

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Rajnath Singh
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Today, India is emerging as a knowledge economy.
India's rank in the Global Innovation Index was 76 in
2014, which has improved to 39 in 2024.

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2026

LG Unveils SMVD Shrine Board's Panchang Calendar, Diary



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

The 2026 Panchang, curated under the expert guidance of eminent scholars and priests, serves as a comprehensive spiritual guide for devotees. It provides detailed information on auspicious dates (tithis), festivals, and religious observances for the year 2026.

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

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

The board has also taken up green Trikuta Hills initiative, an environmental drive aimed at preserving the natural sanctity of the Shrine's surrounding; the provision of free Langar Sewa for devotees; the Swachhata Abhiyan, reinforcing the message of cleanliness and collective responsibility along the pilgrimage route, and the dedication of five temples to the

THE 2026 PANCHANG, curated under the expert guidance of eminent scholars and priests, serves as a comprehensive spiritual guide for devotees.

public in District Reasi, symbolizing the Board's efforts to enrich the spiritual landscape of the region.

Dr. Mandep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO, **•P-06**

Rajnath Singh Cautions Against Rising Threat Of 'White Collar Terrorism'

Says Professional Degrees Alone Cannot Prevent Terror

SAJID RAINA

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

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

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

Singh said the purpose of education should not be confined to professional achievement alone but should include the development of morality, ethics and a sense of responsibility.



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

Rajnath Singh said India was moving steadily towards achieving self-reliance in defence production and would be capable of meeting its weapons requirements domestically within the next 15 to 20 years.

Singh said the emergence of startups in the defence sector

had strengthened indigenous innovation and reduced dependence on imports.

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

The defence minister said India's innovation landscape had undergone a shift in recent years. He noted that

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

Singh said rapid technological change required society to remain informed and adaptable. He stressed **•P-06**

SINGH SAID RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE REQUIRED SOCIETY TO remain informed and adaptable. He stressed that the availability of data and information was no longer a challenge, but the ability to apply knowledge responsibly remained a concern.

Police Attach Properties Of Seven Illegally Residing In Pakistan

IANIS

JAMMU: Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Friday said they have attached 10 kanals and 15 marlas of land belonging to seven persons who are illegally residing in Pakistan.

In a statement, the police said the attachment was carried out following orders of the Special Court, Jammu. Kathua Police executed attachment warrants against seven accused persons from Tehsil Lohai Malhar in Kathua district who are currently residing in Pakistan and are involved in FIR No. 21/2024 registered under Sections 61(1) and 147 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Sections 13, 16, 18, 38 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and Sections 2 and 3 of the Enemy

Infiltration and Movement Control Ordinance (EIMCO) Act at Police Station Malhar.

The police said proclamations had been issued against all seven accused, who continued to remain absconding despite repeated notices.

The attached properties belong to Mohd Ayaz alias Adeel Ansari, son of Ghulam Hus-sain, resident of Lohai Malhar (one kanal); Abdul Kareem alias Bitta, son of Abdul Sattar, resident of Malhar, Kathua (12 marlas); Sarfraz Nawaz alias Nawaz Ahmad, son of Mohd Saleem, resident of Lohai Malhar, Kathua (one kanal and 10 marlas); Mohd Farooq alias Farooq Ahmed, son of Abdul Rehman, resident of Lohai Malhar, Kathua (one kanal and five marlas); Mohd Hafeez, son of Mohd Bhatt, resident of Lohai Malhar, **•P-06**

Kashmir's Only Cancer Centre Faces Criticism Over Lack Of Advanced Diagnostic Tests

Patients, Doctors Demand Modern Molecular, Cytogenetic Facilities To Prevent Delays

JAHANGEER GANAIE

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

Despite catering to thousands of cancer patients from across the Valley and adjoining regions, SKIMS currently lacks access to a wide range of essential investigations that are considered standard of care in modern oncology. As a result, a majority of patients are being compelled to travel to hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir, mainly in Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai



and other metropolitan cities, for both diagnosis and treatment.

While a small section of patients can afford the financial burden of travel, accommodation and private testing, the majority — particularly those from rural and economically weaker backgrounds — are left to suffer due to delayed or incomplete treatment.

Details obtained reveal that

several critical investigations are unavailable or inaccessible at SKIMS. These include HLA Typing for Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT), essential for matching donors and recipients in blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma; Chimerism Testing to assess transplant success; Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) Testing to detect microscopic cancer cells **•P-06**

GoI Restores Financial Powers Of Ladakh LG

AGENCIES

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

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

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



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

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

As per the communiqué, the powers of administrators and LGs to sanction expenditure-from in-principle approval to final approval, including **•P-06**

Kashmir's Endangered Hangul Population Rises To 323 At Tral Breeding Centre

Steady Increase Since 2008 Offers Hope For Species' Recovery

JAHANGEER GANAIE

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

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

Continuous habitat loss, human disturbance, poaching, and ecological degradation reduced their



numbers drastically, eventually leading to the species being declared critically endangered.

Wildlife Warden South Kashmir, Suhail Ahmad, said that sustained and scientific conservation

efforts at the Hangul Conservation Breeding Centre in Shikargah, Tral, have played a crucial role in stabilising and gradually increasing the population.

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

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

Experts point out that Hangul populations in natural forest areas continue to face serious challenges. Rapid urbanisation, **•P-06**

Seasonal Rainfall Deficit Prevails In J&K

AGENCIES

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

According to the IMD data accessed, the overall rainfall for the region was 77.5 mm, 39 per cent below the long-term normal of 127.7 mm.

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

The data revealed **•P-06**

340 Killed In 2,356 Accidents On Jammu-Srinagar Highway In 2-Years

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

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

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

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

He said 497 vehicles without valid documents



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

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

Referring to the chal-

lenges faced by the Traffic Police in the year 2025, the SSP said, "The year proved to be challenging for traffic management on the highway, especially as heavy monsoon rains caused extensive damage at multiple locations, including Ramban and Udhampur."

During that period, he said, the priority of the Traffic Police was regulation rather than enforcement, with all available manpower deployed to ensure smooth **•P-06**

Formation of ‘Voice of Buddhist Ladakh’ set to redefine UT’s dialogue with MHA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: The formal creation of a new socio-political body, Voice of Buddhist Ladakh (VBL), is poised to significantly reshape the ongoing negotiations between Ladakh’s representatives and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), adding a new and assertive dimension to the region’s evolving political discourse.

