu and Kashmir. He also highlighted the Union Government’s renewed focus on tribal welfare and stressed the need for coordinated, mission mode implementation of welfare initiatives.

The Minister outlined key schemes being implemented for tribal welfare. These included

the Capex Budget, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) and the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY).

The interactive session was attended by MLA Kokernag, Zaffar Khatana, DDC Chairperson Anantnag, Mohammad Yousuf Kohli and DDC Vice Chairperson Anantnag Nazir Choudhary besides Director Tribal Affairs, Deputy Director Tribal Affairs Jammu and Nodal Officer, Tribal Research Institute and Deputy Director Tribal Affairs Kashmir.

Prominent citizens, writers, artists, poets and representatives from various tribal communities of the Kashmir Division actively participated in the deliberations and placed their demands and suggestions before the Minister. Key issues raised included upgradation of facilities in tribal areas, documentation of oral histories, promotion of tribal languages and culture and streamlining of forest-related clearances for community welfare activities.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt and time bound redressal of the issues raised.

Jammu Railway conducts surprise drive on Vande Bharat

Rs 80,000 fine recovered from ticketless travellers

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 06: To prevent ticketless and irregular travel, Jammu Division of Northern Railway regularly conducts surprise ticket checking drives. Continuing this effort, a drive was carried out today, January 6th, on Vande Bharat Train No. 22478, from Jammu to Ludhiana, led by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mr. Uchit Singhal. The team included Assistant Commercial Managers, Commercial Inspectors, and ticket checking staff.

During the operation, approximately 31 passengers traveling without valid tickets or proper travel authorization were identified. Strict action was taken against all offenders under the Railways Act, 1989, resulting in the recovery of approximately Rs. 80,000 in fines.

Commenting on the drive, Uchit Singhal stated, "Travelers are encouraged to carry valid tickets, especially on premium



trains like Vande Bharat, where penalties for ticketless travel are higher. Such practices not only cause revenue loss but also

unfairly impact passengers with valid tickets. We remain committed to ensuring a fair and secure travel environment."

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of RIDF projects under NABARD

Stresses timely execution, completion

KT News Desk

Ganderbal, Jan 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore on Tuesday convened a meeting to review the progress of projects being executed under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) under NABARD in the district.

At the outset, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, briefed the chair on the scope and eligible components under RIDF, which include agriculture and allied sectors, social sector initiatives and rural connectivity.

During the meeting, AGM NABARD advised departments to ensure pre-submission preparedness, including detailed surveys, accurate cost estimates, obtaining administrative approvals and technical sanctions, and securing land and forest clearances, to ensure project readiness before submission to NABARD.

He also stressed that priority should be accorded to



RIDF XXVII projects, as the phasing of these projects is scheduled to close by March 2026.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on various aspects of RIDF implementation, including project timelines, expenditure status and physical progress of various projects.

It was informed that a total of 52 RIDF projects are currently ongoing in the district under RIDF Tranches XXVI to XXX. Of these, 41 projects pertain to the Public Works Department (PWD), two to the Jal Shakti and Irrigation Department, five to the Agriculture Production Department (APD), and four to SKAUST-APD.

Taking a department-wise review, the DC assessed the status of various projects taken up, ongoing and completed works, and the expenditure incurred so far under RIDF. He directed all

concerned departments to submit regular updates of their respective projects to NABARD on regular basis.

With regard to submission of Project Completion Certificates (PCCs) and Project Completion Reports (PCRs) in respect of Completed Projects, DC instructed the concerned departments to submit the same at the earliest. He also directed officers to ensure regular submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) every quarter.

Highlighting future planning, the DC asked all the departments that new projects should be planned properly in advance with special focus on agriculture and allied activities, along with the social sector.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer R&B, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant General Manager NABARD besides officers of line departments.

Vigilance of ticket checking staff: Lost mobile phone returned to passenger



KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 06: Jammu Division remains dedicated to passenger convenience and safety. On January 5, an incident highlighted the integrity of our staff when a passenger traveling in coach B4 of train number 12413 lost his mobile phone. The ticket checking staff responded promptly and successfully returned the phone to its owner.

The train, which was carrying over 150 NCC cadets en route to Jammu in coaches B3, B4, M1, and M2, saw the loss occur in coach B4. Ms. Aarti Kalsi, Headquarters - Jammu, stationed on the train, discovered the mobile phone during her checks. She inquired with passengers in the coach, and it was confirmed that the phone belonged to an NCC cadet. With the presence of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), she handed the phone back to the passenger, who expressed his gratitude to the railway staff.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, praised the staff's honesty and dedication, saying, "This incident reflects our staff's commitment to passenger safety and convenience. Our role extends beyond ticket verification—we are here to serve and protect our passengers."

