



## Union Home Secy chairs high-level J&K security meet in Jammu

Reviews anti-terror ops, security measures for R Day; likely to visit border areas today

Ahmad Taimur

Jammu, Jan 14: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, who arrived here today on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, chaired a high-level security meeting in Jammu to review the ongoing anti-terror operations among other security aspects, sources said.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Govind Mohan arrived in Jammu today afternoon and straightaway drove to the Convention Centre where he chaired a high-level security meeting.

This comes days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting



in New Delhi to review the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, directing security agencies to continue anti-terror operations in a mission mode.

Govind Mohan, according to

sources, reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, assess the ongoing anti-terror operations and frequent drone intrusions on the International Border and the | More on P6

### Counter-terrorism expert Rakesh Aggarwal appointed NIA chief

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 14: Counter-terrorism expert Rakesh Aggarwal was on Wednesday appointed as the new director general of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the country's anti-terror agency.

Aggarwal, a 1994-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, is currently working as special director general in the anti-terror agency. He was also holding the additional charge of the post of DG, NIA, after the premature repatriation of Sadanam Vasant Date to Maharashtra last month.

Date took over as the chief of Maharashtra Police on January 3. Following his repatriation, Aggarwal was named interim NIA chief. | More on P6

## JKBOSE declares Class 10 results, 85% qualify exams

Kashmir records 87.63% pass percentage, 77.89% in Jammu

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jan 14: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) announced results of annual regular exams of 10th standard with an overall pass percentage of 85 percent.

JKBOSE officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that 85.03 percent qualified the exams.

The board official also said that the pass percentage of girls is 87.78 percent and 84.30 percent among the male students.

According to JKBOSE, at least



94,845 students were enrolled for the annual regular exams of 10th standard that commenced on November-03 in the Kashmir division.

The board said that 80,650 qualified the exams and 14,147 couldn't qualify.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) had set-up 994 examination centres across the Kashmir region.

JKBOSE had said that 68,804 students enrolled for the annual regular exams of 10th are from ten districts of Kashmir division and 25,224 students are from eight districts of winter zone areas of Jammu division.

Besides, the board had also informed that at least 660 from Kargil and 95 from Leh district were also enrolled for the examinations.

Earlier, JKBOSE | More on P6

KT News Desk

The sustained efforts of the government to strengthen the education sector

have yielded encouraging results, as government schools have registered a remarkable performance in the Class 10th and 12th | More on P6

### 84% qualify 12th exams

Kashmir records 83% pass percentage, 87% in Jammu

Riyaz Bhat

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Wednesday announced annual regular results of 12th standard with at least 84 percent qualifying the exams. JKBOSE officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that 84 percent students qualify the exams. The board official also said that the pass percentage of girls is | More on P6

## Kashmir records colder nights, fog engulfs Jammu plains

Multiple weak Western Disturbances to affect J&K from Jan 16; rain, snow expected

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 14: Cold conditions intensified across Kashmir on Wednesday as minimum temperatures plummeted, while foggy conditions prevailed in Jammu.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.2

degrees Celsius, down from minus 4.9 degrees Celsius on Tuesday. The city airport also saw a further dip, settling at minus 6.0 degrees Celsius compared to minus 5.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

South Kashmir districts recorded sharper falls. Pulwama emerged as one of the coldest places in the plains at minus 7.0 degrees Celsius, down from minus 6.6 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, while Shopian recorded minus 7.5 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 6.3 degrees Celsius the previous day. Anantnag settled at minus 6.6 degrees | More on P6

### Jammu colder than Kashmir's Gulmarg

Sajid Raina

Jammu city on Wednesday recorded an unusually low maximum temperature of 7.4 degrees Celsius, making it colder than several places in the Kashmir Valley, including the hill resort of Gulmarg. According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the temperature marked the fourth lowest | More on P6

## LG interacts with youth who attended Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday interacted with the youth who returned after representing the UT of J&K at the 29th National Youth Festival—Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue-2026 in New Delhi.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the J&K UT contingent for their exemplary performance on the national stage. He also encouraged the youth to adopt four Mantras in life—Knowing one's inner self, finding the inner voice, learning through experiences and



fostering collaboration.

The J&K UT Contingent participated under two tracks—Viksit Bharat Challenge Track and Cultural & Innovation

Viksit Bharat); Mridul (Fit Bharat, Hit Bharat) and Nitish (Building Sustainable and Green Viksit Bharat) were selected for Final PPT and presented their ideas before the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The J&K Team comprised of Salik Ajiaz Khan, Saliq Bashir and Adnan Ferdos secured 3rd position at the National Level for their Hackathon project A.N.T.S (Disaster Resilient System). Shri Sheikh Anzar Amin was selected for the PM Gallery for inventing Automatic Gas Regulator for LPG Gas heaters.

Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner | More on P6

## Teenager's 18-month cancer battle couldn't stop him from scoring 97% marks

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jan 14: Chemotherapy and radiotherapy ward was the classroom of Aakash Ashraf for the past one and a half years. The teenager battling cancer was armed with nothing but self-study and today he sailed through his 10th exams with a splendid 97 percent marks.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), like other days Aakash was rushing to his school located in his native village Dadarsa area of Tral. Hardly he knew that it would be his last regular day at



“  
FOR PAST ONE AND HALF YEARS, I HAVE BEEN ALMOST BEDRIDDEN BECAUSE I was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2024. These months, I never saw or attended my classroom but always found myself wandering from Chemotherapy to radiotherapy wards.”

but rather made his dream come true. He has just aced his 10th exams with a stunning 485 out of 500 marks.

“I always wanted to top in my first board exams but Almighty has kept something else in my fate. Despite all odds, I majority of the times was not having enough energy to stand but whenever I got a bit of time, I used to study and compete even without attending a single regular class or any private tuition,” Aakash narrated.

However, Aakash has been weakened by the monthly dose of Chemotherapy and the

radiotherapies that he was receiving till April-2025.

“Today, I am not strong enough to attend any regular class but I will not budge. I will continue my studies with medical subjects via offline or distance mode,” he said.

Aakash said that doctors have told him that he has to undergo Stem cell bone marrow transplants in the coming 2-3 months.

Before that, Aakash want to get enrolled for 11th standard to study Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English and Physical Education subjects. (KNO)

## Chief Secretary stresses universal social protection for vulnerable sections

Reviews progress of Social Welfare schemes in J&K

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Social Welfare Department, during which the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, presented a detailed overview of the Department's performance, implementation of the flagship schemes, financial status, infrastructure development and future priorities of the Department.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by senior officers including Secretaries, Mission Directors of Mission Poshan, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya, Directors of Social Welfare Jammu and Kashmir, Chairpersons of Advisory Boards and other concerned officials.

The review encompassed the functioning of Directorates, Mission Directorates, Advisory Boards, Corporations and statutory bodies under the Social Welfare Department, underscoring sustained efforts towards inclusive development, women empowerment, child welfare, nutrition security and social protection of vulnerable sections.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez informed that the Department is working to uplift underserved sections through its Directorates, three Mission Directorates, Advisory Boards for Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Pahari-speaking people, and dedicated corporations including the J&K Women Development Corporation and J&K SC/ST & BC Development



Corporation.

Reviewing the implementation of Mission Poshan and strengthening of Nutrition and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), MD, Sajad Hussain Ganai informed that 99 per cent Anganwadi Centres have functional infrastructure with essential amenities.

He further gave out that the Saksham Anganwadi equipped with modern facilities are being operationalised across the UT, while more than 24,933 Anganwadi Workers have been trained under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi. It was added that the Community-driven initiatives such as Poshan Melas, Tithi Bhoj, Village Health and Nutrition Days and Poshan on Wheels have significantly enhanced grassroots participation, alongside the introduction of VIDYARAMBH certificates to facilitate smooth transition of children to formal schooling. With respect to implementation of Mission Shakti, the MD, Mohammad Akber highlighted that the Mission continues to play a pivotal role in women empowerment and safety. Over 2,500 awareness workshops have been conducted through District Hubs for Empowerment of Women, while 11 new Shakti Sadans and five Sakhi Niwas (Working Women Hostels) have been approved and are nearing operationalisation.

Moreover the One Stop Centres have assisted 2,727 women, Women Helpline-181 has handled more than

22,000 calls during FY 2025-26, and Nari Adalats have been operationalised in 50 Panchayats to resolve disputes at the grassroots level, the meeting was informed. Reviewing Mission Vatsalya, the MD, Nazim Zia Khan informed that significant progress has been achieved in child protection and rehabilitation. Twenty-three Child Care Institutions including observation homes, special adoption agencies and open shelters have been established or approved.

He also informed that as many as 904 children have been rescued from child labour and begging, Child Helplines and Help Desks have been expanded, 111 adoptions have been facilitated since November 2022, and the Vatsalya Sadan at Jammu is complete and ready for inauguration. On social security and pension schemes, it was stated that under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) and NSAP, pensions are being provided to over 8.8 lakh beneficiaries including old-age persons, widows,

persons with disabilities and transgender persons, with payments cleared up to November 2025.

Regarding flagship schemes such as Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance Scheme, SAKSHAM for COVID-affected families, Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, SMILE Scheme and Grant-in-Aid to NGOs it was acknowledged that these continue to extend vital financial and social support. Since inception, the Marriage Assistance Scheme has benefited over 1.58 lakh women with cumulative expenditure exceeding ₹757 Cr, as was given out during this meeting. The Department has also undertaken extensive infrastructure development of old-age homes, hostels, composite homes, disability institutions and rehabilitation facilities. For FY 2025-26, ₹6,731 lakh has been approved under CAPEX, with works progressing across districts.

Achievements of statutory bodies were also reviewed, including issuance of over 2.24 lakh UDID cards by the J&K Commission for Persons with Disabilities, strengthening of SC/ST protection mechanisms, implementation of the NAMASTE Scheme for sanitation workers, and focused interventions by OBC and Pahari Advisory Boards.

Emphasising the future roadmap, the Chief Secretary stressed whole-of-government convergence, digital welfare governance, livelihood-linked assistance and universal social protection, with special focus on mother-and-child care, aspirational Anganwadis, skill development, self-employment and institutional strengthening to realise the goal of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Satish Sharma felicitates Khelo India Beach Games 2026 medal winners

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JANUARY 14: Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma on Wednesday felicitated Jammu and Kashmir's outstanding athletes who exhibited a historic performance at the Khelo India Beach Games 2026.

The promising players have brought laurels to the Union Territory with two gold, two silver and one bronze medal and clinching the prestigious Overall Men's Championship Trophy in Pencak Silat.

Congratulating the medal winners, the minister, as per an official statement, said that the achievement marks a landmark moment in J&K's sporting journey, as it is the first time any northern state has emerged as the overall men's champion in coastal combat sports. This reflects the growing strength and diversity of the region's sporting ecosystem.

The athletes showcased exceptional grit and technical excellence across various beach disciplines, particularly in Pencak Silat, where Jammu and Kashmir dominated the men's category to secure the overall championship title against strong competition from coastal and traditional sporting states.

Satish Sharma lauded the athletes, coaches and support staff for their dedication and resilience. He stated that their performance is a powerful testament to the success of sports promotion initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir under the Youth Services & Sports Department. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening training infrastructure, exposure opportunities and athlete welfare.

### G H Sheikh takes over as Chairman J&K BOSE

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU JANUARY 14: Ghulam Hassan Sheikh Wednesday took over as Chairman J&K Board of School Education in pursuance of the Government order.

Soon after assuming the charge, Sheikh, as per an official statement, convened an introductory meeting, setting out the goals for J&KBOSE organization. He asked all sections to work in synergy to come up to the expectations of stakeholders and translating the academic standards on ground.

The Chairman emphasized the need to uphold the transparency, efficiency and credibility in academic and administrative processes of the Board.

"I believe in student centric policies involving hassle free delivery of services including timely conduct of examinations, declaration of results and distribution of books," he emphasized.