Since Ladakh was declared a Union Territory in 2019, public unease has persisted over critical issues such as protection of land and environment, preservation of cultural identity, employment opportunities for local youth, and the absence of an elected legislature. To address these concerns, the High-Powered Committee (HPC) was constituted by the Centre to facilitate structured dialogue between Ladakh’s representatives and the MHA.

However, the latest press note issued by senior Buddhist leaders and prominent citizens reveals deep dissatisfaction within sections of the Buddhist community over what they perceive as under-representation in the HPC.



This perceived imbalance has now culminated in the formation of the VBL, signalling a strategic attempt by Buddhist stakeholders to formally institutionalise their voice within the negotiation architecture.

The emergence of VBL introduces a parallel pressure mechanism in the Ladakh-MHA talks. While the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have thus far been recognised as the primary interlocutors with the Centre, the VBL positions itself as a community-specific platform meant to ensure that Buddhist concerns are not diluted in broader consensus-driven frameworks.

This is significant because the recent draft

proposals prepared by LAB and KDA — which form the basis of discussions with the MHA — have reportedly triggered apprehensions among Buddhist leaders who feel their community’s long-term interests could be compromised in the final outcomes.

Notably, a day after its formal formation, the Convenor of VBL, Sh. Skarma Namtak, along with other members of the newly constituted body, called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh and formally placed their demands before him. The early outreach to the LG signals VBL’s intent to position itself as an active stakeholder in the ongoing policy discourse rather than a symbolic platform.

Analysts believe the entry of VBL could complicate — but also deepen — the negotiation process. On one hand, it may introduce additional layers of consultation, potentially slowing down consensus-building. On the other, it could strengthen the legitimacy of any final settlement by ensuring broader community buy-in.

The unanimous election of Skarma Namtak as Convenor, with a mandate to liaise with the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Leh Apex Body, HPC, UT Ladakh administration and the MHA, positions VBL as an institutional bridge rather than a protest platform — at least in its stated intent.

If effectively integrated

into the dialogue process, VBL could emerge as a key stakeholder influencing decisions on land safeguards, cultural preservation, demographic protection, and employment policies — all of which are central to Ladakh’s demand matrix.

The formation of VBL also reflects subtle realignments within Ladakh’s socio-political fabric. It underscores growing concerns over community representation within umbrella bodies and points to a shift towards more identity-focused articulation of demands.

In the long term, the VBL’s effectiveness will depend on whether it functions as a consultative partner strengthening Ladakh’s negotiating position — or whether it becomes a competing centre of authority that fragments the region’s unified front.

What remains clear, however, is that with the advent of the Voice of Buddhist Ladakh, the ongoing talks with the MHA are no longer a two-pole dialogue between the Centre and Ladakh’s Apex bodies. The negotiating table has expanded — and so have the stakes.

Forest Minister reviews issues raised by legislators, public delegations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

During the interactions, a broad spectrum of issues of public importance were taken up in detail. These included the availability and augmentation of drinking water supply, irrigation and flood management works under I&FC, concerns of tribal communities, timber

supply-related matters and service-related issues of employees of the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Development Corporation Limited (JK FDCL).

Special emphasis was laid on resolution of compassionate appointment related cases and long-pending pensionary matters of JK FDCL employees. These issues were discussed comprehensively in presence of the Managing Director, JK FDCL, with a view to ensuring timely and fair redressal.

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

They highlighted constituency-specific and

sectoral issues requiring administrative attention.

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

He directed the concerned officers to initiate prompt follow-up action and stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure early resolution of each issue.

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

PAC conducts on-spot inspection of SHGs run by Lakhpati Didis



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Committee on Public Accounts under the Chairmanship of MLA Sham Lal Sharma Friday conducted an on-spot inspection of various Self Help Groups being run by the Millionaire Lakhpati Didis in Jammu district under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM).

Members of PAC Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Javid Hassan Baig and Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal accompanied the Chairman during the visit.

Besides, MLA Bishnah Rajiv Kumar, Commissioner Secretary RDD & PR Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Mission Director JKRLM Dr. Shubhra Sharma along

with senior officials of the concerned departments were also present on the occasion.

The Committee visited Ratnal village in Bishnah to inspect the functioning of Umeed Bishnah Women Producer Company Limited which is an initiative of JKRLM.

During the inspection, the Committee interacted with the members of the self help group who deal in seeds, fertilisers, rice, turmeric, chilli powder etc.

Further, the Committee visited Suchetgarh, where they interacted with scores of women members of various Self Help Groups.

The Committee also inspected various stalls established by different self help groups which deals in milk products,

honey, organic food items, woolen clothes, designer candles etc.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that the programme aims to financially empower the women associated with self-help groups by providing them with skills, affordable credit and market linkages.

The Chairman stressed on inclusive marketing strategy and organising more fairs and exhibitions in order to provide platform for SHG members to sell and promote their products in other parts of the state and country as well.

The Chairman asserted that the center government actively backs this initiative, promoting diversified livelihood activities and fostering collaboration across sectors for strategic planning and implementation.

The Chairman also lauded the efforts of JKRLM who supported this journey with collective action, financial literacy and skill development, empowering members for entrepreneurial ventures.

In his address, Member Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, said that it is our responsibility to scrutinise that the benefit of all schemes launched by the government shall reach to each and every eligible beneficiary in J&K.

Satish Sharma conducts surprise visit of FCI godowns



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

Satish Sharma also examined the stock registers and records related to procurement and distribution. He visited the quality

testing laboratory within the FCI premises. He reviewed the procedures being followed for testing both fresh and stored food grains.

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

“The priority of the government is to provide people with safe, nutritious and quality foodgrains. Any laxity in storage, handling or distribution will not be tolerated,” the Minister asserted.

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

Sajad Lone chairs meeting of Committee on Govt Assurances, discusses assurances of PDD



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Committee on government assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Friday convened a meeting at Assembly Complex, Jammu to review the assurances pertaining to the Power Development Department (PDD).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, MLA Sajad Gani Lone and attended by members including Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Iftikhar Ahmad, Hilal Akber Lone, Mian Mehar Ali, Mohan Lal, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj and Shagun Parihar.

The Committee reviewed the status of assurances given by the government on the Floor

of the House pertaining to Power Development Department and working of different projects.

