

**03** Modi resumed J&K rail extension work after gap of 50 years: Dr Jitendra

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## PM INAUGURATES JAMMU RAILWAY DIVISION Rail infra projects in J&K to promote tourism, socio-economic development: Modi



PM Narendra Modi inaugurating and laying foundation stone of various railway projects via video conferencing on Monday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division and laid the foundation stone of various railway projects, via video conferencing.

He also laid the foundation stone of Rayagada Railway Division Building of East Coast Railway and inaugurated the Charlapalli New Terminal Station in Telangana.

Extending greetings on the occasion of Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Jayanti, the Prime Minister emphasized that his teachings and life inspires the vision of a strong and prosperous nation.

Lauding Bharat's fast-paced progress in connectivity, Modi stated that since the start of 2025, India has been accelerating its initiatives with its metro rail network expanding to over 1000 kilometers. He mentioned the

recent inauguration of Namo Bharat train in Delhi-NCR along with the launch of Delhi Metro projects yesterday. The Prime Minister added that today's event is a further testimony to the fact that the entire nation is moving forward together, step by step, as projects launched in Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha and Telangana mark a major leap in modern connectivity for these the north, east and south regions of the country. He reiterated that the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is helping turn the vision of a developed India into reality. He congratulated the people of these states and all citizens of India on these developments. Modi remarked that keeping in mind the special skills related to the railways, the country's first

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## Rail link to Kashmir will also greatly benefit Jammu: CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed gratitude and optimism during the inauguration of the new Rail Division of Jammu at the Jammu-Tawi Railway Station.

The event, marked as a historic milestone for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, was inaugurated and addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conference.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated and laid foundation of several rail projects in different parts of country.

Also in attendance were Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament Jammu, several Members of



CM Omar Abdullah speaking at an event in Jammu on Monday.

Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and other dignitaries. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir on this landmark achievement

and extended his sincere thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the Member of Parliament for fulfilling a long-standing demand for a dedicated rail division in Jammu.

"For years, our rail division was managed from Ferozpur because rail connectivity did not extend to Jammu and Kashmir. Over time, however, the rail network steadily expanded from Pathankot to Jammu, then to Udhampur, Katra, and Kashmir. Today, we see a growing rail network connecting Srinagar to Baramulla, Anantnag, Banihal, and now Sangaldan. The recent trial run of the train between Srinagar and Katra is a promising sign of progress, and we look forward to the completion of

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## E Srinivas appointed as first DRM of Jammu Rail Division

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Railway Board has appointed E Srinivas as the first Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of the Jammu Rail Division after its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

A Board's written communication to the General Manager of the Northern Railway on January 6, soon after the division's inauguration, said Srinivas, who is on deputation with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, "should be posted as DRM/JAMMU (NEW DIVISION) of Northern Railway". "Jammu division will cover the operations of rail tracks from Pathankot

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## For J&K, Railways spearheading new era of development, integration: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering in Jammu on Monday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for dedicating the new Jammu Railway Division. "This new division is very

- Expresses gratitude to PM for making Jammu Railway Division reality
  - New division very important from strategic point of view. It will also stimulate economic growth, employment generation, infrastructure development and creation of new tourist circuits
  - Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla
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## Setting up AFT benches in J&K, Shimla will reduce pendency: SC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday called for setting up Armed Forces Tribunal benches in Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, to deal with the growing pendency of defence-related cases.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said at present AFT, Chandigarh, was burdened by a huge backlog from these

states and setting up circuit benches at Jammu and Kashmir, Shimla and Dharamshala, would help in speedy disposal of cases.

Refusing to blame the Centre alone for delay in filling of the vacancies in the AFTs, the bench told attorney general R Venkataramani to explore the possibilities of having circuit benches.

"There are sitting judges of

this court who head committees. Even I head some of the committees which look after the appointment of members of the tribunals. Sometimes the workload is so much that the process gets delayed. We have to devise a mechanism so that a process for filling of the vacancies gets started six months before the prospective vacancy arises in a tribunal," said Justice

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## HMPV not new virus, no reason to worry: Nadda

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: As India reported cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) on Monday, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said the government is closely monitoring the situation and there is no reason to worry.

He said HMPV is not a new virus and no surge in any of the common respiratory virus pathogens

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## Canada's PM Justin Trudeau resigns

**AGENCY**

TORONTO: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on Monday in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt departure of his finance minister signalled growing turmoil within his government.

Trudeau said it had become clear to him that he cannot "be the leader during the next elections due to internal battles". He planned to stay on as prime minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen.

"I don't easily back down faced with a fight, especially

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## Modi Govt transforms road, rail connectivity in J&K: Chugh

New Railway Division to boost commuting, freight, business, jobs in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said the Modi government has transformed Jammu and Kashmir into a region of opportunity and growth, fulfilling the aspirations of its people.

Highlighting the government's commitment to multi-faceted development, Chugh emphasized in a statement that the establishment of a new railway division and the expansion of the rail network up to Baramulla will revolutionize commuting, freight



movement, business opportunities, and job creation in the Union Territory.

Chugh said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered in an era of development in Jammu & Kashmir by strengthening its road

and rail infrastructure, which has directly bolstered tourism. His visionary approach has transformed J&K from a terrorism capital to a tourism capital, supported by liberal funding and strategic planning."

He noted that the inauguration of the new railway division would generate significant employment opportunities for local youth and provide a much-needed boost to trade and the regional economy.

"The development of road and rail networks has

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## Attack on Hotel Staff: Aggarwal brothers, accomplice evade police raid

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a dramatic twist in assault on hotel staff case, a police raid to apprehend Mohit and Shashank Aggarwal, sons of businessman Rakesh Aggarwal, ended unsuccessfully today. Despite the family's claims that the brothers were out of station, neighbours reported seeing them inside the house during the raid.

The Aggarwal brothers are the prime accused in a violent attack on hotel staff at a Trikuta Nagar establishment on December 31. The assault, which stemmed from a billing dispute, left the hotel manager with severe head injuries and another staff member with facial fractures.

Acting on a tip-off, police



Mohit Aggarwal, Shashank Aggarwal, Arun Choudhary

conducted a raid at the Aggarwal family residence this morning. However, they were informed by the family that Mohit and Shashank are not present. Local residents contradicted these claims, alleging the brothers were hiding inside the house.

"We saw them enter the house just before the police arrived," said a neighbour who requested anonymity. "This is a clear attempt to

evade the law."

"We are committed to complete the probe wherein Aggarwal brothers are involved. They cannot escape justice," he said.

The failed raid has sparked widespread anger among the public, with many accusing the Aggarwal family of being habitual lairs. Civil society groups have intensified their demand for strict action.

"The aggression displayed

by the Aggarwal brothers has left the community shaken. Hiding from the law only adds to their guilt," said a representative a local.

Adding to the growing criticism, the families of Aggarwal brothers' accomplices have accused them of manipulating their children into participating in the attack.

"Our children were deceived by Mohit and Shashank. They thought they were resolving a minor issue but were instead drawn into a criminal act," said the father of one accomplice.

The police have registered an FIR (1/25) against the Aggarwal brothers and their known accomplice Arun Choudhary under

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