

# Harleen Kaur reviews NH projects; emphasises adherence to quality standards, timeliness

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Director Highways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), Harleen Kaur, on Tuesday chaired a review meeting on ongoing National Highway projects at the office of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).  
 The meeting was attended by senior officers of the National Highways &

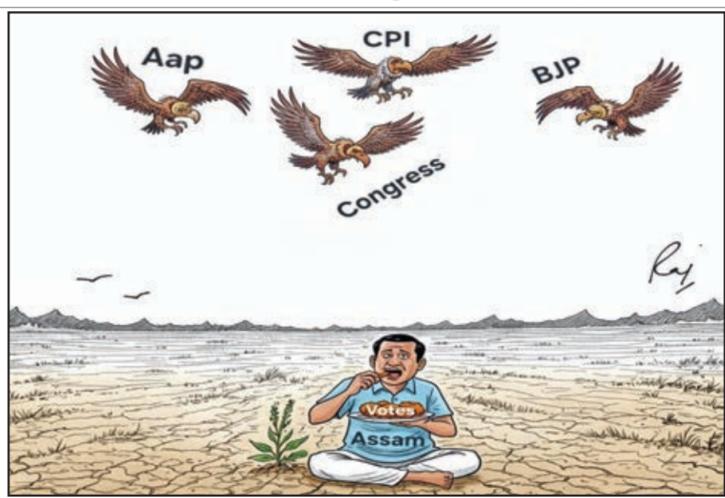


Director Highways MoRT&H, Harleen Kaur chairing a review meeting on Tuesday.

Infrastructure Development Corporation

Limited (NHIDCL), the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The progress of various ongoing highway projects was reviewed in detail, with a focus on physical and financial status, timelines and key implementation issues.  
 The Director Highways emphasized timely completion of projects, strict

adherence to prescribed quality standards and effective coordination among all concerned agencies. She asked the officers to resolve the existing bottlenecks expeditiously and ensure smooth execution of works.  
 The meeting concluded with directions to further strengthen the monitoring mechanisms and accelerate project implementation to enhance connectivity and public convenience.



## AIIMS Jammu emerges as premier healthcare hub; PRAGATI interventions key to timely completion: Dr. Shakti

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has rapidly emerged as a cornerstone of advanced healthcare, medical education, and research in Jammu & Kashmir; following its successful completion and operationalisation under the Prime Minister's Development Package. The project, announced on November 7, 2015, with a total cost of Rs 1,963.54 crore, has achieved 100 percent physical progress and was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister on February 20, 2024.  
 Highlighting the transformational journey of the institute, (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, said, "AIIMS Jammu stands as a shining example of how focused leadership, inter-departmental coordination, and the PRAGATI monitoring mechanism can convert complex challenges into success stories. What once appeared as administrative bottlenecks were resolved decisively, ensuring timely completion of this nationally important institution."  
 The project began on January 10, 2019,

with the foundation stone laid on February 3, 2019. One of the major hurdles during construction was the presence of a cremation ground measuring approximately 2,800 square meters directly in front of the main hospital block, obstructing access planning, landscaping, and external development.  
 Dr. Gupta noted that despite public resistance, the issue was taken up in detail during PRAGATI meetings. "Clear directions to the UT Administration led to the identification and development of an alternate cremation site. Within three months, a long-pending issue was resolved, unlocking roadworks, utilities, and landscaping," he said.  
 Another critical issue was the delay by the Public Health Engineering Department in installing six borewells and laying water pipelines. Following PRAGATI intervention, coordination improved significantly, and water supply infrastructure was completed in record time. "Water is the lifeline of any healthcare institution. PRAGATI ensured accountability and transformed inertia into collaborative problem-solving," Dr. Gupta added.