The Chairman stressed upon the concerned authorities to address the grievances and issues raised by the members on priority basis.

Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shaileendra Kumar, briefed the Committee about the status of implementation and action taken by the department in respect of government assurances pertaining to PDD. He also assured the Committee that all pending assurances of PDD would be redressed on priority basis.

The members of the Committee highlighted

various issues of public importance regarding the working of Power Development Department.

The Chairman of the Committee exhorted upon the senior authorities of Power Department to take all necessary arrangements to provide adequate power supply to the people of Jammu and Kashmir especially in winter zones in Kashmir and Jammu region so that they can get relief during winter season.

The Committee was satisfied with the reply furnished by the department and unanimously decided to drop all the government assurances pertaining to the Power Development Department which was discussed in the meeting.

Commissioner SMC reviews SMC Commercial Complex

Inspects Works at Jhelum Riverfront, Gonikhan Market

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

He was accompanied by the Joint Commissioner, Suhail Ul Islam, Chief Re-



nue Officer, and other senior officers of the Corporation.

The inspection commenced at the SMC Commercial Complex at Hari Singh High Street, where the Commissioner reviewed concerns raised by shop-

keepers and assessed proposals for façade renovation and restoration of parking facilities.

Emphasising the need to unlock the full revenue potential of municipal assets, he directed officers

to ensure improved functionality, enhanced aesthetics, and better traffic management to increase footfall and commercial activity.

Reviewing the status of vacant shops in the complex, the Commissioner issued firm directions for initiating the auction of remaining commercial spaces in a transparent, competitive, and time-bound manner. He underscored that efficient monetisation of municipal properties is a critical component of sustainable revenue generation and

financial self-reliance of the Corporation.

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

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

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Step Towards Transparency In Notarial Services

The Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to launch an online notary portal, coupled with the constitution of dedicated inspection teams for physical verification of notaries, marks a significant move towards strengthening accountability and transparency in notarial services across the Union Territory.

Notaries perform a crucial public function by authenticating legal documents, and any lapse in regulation directly affects public trust. The directive issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs—mandating district-level physical verification within a fixed timeframe—reflects an intent to bring order, accuracy and uniformity to the system. By placing the inspection process under the supervision of district litigation officers, the government has sought to ensure seriousness and administrative oversight in the exercise.

Equally important is the emphasis on strict adherence to the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. The warning that discrepancies or non-cooperation will invite action as per law sends a clear message that regulatory compliance is no longer optional. Such measures are essential to weed out irregularities and ensure that only duly authorised and compliant notaries continue to function.

The proposed online notary portal has the potential to be a game changer. By enabling online registration, appointment, renewal of certificates of practice and submission of annual returns, it promises greater efficiency and reduced bureaucratic delays. Making notary-related information publicly accessible round the clock will enhance transparency, while the provision for online grievance redressal empowers citizens and improves accountability.

However, the success of this initiative will depend on effective implementation, user-friendly digital infrastructure and timely follow-up on violations. If executed earnestly, the online notary portal can become a model of digital governance, restoring confidence in notarial services and reinforcing the rule of law in Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning Kashmir

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The Real Flaw In Wani's "Flawed Premise" - A Narrative Built On Illusion

Kashmiris don't need handlers who weaponize history. They need editors who scrutinize power. Wani wants the former. I stand for the latter.



Ataf Hussain Wani's rebuttal to my op-ed is not a critique, it is a political mirage wrapped in intellectual posturing. He calls my argument flawed, yet he offers no facts, no balance, no nuance, only a recycling of slogans designed to mislead the uninformed and comfort the convinced. His narrative does not stand on logic, it stands on manipulation. And manipulation collapses when confronted.

Here is the systematic demolition of his claims:

The Plebiscite Argument Is a Political Fossil, Not a Foundation

Wani's central obsession is the 1948 plebiscite claim. He treats it like scripture. But history is not a museum exhibit, it is a continuum. The UN resolution he worships was conditional, Pakistan had to withdraw first. It never did. Wani doesn't debate this fact, he buries it. Because his narrative dies the moment accountability enters the room.

Kashmiris have voted repeatedly for 70 years, elected governments, toppled governments, formed parties, rejected parties, demanded development, demanded rights, and articulated aspirations that do not fit into Wani's single bullet point worldview. Wani doesn't see people, he sees props. That is his first failure.

2. Calling Every Security Action "State Violence" Is the Language of Propagandists

India is not perfect. No nation is. But turning counterterrorism into occupation rhetoric is what lobbyists do in Washington drawing rooms and London seminars. It is not what Kashmiris do in their homes.

Kashmir suffered decades of terrorism, grenade attacks in markets, targeted killings of minorities, assassinations of political workers, bombings of infrastructure, massacres of Kashmiri Muslims by Pakistan backed militants, and psychological warfare designed to break the spine of a generation. Wani does not condemn this, he romanticizes the ecosystem that produced it.

If the state fights terror, he calls it oppression. If it builds roads, he calls it militarization. If it invests, he calls it demographic engineering. If it arrests terror allies, he calls it suppression. This is not dissent, it is deception.

3. His "Demographic Change" Claim Is a Scarecrow Built to Distract from Reality

Since 2019, investment has increased,



tourism has surged, infrastructure has accelerated, youth programs have expanded, corruption networks have been exposed, stone pelting rackets have declined, and the valley has experienced a long denied normalization of civic life.

Yet Wani would have you believe that a people who survived 70 years of insurgency, terrorism, blackouts, curfews, and manipulation are suddenly endangered by businessmen investing and tourists visiting. His argument is not fragile, it is fraudulent.

4. Institutions in Kashmir Are Not Sacred Cows, They Are Political Actors That Must Be Questioned

I argued for accountability across institutions. Wani argues for immunity for institutions he ideologically favors.

The Mirwaiz, political elites, civil society leaders, and even the Indian state must be questioned. But questioning is not desecration, it is democracy. Kashmiris understand this. Wani fears this. Because accountability ends impunity, and his ecosystem has thrived on impunity.

5. He Claims Dialogue Is Impossible, Yet He Offers No Alternative That Does Not End in Blood

Wani insists India is intransigent. Then what does he want? Eternal conflict? Endless funerals? Neverending grievance festivals? He gives no road forward because the road forward exposes the sponsors of the road backward.

Peace is not weakness. Peace is victo-

ry over those who need chaos to justify their budgets, careers, and relevance.