DC Baramulla reviews progress of schemes under agri, allied sectors

KT News Desk

Baramulla, Jan 06: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, on Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Main Meeting Hall of the DC Office, Baramulla, to assess the progress of various schemes being implemented under the Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the district.

During the meeting, the DC undertook a detailed review of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), assessing both physical and financial progress and evaluating the targets achieved



so far.

While reviewing the progress of the PM-KISAN Scheme, the

DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are mandatorily

linked with active Kisan Credit Card (KCC) accounts, so that farmers can seamlessly access

institutional credit and other financial benefits.

He further instructed the banking authorities to submit a branch-wise list of KCC account holders to facilitate monitoring and gap analysis.

The DC also reviewed the implementation status of other key schemes, including PM Krishi Maan-Dhan Yojana, PM Dhan-Dhanya Yojana, and other farmer-centric initiatives.

Stressing upon the importance of social security and income enhancement for farmers, he called for intensified awareness and enrollment drives,

particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Minga Sherpa also instructed the officers to set realistic and achievable annual targets, with a focus on achieving a significant incremental increase in scheme performance during a financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Horticulture Officer, Lead District Manager, along with officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other allied departments.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Snowfall in higher

5.2 degrees Celsius, while the airport registered 7.6 degrees. Banihal recorded 1.5 degrees, Batote 1.7 degrees, Katra 4.8 degrees and Bhaderwah minus 2.2 degrees.

Kathua recorded 8.4 degrees, Udhampur 4.5 degrees, Ramban 2.7 degrees, Rajouri 0.0 degrees, Kishtwar 2.2 degrees, Reasi 6.7 degrees, Doda 3.1 degrees and Poonch 2.3 degrees.

Leh in the Union Territory of Ladakh recorded a minimum temperature of minus 11.2 degrees Celsius.

Officials said there was fresh snowfall of around four inches on the Mughal Road, following which the Border Roads Organisation started snow clearance operations. The road remained blocked for traffic.

Light snowfall was reported from Heerpora in Shopian, Chandimarh, Buffliaz, Vailoo in Kokernag and other parts of south Kashmir.

Light to moderate snowfall was also recorded at Mughal Road and Sinthan Top.

Meteorological officials attributed the weather activity to a weak western disturbance affecting the region.

The forecast indicated partly cloudy weather from January 7 to 18, followed by generally cloudy conditions on January 19 and 20.

A fall in minimum temperatures by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius from normal levels is expected till January 10, after which temperatures are likely to rise by 1 to 2 degrees.

In the Jammu region, dense fog reduced visibility at several places, causing inconvenience to commuters, officials said. (KNO)

If separated, Jammu

Operation Sindoor. There was also heavy rain in August and September. We are still bearing the brunt," he said.

The Chief Minister said while the government prepares for challenges, many situations unfold without warning. "We prepare, but we don't know what is going to unfold," he said.

Listing immediate priorities, CM Omar said the upcoming budget session would be a major test for the government. He also flagged the approaching tourism season, which usually begins in March.

"Tourism season is starting in March. We have to brace for it. Hopefully, it will be successful, but it is a challenge," he said.

The Chief Minister said his government was ready to face multiple tests. "We are ready to face all kinds of challenges, but situations take a turn and test us in various ways," he said, adding that restoration of full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir remained a key political challenge.

Referring to the row over admissions in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) University Medical College, the Chief Minister said, "The Health Ministry should consider shutting down the University Medical College as the institution

has turned into a political issue, even though students admitted there are qualified on merit. The controversy has created uncertainty for students and their families."

"The Health Ministry should shut down the college. It has become a political issue. The students who have taken admission there are qualified on merit. If I were the father of those children, I would not allow them to study there," he said.

Reacting to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) directing Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to release Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman from their IPL 2026 squad, CM Omar questioned the move and sought clarity on the grounds for the decision.

The BCCI had asked KKR to release Rahman without issuing a public explanation, despite the franchise having bought the pacer for 9.2 crore at the IPL auction last month.

"What wrong has Mustafizur Rahman done?" CM Omar asked, adding that India shares better relations with Bangladesh than with Pakistan. "There is no terrorism coming from Bangladesh," he said.

Commenting on reports of killings of Hindus in Bangladesh, the Chief Minister said the Prime Minister should respond firmly on the issue. "If such incidents are happening, the Prime Minister should speak strongly, like US President Donald Trump does while dealing with Venezuela," he said. (KNO)

34% power deficit

arrangements.