Earlier, the officers and officials of the J&K BOSE gave him a rousing welcome, expressing hope about further streamlining of the organization under his meticulous stewardship.

### DC Srinagar inspects ST PG boys hostel, reviews tribal girls hostel proposal

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday conducted an inspection of the ongoing construction works of the ST PG Boys Hostel at Tulsibagh and also carried out an on-site inspection of the proposed site for construction of a Tribal Girls Hostel at Chattabal area of the district.

During the visit, the DC, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Superintending Engineer, R&B, Shabir Ahmad; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; Executive Engineer, R&B Division Rajbagh, Khalid Mehmood; Executive Engineer, R&B Karan Nagar, Abdul Qayoom; Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Central Shalteng, Warden Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel and other concerned.

At the ST PG Boys Hostel, Tulsibagh, the DC reviewed the pace and quality of the construction works completed so far. He directed the R&B Department to submit a plan immediately for the remaining works so that the hostel building

is completed in all respects under phase-I and made functional for utilisation. He also instructed the department to prepare a plan for Phase-II of the hostel project to enhance the accommodation capacity.

The DC emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project to ensure adequate residential facilities for students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. He instructed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to quality standards and prescribed timelines while ensuring that all required amenities are provided as per norms.

Earlier, the DC inspected the proposed site for the Tribal Girls Hostel at Chattabal area of the district and reviewed the feasibility and planning aspects of the project. He directed the R&B Department to prepare a detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of the Girls Hostel and stressed the need to provide safe and well-equipped accommodation for tribal girls.

During the visit, the DC emphasized the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth and timely execution of both the developmental projects.

### DC Pulwama chairs DLTC meet, revises scale of finance for crops

KT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to revise the Scale of Finance (SoF) for various crops and allied sectors for the year 2026-27.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, threadbare discussions were held on revising crop-wise financial norms in view of prevailing input costs and other agricultural requirements.

The Deputy Commissioner sought detailed inputs from concerned officers regarding increases in costs related to fertilisers, fodder, manure, labour, and other essential inputs impacting agricultural and allied



activities.

While reviewing the sector-wise proposed Scale of Finance, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that the revised SoF must be realistic and farmer-centric, so that it effectively supports credit planning and

other allied departments participated in the meeting and presented sector-wise assessments for rationalisation of the proposed Scale of Finance.

Subsequently, the committee finalised the proposed Scale of Finance for sectors including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture, and Floriculture, which will be forwarded to the State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) for further consideration and approval.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; General Manager, ACCB Anantnag; District Development Manager, NABARD Pulwama, and other members of the committee.

benefits cultivators across the district.

Officers representing Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries, along with representatives from NABARD, banking institutions, and

### GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER GANDERBAL

Tel. No. /Fax – 0194-2416128,

Block -1, 2 nd Floor Qadri Complex Beehama

Subject: - Dismantling of unsafe block containing Kitchen Shed and Washrooms at PS Naqashband Mohalla Gutlibagh - auction thereof.

Reference:- CEOG/Plg/2025-26/1547-50, Dated:- 8/12/2025.

#### AUCTION NOTICE

Auction notice is hereby notified for the information of general public that an Unsafe block containing Kitchen Shed and Washrooms at MS Naqashband Mohalla Gutlibagh District Ganderbal will be auctioned by the Auction committee. The valuation assessment/ Minimum Bid Value of unsafe block Kitchen Shed and Washrooms fixed by Executive Engineer R & B Division Ganderbal Rs 52,834 (Rupees Fifty Two thousand Eight Hundred thirty four only).

The bidder/s can submit EMD/bids in this office within 7 days from the date of publication of auction notice with cash/EDM for an amount of Rs 3000/- (Three Thousand Only) by or before 23/12/2025 with cash for an amount of Rs 3000/- (Three thousand only). No DD will be entertained after the expiry of due date.

The Auction will be held in the school premises and will start 11:30 AM

On 24/01/2026 by auction committee as under:-

Zonal Education Officer Ganderbal	Member Secretary
Assistant Executive Engineering Concerned	Member
Representative of forest department	Member
Concerned Headmaster PS Naqashband Mohalla	Member

DIPK:10044/25

DATED: 14-01-2026

Zonal Education Officer, Ganderbal.

## Class 12 Results

# Govt schools in Baramulla bag top 37 spots

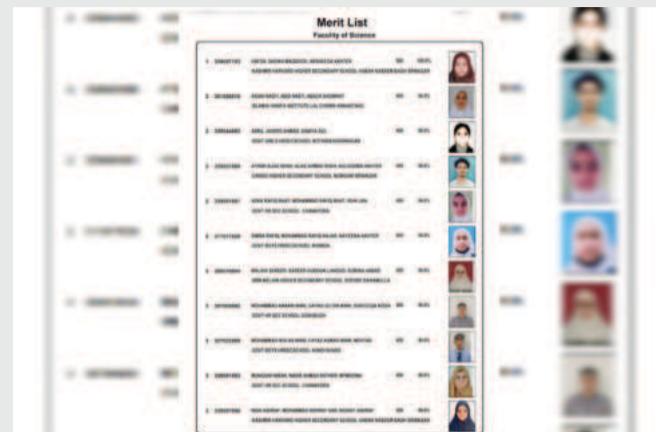
WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Jan 14: Government schools across Baramulla district dominated the JKBOSE Class 12 results, securing 37 top positions across streams, significantly outshining private institutions.

SRM Welkin Sopore led the private schools with eight strong showings in the science stream, including Maliha Sareer and Shaima Rashid, both clinching 3rd position valley-wide.

The government schools swept the Science rankings with standout achievements, including Mohammad Amaan Wani from Govt Higher Secondary School Goshbug at 3rd, Tanzeela Hilal from Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Baramulla also at 3rd, and Saadat Khan from the same school at 4th.

Similarly, Darakshan Nazir from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Chatoosa Rafiabad secured 5th position, alongside Karamveer Singh from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Singhpura Kalan, Mir Anzar Manzoor from Government Higher Secondary School Nehalpora Pattan and Tamana Ali from Government



Girls Higher Secondary School Baramulla.

Ariz Ashraf from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Baramulla, secured 6th position valley-wide. Hejab Bhat from Government Higher Secondary School Hadipora Sopore, Mohammad Fouq Lone from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Baramulla, Seerat Majeed from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Sopore.

Several others tied at 7th position, including Aayat Yousuf Bhat, Abkar Nazeef, Iqra Hasan, Muhammad Hazim Bhat

and Mushfiq Nazir, followed by multiple 8th and 9th positions and ties at 10th.

Among private schools, SRM Welkin's Science stream success featured Maliha Sareer topping with 498 marks at 3rd alongside Shaima Rashid also at 3rd, while Umar Shakeel Kar at 5th with 496 marks, Madiha Nisar at 7th with 494 marks, Muhammad Hazim Bhat at 7th, Suhana Bashir at 7th, Meen Amon Jamshed at 8th with 493 marks and Afreen Nisar at 9th with 492 marks.

In Commerce, government schools claimed two spots, and Mushfiq Nazir, followed by multiple 8th and 9th positions and ties at 10th.

with Syed Haamid Mujtaba Kazmi from Government Higher Secondary School Fatehgarh Baramulla at 6th and Zeenat Rasool from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Baramulla at 7th, while no private entries in this stream.

In Arts, government institutions continued their strong showing with Gursewak Kour from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Baramulla at 5th, Bushra Huda from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Uri and Syed Shafayat Hussain from Government Higher Secondary School Boniyar at 6th, Arwa Nazir from Government Girls Higher Secondary School Sopore at 7th—again, no private school positions.

Home Science results featured Aliya Manzoor from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Baramulla, at 7th, and Ronak Akbar from the same school at 9th.

Meanwhile, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Baramulla, Abdul Rashid, attributed the success to sustained efforts, noting district results neared 85 per cent in grade 10, while 81 per cent in grade 12.

"There's not a single

government school with very poor or zero per cent results, as seen in the past. The lowest this time is one school at 64 per cent," the CEO told KNO.

Addressing parental preference for private schools, the CEO stressed performance over perception. "This is what parents should look at. What matters is the results", he said, adding, "Whatever learning gaps exist, they will identify and fulfil them. In the future, results will be even better."

Baseema Ajaz, Vice Chairperson of the renowned institution of Valley, SRM Welkin Sopore, celebrated her institution's Science stream dominance, securing eight top positions, including two at the 3rd valley-wide.

"By the grace of Almighty Allah, the school performed well this year, too. Marks are not the only criterion to judge a child's capability. It's the hard work and joint efforts of student, parent and teacher that pay off," she said, crediting the trio.

Baseema consoled parents whose children fell short, stating, "There's nothing to regret, there's always a next time. Marks aren't everything."—(KNO)

## Kashmiri families seek student evacuation from Iran



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 14: Just two days after a Kashmiri student in Tehran sparked a moment of relief among families with reports of their children's safety, fears have resurfaced as the situation in Iran worsens.

The fragile calm has given way to panic as parents desperately seek urgent evacuation for their children stranded in Iranian cities.

On Wednesday, dozens of distressed parents gathered at the Press Colony in Srinagar, urging the Government of India to act swiftly.

They appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, and the J&K administration to prioritise the evacuation of their children amid the rapidly escalating situation in Iran.

"We are not sleeping at night. Every hour feels like a day," lamented one father, whose daughter studies at Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran.

He added, "We don't know what is happening there. Internet is gone, the money channels are blocked, and even calls don't go through. My child just said, 'Baba, please get us out of here.' How do I answer her?"

Another parent said, "We trust our government's capability. They rescued students from Ukraine before. But asking our children to manage their

evacuation alone is unrealistic. They have no money, no flights, and no communication network."

The Indian Embassy in Tehran, in its latest advisory issued on January 14 and accessed by KNO, urged all Indian nationals, including students, pilgrims, businesspersons, and tourists, to "leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights", citing the "evolving situation" in the country.

This advisory has intensified families' fears, leaving them feeling "helpless but hopeful". "We are not blaming anyone," said another parent. "We know the government can act swiftly. But please, act before it's too late. If even one student is harmed, who will take responsibility?"

Parents said that earlier reassurance came from messages circulated among small parent networks, confirming their children's safety inside university hostels. "But since the weekend, even those updates have stopped. The embassy says leave on your own, but how can they? It's chaos there," said a father from Pulwama, whose son studies in Shiraz.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) has again appealed to the Government of India to facilitate evacuation if the situation worsens.

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

## GHSS Zadibal shines bright in JKBOSE exams

### Secures top 3 positions in Commerce, 4 in Science

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Government Girls Higher Secondary School Zadibal has once again demonstrated academic excellence by securing top seven positions in the Class 12th Board Examinations, the results of which were announced today by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

In a statement, the school management said that with the overall pass percentage of around 92 percent, the students from both Commerce and Science streams dominated the toppers' list, with an impressive number

of students achieving distinctions and outstanding grades across key subjects.

In the Science stream, standout performers included top scorers who excelled in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Biology, reflecting the school's rigorous curriculum and focus on conceptual understanding.

In the Commerce Stream, the students shone in Business Studies, Entrepreneurship, Accountancy and Economics with several students securing perfect scores and distinctions that placed them among the Board's top rank holders.

Muneeza Hakeem, a dedicated and bright student of

GHSS Zadibal, emerged as the 2nd position holder in the Stream of Commerce. Followed by Seerat Shabir and Bushra Islam who secured 4th and 5th positions respectively.

Similarly, in Science Stream, the standout performers included top scorers who excelled in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.

Ummi Rubbab secured the 6th position in the Stream of Science, followed by Sheikh Maryam who emerged as the 9th rank holder in the examinations. Besides, Aayat Ehsan and Mehvish Farooq earned 10th positions respectively, in the said examinations.

Moreover, students in the Arts stream achieved several distinctions and brought good repute to the school.