6. Counterterrorism Is Not a Narrative, It Is the Root Reality Wani Refuses to Confront

He avoids the single truth that matters most: Pakistan exported terror into Kashmir, terror killed Kashmiris first, Muslims first, minorities always, dissenters often, and peace last.

If Kashmir is to have a future, it must have a discourse that is not funded by intelligence agencies, curated by diaspora lobbyists, and marketed like conflict tourism.

7. The Most Dangerous Lie in His Narrative Is That Kashmiris Are Monolithic

They are not. They never were. They are not characters in someone else's geopolitical screenplay. They want dignity without surrender, peace without forgetting, jobs without sermons, identity without coercion, and a future without handlers.

Final Truth: Wani Does Not Protect Kashmir, He Protects the Narrative Industry Built Around Kashmir

He protects talking points, not truth. Grievance, not governance. Selective memory, not history. External sponsors, not local voices. Emotional theatre, not civic reality. Kashmiris don't need handlers who weaponize history. They need editors who scrutinize power. Wani wants the former. I stand for the latter.

Kashmir's tragedy is not that it

changed too fast after 2019, it is that it was held back for too long by people who weaponized misery and monetized conflict. Today, India is not just responding to Kashmir, it is rebuilding Kashmir. New highways now carve through mountains that once symbolized isolation. Record tourist footfall fills local businesses with opportunity instead of uncertainty. Public investment is replacing paid propaganda, entrepreneurship is replacing stone pelting rackets, education is replacing curated hatred, and infrastructure is burying insurgency economics under concrete and data cables. Most importantly, the youth of Kashmir are no longer the foot soldiers of someone else's narrative, they are stakeholders in their own lives. Scholarships, startups, sports leagues, digital connectivity, new industrial estates, and targeted employment programs are expanding Kashmiri agency, not constricting it. This is the future Kashmiris deserve, one defined by aspiration, not grievance. India is carrying Kashmir toward a far brighter tomorrow, a tomorrow not shaped by handlers but by citizens.

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POWER, PROMISE, AND THE PARADOX OF SCALE

India's Rise To The World's Fourth-Largest Economy

JEROME ENRIQUEZ JOHN

India has officially overtaken Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP, marking a major shift in the global economic balance. According to estimates from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and multiple economic trackers, India's nominal GDP now exceeds USD 4.1 trillion, edging past Japan as its economy slows due to demographic aging and weak domestic demand (Economic Times, Indian Express, Outlook India). This places India behind only the United States, China, and Germany in total output.

The scale of India's rise becomes clearer in historical perspective. In 1991, the country stood outside the world's top ten; a decade ago it ranked fifth. Today it stands fourth — and projections suggest it may enter the global top three within the next decade, with some forecasts indicating the possibility of overtaking Germany by the early 2030s (Mint, Economic Times analysis).

What the Achievement Reflects

India's growth story has been powered by a combination of structural reforms, services-sector expansion, digitalization, rising domestic consumption, and foreign investment flows. Its information-technology and business

services industries remain deeply embedded in global value chains, while reforms in taxation, logistics, and infrastructure have helped strengthen competitiveness. Analysts also point to improving investment sentiment as multinational firms diversify supply chains and seek access to India's growing consumer market (IMARC Group, Government Economic Times – Policy & Economy).

Demography is another critical driver. India is home to one of the world's youngest populations, with a median age of about 28 — in sharp contrast to Japan and parts of Europe. Economists describe this as a potential demographic dividend, but one that will only materialize if employment, skills, and productivity grow in tandem.

Scale vs. Prosperity: The Other Side of the Story

However, becoming the fourth-largest economy does not automatically mean India is a wealthy nation. GDP rankings measure total output, not the distribution of prosperity. India's per-capita income remains among the lowest in the G-20, at under USD 3,000 — compared with more than USD 30,000 in Japan and over USD 60,000 in the United States (Government Economic Times data highlights). This disparity underscores the paradox of scale: India is large and global-



ly influential, yet many citizens still face economic precarity.

Inequality and informality persist across regions. Millions continue to rely on low-wage or informal employment, while access to quality healthcare, education, and social protection remains uneven. As several analyses note, national milestones often feel distant unless growth translates into jobs, services, and rising household incomes (NDTV, South China Morning Post).

A Shift in Global Economic Power

Despite these challenges, India's economic rise carries profound geopolitical significance. As its economy expands, so does its influence in global governance forums — from the G20 and IMF to climate and technology negotiations. India increasingly positions itself as a bridge between emerging and advanced economies, advocating reforms in global finance, supply-chain resilience, and equitable climate transitions.

For investors and multinational companies, India's rise

signals long-term market depth and opportunity. The country's expanding middle class, rapid digital adoption, and growing entrepreneurial ecosystem — particularly in technology, fintech, and renewable energy — reinforce its image as both a manufacturing and innovation economy (Newsweek, Independent).

The Structural Homework Ahead

Sustaining momentum will require tackling several structural challenges. First, employment generation must keep pace with economic growth. The demographic dividend can only be realized through investment in skills, vocational training, and education reform. Second, productivity depends on closing infrastructure and logistics gaps — from reliable power to efficient transport networks and urban planning — while maintaining transparent and predictable regulation.

Third, India must strengthen human-development outcomes. Long-term growth is inseparable from improve-

ments in nutrition, public health, learning outcomes, and women's participation in the workforce.

Finally, India must navigate a world shaped by geopolitical fragmentation, climate risk, and technological disruption — balancing energy security with climate commitments and sustaining macroeconomic stability in a volatile global environment.

A Milestone —and a Mandate

India's arrival as the world's fourth-largest economy is both a symbol and a responsibility. It reflects transformation, resilience, and economic ambition on a vast scale — but it also reminds policymakers that growth must become inclusion, and that rankings matter most when they translate into opportunity and dignity in everyday life. For the world, India's rise reinforces a wider trend: the rebalancing of economic power toward emerging nations with expanding populations and strategic relevance. For India, this moment is not a finish line but a checkpoint — one that calls for celebration, reflection, and renewed commitment to turning prosperity and human progress.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Gig Workers: The Sweat Behind Glitter Of Digital Convenience

LALIT GARGG

In an era of online marketplaces and instant services, gig workers have become the invisible backbone of urban life. Without them, the idea of “ten-minute delivery” or “one-click convenience” would be unthinkable. These young workers free consumers from the hassle of visiting markets, delivering goods door to door in every season, at every hour, and under constant risk. Yet the irony is stark: those whose labour sustains the towering edifice of the digital economy endure the greatest insecurity, exploitation, and neglect.