As already reported by KNO that in Jammu and Kashmir, hydel power generation has reduced by nearly 70 percent from the local generation plants.

An official had informed that the power generation from all the power plants owned by Jammu and Kashmir has decreased by nearly 800-900 Megawatts (MWs).

The official had also said, "The power generation from across local power plants is currently ranging from 330 MWs to 400 MWs."

It also said, "From one of the plants from Baglihar, the power generation is ranging from 250-380 MWs and in case of another power plant of Baglihar, Kishenpur and New Wanpoh, we are generating a maximum of one MW."

The official further informed that the department is able to generate only 71 MWs from Kashmir based power plants.

On Monday, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir valley is reeling under 'severe low voltage issues,' officials said.

The official had further said that the heating load is also picking up during early morning and night hours. "The demand may further increase in the coming days."

It also said that the severe voltage in Jammu and Kashmir is in violation of N-1. (KNO)

J&K Govt introduces

uniform object head structure for Grant-in-Aid aligned with that of the Union Government.

The Government has directed all Administrative Secretaries to furnish component-wise details of funds already projected under the head "028 - Grant-in-Aid" on BEAMS.

"In order to streamline financial discipline, all the Administrative Secretaries are accordingly requested to furnish the component-wise details of the funds already projected on BEAMS under the detailed head '028 - Grant-in-Aid,' so as to enable the Finance Department to make appropriate budgetary provisions for Grant-in-Aid under the newly introduced detailed heads in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2026-27," the circular adds. (KNO)

Forces bust

grenade, four Chinese grenades and one ammunition pouch, an official said.

He said a case in this regard has been registered, and further investigations have been taken up. (KNO)

Bla youth found

an official said that Police have taken the cognizance and investigations have been initiated to ascertain the cause of death. (KNO)

CM directs clear

Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, PWD (R&B) Anil Kumar Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Sheetal Nanda, Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, senior engineers, executive engineers, and representatives of BEACON, SAMPARK, NHAI and NHIDCL, besides other concerned officers.

All Deputy Commissioners and field officers participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed major road and bridge projects being executed by different agencies including BEACON, SAMPARK, NHAI, NHIDCL and PWD (R&B) across Jammu and Kashmir. A detailed presentation was made on rapid restoration of road connectivity, permanent restoration works, and revival of long-pending bridges, particularly in vulnerable and strategically important areas.

Expressing concern over delays, Omar Abdullah sought clear timelines for each project and took stock of the status of Right of Way (RoW) issues and forest clearances.

He instructed the concerned departments to expedite forest clearances in a coordinated manner, stressing that procedural delays should not become an excuse for missing deadlines.

The Chief Minister expressed displeasure over missing of timelines in several projects, directing the executing agencies to identify bottlenecks and address them immediately.

He emphasized that slow pace of work defeats the purpose of infrastructure development and causes avoidable inconvenience to the public.

Emphasizing that special attention be given to public interest, Omar Abdullah directed agencies, particularly NHAI and NHIDCL, to ensure proper maintenance of existing roads where tunnel and major highway works are underway.

He further directed all executing agencies to take up the issue of forest clearances with the concerned Forest Department on a regular basis wherever new projects or works are proposed to be started, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA). The Chief Minister stressed that early and continuous engagement with the Forest Department is essential to avoid delays at later stages of project execution.

The meeting also reviewed major achievements under Capital Expenditure (Capex) and the performance of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for the year 2025-26. The Chief Minister stressed optimal utilization of funds and urged departments to ensure outcome-based planning and execution.

Expressing concern over the growing traffic congestion in urban centres, the Chief Minister instructed the department to prepare well-thought-out and technically sound Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for flyovers and road projects in the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

Highlighting the importance of durability and climate resilience, the Chief Minister directed that all road projects must mandatorily include proper drainage systems.

"Without adequate drainage, rainwater damages roads and shortens their life. Drainage must be an integral part of every road project, not an afterthought," he instructed.

The Chief Minister concluded by reiterating that infrastructure development remains a key priority of the government, and directed all executing agencies to work in close coordination, maintain high quality standards, and ensure that projects translate into real and visible improvement in connectivity and public convenience.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the renovated Conference Hall and allied facilities at the PWD Guest House, Gandhi Nagar. On the occasion, he also distributed appreciation letters among the engineers.

CM Omar rolls

for tourists and stakeholders alike," he said.