In the Secondary Examinations results, the students of GHSS Zadibal earned accolades by securing distinctions, reflecting their dedication and hard work. Their performance has brought immense pride to the entire school community.

Underscoring the institution's commitment to holistic student development, Principal GHSS Zadibal, Mr. Mohammad Shafi Lone, lauded the staff and students for the commendable accomplishments.

"This commendable

accomplishment is the outcome of coordinated efforts of our philanthropist teachers, students and parents," he said, resolving to achieve many more milestones in future.

The Principal also commended parental involvement and the school's innovative teaching methodologies, including project-based learning which is aligned with the New Education Policy - 2020.

This success builds on GHSS Zadibal School's legacy of consistent high performance, inspiring younger students and reinforcing its position as a beacon of quality education in the area.—(KNO)

## Apple demand picks up as prices rise further

JAHANGEER GANAE

Srinagar, Jan 14: After months of uncertainty, low demand, and depressed prices during the main harvesting season, apple growers in Kashmir are finally witnessing a turnaround. The demand for the fruit in cold storage units has picked up further in wholesale markets, leading to an increase in rates and comparatively better returns for orchardists.

Growers said that the late-season improvement has come as a much-needed relief after one of the toughest apple seasons in recent years, marked by high input costs, erratic weather, and sluggish market movement during peak arrivals.

According to growers and traders, the demand for stored apples—particularly A-grade Delicious, Kullu Delicious, and premium varieties—has improved in mandis across Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and other major markets, pushing prices upward over the past few weeks.

"During the main season, we were selling apples at throwaway prices. Boxes that cost us Rs 500-800 to produce were selling for barely Rs 600," said Abdul Rashid, an apple grower from Shopian. "Now the rates have improved, and rates have gone to Rs 1100-1800, and at least we are able to cover our costs and earn something for our labour."

Growers recall that the peak harvesting period, especially between September and October, remained extremely challenging. Oversupply,



reduced buying by traders, high transportation costs, and competition from imported apples and other fruits severely impacted prices, they said.

"Trucks remained stranded on the highway and mandis, payments were delayed, and demand was very weak," said Ghulam Mohammad Dar, a grower from Sopore, one of Asia's largest apple trade hubs. "Many farmers were forced to sell at distress rates because they had no storage facilities."

Experts say that limited access to controlled atmosphere (CA) storage and cold storage units kept small and marginal farmers at a disadvantage, forcing them to sell immediately after harvest when prices are lowest.

They said that cold storage units have been opened recently, and there is much produce in cold storage units as of now, and growers are hopeful of continuous better returns.

## Police arrest 2 peddlers

KNO

Srinagar, Jan 14: As part of its ongoing enforcement against narcotic offences, police have arrested two drug peddlers in Pulwama and Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession. According to a statement, in Pulwama, a police team from Police Post Newa during naka checking at Newa intercepted a suspicious person. During search, 70.5 grams of charas powder-like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Samir Ahmad Wagay son of Bashir Ahmad Wagay resident of Wahibug. Similarly in Sopore, during naka checking at Paray Mohallah Hyam, a police party intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, charas-like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Musair Bashir son of Bashir Ahmad Reshi resident of Veer Colony Aliebagh.

Both the accused have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

Police remains steadfast in its mission to curb drug trafficking and appeals to citizens to assist police by reporting any information related to narcotics activities.—(KNO)

## Chadoora bridge closure leaves residents wading through river channel

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Jan 14: Two months after the vital Chadoora bridge in central Kashmir's Budgam district was closed for repairs, residents continue to face severe hardships and are now forced to wade through a river channel daily to commute.

The bridge, which connects Chadoora with Charar-i-Sharif, Yousmarg and Pulwama, was declared unsafe in late November following damage caused by floods.

However, what was meant to be a week-long repair has stretched into months, leaving thousands of commuters stranded and angry.

Fresh visuals show vehicles and motorcyclists crossing the cold, shallow riverbed as an improvised

route, risking accidents each day. Though the water level has receded, the path remains muddy, rocky and dangerous.

"We are forced to move through this river because there's no alternative," said local resident Sofi Arshid. "If we avoid this route, we have to walk long distances and take another road, which adds several kilometres. Nobody from the administration has come here to see our problems."

Locals say the delay has turned a temporary inconvenience into a daily struggle, especially for patients, students and traders who rely on the bridge for regular movement.

"Authorities had said the bridge would reopen in a week. It has been two months now, and they have disappeared after fencing it off," another commuter told

KNO.

Officials earlier maintained that the bridge would be reopened only after clearance from competent authorities post-repair, but locals allege no visible work has been carried out since November.

In November, authorities ordered the closure of the Chadoora bridge in central Kashmir's Budgam district for traffic movement after experts declared it unsafe due to damage caused by recent floods.

The bridge had been shut down in the interest of public safety following an inspection by experts from the DIQC, Srinagar.

The floods had dislocated the base of one of the bridge pillars, making the structure unsafe for vehicular movement and requiring immediate repair.—(KNO)

## Winter vacations extended for Jammu schools

YOGESH

Jammu, Jan 14: Amid ongoing bone-chilling weather conditions, the Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSE) has further extended winter vacations for all government and private schools in the Summer Zone of Jammu Division until January 17, 2026. The extension applies to both students and teaching staff, as per the official order

issued today. However, board examinations for Classes 10th, 11th, and 12th, if already scheduled, will proceed strictly according to the previously notified dates, with no changes.

As per the order, to help minimise academic disruption during this period, schools have been advised to consider conducting online classes for students from Class 6th onwards, wherever possible and feasible.

Meanwhile, preparations for Republic Day

2026 will continue uninterrupted as per the schedules already notified by the competent authorities.

This decision aims to prioritise the safety and well-being of students and staff amid the persistent harsh weather, officials said.

Schools are expected to resume regular operations from January 19, 2026, subject to any further updates from the DSE—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

## Leaders Must Read Youth Pulse, Address Concerns

The findings of the World Economic Forum's Youth Pulse 2026 survey present a stark portrait of a generation standing at a crossroads of profound anxiety and remarkable resolve. With over half of young people worldwide citing financial stress as a top concern and naming inequality as the defining economic issue, the data reveals a deep-seated crisis of fairness. A generation is not only worried about finding a job; they are also disillusioned by a system they perceive as rigged, where inflation erodes their

stability while wealth concentrates at the top. Yet, within this narrative of strain lies a powerful counter-narrative of pragmatic ambition. Far from being passive or apathetic, young people are articulating clear, actionable demands: employment opportunities, equal access to quality education, and affordable housing. Their prioritisation of these fundamentals underscores a desire for dignity and economic security above all else. Notably, in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, entrepreneurship is seen

not just as a career path but as a primary force for opportunity, reflecting a powerful shift toward self-determination. This generation's concerns are holistic, seamlessly integrating economic justice with existential threats. That climate change remains their paramount global worry, even amid personal financial anxiety, demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of interconnected crises. Politically, they defy stereotypes. The significant proportion willing to run for office signals a move from critique to

claim of a demand for a seat at the table where decisions are made, championing community-led change as the most effective model. The survey also captures a critical adaptive intelligence. While acutely aware of AI's threat to entry-level jobs, a majority are proactively using the technology to upskill, showing a readiness to navigate disruption rather than be victimised by it. The message for global leaders, especially those gathering at Davos, is unambiguous. The youth are not a problem to be managed but partners

to be engaged. Addressing their core concerns requires systemic shifts toward equitable economic policies, meaningful climate action, and inclusive political structures that channel this generation's energy from protest into productive governance. Their stress is a symptom of systemic failure; their solutions-oriented mindset is the blueprint for renewal. The task ahead is to build a world that earns their trust by delivering on the equity and opportunity they rightly demand.

# PRAGATI: A Decade Of Cooperative, Outcome-Driven Governance

### Press Information Bureau

#### PRAGATI: A Model of Real-Time Governance

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is the Government of India's flagship platform for fast-tracking projects, schemes, and grievance redressal through direct, real-time review by the Prime Minister, in partnership with States and Union Ministries. PRAGATI is a strong example of how digital governance can translate intent into real, visible progress. Launched in 2015 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PRAGATI has reshaped how India tracks and drives major infrastructure projects and key social programmes. More than a review forum, it reflects a push to break bureaucratic inertia, strengthen a Team India approach across the Centre and States, and build a culture where decisions are time-bound, follow-through is expected, and outcomes are measured. Several long-pending projects initiated by previous governments were also taken up under the PRAGATI platform and subsequently unlocked or completed. These include the Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge (conceived in 1997), Navi Mumbai International Airport (conceptualised in 1997), Bhilai Steel Plant modernisation (approved in 2007) among various others.

**PRAGATI: What It Is and Why It Was Needed**  
Large time and cost overruns had long been a persistent challenge in India's public projects and schemes. To address this issue across all levels of government, the Prime Minister conceptualized PRAGATI as a comprehensive solution. PRAGATI is a distinctive, integrated, and interactive platform designed to both resolve grievances of and to monitor and review key programmes and projects of the Government of India, along with projects highlighted by State Governments. The PRAGATI platform uniquely brings together three modern technologies—digital data management, video conferencing, and geo-spatial technology. Through this system, the Prime Minister can directly engage with concerned Central and State officials, supported by complete information and up-to-date visual evidence from project sites. This initiative also represents an innovative step in e-governance and exemplifies the principles of good governance.

#### PRAGATI's Origin and Evolution

PRAGATI draws its inspiration from SWAGAT (State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology). SWAGAT was then Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi's brainchild, launched in April 2003, and one of India's early, technology-enabled platforms of its kind for grievance redressal. Aptly named—SWAGAT means "welcome" in many Indian languages—it was designed to make government more accessible and accountable. Citizens could submit complaints online, track their applications, view decisions, and even interact with officials through video conferencing. A structured screening process ensured that serious, high-priority petitions reached the Chief Minister's desk, while monthly public hearings created a direct channel for citizens to place their concerns before the state leadership. Over time, SWAGAT came to be widely recognised for strengthening transparency, responsiveness, and accountability in public service delivery.

After taking office as Prime Minister in 2014, PM Modi sought to scale the underlying discipline of SWAGAT to the national level. With PRAGATI, the focus expanded from individual grievances to the larger, more complex challenge of driving delivery across major projects and key programmes—especially where issues were stuck due to multi-agency dependencies or Centre-State coordination. In that sense, PRAGATI was not merely a digital upgrade; it represented a shift in how governance is executed—more time-bound, more outcome-driven, and more collaborative, aligned with the broader principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance."

**Structured Review and Follow-up Process**  
PRAGATI is a technology-driven platform for monitoring projects, redressing citizen grievances, and reviewing scheme implementation through coordinated efforts of Central

Ministries and State Governments. It also integrates platforms such as PM GatiShakti, PARIVESH, and the PM Ref Portal.

At the apex level, the Prime Minister chairs PRAGATI review meetings with Chief Secretaries of States and Secretaries of Central Ministries/Departments to resolve issues related to identified projects and schemes.

Following the meetings, a multi-tier follow-up mechanism ensures timely implementation of decisions. Projects are monitored by the Cabinet Secretariat, while schemes and grievances are reviewed at the Ministry level under continuous oversight of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

#### Project & Issue Escalation Mechanism

Regular issues are resolved at the Ministry level, while complex and critical issues are escalated for review up to PRAGATI.

#### Strengthening Cooperative Federalism and Governance

PRAGATI institutionalises cooperative federalism in action. Chief Secretaries of States and Secretaries to the Government of India participate together, answerable in real time, enabling faster resolution of inter-state and Centre-State issues. The platform breaks silos by ensuring:

Direct coordination between multiple ministries and State governments.

Time-bound follow-up monitored by the Cabinet Secretariat.

Shared ownership of outcomes rather than fragmented responsibility.

This model has substantially improved inter-ministerial coordination and reduced procedural bottlenecks that traditionally delayed large public projects.