The strike by gig workers on the eve of the New Year may not have paralysed the national supply chain, but it certainly drew the country’s attention to their grim working conditions. This protest was not the outcome of political provocation; it was a natural response to mounting work pressure, shrinking earnings, job uncertainty, and the persistent denial of dignity. These young workers, who support themselves and their families, are routinely seen racing through traffic on motorcycles, lugging heavy bags up the staircases of high-rise buildings. The pressure of strict time limits is so intense that even a minor delay invites financial penalties. Accidents, illness, or technical glitches immediately affect their income. Customer behaviour is often insensitive—rebukes for delays, humiliation over trivial issues, occasional abuse, and punitive ratings that directly impact future earnings are part of their daily reality. Despite working 12 to 14 hours a day, most earn only seven to eight hundred rupees, without adequate insurance or social security—clear evidence of systemic exploitation.

Gig workers are individuals who perform temporary, flexible, task-based work instead of holding traditional jobs. Their work is typically mediated through digital platforms such as Uber, Swiggy, Zomato, and similar apps. They are paid per task or project rather than receiving a



regular salary, and they do not have permanent employment contracts. Although described as “independent” and portrayed as their own bosses, they are excluded from basic social security benefits such as health insurance, accident coverage, or pensions. Their challenges are many: unstable income, excessive workloads, low pay, long working hours, and frequent disputes over wages and conditions. The gig economy differs from the conventional nine-to-five model, yet in practice it often offers less security and fewer rights.

Undeniably, the gig economy has demonstrated its capacity to generate employment. India today has over 12.5 million gig workers, a number expected to rise to nearly 23.5 million by 2030. However, in an era of rising unemployment, educated youth are entering this system not by choice, but out of compulsion. In a country that prides itself on its demographic dividend, the trapping of educated young people in

insecure, temporary, and undignified work is not only worrying but deeply shameful. It exposes a development model focused on the quantity of jobs rather than their quality.

The central contradiction of the gig economy is that companies extract full labour from workers while refusing to recognise them within a formal employer-employee relationship. By labelling them “independent contractors,” companies evade responsibilities related to job security, minimum wages, insurance, and social protection. Hire-and-fire practices, algorithmic surveillance, rating systems, and incentive-based manipulation together create an invisible cage: workers appear free, but in reality are tightly controlled. Even during strikes, worker solidarity is weakened through bonus offers and increased order volumes. The recording of record-high orders by a major food delivery company on 31 December starkly illustrates this paradox. In recent times, the

issue of gig worker exploitation has also been raised in Parliament. Leaders such as Raghav Chadha and Manoj Kumar Jha have drawn attention to the precarious conditions of this workforce, a welcome development. Without the inclusion of gig workers’ voices in policymaking, reforms will remain incomplete.

For the first time, recent labour reforms by the Government of India have provided a legal definition for gig and platform workers. Provisions such as a one to two percent contribution by aggregator companies from their turnover to a social security fund, and the creation of a universal account number linked to Aadhaar, mark long-awaited steps forward. Yet the critical question remains: will these measures bring tangible change to workers’ lives, or will they remain symbolic gestures on paper? Without guaranteed minimum income, limits on working hours, accident insurance, healthcare protection, and effective grievance-redress

mechanisms, these reforms cannot be considered transformative.

The strike of 31 December may not have achieved complete operational success, but it was morally and socially justified. It sought less to disrupt the system than to expose the injustice, exploitation, and hypocrisy embedded within it. Gig workers asserted that they are not merely “delivery boys,” but working citizens whose rights can no longer be ignored.

The future of the digital economy is inconceivable without gig workers. Policymakers, companies, and consumers must all engage in serious self-reflection. Corporations must accept responsibility alongside profit, governments must ensure strict enforcement of labour laws, and consumers must pair convenience with empathy. If gig workers continue to be treated merely as instruments of convenience, deprived of dignity, security, and stability, the crisis will extend beyond labour to the very idea of development itself. It will stand as a blemish on the vision of a developed and prosperous India.

The true test of Digital India lies in how safely and respectfully it treats its fastest-moving workers. In the rapidly expanding world of online services, gig work must no longer be seen as informal or expendable, but recognised as organised, legitimate, and dignified labour. Fair and assured wages, safe working conditions, and social security are not acts of charity—they are fundamental rights that demand decisive government intervention. Corporate giants driven by profit must realise that labour is not merely a cost, but the soul of the system. Without sensitivity and accountability, digital growth cannot be sustainable. If gig work is developed with dignity, security, and stability, it can evolve from a symbol of compulsion into a humane and exemplary employment model—one where convenience serves not only the consumer, but honour and justice are extended to the worker as well.

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Learning For All

Inclusion, Belonging, And Emotional Well-Being

DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In the 21st century, inclusive education has become a foundational pillar of global education reform. Across continents, countries are striving to ensure that children and young people—regardless of their abilities, backgrounds, or learning needs—have equitable access to quality education in mainstream settings.

However, while much attention has been given to academic inclusion and physical accessibility, an equally critical factor often remains underemphasized: the emotional well-being of learners. Research consistently shows that without emotional safety, engagement, and resilience, academic outcomes are significantly compromised.

This article examines the intersection of inclusive education and emotional well-being in diverse global contexts. Drawing from recent empirical studies (2023–2025) and education policy reports, it identifies key challenges, strategies, and opportunities for creating emotionally supportive, inclusive classrooms across the world.

Bridging the Gap Between Policy and Practice

Inclusive education is widely endorsed in international frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Governments have introduced policies that mandate the integration of children with special educational needs (SEN), migrant backgrounds, disabilities, or other marginalized identities into general education systems.

Yet, in practice, inclusion often focuses on academic integration—modifying curricula, providing assistive technologies, or training teachers in differentiated instruction. What frequently gets overlooked is how students feel in these environments.

Being physically present in a classroom is not the same as feeling psychologically safe, valued, and emotionally engaged.

Why Emotional Well-Being Matters in Inclusive Education

Recent global studies show a clear link between emotional well-being and student success. Children who feel included, understood, and supported are more likely to participate actively, maintain motivation, and achieve better learning outcomes.