Also, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Integrated Skiing Course at Gulmarg and Sonamarg, comprising two batches of 32 and 25 trainees respectively. He was informed that the basic skiing course has a duration of 14 days and is aimed for trainees in the age group of 12 to 18 years.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidil Tanvir Sadiq, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad, who is also MD JKCCS, Director Tourism Jammu Dr Vikas Gupta, Managing Director J&K Tourism Development Corporation Shreya Singhal, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Omar inaugurates

around 500-600 youngsters in the 12-18 age group this season," they said, adding, "The move is a part of the Tourism Department's efforts to nurture local skiing talent and position the Valley as a leading winter sports hub."

At Gulmarg, trainees were seen brimming with excitement on their first day on the slopes. "It's our first day of skiing and we are really enjoying it," said one of the participants, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to interact with the Chief Minister.

"We want to become professional players and shine. This course has earlier produced international-level athletes, and we too hope to follow that path," another skier added.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Qamar Sajad said that the department's vision is to strengthen adventure tourism. "We foresee a day when many youth from Kashmir will participate in national and international skiing competitions. This training is our foundation for that," he said. (KNO)

Over 50% of children

obesity, and overweight, they said.

Dr Murtaza Khan advised that to safeguard children's health both now and in the future, parents should promote the intake of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, while reducing sugar, chips, deep-fried foods, refined carbohydrates, and sugary cereals. Encouraging more physical activity, routine health screenings, and fostering healthy habits are also crucial.

Dr Khan explained: "Childhood is a critical period for addressing high triglycerides, as blood vessels are still flexible and damage is minimal. Early intervention can prevent the development of serious health issues later in life. Although high triglycerides usually do not cause immediate symptoms, they serve as an early warning sign for heart disease, diabetes, fatty liver, and metabolic syndrome, and are highly reversible with lifestyle modifications if addressed promptly."

Doctors reiterated that childhood is the best time to normalise triglyceride levels because effective lifestyle changes can significantly reduce future health risks and promote overall well-being. (KNO)

CM lays foundation

both administrative and public needs effectively.

Grok obscene AI content: Govt gives X time till Jan 7 to submit report

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06:) The government has given X an additional time till January 7 to submit a detailed Action Taken Report after it issued a stern warning to the Elon Musk-led social media platform over indecent and sexually-explicit content being generated through misuse of AI-based services like 'Grok' and other tools.

On Friday, the government directed X to immediately remove all vulgar, obscene and unlawful content, especially generated by Grok (X's built-in artificial intelligence interface) or face action under the law. The ministry had also asked the US-based social media firm to submit a detailed action taken report (ATR) within 72 hours of the directive (effectively by January 5).

Sources said X had sought more time, and now it has been asked to submit its report by January 7.

The IT Ministry, in its January 2 missive, said that Grok AI, developed by X and integrated on the platform, is being misused by users to create fake accounts to host, generate, publish or share obscene images or videos of women in a derogatory or vulgar manner.

"Importantly, this is not limited to creation of fake accounts but also targets women who host or publish their images or videos, through prompts, image manipulation and synthetic outputs," the ministry said,



asserting that such conduct reflects a serious failure of platform-level safeguards and enforcement mechanisms, and amounts to gross misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in violation of stipulated laws.

The ministry said the regulatory provisions under the IT Act and rules were being flouted by the platform, particularly in relation to obscene, indecent, vulgar, pornographic, paedophilic, or otherwise unlawful or harmful content.

"The aforesaid acts and omissions are viewed with grave concern, as they have the effect of violating the dignity, privacy and safety of women and children, normalising sexual harassment and exploitation in digital spaces, and undermining the statutory due diligence framework applicable to intermediaries operating in India," the IT Ministry said, drawing attention to

its December 29, 2025 advisory that had instructed all platforms to undertake an immediate review of their internal compliance frameworks, content moderation practices and user enforcement mechanisms, in order to ensure strict and continuous adherence to laws.

The government made it clear to X that compliance with the IT Act and rules is not optional, and that the statutory exemptions under section 79 of the IT Act (which deals with safe harbour and immunity from liability for online intermediaries) are conditional upon strict observance of due diligence obligations.

"Accordingly, you are advised to strictly desist from the hosting, displaying, uploading, publication, transmission, storage, sharing of any content on your platform that is obscene, pornographic, vulgar, indecent, sexually explicit,

paedophilic, or otherwise prohibited under any law for the time being in force in any manner whatsoever," the ministry said on January 2.

The government warned X in clear terms that any failure to observe due diligence obligations shall result in the loss of the exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act, and that the platform will also be liable for consequential action under other laws, including the IT Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

It directed X to immediately undertake a comprehensive technical, procedural and governance-level review of Grok, including its prompt-processing, output-generation (responses generated using Large Language Models or LLMs), image-handling and safety guardrails "so as to ensure that the application does not generate, promote or facilitate content which contains nudity, sexualisation, sexually explicit or otherwise unlawful content in any form".