#### PRAGATI's Impact Across Key Infrastructure Sectors

PRAGATI has played a pivotal role in accelerating implementation and resolving bottlenecks across major infrastructure sectors. Some key sectoral impacts are highlighted below:

#### Beyond Infrastructure: Social Sector & Citizen-Centric Governance

While PRAGATI initially focused on large infrastructure projects, its scope has expanded to social sector schemes and public grievances, making it a people-centric governance instrument.

#### Examples of Long-Pending Projects Unlocked Through PRAGATI

Several projects that had remained stalled for decades were completed or decisively unlocked after being taken up under the PRAGATI platform, demonstrating the impact of sustained high-level monitoring and inter-governmental coordination.

The Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge in Assam, first conceived in 1997, had remained pending for over two decades due to funding and coordination challenges. Following regular reviews under PRAGATI, inter-agency issues were resolved, and execution was closely monitored, leading to the project's completion and inauguration in 2018, significantly improving connectivity and strategic mobility in the North-East.

The Navi Mumbai International Airport, conceptualised in 1997, remained delayed for around 25 years due to land acquisition, rehabilitation of project-affected families and the involvement of multiple agencies. Following PRAGATI intervention, these long-pending issues were addressed in a time-bound manner through Centre-State coordination, unlocking the project and significantly accelerating construction. Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated phase I of the project in October 2025.

The modernisation and expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant, approved in 2007, faced prolonged delays of nearly 15 years due to contractual disputes, execution challenges and cost overruns. High-level monitoring under PRAGATI helped resolve inter-ministerial and PSU-level bottlenecks, enabling completion of the modernisation programme and enhancement of the plant's capacity and efficiency.

The LARA Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-I) in Chhattisgarh, sanctioned in December 2012, experienced delays for more than 13 years due to land acquisition and contractor-related constraints. Continuous monitoring and issue resolution through PRAGATI helped unlock the project, resulting in the commissioning of the units and the addition to national power generation capacity.

The Garhwa Super Thermal Power Project in Madhya Pradesh, approved in 2008,

had remained delayed for over a decade because of land, fuel linkage and execution-related issues. After being taken up under PRAGATI, outstanding clearances and coordination issues were fast-tracked, leading to the commissioning of the project and strengthening of regional power availability.

Recognised as a critical anchor in India's eastern power generation landscape, the North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (NKSTPP) is a flagship pit-head thermal power initiative aimed at strengthening base-load electricity availability and grid reliability in eastern India. The physical progress of the project stood at approximately 60% during FY 2019-20. Following focused reviews and coordinated interventions, including a PRAGATI review conducted in September 2021, project execution witnessed a marked acceleration, with physical progress increasing to around 87% by FY 2023-24.

The Nabinagar Super Thermal Power Project (NSTPP) occupies a strategic position in India's energy security architecture. Upon escalation under the PRAGATI mechanism, unresolved land and rehabilitation issues were addressed. This intervention enabled focused monitoring and accountability, leading to progressive resolution of land-related constraints and resumption of project execution.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar is being established at Bibinagar in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Telangana, under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The project was reviewed under the PRAGATI mechanism on 28.06.2023, following which a clear progress in project execution was observed. As of 14.09.2023, the physical progress stood at 29%, which increased sharply to 57% by the end of FY 2023-24, reflecting the impact of focused monitoring and expedited decision-making under PRAGATI.

Jammu & Kashmir has entered a new era of healthcare accessibility and excellence with the establishment of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jammu, at Samba. Given the national importance of AIIMS Jammu in strengthening healthcare access in the region, the project and its critical bottlenecks were taken up through the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) and subsequently escalated to the PRAGATI mechanism. The project was reviewed under PRAGATI on 28.06.2023. The PRAGATI intervention proved decisive in altering the project's execution environment. With the issue elevated to the highest level of governance, accountability across departments was sharply reinforced.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Guwahati, was sanctioned on 24th May 2017 under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). PRAGATI served as a critical intervention platform, with reviews in April 2018 and February 2023. PRAGATI's oversight directly enabled resolution of key dependencies, including commissioning of electricity infrastructure, acceleration of stormwater management systems, alignment of water supply readiness, and overall synchronisation necessary for operationalisation.

Mumbai Urja Marg Limited (MUML) is a Ministry of Power, Government of India-envisaged transmission strengthening project in Maharashtra, designed to reinforce the power transmission backbone for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The project faced multiple interlinked land, forest, Right of Way (RoW), and administrative bottlenecks. It was sanctioned in October 2024. PRAGATI-driven interventions converted fragmented approvals into synchronized action, enabling progressive achievement of milestones—80 per cent RoW clearance by 2023, 100 per cent foundation, erection, and stringing completion by August 2024, and successful charging of transmission lines in September 2024—thereby restoring execution momentum and ensuring timely commissioning of the MUML project.

The 400 kV D/C Teesta III-Kishanganj Transmission Line (214 km) is an Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) project designed to evacuate power from Sikkim's commissioned hydro assets. It stands as evidence of how PRAGATI converts high-level directives into field-level delivery by resolving jurisdictional constraints and aligning multi-agency execution, rather than altering engineering design. It remains a reference case of coordinated Centre-State intervention enabling

commissioning in challenging terrain with sustained operational performance.

The UER-II project along NH-344M was conceived as a transformative intervention to augment Delhi's road infrastructure and restore traffic efficiency. Given its strategic importance for Delhi-NCR mobility, the project was taken up for close monitoring under the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) and subsequently reviewed at the national level through the PRAGATI mechanism. The PRAGATI intervention proved pivotal in breaking long-standing inter-departmental bottlenecks as each pending issue was digitally tracked with assigned responsibilities and timelines.

The four-laning of the Sangareddy-Akola-Nanded section of NH-161 spans 426 km from Akola (NH-53) in Maharashtra to Sangareddy in Telangana, passing through Washim, Hingoli, Nanded and Deglo. Forming part of the Indore-Hyderabad Economic Corridor under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, this strategic highway provides seamless connectivity between major urban and economic centres across Central and Southern India. The project was escalated to the PRAGATI portal. The coordinated intervention brought all stakeholders—State authorities, district administration and the project proponent—onto a single implementation framework with clear timelines and accountability. The resolution of these long-standing issues within a short span of six months highlights the transformative role of the PRAGATI mechanism in unlocking complex infrastructure bottlenecks and driving time-bound delivery.

Work on the Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link started in October 1994 while the date of sanction was 31st March 1994 but progress remained slow for nearly 25 years owing to difficult terrain, land acquisition constraints, forest clearances, and security-related challenges. After the project was reviewed under PRAGATI, the coordinated intervention brought all stakeholders—State authorities, district administration and the project proponent—onto a single implementation framework with clear timelines and accountability. The resolution of these long-standing issues within a short span of six months highlights the transformative role of the PRAGATI mechanism in unlocking complex infrastructure bottlenecks and driving time-bound delivery.

The four-laning of the Khajuri-Wyndhamganj section of NH-75 (Sec-V) represents a strategically important highway upgradation initiative in Jharkhand, aimed at strengthening regional and inter-state road connectivity. The value of PRAGATI-led oversight is reflected in the project's ability to maintain momentum through its more complex later stages. Physical progress had reached 44.4% prior to the PRAGATI review in August 2024, and subsequently advanced to 92.02%, demonstrating sustained execution and effective issue management. At a stage where large infrastructure projects often experience slippages due to land, clearance and coordination challenges, the continued progression underscores how high-level monitoring and coordinated action at the State and district levels helped prevent stagnation and ensured timely consolidation of works.

The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), officially named Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nava Sheva Setu, stands among India's most transformative urban transport infrastructure initiatives. Implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) with financial support from the Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the project represents India's longest sea bridge, spanning 21.8 kilometres, and a landmark addition to the national transport network. Guided under the PRAGATI mechanism, the project progressed through a disciplined, time-bound governance framework that ensured early institutional alignment and sustained execution momentum.

The Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDP), implemented by GAIL (India) Limited is a cross-country pipeline project extending the National Gas Grid into eastern and north-eastern India. Post PRAGATI, commissioning proceeded wherever technically feasible, while unresolved segments were escalated to "high-priority status" through structured monitoring cycles at the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, and DPMIT, with State Governments instructed to resolve pendencies at the district level. This shift from sequential dependence to modular execution altered the execution trajectory and enabled the project to move from delayed

#### Key Takeaways

- PRAGATI has significantly accelerated India's development by fast-tracking projects worth more than 85 lakh crore.
- Under PRAGATI, 382 major national projects have been systematically reviewed and closely monitored.
- Out of 3,187 identified issues, 2,958 have already been resolved, significantly reducing delays and cost overruns.

readiness to near completion.

#### PRAGATI: A Global Case Study in Project Acceleration

A landmark case study by Oxford's Said Business School, titled "From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress," highlights PRAGATI as:

Transformative digital governance platform that has strengthened senior-level accountability & fast-tracked long-pending infrastructure and social sector projects.

Global benchmark and a "Single Source of Truth" for real-time project monitoring and inter-governmental coordination.

Global best practice and replicable model for developing economies, that can drive infrastructure delivery, economic growth, and improved public trust.

Institution in cooperative federalism, bringing States/UTs administration and central ministries onto one platform, ensuring apolitical, uniform attention to projects.

#### Multi-Faceted Impact

PRAGATI's influence on infrastructure delivery is visible across four dimensions:

**Economic:** Delays don't just raise project costs through price escalation and logistical churn—they also postpone the economic returns these assets generate through higher passenger movement and commercial activity. By accelerating issue-resolution and completion, PRAGATI helps bring these returns online sooner and improves the value of every rupee invested.

**Social:** Faster completion means communities benefit earlier. Better roads connect remote areas to schools, hospitals, and markets; rail links, bridges, and logistics upgrades support local enterprise and job creation. The cumulative effect is a more connected India—where access, opportunity, and quality of life improve in ways that citizens can feel.

**Environmental:** Modernisation cannot come at the cost of sustainability. PRAGATI supports responsible development by helping fast-track environment-related decision-making while keeping safeguards in view, reducing avoidable time overruns that can increase emissions and resource use. PM GatiShakti puts forests, wildlife and eco-sensitive zones on the same GIS planning canvas, so environmental sensitivities are visible before a project is finalised. That early visibility enables alignment planning, site-suitability and compliance checks—so agencies can adopt alternative alignments and design mitigations upfront to avoid sensitive habitats and reduce ecological impact. And by relying on digital review and videoconferencing, it reduces the need for carbon-intensive travel.

**Positive Governance:** PRAGATI is not only about expediting projects—it strengthens the culture of delivery. It reinforces transparency, time-bound accountability, and inter-government coordination, and it has helped spread process improvements across departments. In doing so, it acts as a catalyst for wider modernisation and initiatives that aim to extend the benefits of growth more evenly across the country.

#### PRAGATI @ 50

As PRAGATI achieved its 50th meeting milestone, it stands as a defining example of how technology-enabled leadership, cooperative federalism and continuous monitoring can translate intent into outcomes at a national scale. Five critical infrastructure projects have been reviewed during the meeting by the Prime Minister across sectors, including Road, Railways, Power, Water Resources, and Coal. These projects span 5 States, with a cumulative cost of more than 40,000 crore. This acts as a symbol of the deep transformation India has witnessed in the culture of governance over the last decade.

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

## J&K ranked 2nd in export Preparedness Index 2024

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JANUARY 14, 2026: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone in its export development journey by securing the second rank among Small States, North Eastern States and Union Territories in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, released by NITI Aayog.



The Union Territory scored an impressive 51.08 points and has been categorised as a "Leader" in the EPI 2024 classification.