On the other hand, students with



diverse needs—especially those with learning differences, language barriers, or socio-economic disadvantages—often face:

- **Bullying or social exclusion**
- **Anxiety and low self-esteem**
- **Invisibility in classroom dynamics**
- **Teacher bias or misunderstanding**

Without intentional efforts to support emotional well-being, inclusive education risks becoming tokenistic, where the appearance of integration masks deeper issues of exclusion.

Cultural, Institutional, and Structural Barriers

Despite global commitment, several barriers hinder emotionally inclusive practices:

- **Teacher Preparedness:** Many educators lack training in identifying emotional distress or adapting pedagogy for diverse learners.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Schools may lack quiet spaces, counseling services, or accessible resources for emotional support.
- **Cultural Stigma:** In many societies, mental health is still

stigmatized, making emotional needs harder to address.

- **Standardized Assessments:** Rigid testing regimes often overlook the holistic development of learners.

These challenges are not limited to low-income countries; even in well-resourced systems, students report emotional disengagement if schools fail to cultivate inclusive, supportive cultures.

Global Strategies for Emotionally Supportive Inclusive Classrooms

To bridge the gap between inclusion and emotional well-being, experts recommend the following evidence-based strategies:

- **Embed Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Integrate SEL into daily curricula to help students build self-awareness, empathy, and emotional regulation.
- **Professional Development for Teachers:** Offer continuous training on inclusive pedagogy, mental health first aid, and trauma-informed practices.
- **Foster a Culture of Belonging:** Ensure every student feels seen, heard, and respected—

regardless of ability, language, race, or background.

- **Strengthen School Counseling Services:** Provide access to trained mental health professionals who can support students and staff.
 - **Encourage Family and Community Engagement:** Promote partnerships with families to extend emotional support beyond school walls.
 - **Monitor Emotional Well-Being:** Use tools to regularly assess and respond to student mental health needs alongside academic progress.
- Call to Action for Global Education Stakeholders**
- To build sustainable, emotionally inclusive education systems, stakeholders must act collaboratively:
- **Policymakers should allocate funding and set accountability measures that prioritize both academic outcomes and emotional well-being.**
 - **Educators must be empowered and supported in their role as not only instructors, but also emotional anchors in students’ lives.**

- **Mental health professionals should be embedded within school systems and contribute to whole-school well-being strategies.**
- **International agencies and NGOs can play a critical role in supporting capacity-building, research, and innovation in emotional inclusion.**

Conclusion: Inclusion is Not Just a Policy—It’s a Practice of Care

True inclusion goes beyond access. It is about building learning environments where all students can thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally.

As education systems worldwide navigate post-pandemic recovery, digital transformation, and increasing diversity, the imperative to address emotional well-being within inclusive education frameworks has never been greater.

By centering empathy, resilience, and psychological safety, we can transform classrooms into spaces of real belonging—and ensure no learner is left behind.

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Need approval for carrying personal medicines to Saudi Arabia: NCB

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday cautioned Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia that the Gulf Kingdom has introduced an electronic service platform for obtaining prior permission for the clearance of medicines intended for personal use by individuals entering or leaving the Kingdom.

In a statement, the NCB said that the General Directorate of Narcotics Control (GDNC), India Country Office, Saudi Arabia, has formally communicated to the Narcotics Control Bureau of India regarding the launch of an electronic service platform by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The platform, accessible at <https://cds.sfda.gov.sa>, has been established for the submission of applications and related details to obtain permission for the clearance of medicines intended for personal use.

The statement said, the NCB has been informed that certain medicines that are legally available in India or other countries may be prohibited or subject to restrictions in the Kingdom.

It has also been informed that carrying medicines in quantities that are in excess of the prescribed limits may also attract regulatory action.

As per the advisory, applications for permission are required to be submitted by the concerned individuals or their authorised representatives through the platform, the statement said.

Travellers are also advised to consult the official list of restricted and prohibited medicines issued by the Saudi authorities before undertaking travel, the statement said.

The Narcotics Control Bureau said it will continue to disseminate relevant advisories received from international counterparts in the interest of public awareness

and compliance with international narcotics control regulations.

Earlier, the Mumbai Zonal Unit issued a statement highlighting its enforcement outcomes in 2025 to dismantle narcotics networks from top to bottom.

During the year, the NCB Mumbai seized around 5,560 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 11.760 kg of cocaine, 11.835 kg of charas, 223 kg of ganja, 49.664 kg of mephedrone, 1,800 kg of illicitly diverted codeine-based cough syrup, 12 kg of diverted pharmaceutical tablets, 3,398.5 kg of acetic anhydride, 50 LSD blots (0.54 grams) and other prohibited substances, said a statement.

A total of 51 people were arrested in connection with these cases, the statement added.

Holistic investigations led to the freezing of movable and immovable properties worth approximately Rs 18 crore, acquired through proceeds of drug trafficking.

Technology to drive space, economic transformation in India: Jitendra Singh

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Technology is acting as the central force behind space and economic transformation in the country, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology on Friday.

Addressing a press conference on the achievements of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2025, the Minister said innovation-driven sectors such as space, oceans, biotechnology, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing will lead India's growth over the next two decades.

"India's reform express is being driven by science, technology, and innovation, with technology acting as the central force behind governance, administration, and economic transformation," Singh said.

Singh said that every major reform undertaken by the government, across departments and ministries, is enabled by technology.

"This transformation has been possible due to the consistent prioritisation of science, technology, and innovation in national policymaking," the Minister said.

The Minister underscored flagship missions such as Deep Ocean Mission and Gaganyaan, stating that "India is preparing simultaneously for human



spaceflight and deep-sea exploration".

He said that while an Indian astronaut will venture into outer space, India will also send a human-occupied submersible to depths of up to 6,000 metres, marking a historic dual achievement in 2027.

He also highlighted the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore, under which the government is directly supporting private sector R&D; and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) aimed at democratizing research funding.

Singh also mentioned initiatives such as the National Quantum Mission, NIDHI, PRERNA / PURSE, and the VAIBHAV programme, aimed at strengthening startups, research infrastructure and global scientific collaboration, including structured engagement with the Indian scientific diaspora.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Unveils SMVD

SMVDSB and other senior officers of SMVDSB were present at the unveiling ceremony.