AIIMS Jammu comprises a 750-bed hospital with 35 specialty and super-specialty departments, modern diagnostics, ICU, emergency and trauma services, pharmacy, AYUSH block, night shelter, and hostels. Academically, it houses a medical college with 100 MBBS seats, a nursing college with 60 seats, and multiple postgraduate and super-specialty courses. Operational since November 2024, AIIMS Jammu has already treated over 3.85 lakh OPD patients, admitted 9,912 inpatients, and handled 23,660 emergency cases. More than 3,500 surgeries have been performed, supported by eight advanced modular operation theatres, while ICUs have treated 1,357 critical patients.  
 With 15 super-specialty services now functional, advanced diagnostics, over 140 research projects, and patient-support facilities like the 216-bed Vishram Sadan, AIIMS Jammu is redefining healthcare delivery in the region. "AIIMS Jammu is not just a hospital-it is a comprehensive ecosystem of care, education, and research dedicated to the people of Jammu & Kashmir," Dr. Gupta concluded.

## 2026 will be year of historical development in Waqf in J&K: Darakhshan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR:** Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board (JKWB), Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, (Minister of State), on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed first floor and Examination Hall at Model Waqf School Chrar-e-Sharief at an impressive function held in the school complex.  
 The work on this infrastructural extension project started last year and it was completed within a very short span of time as per the approved standards.  
 Waqf Board officials and eminent citizens of the town were present on the occasion.  
 Dr. Darakhshan addressed the gathering on the occasion and gave details about the infrastructural development by the Waqf Board during the past three years



Chairperson JKWB, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurating newly constructed first floor and Examination Hall at Model Waqf School Chrar-e-Sharief.

at Chrar-e-Sharief. She said that the land of Nooruddin Noorani (RA) is the spiritual power centre of Kashmir and this place has great significance in the spiritual landscape of our country.  
 Dr. Andrabi said that soon Smart Classes will start in all educational institutions of Waqf Board throughout the UT.  
 She said that the Waqf Board was the first to introduce National Educational

Policy in the educational institutions of the Board.  
 "Huge transformation at the shrine of Alamdar has got great public endorsement and the infrastructural initiatives continue at enormous speed. 2026 will be a historic infrastructural boost in the Waqf Board throughout Jammu & Kashmir", said Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi.  
 Waqf Chairperson paid obeisance at the shrine of Nund Reshi and took stock of the ongoing projects.  
 Eminent personalities present on the occasion included Haji Younis, Imam-o-Kheeb Molvi Ameer-uddin, writer Inayat Gul, Regional Director MANNU Srinagar Dr. Aijaz Ashraf, Executive Magistrate Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin and Executive Engineer Qazi Mushtaq Ahmad and others.

## SKUAST-J transforming lives, strengthening economy: Dy CM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Tuesday said that Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu is playing a pivotal role in transforming the lives and strengthening the economy of Jammu region through knowledge-based interventions in agriculture, animal sciences and allied sectors.  
 The Deputy Chief Minister remarked this during a meeting held with the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J, Dr. B. N. Tripathi, at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.  
 During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister was briefed about the progress and impact of key flagship initiatives in the region. These included Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKICP and other centrally and UT-sponsored schemes that are benefiting a wide spectrum of farmers and stakeholders across Jammu and Kashmir.  
 He emphasized the need for effective implementation of these schemes to ensure maximum outreach and tangible benefits at the grassroots level.  
 The Deputy Chief Minister also enquired about the student enrolment trends and academic programmes being offered by the University, including courses in Dairy Technology, Biotechnology, Veterinary Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. He underlined the importance of supporting and promoting progressive farming in horticulture, agriculture, animal sciences and allied sectors to boost economy and livelihoods.  
 The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the status of infrastructure development and flood repair works at the main campus of SKUAST-J and its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), which suffered



damage due to the recent floods in Jammu. He was informed that a detailed assessment report outlining the infrastructure losses has been submitted to the government for timely restoration and repair of the affected facilities.  
 The Vice Chancellor raised several issues related to the welfare and overall development of the University and sought government's intervention for their early redressal. He highlighted the need for sustained support to strengthen research, extension services and academic infrastructure.  
 Assuring full support, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the present government is firmly committed towards promoting the academic excellence, scientific research and innovation in higher education institutions.  
 He said that SKUASTs will continue to receive necessary assistance to further empower the farmers, boost agricultural productivity and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Labour Com reviews implementation of Labour Codes