The achievement, as per an official statement issued on Wednesday reflects a remarkable improvement over previous years, with Jammu and Kashmir making a substantial leap from 17th rank in EPI 2022 to 2nd position in EPI 2024. This sharp upward movement

highlights the focused, consistent and outcome-oriented efforts undertaken to strengthen the export ecosystem in the Union Territory. The Export Preparedness Index is a comprehensive, data-driven framework that assesses the export readiness of States and UTs across key pillars including policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance. J&K's strong performance underscores the success of targeted interventions such as preparation of district export plans, promotion of One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives, exporter outreach and capacity-building programmes, strengthening of institutional mechanisms and enhanced facilitation for exporters.

This achievement is yet another feather in the cap of the Industries & Commerce Department, Jammu & Kashmir.

It is a testament to the visionary guidance and leadership of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, under whose direction sustained and focused efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the export ecosystem of the Union Territory. The milestone reflects the Department's commitment to export-led growth, achieved through coordinated action, institutional strengthening and the active participation of all stakeholders, including line departments, field functionaries and the exporter community.

Jammu and Kashmir remains committed to further enhancing its export competitiveness and leveraging its unique strengths to expand its footprint in national and global markets.

## DC Baramulla reviews Foundational First Programme implementation in Uri

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Wednesday chaired a review-cum-dissemination meeting for the implementation of the Foundational First Programme in Uri Block, aligned with the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) goals under NEP 2020.

During the meeting, in-depth and productive deliberations were held on various assessment and monitoring frameworks, including the ASER Report, PARAKH Framework, and the Endline Report of the Foundational First Programme. These reports were reviewed to assess learning outcomes, implementation progress, and the overall impact of the programme in Uri Block.

The DC emphasized the need for evidence-based planning, regular monitoring, and effective inter-departmental coordination to further strengthen foundational learning.

He appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Education Department and the Pratham Education Foundation, stressing the importance of scaling up successful practices to improve early-grade learning outcomes across Baramulla district.

## DC Baramulla reviews NABARD projects, seeks timely completion reports

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa Wednesday reviewed the progress of ongoing projects under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during a meeting held in the office Chamber.

The review, as per an official statement, was conducted through a detailed presentation by the concerned departments and executing agencies.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned departments to submit project completion certificates along with detailed project completion reports in a timely manner to ensure proper documentation and accountability.

Emphasizing adherence to timelines, the DC instructed the executive agencies to accord top priority to NABARD-funded



projects, particularly those scheduled for completion by June and September 2026, and ensure that works are completed within the stipulated time frame without compromising quality.

The DC also directed the engineers to expedite preparations for upcoming NABARD projects, which play a vital role in strengthening rural infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

## Budgam admin finalises Phase-II plan for 150 years of Vande Mataram Celebrations

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JANUARY 14: District Administration Budgam is all set to commemorate 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram" with grandeur and patriotic fervour.

In this regard, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah Wednesday, as per an official statement, chaired a meeting of officers from all line departments in the sheikh-ul-Alam hall of the DC Office Complex to finalize the activity plan for the second phase of the year-long celebration.

At the outset, Chief planning officer Budgam, Javaid Ahmad Najar briefed the meeting about the objectives, framework, and schedule of events planned for the celebration. He informed that the campaign, inaugurated in November 2025, is being implemented in four phases. He added that Phase-I has already been completed, while Phase-II

will commence from January 19, 2026.

He further informed that Phase-II will include flag hoisting, invocation of "Vande Mataram," cultural performances, screening of short films, and participation of all officers, of offices across district.

The week-long celebration will further include essay and quiz competitions, exhibitions on the freedom struggle and "Vande Mataram," police band performances, mural and wall paintings, cleanliness drives, youth rallies, mini-marathons, and documentary screenings to be organized by various departments.

The ADC said that the celebration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" would serve as a tribute to India's rich cultural heritage and the spirit of patriotism that binds the nation together. He said that the celebrations are envisioned as a platform to rekindle national pride and to remind the younger generation of

the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in shaping the nation.

He further said that the celebrations should reflect the diversity, unity, and cultural vibrancy of Budgam district, ensuring that every citizen feels connected to the spirit of the event.

He stressed that departments must work in close coordination to guarantee widespread public involvement, particularly from students, youth, and community groups.

The ADC emphasised that all activities should be executed in an inclusive, innovative, and people-centric manner, making the celebrations a district-wide movement of patriotic expression and cultural pride.

The meeting was attended by CPO Budgam, all SDMs, ACD Budgam, CEO Budgam, CMO Budgam, District Information Officer, District Informatics Officer, Dysp HQ, representatives from traffic police budgam and other senior officers of the district administration.

## Awareness programme on Child Protection held in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: An Awareness-cum-Capacity Building Programme focusing on Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNC) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) was successfully organized by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Mission Vatsalya, Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora.

The programme, as per an official statement, witnessed active participation from officials and functionaries of various line departments, reflecting a coordinated approach towards child protection and juvenile justice.

The programme aimed to sensitize stakeholders on the legal, institutional, and procedural frameworks governing child protection, with special emphasis on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Speaking on the occasion, Protection Officer, District Child

Protection Unit, Bandipora sensitized the participants about the Mission Vatsalya Scheme, its objectives, target groups, and the importance of non-institutional care mechanisms.

He elaborated on the district-level structures under Mission Vatsalya and highlighted the crucial role of different departments in ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of child protection services. He stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination to safeguard the rights and well-being of vulnerable children.

Member CWC and Member JJB provided an in-depth overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Child Welfare Committee and the Juvenile Justice Board. They explained the legal procedures and institutional mechanisms for dealing with children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law, emphasizing child-friendly approaches and timely interventions in accordance with the JJ Act, 2015.

## Bandipora finalises preparations for Republic Day celebrations

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Wednesday chaired a meeting of concerned officers at the Conference Hall to finalise preparations for the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, assessed the preparedness for the main function at S K Stadium, Bandipora, as well as celebrations planned at Sub-Divisions Gurez and Sumbal and other notified venues. While the concerned officers apprised the chair that preparations were progressing satisfactorily, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the



need for continuous improvement to make the celebrations more engaging and inspiring. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed departments to ensure seamless arrangements for flag unfurling, Shahnai Vadan, march-past by contingents, cultural programmes, and proper seating and dais arrangements, keeping in view the seating capacity and

proper illumination of government buildings, bridges, and roundabouts. Stress was also laid on ensuring adequate transport facilities for school children, availability of medical and fire services, drinking water supply, heating arrangements, and effective waste minimisation measures.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that prominent individuals and institutions working in Bandipora should be invited and honoured on Republic Day. These include representatives from the Geological and Archaeological Surveys, EPFO, Cooperative Societies, FPOs, FRA Committees, Forest Demarcation Office, Principal KFT Chitternaar, Civil Defence Wardens, and veterans through the Sainik Board.

## DC Anantnag reviews preparations for Phase-II 'Vande Mataram' celebrations

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 14: In accordance with the national calendar, District Anantnag has geared up to observe Phase II of the National Song "Vande Mataram" Celebrations from January 19 to 26, 2026, culminating on Republic Day, January 26, 2026, with a series of patriotic and vibrant programmes across the district.

To review and finalise the preparations for the week-long celebrations, the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, S. F. Hamid Wednesday chaired a comprehensive meeting of concerned officers at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, highlighted the historic and inspirational significance of "Vande Mataram" in Nation's freedom struggle and its enduring message of unity, pride and devotion to the Motherland. He



underscored the need for disciplined coordination and effective field-level execution to ensure that Phase-II of the campaign is conducted in a smooth, dignified and impactful manner across all institutions and public spaces of the district.

It was informed that the district will organise multiple patriotic activities during this phase, including Tiranga Rallies, Torch Relays, mass singing of the National Song, and public events reflecting the spirit of national unity and constitutional values. These programmes will build momentum throughout the week and culminate on January 26, 2026, coinciding with the celebration

of Republic Day-2026.

The events shall be conducted at Sub-Divisions, Tehsils, Colleges, Blocks, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other public institutions, with active participation of senior officers, officials, students, youth volunteers and civil society members, to ensure wide public outreach and enthusiastic community engagement in the patriotic celebrations.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Principals of GDCs, SDMs, ACR, ACD, DFOs, CMO, Dy CEO, representative of SSP, DCO, Tehsildars, BDOS, Coordinators, NSS and ANOs/NCC of GDCs, CEO MCA, EOs of MCs, District Secretary BS&G and other officers.

## DC Pulwama reviews telecom infrastructure

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) here at the Administrative Complex, to review the status of telecom infrastructure and network connectivity in the district.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, discussions focused on mobile tower saturation, augmentation of signals, phase-wise coverage, network status, Right of Way (RoW) issues, and the progress of the BharatNet project.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the project-wise status of mobile tower installations and progress of the BSNL 4G Saturation Project across the district while status of signal augmentation, operational 4G sites improving coverage in rural and shadow areas and status of the proposed 5G rollout was reviewed.

The progress of the BharatNet project was also reviewed, wherein it was

informed that fibre rollout to Gram Panchayats is underway. It was further informed that work is in progress in various blocks of the district and will be completed within the stipulated timelines.

Dr. Qayoom also sought details from the Superintending Engineer, KPDCL, regarding the status of power extension to the constructed towers and directed him to ensure timely power extension to all constructed and planned towers.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure timely completion of telecom and digital connectivity projects in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; Superintending Engineer, KPDCL, Circle Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama; Executive Engineers of R&B and PMGSY; SDEO BSNL, Pulwama; representatives of BSNL, Airtel, Jio, BharatNet, and other concerned members of the committee.

## Awareness programme on child marriage laws held for Madrasa girls in Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 14: The Child Protection Department on Wednesday organised an awareness programme under the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign here at Madrasa Madin Tul Uloom Lilbanat (Barkat-e-Fatima) to sensitise girl students about the legal safeguards against child marriage and its harmful effects.

The programme, as per an official statement, was conducted under the directions and guidance of the District Child Protection Officer, Tariq Parvez Qazi.

Counselor OSC, Dr Sana Butt underscored the physical, psychological and social consequences of child marriage and emphasised the role of religious and educational

institutions in preventing the practice.

She encouraged students to act as ambassadors of change within their families and communities. "You can report any incident of child marriage or child abuse on the Child Helpline number 1098, which operates round the clock to provide assistance and protection to children in need", she encouraged the students.

Supervisor CHL, Farana Tanveer explained the legal safeguards against the Child Marriage. Social Worker DCPU, Saima Kousar administered the pledge on Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat and stressed to work collectively for the protection of children's rights.

Among others present included Counselor DCPU, Rumeela Rashid; and MPS, Ruhi Kousar.

## SWD Srinagar conducts training on women-centric schemes

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14: Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar conducted a Training Programme on various Women Centric schemes and legal provisions at Zila Sainik Welfare Office Srinagar Wednesday with the functionaries of various Child Care Institutions of Social Welfare Department.

During the program, the participants, as per an official statement, were made aware about various Women Centric laws including (Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Domestic Violence Act, 2005,



Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017, Sexual Harassment at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) POSH Act, 2013 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976).

The significance of organizing such training programme is to enhance knowledge and develop capabilities of the functionaries to deliver services effectively.

District Mission Coordinator, S-HEW, emphasised the importance of such capacity-building initiatives and highlighted the significance of women-centric schemes and legal safeguards through a detailed presentation.

## Chief Secy flags off J&K Tableau contingent for Republic Day 2026

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 14: Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday flagged off the contingent of artists of the Jammu & Kashmir Tableau who will perform at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, during the Republic Day Parade-2026. The artists will be part of the J&K Tableau representing the Union Territory on the national stage. The flag-off ceremony was held today at K. L. Saigal Hall, Jammu.

The event was held in the presence of Principal Secretary, Culture Department, Brij Mohan Sharma; Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour; Additional



Secretary, JKAACL, Sonali Arun Gupta; Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Lal Chand, besides other senior officers of JKAACL.