It asked X to enforce user terms of service and AI usage restrictions, including ensuring strong deterrent measures such as suspension, termination and other enforcement actions against violating users and accounts.

X has also been asked to remove or disable access "without delay" to all content already generated or disseminated in violation of applicable laws, in strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021, without, as

such, vitiating the evidence.

The ministry has asked X to submit a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) within 72 hours of the date of issuance of the said letter.

The ATR, it said, must cover specific technical and organisational measures adopted or proposed in relation to the Grok application; the role and oversight exercised by the Chief Compliance Officer; actions taken against offending content, users and accounts; as well as mechanisms to ensure compliance with the mandatory reporting requirement under Indian laws.

"...ensure ongoing, demonstrable and auditable compliance with all due diligence obligations under the IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021, failing which appropriate action may be initiated, including the loss of the exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act, and consequential action as provided under any law including the IT Act and the BNS," the ministry wrote.

On Sunday, X's Safety handle said it will act against illegal content by removing it, permanently suspending accounts that uploaded the material and working with local governments as required.

"Anyone using or prompting Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content," it had said, reiterating Musk's stance on illegal content.

Air pollution

Car now status symbol, people saving money to buy 4-wheelers: CJI Kant

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06: Car has become a status symbol, and people are saving money to buy four-wheelers after stopping using bicycles, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Tuesday.

The CJI's observation came while hearing a plea related to air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

After senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi suggested that a solution to the problem of air pollution can be achieved by cutting down on people owning multiple cars, CJI Kant said, "Car has become a status symbol... People are saving money to buy cars and have stopped using cycles."

During the arguments, Dwivedi said the automobile industry is too powerful.

The CJI said, "The rich



people should also sacrifice. Instead of going for high-end vehicles, they should go for good electric vehicles." Observing that the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is failing in its duty, the Supreme Court rapped the central pollution watchdog for seeking a two-month adjournment on the issue of temporary closure or relocation of toll plazas on Delhi borders to ease traffic congestion.

The top court criticised

the CAQM for the lack of "seriousness" in its approach, and said that it appears to be in no hurry in either identifying the causes of the worsening air quality index (AQI) or finding long-term solutions.

The bench of CJI Kant and Justice Joymalaya Bagchi directed the CAQM to convene a meeting of experts in two weeks and submit a report on the major causes of the worsening pollution levels.

UP SIR draft voter list: 12.55 cr of 15.44 cr voters retained

PTI

Lucknow, Jan 06: The draft electoral roll for Uttar Pradesh was published on Tuesday after a special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, with 12.55 crore voters retained out of 15.44 crore listed earlier, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinha said on Tuesday.

The remaining 18.70 per cent, or

about 2.89 crore voters, could not be included in the draft list due to deaths, permanent migration or multiple registrations, he said while addressing a press conference here.

Rinha said the Election Commission had undertaken a door-to-door enumeration drive in which enumeration forms were to be filled and signed by voters or their family members.

Woman naxal with Rs 5 lakh bounty surrenders in Chhattisgarh

PTI

Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh), Jan 06: A 37-year-old Naxalite, involved in multiple encounters against security forces and carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on her head, surrendered in Dhamtari district on Tuesday, police said.

Bhumika alias Somari was an active member of the Nagri Area Committee and served as 'commander' of the Gobra Local Organisation Squad (LOS) of Maoists, said Dhamtari Superintendent of Police SP Suraj Singh Parihar.

A native of Bijapur district, Bhumika told police that she was disappointed with "hollow" Maoist ideology.

She cited discrimination within the CPI (Maoist) and prolonged separation from family life as the reasons for surrender, police said. She was also influenced by the Chhattisgarh government's surrender and rehabilitation policy.

Sustained police operations and civic action programmes in the region also mounted pressure on the outfit, said Parihar.

Bhumika was associated with the outlawed CPI (Maoist) since 2005 and active in forests along the border of Chhattisgarh and Odisha, he said.

She was allegedly involved in several Maoist incidents, including encounters in Padkipali (Mahasamund- Chhattisgarh) in 2010, Motipani forest in Manpur in 2014, Kamalwadi forest in Nuapada (Odisha) in 2016 and Mandagiri forest in Dhamtari in 2025, said Parihar. Multiple criminal cases are registered against her under various sections of the law, the SP said, adding that the surrendered Maoist was provided an immediate assistance of Rs 50,000 as per the state's surrender policy.