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Labour Codes in the Union Territory.  
 The Labour Commissioner reviewed the ongoing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign and emphasized inclusive sensitization of the stakeholders to the provisions and objectives of the Labour Codes for effective on-the-ground implementation. "Effective implementation of the labour codes requires active participation and informed engagement of all concerned stakeholders, including employers, HR managers, workers and unorganised sector workers", he stressed.  
 Earlier, the Assistant Labour Commissioners briefed the meeting about the initiatives undertaken at the district level to disseminate information on Labour Codes. They informed that a series of awareness workshops, interactive sessions and meetings have been organised with employers, industrial units, trade unions, HR professionals and workers to familiarize them with the key provisions of the Labour Codes. "Special focus has been laid on explaining compliance requirements, workers' welfare measures and grievance redressal mechanisms," the meeting was told.  
 The ALCs further informed that targeted sensitization drives have been carried out



for unorganised workers through field visits, community-level interactions and collaboration with local stakeholders. IEC material has been widely circulated and on-ground outreach activities have helped in building awareness among workers about their rights, social security benefits and safety provisions under the Labour Codes.  
 The Labour Commissioner directed the department to prepare a comprehensive and structured action plan focusing on mass-scale sensitization of stakeholders through intensified IEC activities and capacity-building programmes. He highlighted the importance of making stakeholders fully aware of their rights, responsibilities and the benefits envisaged under the Labour Codes to ensure smooth and effective implementation. He further underscored the need for targeted outreach initiatives to cover unorganised workers and other vulnerable sections, ensuring inclusive awareness and participation across sectors.  
 The Assistant Labour Commissioners and the Deputy Labour Commissioners shared their field-level experiences and assured full cooperation in implementing the directions issued during the meeting. The Labour Commissioner reiterated the department's commitment to strengthening labour governance through awareness, capacity building and stakeholder engagement for the successful implementation of Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir.

## DGP Ladakh (Designate) Mukesh Singh calls on LG Kavinder



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**NEW DELHI:** DGP Ladakh (Designate), Mukesh Singh today paid a courtesy visit to the Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, in New Delhi. During the meeting, issues related to security, law and order, and strengthening policing mechanisms in the Union Territory of Ladakh were discussed. The Lt Governor extended his best wishes to Shri Mukesh Singh for his new assignment and emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure peace, stability, and effective governance in the region.

## Power shutdown

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ramgarh Town, Mahal, Rangoor, Barota, Baba Sidh Goria Ji, Nandpur, Old Nandpur, Jerada, Aldair, Baba Chamlyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 07 from 10 am to 2 pm.  
 Similarly, the power supply to Gulabgarh, Atholi, Machail, Padder and adjoining areas will remain affected on January 07 from 9 am to 4 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Nomain, Dhanori, Marriot Hotel and Rotational Curtailment at Katra Station will remain affected on January 07 from 10 am to 4 pm.

## IIM hosts workshop on Bioenterprises based on Flori, Apiculture

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**KATHUA:** The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM), Jammu on Tuesday organised a one-day workshop on "Empowering Farmers through Quality Seed Distribution and Technology Dissemination in Floriculture and Apiculture-based Bioenterprises" at the Industrial Biotechnology Park (IBTP), Ghatti-Kathua. The programme was held under the CSIR Floriculture Mission, a flagship initiative envisioned by Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, aimed at promoting high-value floriculture enterprises and enhancing farmers' income through science-led interventions.  
 The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 150 farmers from Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir. It was designed to provide farmers with comprehensive exposure to modern scientific technologies, best agricultural practices, and market-oriented approaches in com-



Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIM Jammu with others at workshop at IBTP, Ghatti, Kathua.