The Jammu & Kashmir tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2026 presents a vibrant fusion of the

Union Territory's renowned handicrafts and folk traditions. It showcases iconic crafts such as Pashmina weaving, walnut wood carving, carpet weaving, papier-mâché, copperware and Basohli miniature paintings,

reflecting generations of refined craftsmanship.

The visual narrative opens with a grand engraved Samovar symbolising Kashmiri hospitality, flowing through traditional wooden architecture and house-boat imagery. At the centre, the Dogra Chhajja performance on a village Thadda represents community life and cultural continuity, while spirited folk dances—Rouf, Kud, Jagarna, Pahari, Gojri and Dumhal—add rhythm and movement. The tableau concludes with colourful papier-mâché artefacts in a willow basket, presenting Jammu & Kashmir as a living canvas of art, tradition and creativity.

## Three-day Unani regimens therapy workshop concludes at RRIUM Srinagar

PIB

Srinagar, Jan 14: The Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar concluded a three-day workshop on "Bloodletting Procedures (Hijama bi'l Sharh, Ta'liq al-'Alaq and Fasd) in Ilaj bi'l Tadbeer".

The workshop was organised under the Centre of Excellence (CoE) project funded by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The valedictory session held at Srinagar, marked the culmination of an intensive academic and hands-on training programme.

Registrar, University of Kashmir, Prof Naseer Iqbal who was the Chief Guest for the valedictory function highlighted the role of academic and research institutions in

strengthening traditional systems of medicine. He appreciated RRIUM Srinagar for organising capacity-building programmes that promote evidence-based and ethical clinical practices in Unani medicine.

Delivering the valedictory address Deputy Director, RRIUM Srinagar, Dr Irfat Ara summarised the outcomes of the workshop

and highlighted the importance of structured hands-on training in bloodletting procedures such as Hijama, Ta'liq al-'Alaq and Fasd for enhancing clinical competence. She commended the participants of the workshop for their active engagement throughout the proceedings.

Earlier, Research Officer (Biochemistry), Dr Towseef Amin outlined the objectives and clinical relevance of the workshop, with a vote of thanks by Research Officer (Unani), Dr Arshad Iqbal.

emphasising its focus on strengthening evidence-based Unani regimens therapy. Research Officer (Botany), Tariq Ahmad, underscored the importance of an interdisciplinary approach and the integration of traditional knowledge with scientific validation.

Certificates and awards were distributed to participants, including medical officers from the Department of ISM, and students and faculty from Government Unani Medical College, Ganderbal; Institute of Asian Medical Sciences, Zakura; and Kashmir Tibbia College Hospital and Research Centre, Shilvat, in recognition of their successful completion of the workshop. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Research Officer (Unani), Dr Arshad Iqbal.

## CONT'D. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Union Home Secy

Line of Control.

He was accompanied by Director Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka and other top officials from New Delhi. The meeting was also attended by BSF Director General Praveen Kumar, CRPF chief G P Singh and Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat, other army, police, civil and intelligence officers.

Sources said that he also reviewed the security situation along the borders where Pakistan has been trying to push infiltrators and arms through drones over the past few weeks.

They said that the Home Secretary also reviewed the prevailing security situation across Jammu and Kashmir, with focus on the ongoing anti-terror operations in mountainous and forested areas of Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua and Udhampur districts.

Pertinently, security forces have been carrying out sustained operations to track and neutralise terrorists in the forested areas of these districts over the past few weeks.

"He also reviewed the strengthening of the anti-infiltration grid and enhancing coordination among various security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir," sources added.

Sources also said that the Union Home Secretary along with the Intelligence Bureau chief and other officers are likely to visit the border areas on Thursday. (KNO)

### Ex-servicemen not

of our veterans is not limited to the battlefield. It is equally visible in their role in building peace, strengthening society and contributing to the nation's progress," he said, adding that veterans and serving soldiers always place the safety of others above their own.

The Lieutenant Governor described the courage and sacrifice of the armed forces as the backbone of India's security. "While the nation sleeps peacefully, our soldiers remain alert. While families celebrate festivals together, our soldiers guard the borders far away from their homes. They do not speak of sacrifice; they live it every moment," he said.

Calling veterans living role models for the younger generation, LG Sinha urged the youth to draw inspiration from their lives of discipline, character and selfless service. "Veterans continue to guide the nation with timeless values and lead by example in everyday life," he said.

From safeguarding the nation to serving society, the Lieutenant Governor said armed forces veterans continue to play a vital role in shaping India's future. Reaffirming his commitment, LG Sinha said the government is dedicated to honouring the service of veterans through sustained care and welfare measures. "It is my commitment to ensure not only the well-being of veterans' families but also to build a life of dignity for those brave soldiers who served and sacrificed for the nation," he added.

"Our Armed Forces' veterans are embodiment of living history and their sacrifices have not only safeguarded our freedom but also shaped the destiny of our great nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the selfless service of armed forces is not a job but a lifelong commitment which continues even after their military careers conclude and uniform is folded away.

Saluting the resilience of army bravehearts and their love for the motherland, the Lieutenant Governor said the courage and sacrifice of army is the backbone of our nation's security.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated the "Wall of Fame" and launched a dedicated police helpline service for veterans. He reiterated the government's resolve, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, towards the welfare of veterans and their families.

"Veterans are living role models for youth and guiding the nation with character, timeless values and selfless service. They are leading by example in everyday life. From safeguarding the nation to serving the society; our armed forces veterans continue to shape India's future.

It is my commitment to honor veterans' service through care. We are not only dedicated to the well-being of Veterans' families but also building a life of dignity for those brave soldiers who served and sacrificed," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa. He also paid tribute to Second Lieutenant Ram Raghoba Rane, Brigadier Mohammad Usman, Naik Jadunath Singh and bravehearts of Rajouri.

A mega Ex-Servicemen Rally was organised to mark the occasion. Motorised wheelchairs, retrofitted scooters and other mobility aids

were also distributed to the veterans and veer naris.

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command; Lt Gen P K Mishra, GOC White Knight Corps (16 Corps); Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee, GOC 25 Inf Division; Brig. Pankaj Chib (Retd), Director Sainik Welfare Department; veterans, veer naris, prominent citizens and people from all walks of life attended the Armed Forces Veterans Day event.

Iftikhar Ahmed, Thakur Randhir Singh and Devyani Rana-Members of Legislative Assembly; Tejinder Singh, DIG Rajouri Poonch Range; Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; Gaurav Sikarwar, SSP Rajouri, and other senior officials of security forces, civil and police administration were also present on the occasion and paid tribute to the veterans and veer naris. (KNO)

### Counter-terrorism

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Aggarwal's appointment as DG, NIA for a tenure up to August 31, 2028, the date of his superannuation, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Aggarwal is considered an expert in counter-terrorism, terror financing and radicalisation matters. He is regarded as an ace investigator, adept at handling probes in complex internal security cases.

Aggarwal has also extensively worked with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and held key posts under the central and Himachal Pradesh governments.

### JKBOSE declares

Secretary had said that nearly 95,000 students were enrolled to appear for 10th class exams and the board has made 994 exam centres for them.

Pertinently, BOSE had announced syllabus relaxation of 15 percent for 10th, 11th and 12th standard examination.

Director Academics of BOSE in a notification said that the decision was taken upon the recommendations received from the DSEK and DSEJ and pleas received from other stakeholders regarding reduction in syllabus due to delayed commencement of academic session this year coupled with disruptions in academic calendar due to heat wave, torrential rains, cloud-bursts and floods.

"As approved by the competent authority, it is notified that the prospective eligible students appearing in class 10th, 11th and 12th in the ensuing annual regular, 2025 examination in Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including UT of Ladakh, shall attempt 85 percent marks which will correspond to 100 percent marks, availing thus 15 percent relaxation in syllabus," reads the notification.

In the meantime, Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo congratulated the students.

She said, "I am sure that the students who qualify the exams today will continue their hard work in future."

The minister further said that those students who couldn't qualify the exams shouldn't be disheartened. "They shall work hard so that they will achieve their goal of the future." (KNO)

### 84% qualify

86 percent and 82 percent among the male students.

JKBOSE earlier in the morning has announced that 85 percent of students have qualified the annual regular exams of 10th standard.

BOSE said that a total of 70,735 candidates were enrolled for the exams out of which 59,435 successfully qualified it.

In the exams, a total of 33,549 students have registered distinctions, 21,889 secured first division, 3963 bagged second division and 34 candidates registered third division.

BOSE further said that in the examination, 312 students couldn't qualify the exams while 10,988 have been asked to reappear in the exams.

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the ensuing annual regular, 2025 examination in Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including UT of Ladakh, shall attempt 85 percent marks which will correspond to 100 percent marks, availing thus 15 percent relaxation in syllabus," reads the notification.

Among the top performers of four streams, two students are from government schools and two from private schools respectively.

### Science

From the Faculty of science, Hafsa of Kashmir Harvard Higher Secondary School Habak has secured 500 marks followed by Aida Nasti, of Islamia Hanifa Institute Lal Chowk Anantnag with 499 Marks, Asra of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Koti Bagh Srinagar with 499 Marks, Athar Ajaz Shah of Candid Higher Secondary School Nowgam Srinagar with 499 marks and Azka Rafiq Bhat of Govt Hr Sec School Chanapora with 499 marks.

### Commerce

Similarly, from the Faculty Of Commerce, Sauliha Nabi Wani of Harvard Higher Secondary School Habak Naseem Bagh Srinagar has secured 498 marks followed by Huran Gulzar of RP School Malabagh Srinagar with 497, Maryam Ashraf of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Nawakadal Srinagar with 497 marks, Muneeza Hakeem of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Zadibal Srinagar with 497 marks and Areeba Iqbal Gunjoo of Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Srinagar with 496 Marks.

### Arts

Likewise, from the Faculty Of Arts, Tabin Reyaz of Govt Hr Sec School Mattan has secured 500 marks followed by Iqra Hussain of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Langate with 499 marks, Aaliya Altaf of Womens Educational Institute Banat Lalbagh Srinagar with 498 marks, Ambreen Mushtaq of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Soura Srinagar with 498 marks and Hairyah of Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Srinagar with 498 marks as well.

### Home Science

From the Faculty of Home Science, Adiba Yaqoob of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Koti Bagh Srinagar has secured 483 marks followed by Iman Taqween of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Koti Bagh Srinagar with 481 marks, Rabia Ashraf of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Rainbagh Ang with 479 Marks, Tarafah Qureshi of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Koti Bagh Srinagar with 467 Marks and Arooja Ajaz of Govt Girls Hr Sec School Rainbagh Ang with 464 Marks. (KNO)

### Govt's education

Examinations, the results of which were declared on Wednesday.

The improved outcomes reflect the government's focused approach towards holistic development of education sector across Jammu and Kashmir. The government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has initiated various policy interventions, enhanced academic support systems as well as continuous monitoring mechanism at all levels with an aim to uplift the quality of education in Government institutions.

As per the result statistics, in 10th class, out of 94845 students who appeared, 80650 passed the examination, showing an overall pass percentage of 85.03 percent, depicting a significant increase from last year's pass percentage of 79.94 percent.

Similarly, in 12th class, 59435 students qualified the examination out of 70735 appearing students, showing an overall pass percentage of 84.02 percent, a notable improvement from last year's pass percentage of 75.95 percent.

Remarkably, in Kashmir Division, out of 425 students of 12th class who shared first ten positions in various streams, 377 students belong to Government Higher Secondary Schools. In Jammu division (Winter Zone), out of 58 students who shared first ten positions, 48 belong to Government Higher Secondary Schools. This achievement of public institutions reaffirms the belief of Government in quality education delivered in government schools.

Moreover, in 12th class examination, out of 64486 students who appeared through Government Higher Secondary Schools, 53620 passed the 12th examination, showing a pass percentage of 83.15 percent. Notably, out of 51511 candidates of Kashmir division and 12975 candidates of Jammu division (winter zone) who appeared in the examination through Government Higher Secondary Schools, 24909 students in Kashmir division and 3918 students of Jammu division (winter zone) passed the examination with distinction, reflecting the growing competitiveness and academic rigor within the public education system.

Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, while congratulating the successful students, teachers

and parents, termed the achievement as a clear testimony to the government's unwavering commitment towards the holistic development of the education sector. She said that consistent investments in infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum strengthening and student-centric initiatives are now translating into visible academic success.

"The commendable performance of government school students is a matter of pride and reaffirms our belief that quality education can be delivered effectively through public institutions," the Minister said. She added that the government remains resolute in ensuring equitable access to quality education and creating an enabling learning environment for every student.

The Minister also lauded the dedication of teachers and school heads, whose relentless efforts and innovative teaching practices have played a crucial role in this achievement. She encouraged students to continue striving for excellence and assured that the government will further intensify reforms and initiatives to nurture talent and promote academic excellence across the region.

### Ten specially-abled

methods, and to the parents who stood by their children at every step," he said.

He identified the successful candidates as Hashmat Ullah (420 marks), Asra Zehra (400), Owais (388), Asiya (380), Rutba (379), Tajamul (366), Areeba (356), Shaista (354), Salman (341) and Umar Fayaz (310).

Among the top achievers, Hashmat Ullah, who is deaf and dumb, secured an impressive 84 per cent.

Expressing his joy through sign language, Hashmat credited his success to the unwavering support of his family and teachers. "I want to thank everyone who believed in me. This is just the beginning. I want to continue breaking barriers and prove that we are capable of much more," he said.

Another achiever, Asra Zehra, who scored 75 per cent, expressed gratitude towards her teachers for adopting innovative and inclusive teaching techniques that helped her understand complex concepts with ease. "Our teachers never gave up on us. They taught us patiently, in ways we could understand," she said.

The students unanimously expressed their desire to continue their education and contribute meaningfully to society. However, they also highlighted the serious challenges faced by specially-abled students in the region due to the lack of educational infrastructure.

They appealed to the government to establish at least one specially-abled school at the tehsil level, saying that many children are deprived of education simply because they cannot relocate to Srinagar.

"At present, students from across Kashmir have only two main options—Abhinandan Home in Rambagh and Zabia Aapa School in Bijbehara. Many families cannot afford to send their children so far, especially as such students require constant care from a family member," they said.

They further pointed out that after completing Class 12, specially-abled students have no dedicated higher education institutions. "We are forced to join regular colleges where we struggle to cope due to the absence of sign language interpreters and specialised teaching methods," they added, demanding the establishment of a separate college or dedicated higher education facilities for specially-abled students.

Parents and

## Pongal a global festival, cherished by Tamil community world over: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said Pongal, which gave the message of maintaining harmonious balance with nature, has emerged as a global festival, cherished by Tamilians world over.

Participating in Pongal celebrations at the residence of Union Minister L Murugan, the prime minister said this festival celebrates the hard work of the farmers and expresses gratitude to the land and the Sun.

"The festival of Pongal reminds us that gratitude should go beyond mere words and become an integral part of our daily lives. When the Earth provides us with so much, it is our responsibility to cherish and protect it," Modi said at the celebrations that had Union Ministers, bureaucrats, and people from a cross-section of society in attendance.

The prime minister said that around the world, the Tamil community and those who cherish Tamil culture celebrate Pongal with great



enthusiasm, and he was proud to be among them.

Modi said Tamil culture was one of the oldest living civilisations in the world and embodied centuries of wisdom and tradition that draw lessons from history to guide the way toward the future.

"Inspired by this legacy, today's India draws strength from its cultural roots as it moves forward. On this auspicious occasion of Pongal, we feel the spirit of trust and

unity that is propelling India ahead is deeply connected to its culture and holds great respect for its land," the prime minister said.

Modi also said the festival of Pongal stressed the importance of maintaining a harmonious balance between nature, family, and society.

"Maintaining soil health, conserving water, and using resources wisely for future generations are essential.

Initiatives like Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, and Amrit Sarovar embody this very spirit and encourage us to uphold these values," the prime minister said.

In a letter in Tamil and English, he said that Pongal is also about expressing gratitude to all those who enrich our lives with their hard work.

"Dear fellow citizens, Vanakkam! I extend my heartfelt greetings to you

and your family on the joyous occasion of Pongal. This special festival reminds us of the close relationship between human labour and the rhythms of nature," Modi said in his letter.

The prime minister noted that this festival is deeply connected with agriculture, the hardworking farmers, rural life and the dignity of work.

Families come together to prepare traditional dishes and share joy and goodwill, and this strengthens bonds across generations and reinforces the spirit of togetherness, he said.

"We in India take pride in the fact that we are home to the oldest language in the world, Tamil. It is gladdening to see Pongal emerge as a global festival. It is celebrated enthusiastically in Tamil Nadu, in different parts of India and by the Tamil community across the world," he said.

"Once again, warm Pongal wishes to you. May this festival bring an abundance of prosperity, success and good health to everyone's lives," Modi said.

## Sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during Operation Pawan must be respected: Rajnath

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 14: The sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka nearly four decades ago should be honoured, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday, appearing to criticise the governments in the 1990s for not publicly recognising their contributions.

He said the Modi government is not only acknowledging the contribution of the Indian troops in the operation with an "open heart", but it is also in the process of recognising their contribution at every level. The defence minister made the remarks at an event that was hosted on the occasion of the Armed Forces Veterans' Day.

"Today, when the entire nation is remembering its soldiers, commemorating their contributions, and expressing gratitude, I also want to remember all the veterans who participated in the peacekeeping operation in Sri Lanka nearly 40 years ago as part of the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force)," he said.

"The decision taken by the then government to send Indian forces to Sri Lanka is open to debate. I don't want to get into it. But I believe the sacrifices made by our IPKF soldiers who participated in Operation Pawan should be respected," he said.

India had lost around 1,200 soldiers during the Indian Peacekeeping Force's stay in Sri Lanka between July 1987 and March 1990.

India and Sri Lanka signed a historic peace accord on July 29, 1987 following which New Delhi deployed the IPKF in the island nation to bring peace in Tamil-dominated areas that had witnessed widespread violence and civil strife for years.

However, peace eluded the regions and the IPKF was eventually pulled out.



While the decision to send the IPKF was taken by the Rajiv Gandhi government the troops were pulled out of the island nation when VP Singh dispensation was in power.

"In Operation Pawan, Indian forces displayed remarkable courage and valor. Many soldiers attained martyrdom in the line of duty. There can be no doubt about their courage and sacrifice," Singh said.

"Our government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not only accepting the contribution of the peacekeepers who participated in Operation Pawan with an open heart, but it is also in the process of recognising their contribution at every level," he said.

Singh also recalled Modi paying tributes to the Indian soldiers at the IPKF memorial in Colombo during his trip to the island nation in 2015.

"We are also recognising the contribution of the IPKF peacekeepers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi and we are also giving them full respect," he said.

Modi paid tributes to the fallen warriors of the IPKF at the memorial during his trip to Sri Lanka in April last year as well.

## Wheat output likely to exceed last year's record 117.94 mn tonne: Agri Min

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 14: The country's wheat production is expected to surpass last year's record of 117.94 million tonne due to higher acreage and favourable crop conditions, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday.

"Currently, wheat crop is in good condition. There is no damage. By and large, production will be better than last year," Chouhan told PTI on the sidelines of an Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) event. M L Jat, Director General of ICAR, said wheat acreage has crossed 32 million hectares and crop conditions remain strong.

"As of now the crop condition is very good. If everything goes well, we will touch 120 million tonnes," Jat said, attributing the positive outlook to timely and early sowing.

Wheat has been sown in



a record area of 33.41 million hectares as of January 2 in the 2025-26 rabi season, compared with 32.80 million hectares a year earlier, the agriculture ministry data showed.

More than 73 per cent of the sown area has been planted with climate-resilient and bio-fortified seed varieties designed to withstand weather variations, the data showed.

Wheat is the main rabi or winter crop. Sowing has been completed and harvesting will begin in March. India is the world's second largest wheat-producing nation after China.

## Negative RTPCR report not enough to reject COVID-19 compensation: HC

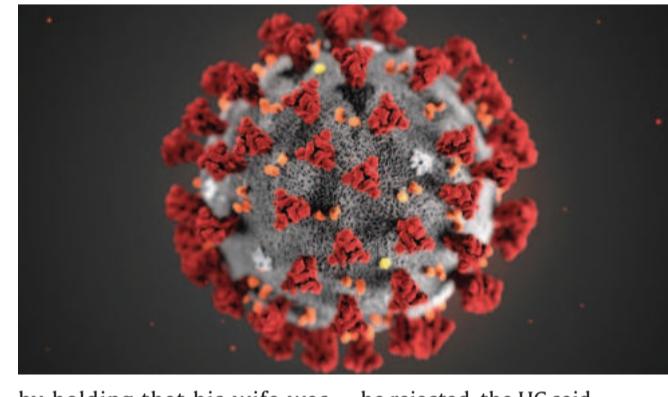
PTI

Mumbai, Jan 14: An RTPCR report showing a person as COVID-19 negative cannot be the sole criterion to reject compensation when all other medical reports clearly indicate the infection, the Bombay High Court has said.

The HC's Aurangabad bench directed the Ahilyanagar district collector to process the claim of a man, who lost his health worker wife during the pandemic, to receive the insurance amount of Rs 50 lakh under the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Yojna.

The bench of Justices Arun Pednekar and Vaishali Jadhav, in the order passed on January 9, said the collector's previous decision rejecting the man's claim for compensation, on the ground that he had not submitted an RTPCR report showing the victim was COVID-19 positive, cannot be accepted.

The collector is directed to forward the claim of the man to the authority concerned



by holding that his wife was COVID-19 positive at the time of death in view of the overwhelming medical evidence that indicates she succumbed to the coronavirus infection, the HC said.

The bench in its order noted that while the RTPCR report says the deceased was COVID-19 negative, the medical reports submitted clearly indicate otherwise.

The medical reports, including the CT scan and oxygen level and certificate of cause of death, clearly indicate COVID-19 infection and show that the cause of death was a consequence of the same, the court said.

Merely because the petitioner could not submit a report certifying that the deceased tested positive for COVID-19, his compensation claim cannot

be rejected, the HC said.

"Therefore, the RTPCR report indicating that the deceased tested negative for COVID-19 is not the sole criterion to rely upon to decide whether the person was COVID-19 positive or that the death is caused due to COVID-19 infection," it said.

As per the plea, the petitioner's wife was working as a nurse since 1993 in the Ahilyanagar civil hospital and died in May 2021 while performing her duty at the medical facility during the pandemic.

He relied on his wife's medical papers, as per which she died due to cardio-respiratory failure as a consequence of pneumonia and coronavirus infection.

He said his wife was working at a quarantine centre during the pandemic and was in direct contact with COVID-19 patients.

## Why you should eat fruits before hitting gym in morning

TOI HEALTH



can't keep up with very intense work on their own.

Giving carbs before working out fixes these difficulties by: Keeping your blood sugar levels stable: This keeps you from feeling tired too quickly and gives you a consistent stream of energy during your workout.

Protecting muscle glycogen: Carbs keep muscle glycogen from breaking down, which helps you stay alert and work out longer.

Giving the central nervous system more energy: When you work out, a constant supply of glucose can help you focus, concentrate, and have better overall motor control.

Why you should eat fruit before you work out

Fats break down faster, but they

way to get your carbs before you work out in the morning. They are full of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants. They also have simple sugars like glucose and fructose that the body can consume right away. Here are a few reasons why you should eat fruit before you exercise:

### 1. It's not hard to find carbs

You may require 15 to 30 grams of carbs from fruits like bananas, apples, and citrus fruits at every meal. These carbs can swiftly raise your blood sugar levels, which gives you a quick energy boost without making you feel sick. If you eat 20 to 40 grams of carbs before you work out, you may be able to work out longer and get stronger.