Rajnath Singh Cautions

that the availability of data and information was no longer a challenge, but the ability to apply knowledge responsibly remained a concern.

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

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

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

Weather To Remain

minimum temperatures ranging between -3.0°C and 6.1°C.

The department also said that areas like Banihal, Batote, and Bhaderwah experienced sub-zero night temperatures due to clear skies and calm conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police Attach Properties

Kathua (two kanals); Gul Mohd, son of Mohd Ramzan Khan, resident of Lohai Malhar, Kathua (15 marlas); and Akhtar Ali alias Niku, son of Mohd Saleem, resident of Badnota Mora, Arodha, Tehsil Lohai Malhar, Kathua (three kanals and 13 marlas).

With the assistance of the Revenue Department and after completing all legal formalities, the immovable properties of the accused Jammu and Kashmir nationals presently residing in Pakistan were identified and attached under Sections 84 and 85 of the BNSS, the statement said.

Overall, 10 kanals and 15 marlas of

immovable property, valued at several crores of rupees, belonging to the seven accused persons have been attached.

The operation was led by SHO Police Station Malhar PSI Arun Shan under the guidance of SP Operations Upper Kathua Amir Iqbal and DySP PC Malhar Sunil Kumar, and under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, IPS.

"This action reflects the firm resolve of Kathua Police to act decisively against individuals involved in unlawful and anti-national activities," the statement said, adding that the process of identifying and attaching properties of such offenders will continue in accordance with due process of law.

Kathua Police remains committed to upholding peace, security and the rule of law in the region, the statement added.

Kashmir's Only Cancer

post-treatment; Bone Marrow Biopsy with Extended IHC Panel to identify specific cancer subtypes; and stool tests for Clostridium difficile, vital for chemotherapy patients vulnerable to infections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

region's only cancer institute—(KNO)

Gol Restores Financial

appraisal-will continue under Rule 16 of DFPRs, 2024, but only after schemes are duly appraised and approved by the competent authorities.

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

Kashmir's Endangered

encroachment into forest land, grazing pressure, and disturbance due to tourism and infrastructure projects have fragmented their habitat, making survival increasingly difficult.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal Rainfall

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

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

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

normals.

Meanwhile, MeT officials said the below-normal rainfall could impact soil moisture levels and winter crops in many districts.

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

340 Killed In 2,356

movement and safety of commuters. "Once the situation improved, traffic police teams resumed enforcement with renewed vigour," he said.

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

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

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

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Death toll from Ukrainian attack in Khorly has risen to 28: Russia

by IANS

MOSCOW: The death toll from the "Ukrainian terrorist attack" in Khorly has risen to 28 as a woman hospitalized died in a Crimean hospital, the Russian media reported on Friday.

Citing a statement by the Crimean Ministry of Health, RIA Novosti, the state-owned domestic news agency of Russia, reported that a woman hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a hospital in Dzhankoy died on Friday.

"Unfortunately, it was not possible to save the woman, who had previously been hospitalized at the Dzhankoy Central District Hospital," the Crimean Ministry of Health's Telegram channel stated.

The Russian Investigative Committee spokesperson Svetlana Petrenko told RIA Novosti that 27 people, including two minors, were killed in a terrorist attack by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the village of Khorly in the Kherson region.

"On Thursday, Kherson Oblast Governor Volodymyr Saldo announced that the Ukrainian Armed Forces had targeted a drone strike where civilians were celebrating the New Year – a cafe and hotel on the Black Sea coast in Khorly. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning in the region," the report detailed.

The hospital statement mentioned that there are 14 people in medical facilities in the Republic of Crimea who were injured in the Ukrainian Armed Forces strike in the village of Khorly in the Kherson region.

"Five children are currently being treated at the Republican Children's Clinical Hospital. Seven adults are hospitalized at Simferopol Clinical Emergency Hospital No. 6, and two more patients are being treated at the N.A. Semashko Republican Clinical Hospital," read the statement.

"Doctors assess the condition of two patients, including one child, as serious. The remaining injured are in moderate condition



and are receiving all necessary medical care," it added further.

Earlier, Gennady Gatilov, the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, urged the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk and the OHCHR to promptly condemn "the terrorist act of the Ukrainian army" in the Kherson Region.

"On New Year's Eve, the Kyiv regime led by Zelensky carried out another monstrous attack using UAVs armed with munitions which took aim at civilians in the village of Khorly, Kherson Region,"

Gatilov said. "While the exact number of those killed and injured in the course of this barbaric attack is still being established, it is already clear that several dozens of people died, including young children," he stressed.

"We demand that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Volker Turk and his Office (OHCHR), as well as respective special procedures of the Human Rights Council, condemn publicly and as soon as possible the Kyiv regime's monstrous terrorist attack in the Kherson Region," the diplomat said in his statement posted on the Telegram channel of the mission.

Mar-a-Lago residence, where he frequently stays while in Florida.

The White House official's statement underscored that the materials would be paid for personally by the President, not with public funds. The visit followed earlier indications from the White House that Trump has taken a direct interest in the design of the new ballroom, including materials and finishes.

The ballroom project has been presented by the administration as a response to long-standing space constraints at the White House, particularly for hosting large formal events and state functions. Officials have said the new structure is intended to blend with the existing architectural character of the White House complex.

Trump shops marble for White House ballroom

by IANS

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Friday made a low-key visit to a Florida stone supplier as part of preparations for a new White House ballroom, with officials confirming he is personally purchasing materials for the project.

"President Trump is purchasing marble and onyx, at his own expense, for the White House Ballroom," a White House official said.

The presidential motorcade arrived at a shopping centre in Lake Worth, Florida, at 9:46 a.m., according to pool reports. Reporters were held in vans, and the President was not immediately seen.

The shopping centre includes several businesses, among them A1 Plus Stone Design, a retailer that specialises in stone products such as marble and onyx.

Officials did not provide details on the quantities or specific varieties of stone being considered during the visit.

Lake Worth is located in Palm Beach County, a short drive from Trump's

rigour and priority.

"This is not the time to relax; this is the time to double our efforts and consolidate the gains we've made. Each small win fuels our motivation to make Delhi's air cleaner every single day," he added.

"In the past year, Delhi has advanced new pathways of pollution control -- from accelerating legacy waste biomining (35 MT per day) to expanding clean-tech interventions on industrial and transport fronts. The unified effort is showing measurable impact," Minister Sirsa said.