mercial floriculture, apiculture, and allied value-added enterprises. The initiative sought to enable farmers to diversify income sources and adopt sustainable agri-business models.  
 Director, CSIR-IIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, was the Chief Guest and delivered the presidential address. He highlighted the immense potential of commercial floriculture and beekeeping as profitable and remunerative ventures, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Dr. Ahmed informed that the CSIR Floriculture Mission is being implemented under the visionary guid-

ance of Dr. Jitendra Singh and emphasized that floriculture and apiculture are employment-intensive sectors capable of generating quick economic returns when supported by quality planting material, scientific crop management, and efficient market linkages.  
 He further underlined that the availability of quality seeds and planting material, adoption of standardized production protocols, and integration with value chains are crucial for developing sustainable agri-enterprises.  
 Dr. Ahmed reaffirmed CSIR-IIM Jammu's commitment to bridging the gap between laboratory innovations and farmers' fields

through research, development, and extension activities, thereby contributing to rural prosperity and inclusive growth.  
 Nodal Scientist of the Mission, Dr. Shahid Rasool, presented a detailed overview of the mission's objectives and the pivotal role of CSIR-IIM Jammu in driving science-based agrarian transformation in the region. He elaborated on efforts to disseminate improved varieties of ornamental crops, standardized cultivation and post-harvest technologies, and implement farmer-centric capacity-building models. Dr. Rasool highlighted the commercial importance of high-value cut flowers

such as gladiolus, liliun, carnation, and gerbera, which enjoy strong domestic demand and emerging export potential. He also spoke about the growing adoption of bulbous ornamental crops like tulips and lilies due to their high market value and suitability to local agro-climatic conditions.  
 Prominent floriculturist and member of the J&K Kisan Advisory Board, Tejinder Singh, shared practical insights and market experiences. He stressed that floriculture is a viable agribusiness in J&K due to sustained demand and urged farmers to understand market trends, plan crops accord-

ingly, maintain quality standards, and adopt collective marketing models. He appreciated CSIR-IIM's role in providing quality planting material to over 3,500 farmers, which has significantly transformed the floriculture sector and improved farmers' socio-economic conditions.  
 Farmers received hands-on training in scientific crop production, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling, and integrated apiculture practices. Sessions covered honey and beeswax production, hive management, quality standards, value addition in floriculture produce, dry flowers, floral crafts, essential oils, landscaping, and ornamental horticulture. Interactive discussions enabled farmers to address location-specific challenges and boosted confidence to adopt new technologies.  
 The workshop concluded with a call for stronger collaboration among scientists, farmers, and market stakeholders to build resilient and profitable agri-enterprises in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Secy IT chairs meeting on Meghraj Cloud Services



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Secretary Information Technology (IT), Piyush Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting in his office chamber focused on the hiring of Meghraj Cloud Services, a critical initiative to strengthen government IT infrastructure and accelerate digital transformation in Jammu and Kashmir. CEO JaKeGA, Special Secretary IT Department, Director Finance, State Informatics Officer of NIC, and other officials were present, ensuring comprehensive stakeholder input. The discussions look deeply into the project's foundational elements, including its conceptualization and detailed scope definition to align with operational needs. Participants thoroughly reviewed approval mechanisms and implementation timelines, addressing financial concurrence and fund availability to secure necessary budgetary support. Key resolutions covered preparation of the Service Level Agreement document for the Memorandum of Understanding, execution of the MoU with NISCI and service provider streamlined release of payments, and a clear roadmap for the operationalization of Meghraj cloud services, constitution of requisition committee for looking after the modalities. Secretary IT said that Meghraj cloud services mark a transformative step toward providing secure, scalable, and sovereign cloud infrastructure tailored for public sector applications, enhancing data management, cyber security resilience, and service delivery efficiency. He stated that it aligns seamlessly with national priorities under Digital India, promoting innovation in government operations while safeguarding sensitive information through robust compliance and local hosting capabilities. The meeting's outcomes pave the way for rapid advancement, positioning J&K as a leader in adopting advanced cloud technologies for governance.