### 2. Fructose complements the pro-

#### cess of breaking down sugar

Most fruits have both glucose and fructose in them. Glucose quickly raises blood sugar, while fructose is broken down by the liver, which makes more glucose available. Eating both kinds of sugar makes it easier for your body to break down carbs. This means that working out can help your body use its energy better.

#### 3. Minerals and water

Fruits like oranges and watermelon are full of water, which helps the body get back to normal after a long sleep that may have made it dehydrated. Potassium is a vital electrolyte that helps muscles work, keeps fluids in balance, and helps neurons deliver information. A lot of fruits have potassium in them, and it's healthy for you to eat it in the morning.

#### 4. Minerals and antioxidants that plants give us

When you work out a lot, your body creates more oxidative stress. Fruits, on the other hand, are full of antioxidants like vitamin C, flavonoids, and polyphenols that can help lower inflammation, open up blood vessels, and speed up healing. Eating fruit can help you get better, but the type of fruit you eat may vary how much it helps.

What research shows: Proof from clinical trials

Many clinical trials have shown that eating fruit before working out is helpful:

Performance outcomes: A randomized trial comparing banana consumption to sports gels indicated that eating a banana prior to exercise enhanced cycling endurance comparably, albeit with less gastrointestinal issues.

Metabolic responses: Studies show that eating carbs, especially fruits, before working out raises blood sugar levels, makes it easier to use other energy sources, and stops muscle protein from breaking down too quickly during exercise.

Gastrointestinal tolerance: Whole fruits are less likely to upset your stomach than sugary drinks. Because of this, most people, including those who aren't elite athletes, should eat full fruits.

#### A plan that is easy to follow and helpful

Eating fruit before you leave the house in the morning is helpful for your health. It provides you more energy, helps you work out better, and protects your metabolism from getting too fast. Fruits are an excellent source of carbs, electrolytes, and antioxidants that can help your body get rid of toxins and repair. They can also help you wake up and think more clearly.

## Vance to meet Danish, Greenlandic officials in Washington as locals say Greenland not for sale

AP

Nuuk, Jan 14: Along the narrow, snow-covered main street in Greenland's capital, international journalists and camera crews stop passers-by every few meters (feet) asking them for their thoughts on a crisis which Denmark's prime minister has warned could potentially trigger the end of NATO.

Greenland is at the center of a geopolitical storm as US President Donald Trump is insisting he wants to own the island — and the residents of its capital Nuuk say it is not for sale. Trump said he wants to control Greenland at any cost and the White House has not ruled out taking the island by force.

US Vice President JD Vance will meet Denmark's foreign minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and his Greenlandic counterpart Vivian Motzfeldt in Washington on Wednesday to discuss the Arctic island, which is a semi-autonomous territory of the United States' NATO ally Denmark.

Tuuta Mikaelson, a 22-year-old student, told The Associated Press in Nuuk that she hoped American officials would get the message to "back off." Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen told a news conference in the Danish capital Copenhagen on Tuesday that, "if we have to choose between the United States and Denmark here and now, we choose Denmark. We choose NATO. We choose the Kingdom of Denmark. We choose the EU."

Asked later Tuesday about Nielsen's comments, Trump replied: "I disagree with him. I don't know who he is. I don't know anything about him. But, that's going to be a big problem for him." A strategically important territory

Greenland is strategically



important because as climate change causes the ice to melt, it opens up the possibility of shorter trade routes to Asia. That also could make it easier to extract and transport untapped deposits of critical minerals which are needed for computers and phones.

Trump also said he wants the island to expand America's security and has cited what he says is the threat from Russian and Chinese ships as a reason to control it.

But both experts and Greenlanders question that claim.

"The only Chinese I see is when I go to the fast food market," Lars Vintner, a heating engineer told AP. He said he frequently goes sailing and hunting and has never seen Russian or Chinese ships.

His friend, Hans Nørgaard, agreed, adding "what has come out of the mouth of Donald Trump about all these ships is just fantasy."

Denmark has said the US — which already has a military presence — can boost its bases on Greenland. For that reason, "security is just a cover," Vintner said, suggesting Trump actually wants to own the island to make

money from its untapped natural resources.

Nørgaard told AP he filed a police complaint in Nuuk against Trump's "aggressive" behavior because, he said, American officials are threatening the people of Greenland and NATO. He suggested Trump was using the ships as a pretext to further American expansion.

"Donald Trump would like to have Greenland, (Russian President Vladimir Putin) Putin would like Ukraine and (Chinese President) Xi Jinping would like to have Taiwan," Nørgaard said. Mikaelson, the student, said Greenlanders benefit from being part of Denmark, which provides free health care, education and payments during study.

"I don't want the US to take that away from us," she said.

Ahead of Wednesday's meeting, Naaja Nathanielsen, Greenland's minister for business and mineral resources said it's "unfathomable" that the United States is discussing taking over a NATO ally and urged the Trump administration to listen to voices from the Arctic island's people.

### France to open consulate in Greenland in February

AP

Paris, Jan 14: France will open a consulate in Greenland on February 6, the foreign minister said Wednesday, calling the move a "political signal" over the strategic Danish territory, which US President Donald Trump has vowed to seize.

The comments came on the day that Denmark's top diplomat is to meet senior US officials at the White House for talks over the future of vast, mineral-rich Arctic island.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told French RTL broadcaster that the decision to open the consulate was taken last summer, when President Emmanuel Macron visited Greenland in a show of support.

"For my part, I went there at the end of August to plan the consulate, which will open on February 6," he said.

"It's a political signal that's associated with a desire to be more present in Greenland, including in the scientific field."

"Greenland does not want to be owned, governed... or integrated into the United States. Greenland has made the choice of Denmark, NATO, (European Union)," he said.

Greenland's leader has said that the island would choose to remain an autonomous territory of Denmark over the United States.

Trump has said the United States needs Greenland due to the threat of a takeover by Russia or China.

The two rival powers have both stepped up activity in the Arctic, where ice is melting due to climate change, but neither claims Greenland, where the United States has long had a military base.

Iran's judiciary signals fast trials, executions for detained protesters despite Trump's warning



AP

may take military action over the killing of peaceful protesters, just months after it bombed Iranian nuclear sites during a 12-day war launched by Israel against the Islamic Republic in June.

Mohseni-Ejei made the comment in a video shared by Iranian state television online.

"If we want to do a job, we should do it now. If we want to do something, we have to do it quickly," he said. "If it becomes late, two months, three months later, it doesn't have the same effect. If we want to do something, we have to do that fast."

His comments stand as a direct challenge to Trump, who warned Iran about executions in an interview with CBS aired Tuesday:

"We will take very strong action," Trump said. "If they do such a thing, we will take very strong action."

## Kohli reclaims top spot in ODI rankings

PTI

second-highest run-getter in men's international cricket behind Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli's recent performances in ODIs have been nothing short of phenomenal. He scored an unbeaten 74 against Australia, 135, 102 and 65 not out against the visiting South Africans and 93 against New Zealand in his last five outings.

Kohli had gained the top ranking for the first time in October 2013 and it is his 11th different spell in the top spot.

India defeated the Black Caps by four wickets on Sunday with Kohli scoring a 91-ball 93, which also made him the

## Formulated roadmap after studying best practices of some top leagues: AIFF



managing council policies with the 14 ISL clubs, including the 2025-26 season on Tuesday.

According to the charter, the league will be governed and managed by the two committees, with the potential commercial rights partner having three seats in each of the bodies.

"It's a roadmap for the next 21 years about how the country's top two leagues are going to be managed, administrated, promoted and developed by these two bodies.

"We have taken references from some

of the top leagues of the world and proposed to implement the global best practices into India's top two football leagues," AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey told PTI.

As per a proposal by stakeholders, the 22-member governing council is likely to be headed by either the president of the AIFF, and it will be the highest supervisor body for the ISL.

The management committee, which will be in charge of ensuring smooth functioning of the league, will be led by the AIFF's secretary-general.

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 14: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has "taken references" from the world's top leagues in Spain, Germany, and England, while drawing its roadmap for the next 21 years, including establishing an all-powerful governing council and a management committee.

As part of a new governance structure for the Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League, the AIFF has put in place a governing council and the management committee to oversee the two leagues'

## Pollution forced me to pull out of India Open: World No.3 Antonsen

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 14: World No.3 Anders Antonsen on Wednesday said he has withdrawn from the ongoing India Open due to "extreme" air pollution in the national capital and copped a USD 5,000 fine from the Badminton World Federation (BWF) for his decision.

A four-time World Championships medallist, Antonsen's remarks came a day after fellow Dane Mia Blichfeldt criticised the playing conditions at the USD 950,000 event.

"Many are curious why I have pulled out of the India Open for the third consecutive year. Due to the extreme pollution in Delhi at the moment, I don't think it's a place to host a badminton tournament," Antonsen wrote on his Instagram page.

The Danish shuttler also shared a screenshot of Delhi's Air Quality Index reading on Instagram, which showed the AQI at 348 and categorised the conditions as hazardous.

Delhi's air quality drops every year during winter due to varied reasons that include vehicular pollution, stubble burning and road dust. The city is often engulfed in a thick layer of smog that has been described as dangerous by doctors.

The India Open is being held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium after the Badminton Association of India (BAI) shifted the venue from the KD Jadhav



Indoor Stadium, which hosted the tournament in recent years.

The Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium is also scheduled to host the BWF World Championships in August, making the India Open a designated test event.

"Crossing my fingers that it will be better in the summer when the World Championships take place in Delhi. As a result, BWF has once again fined me USD 5,000," Antonsen wrote.

Under the Badminton World Federation Player Commitment Regulations, a top committed player is liable to a USD 5,000 fine (Rs 4.50 lakh) for failing to participate in a BWF World Tour Level 1 to 3 tournaments, over and above the standard withdrawal fees. BWF has declined to make any comments on Antonsen's assertions.

## MOVIES SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

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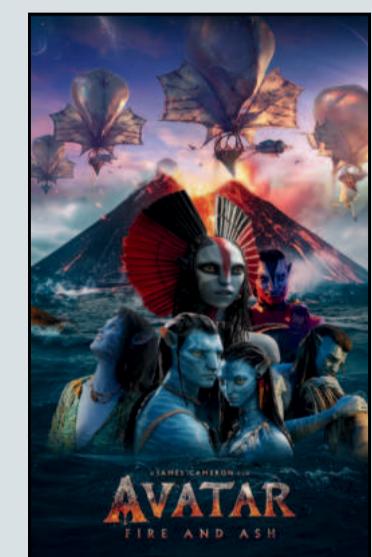
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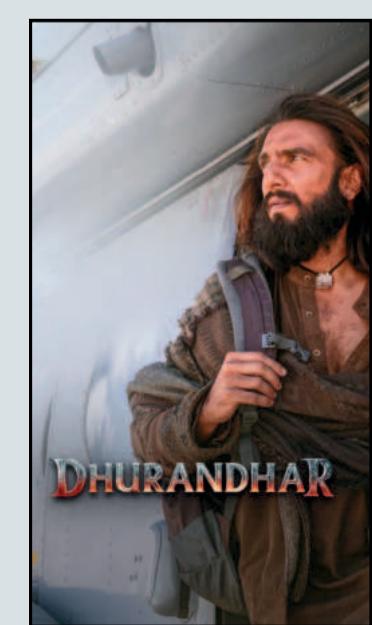
ZOOTOPIA 2 (U/A 7+)  
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
04:00 PM



AVATAR : FIRE AND ASH (UA 16+)  
3D HINDI - 12:15 PM



PRABHAS S THE RAJASAB (U/A 16+)  
HINDI - 06:20 PM



DHURANDHAR (A)  
HINDI - 11:50 AM, 01:40 PM, 04:15 PM,  
05:45 PM

VERITAS PICTURES  
PHOTOGRAPHY