Sensex, Nifty log losses for 2nd day on geopolitical concerns, renewed US tariff hike threats

PTI

Mumbai, Jan 06: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, tracking intense selling pressure in market heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank amid geopolitical tensions and renewed concerns about potential US tariff hikes.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 376.28 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 85,063.34. During the day, it tanked 539.52 points, or 0.63 per cent, to 84,900.10.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 71.60 points, or 0.27 per cent, to end at 26,178.70.

"Domestic equities experienced a correction led by large-cap stocks, with selling in heavyweights like Reliance Industries and HDFC. The market reaction was influenced by uncertainties surrounding the Venezuela-US crisis and Russian oil imports, coupled with anticipations regarding the upcoming Q3 results," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Trent tumbled 8.62 per cent after the Tata group's retail firm's revenue growth in the December quarter failed to cheer investors. Reliance Industries cracked 4.42 per cent, while ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, InterGlobe Aviation, and HDFC Bank were also among the laggards. On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Sun



Pharma, Hindustan Unilever, and State Bank of India were among the gainers.

"Indian equity markets declined for a second consecutive session, with the Nifty ending nearly 0.3 per cent lower amid profit-booking in heavy-weight stocks and renewed geopolitical concerns. Sentiment was weighed down by resurfacing trade worries after comments from the US President on potential tariff hikes on India linked to Russian oil purchases.

"Stock-specific pressure added to the weakness, as Reliance Industries fell over 4 per cent, its steepest intra-day decline in more than eight months, while Trent declined 9 per cent, following its weak Q3 business update," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent, and mid-cap dipped 0.24 per cent.

Among sectoral indices,

energy tanked 1.71 per cent, oil & gas (1.22 per cent), services (1.07 per cent), capital goods (0.63 per cent), realty (0.28 per cent) and power (0.23 per cent).

BSE Healthcare jumped 1.38 per cent, BSE PSU bank (0.52 per cent), consumer durables (0.43 per cent), IT (0.37 per cent) and BSE Focused IT (0.35 per cent).

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 36.25 crore on Monday after a day's breather, according to exchange data. Domestic institutional investors, however, bought stocks worth Rs 1,764.07 crore. Meanwhile, India's services sector growth moderated in December, as the rates of expansion in incoming new work and output eased to the slowest in 11 months, and companies refrained from recruiting additional staff, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell from 59.8 in November to 58.0 in December,

indicating the slowest rate of expansion since January.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

Firms remained upbeat towards growth prospects, but overall sentiment fell to its lowest level in nearly three-and-a-half years, the survey said.

"Market sentiment remained cautious amid mixed global cues and lingering concerns around geopolitical developments and global trade dynamics. Profit booking in recent outperformers, particularly in select large-cap stocks, continued to weigh on overall momentum," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended significantly higher.

Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended higher on Monday.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 0.28 per cent to USD 61.93 per barrel.

On Monday, the Sensex dropped 322.39 points, or 0.38 per cent, to settle at 85,439.62. After hitting a record intra-day high of 26,373.20, the Nifty failed to carry forward the momentum and declined 78.25 points or 0.30 per cent to end at 26,250.30.

Study links weaker internal body clock with higher dementia risk

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06: A study suggests that a person's internal body clock may influence dementia risk, with weaker circadian rhythms -- characterised by greater disruption and irregularity -- being associated with a higher likelihood of developing the condition.

Circadian rhythms peaking later in the day, such as post-afternoon, instead of earlier, were linked to a 45 per cent increase of dementia. "Disruptions in circadian rhythms may alter body processes like inflammation, and may interfere with sleep, possibly increasing amyloid plaques linked to dementia, or reducing amyloid clearance from the brain," study author Wendy Wang, from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, said.

An amyloid plaque is a clump of proteins



in the brain, commonly seen in patients of Alzheimer's disease and contribute to dementia by causing cell death.

The researchers analysed data of over 2,100 older adults with an average age of 79 who did not have dementia at the study's start. The participants wore chest monitors to measure rest and activity for an average of 12 days.

The study, published in the journal Neurology, followed the participants for three years, during which time, 176 of them were diagnosed with dementia.

A strong circadian rhythm, in which the body clock aligns well with the 24-hour day, sends clear signals for body functions -- people tend to follow regular times for sleeping and activity, despite changes in schedule or season, the researchers said. People with a

weak circadian rhythm -- more likely to be disrupted by light and schedule changes -- are at a higher chance of shifting sleep and activity times with season or schedule changes.