Drugs worth Rs 33.18 crore seized in Mizoram, one arrested

by IANS

AIZAWL: Assam Rifles have highly addictive methamphetamine tablets valued at over Rs 33.18 crore by arresting a drug peddler on Friday, officials said.

A defence spokesman said that acting on credible intelligence inputs related to narcotics trafficking near India-Myanmar border, Assam Rifles conducted joint operation with Mizoram Police at Kaifang areas of Saitual district in Mizoram on Friday.

During the operation, unusual movement was detected near the suspected location, he said.

A swift and thorough search resulted in recovery of 11.062 kg of Methamphetamine tablets, a psychotropic substance

with an estimated international market value of Rs 33.186 crore. The seized contraband and a vehicle were handed over to Mizoram Police for detailed investigation and further legal action.

The drug peddler, identified as Hasan Ali, resident of Badarpur district in southern Assam was also apprehended in the operation and he was also handed over to Mizoram police for taking legal action under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

The methamphetamine tablets, also known as Yaba or party tablets, containing



a mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine, also called the 'crazy drug', are banned in India.

The swift and decisive action by Assam Rifles is a testament to their steadfast commitment and vigilance in curbing drug trafficking activities,

an Assam Rifles statement said. It said that this operation reinforces the ongoing collective efforts to protect the youth of Mizoram from harmful effects of narcotics and maintain peace and security in the region.

Mizoram shares 510 km and 318 km unfenced border with Myanmar and Bangladesh, respectively.

Myanmar's Chin state is a hub for the smuggling of varied drugs, exotic wildlife animals and many other contraband through six Mizoram districts -- Champhai, Siaha, Lawngtlai, Hnahthial, Saitual and Serchhip.

40 dead, several fighting for their lives: Swiss authorities on deadly ski resort fire incident

by IANS

ZURICH: Over 40 people have died and several are still fighting for their lives in the violent fire that ravaged the 'Le Constellation' bar in Crans-Montana ski resort in Valais Canton of southwestern Switzerland on New Year's Eve, the Swiss authorities told media on Friday evening.

"It is a tragedy for Switzerland, for Europe, and for the entire world," said State Council President Mathias Reynard who opened the press conference, adding that January 9 will be a national day of remembrance for the victims of the tragedy.

According to Zurich-based leading Swiss German-language national daily Tages-Anzeiger, Attorney General Beatrice Pilloud said that the theory that the sparklers caused the fire is being investigated as a priority.

Pilloud mentioned that the sparklers were ordinary ones, readily available at any supermarket. The club did not require a permit to light them indoors.

"When questioned by a journalist, prosecutor Beatrice Pilloud explained that the sparklers were ordinary ones, readily available at any supermarket. The club did not require a permit to light them indoors. According to Pilloud, the theory that the sparklers caused the fire is being investigated as a priority," the newspaper reported.

Pierre-Antoine Lengen, head of the Valais cantonal police, reiterated that every effort is being made to quickly identify the victims.

Crans-Montana, situated in the heart of the scenic Swiss Alps, is one of Switzerland's most popular tourist destinations, drawing visitors from around the world for skiing, snowboarding, golf and other leisure activities.

The resort town is located approximately two hours from the Swiss capital, Bern.

The incident comes just months after a separate fire broke out at Switzerland's oldest luxury hotel in Geneva.

Delhi recorded lowest average PM10, PM2.5 concentration levels in 2025: Centre

by IANS

NEW DELHI: In 2025, Delhi recorded its lowest ever average concentration levels of Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) since in 2018, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said on Friday.

It claimed that the daily average of PM10 in Delhi in 2025 was 198 (µgm/m3) as compared to 212 in 2024 and 242 in 2018.

The Ministry, in a statement, said the daily average of PM2.5 in Delhi in 2025 was 97 as compared to

105 in 2024 and 114 in 2018.

The Ministry shared data for eight years and said the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), since its inception in 2021, through a series of directions/advisories and orders, has initiated various policy measures and field actions towards abatement of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

The Ministry's statement coincided with the decision of the CAQM Sub-Committee on Friday to revoke restrictions under Stage-III of the Graded Response

Action Plan (GRAP).

Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said that the city's improving air quality reflects persistent ground-level efforts under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI), which stood at 380 on Thursday, was recorded at 236 on Friday, marking a significant decline.

Minister Sirsa emphasised that even though GRAP Stage-III restrictions have been lifted, on-ground operations will continue with the same

rigour and priority.

"This is not the time to relax; this is the time to double our efforts and consolidate the gains we've made. Each small win fuels our motivation to make Delhi's air cleaner every single day," he added.

"In the past year, Delhi has advanced new pathways of pollution control -- from accelerating legacy waste biomining (35 MT per day) to expanding clean-tech interventions on industrial and transport fronts. The unified effort is showing measurable impact," Minister Sirsa said.

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

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

Advertisement Notice No.: 05 CDPO-URI of 2026

Dated: 01-01-2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ANNEXURE-I)

Advt Notification No. & Date _____

Form Sr. No. _____

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)

1. Name of the District:- Baramulla

2. Name of the Poshan (ICDS) Project:-URI

3. Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....

4. Panch Ward no..... of Panchayat Halqa

5. Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters)

6. Fathers Name (In Block Letters)

Marital Status:- (Married/ Un-Married)

7. Husbands Name (if married)

8. Permanent Address: Mohalla..... Village.....Panch Ward no..... Name of the Panchayat Halqa..... Block:..... Pin code.....

9. Mobile No:..... Email ID:

10. Date of Birth: ____/____/____ (in words)

11. Age as on 01-07-2024:Yearsmonths.....Days

12. Academic Qualification:

Signature of Candidate

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

Signature of Candidate

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

13. Does candidate belong to family of retired AWW (Yes / No).....

14. Documents attached.

❖ Panch Ward Certificate and voter list issued by BDO concerned.

❖ Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.

❖ Date of Birth Certificate.

❖ Un-married certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned, if the name of candidate appears with parents in the voter list.

❖ Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.

❖ If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, then copy of e-ticket of ration card.

❖ Non-employment Certificate.

❖ Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

❖ Affidavit.

UNDERTAKING

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

Dated:- 01-01-2026

DIPK-9644-25

DT: 02/01/2026

Sd/-

Child Development Project Officer

Poshan Project Uri

●●●●●

CMYK

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