The participants with a low, weaker circadian rhythm had nearly 2.5 times the risk of dementia, compared to those with a high, strong rhythm, the study found.

"Changes in circadian rhythms happen with ageing, and evidence suggests that circadian rhythm disturbances may be a risk factor for neurodegenerative diseases like dementia," Wang said.

"Our study measured these rest-activity rhythms and found people with weaker and more fragmented rhythms, and people with activity levels that peaked later in the day, had an elevated risk of dementia," Wang said.

Trump admin's capture of Maduro raises unease about international legal framework

AP

The Hague (Netherlands), Jan 06: From the smoldering wreckage of two catastrophic world wars in the last century, nations came together to build an edifice of international rules and laws. The goal was to prevent such sprawling conflicts in the future.

Now that world order — centered at the United Nations headquarters in New York, near the courtroom where Nicolás Maduro was arraigned Monday after his removal from power in Venezuela — appears in danger of crumbling as the doctrine of "might makes right" muscles its way back onto the global stage.

UN Undersecretary-General Rosemary A. DiCarlo told the body's Security Council on Monday that the "maintenance of international peace and security depends on the continued commitment of all member states to adhere to all the provisions of the (UN) Charter."

US President Donald Trump insists capturing Maduro was legal. His administration has declared the drug cartels operating from Venezuela to be unlawful combatants and said the US is now in an "armed conflict" with them, according to an



administration memo obtained in October by The Associated Press.

The mission to snatch Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores from their home on a military base in the capital Caracas means they face charges of participating in a narco-terrorism conspiracy. The US ambassador to the United Nations, Mike Waltz, defended the military action as a justified "surgical law enforcement operation."

The move fits into the Trump administration's National Security Strategy, published last month, that lays out restoring "American preeminence in the Western Hemisphere" as a key goal of the US president's second term in the

White House. But could it also serve as a blueprint for further action?

Worry rises about future action. On Sunday evening, Trump also put Venezuela's neighbor, Colombia, and its leftist president, Gustavo Petro, on notice.

In a back-and-forth with reporters, Trump said Colombia is "run by a sick man who likes making cocaine and selling it to the United States." The Trump administration imposed sanctions in October on Petro, his family and a member of his government over accusations of involvement in the global drug trade. Colombia is considered the epicenter of the world's cocaine

UNHR Office: US action in Venezuela makes world less safe

REUTERS

Berlin, Jan 06: The world community must make clear that US intervention in Venezuela is a violation of international law that makes states around the world less safe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said on Tuesday.

"It sends a signal that the powerful can do whatever they like," chief spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ravina Shamdasani, told reporters.

trade. Analysts and some world leaders — from China to Mexico — have condemned the Venezuela mission. Some voiced fears that Maduro's ouster could pave the way for more military interventions and a further erosion of the global legal order.

Israel approves upgrade to 4G mobile services to Palestinians in West Bank

REUTERS

Jerusalem, Jan 06: Israel has approved an upgrade to fourth-generation (4G) mobile services for Palestinians in the West Bank, the Israeli Communications Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry said the two Palestinian mobile operators — Jawwal and Ooredoo — and Swedish infrastructure firm Ericsson signed management agreements that were approved by Israel on

Sunday.

Palestinian cellular providers launched high-speed data services in the occupied West Bank based on 3G in 2018, narrowing a technological gap with Israel after a lengthy Israeli ban on the operation of local 3G networks.

The ministry said its approval came as part of a 2022 framework deal between Israel and the Palestinian Authority aimed at allowing 4G and 5G cellular technologies. The agreement was delayed

by the Gaza war, according to Israeli media, which also said the process to upgrade to 4G would take up to six months.

The Palestinian providers compete with Israeli cellular firms, which operate faster on much faster 5G mobile frequencies.

Israel is in the process of shutting down older 2G and 3G technologies and has advised the public to equip themselves with devices that support 4G and 5G.

In Gaza, however, only 2G networks are available.

'Oceans struggling to absorb CO2 amid microplastic pollution'

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06: Microplastics could be impacting the oceans' ability to absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) which is critical for regulating Earth's temperature, according to a research. 'Biological carbon pumping' is a natural process by which an ocean transfers carbon from the atmosphere into the deep sea layers.

"Microplastics (MPs) interfere with this process by reducing phytoplankton photosynthesis and impairing zooplankton metabolism," authors, including those from the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates said.

Author Ihsanullah Obaid-ullah, associate professor of integrated water processing technologies, said, "Oceans are Earth's largest carbon sink. Microplastics are undermining this natural shield against climate change. Tackling plastic pollution is now part of the fight against global warming."

The research, published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials: Plastics, reviewed 89 studies published from 2010 to 2025. Peer-reviewed articles and reports from international organisations were among the content analysed to understand effects of microplastics on ocean health and climate change.

"(The) review highlights the close relationship between MP (microplastic) pollution and climate change, suggesting that MPs may significantly contribute to climate change and potentially further affect ocean health in the form of ocean warming and ocean acidification," the authors wrote.

Microplastics are fragments of

plastics sized under five millimetres. Studies have provided evidence of presence of microplastics across varied environments from deep ocean waters to human bodies.

Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced globally to date, with 80 per cent ending up in landfills or the environment — only nine per cent of the massive volume is recycled, the researchers said.

Toxins in microplastics are ingested by living creatures, including humans, triggering a range of diseases, disrupting ecosystems, harming aquatic life and reducing soil fertility, the researchers said.

The team called for an integrated approach as microplastic pollution and



CIC advocates transparency in sports bodies, cites 2036 Olympics ambition

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06: Information related to sports federations and associations recognised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports should be proactively disclosed on the ministry's website to ensure transparency and accountability, the CIC has directed.

Underlining the country's aspirations to host the 2036 Summer Olympics, Information Commissioner P R Ramesh said transparent functioning of sports bodies will strengthen India's sporting ecosystem manifold.

The Central Information Commission (CIC) made the observation



while hearing a Right to Information (RTI) petition by Sacheen Gandhi seeking details of the recognition status of various sports federations like All India Carrom Federation, Kho-kho Federation of India, Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, Squash Rackets Federation of India and Softball Association of India.

While holding that the ministry had provided an appropriate reply under the RTI Act, the CIC emphasised that proactive disclosure of such information would reduce citizens' dependence on RTI applications for accessing basic and vital details.

"As India aspires to host the 2036 Summer Olympics, marking a

huge step in the country's rise as a sports superpower, the transparent functioning of sports bodies will strengthen India's sporting ecosystem manifold," Ramesh said. Referring to Section 4 of the RTI Act, the Commission said every public authority must make constant efforts to place maximum information in the public domain through various means, including the internet.

"Voluntary disclosure of all information that ought to be displayed in the public domain should be the rule and members of the public seeking information through RTI application should be an exception,"

'ISL to start on Feb 14, all 14 clubs to participate'



PTI

New Delhi, Jan 06: Sports Minister Manoj Kumar Singh on Tuesday announced that the Indian Super League, which was on pause due to lack of a commercial partner, will start on February 14.

The league will feature all 14 clubs.

"There was lot of speculation regarding ISL but today govt, football federation and 14 clubs, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal included, had a meeting and we have decided that ISL will start February 14. All clubs will participate," Mandaviya announced. The ISL will feature 91 matches on home and away basis, the logistics of which are still being worked out.

ICC T20 Rankings Harmanpreet moves up two places, Deepti loses top spot



PTI

Dubai, Jan 06: India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur on Tuesday moved up two spots to reach 13th position in the latest ICC Women's T20I ranking for batters, following her match-winning knock in the fifth and final game against Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram.

India won the game by 15 runs, making a cleansweep for the five-match series which concluded on December 30.

Harmanpreet smashed 68 off 43 deliveries to bag the Player of the Match award and moved towards the top 10.

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma continued to hold on to their third and sixth spots respectively as Australia's Beth Mooney extended her stay at the top.

Jemimah Rodrigues, however, slipped

out of the top 10, and is placed 12th.

Deepti Sharma lost the top spot in the bowling rankings, as her return of one for 28 in the fifth T20I was not enough to stop Australia's Annabel Sutherland's climb to the top.

Deepti has one rating point less than Sutherland's 736 as the Australian fast-bowling all-rounder regained the No 1 position, which she first attained in August 2025 when Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal had similarly conceded the top spot to her.

The bowling rankings also saw Indian left-arm spinner Shree Charani advance five places to 47th.

For Sri Lanka, Kavisha Dilhari (up one place to 32nd) and Chamari Athapaththu (up three places to 48th) gained in the bowling rankings.

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Movies Watch List WEDNESDAY, 7TH JANUARY ₹92 / ₹199



AVATAR : FIRE AND ASH (UA 16+)
3D HINDI - 04:00 PM



TU MERI MAIN TERA MAIN TERA TU MERI
(U/A 16+) HINDI - 11:00 AM



DHURANDHAR (A)
HINDI - 02:15 PM, 04:50 PM, 06:15 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 11:45 AM



IKKIS (U/A 13+)
HINDI - 11:20 AM, 01:50 PM



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