

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Draw lessons from...

challenge. The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they arrived at an understanding on the evening of May 10.

Highlighting people's trust in the armed forces, especially the air-defence capability, Singh said, "Usually, when the enemy attacks, people hide. But when the Pakistani forces tried to target Indian installations, the people of India remained calm and continued with their daily routines. This is a proof of the trust of every Indian in our operational preparedness."

The conclave was attended by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and other senior IAF commanders.

Reflecting on the changing nature of warfare, Singh said the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Hamas war, the Balakot air strikes and Operation Sindoor have proved that air power has emerged as a decisive force in today's times.

Air power is not just a tactical asset, but a strategic instrument, and speed, surprise and the shock effect are its inherent characteristics, he asserted.

"Air power gives any leadership the capability to deliver a clear strategic message to the adversary that every step will be taken to uphold national interests. Through speed, reach and precision, air power has become an effective tool for aligning the nation's objectives with military means," Singh said.

Commending the performance of India's air-defence system and other equipment, effectively used during Operation Sindoor, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader reiterated the commitment of the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to further strengthening India's security apparatus.

Describing the operation as a shining example of tri-service synergy, Singh underlined the importance of jointness in today's rapidly-changing times.

"Jointness among the three services is crucial as it would further strengthen our security system and enable us to deal with our adversaries even more effectively," he said.

Singh also lauded the IAF for its humanitarian assistance and disaster-relief efforts, both domestically and internationally.

"Whether at home or abroad, the IAF has consistently provided critical support during natural calamities. Many of the missions were executed in extremely challenging situations which has increased the trust of the people in our air warriors," he said. After his arrival at the conclave, Singh was briefed on the IAF's operational preparedness. The conclave provides a strategic platform for the IAF leadership to deliberate on operational priorities, address emerging challenges and advance "Aatmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in defence capabilities, steering the force towards excellence, the defence ministry said.

HC announces winter...

(both days inclusive). The period commencing from 1st to 10th of January, 2026 shall be No Work Period for the High Court," reads an order issued by M.K Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

"In terms of Rule 12 of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Rules, 1999 the Chief Justice has been pleased to nominate Justice Sanjay Parihar from January 12 to 17, 2026 and Justice Rajesh Sekhri from January 19 to 24, 2026 for Jammu wing and Justice Shahzad Azeem from January 12 to 17, 2026 and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani from January 19 to 24, 2026 for Srinagar Wing of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh to be the Vacation Judges to hear all matters of urgent nature for the period," it added.

Red Fort blast...

Yasir Ahmad Dar allegedly played an active role in the conspiracy behind the blast that claimed 15 lives and left many others injured on November 10, they said.

An active participant in the conspiracy, Dar had allegedly taken an oath for carrying out self-sacrificial operations, the NIA said.

"The 9th person to be arrested in the case, Yasir Ahmad Dar is a resident of Shopian, Srinagar (J&K). He was nabbed by NIA from New Delhi, and placed under arrest..." an NIA spokesperson said in a statement.

Dar was in close contact with the other accused persons in the case, including Umar-un-Nabi (the deceased perpetrator of the bombing) as well as Mufti Irfan.

Meanwhile, a Delhi court sent Yasir Ahmad Dar to NIA custody till December 26. Special Judge Prashant Sharma allowed the plea of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking custodial interrogation of the accused.

J&K charts major...

progress toward predefined goals.

Dr. Paul also stressed the need for a flexible and collaborative framework, enabling institutions to seek support from one another and adopt best practices nationally. He urged the Department to go beyond the Terms of Reference of the high-level committee constituted by the UT and explore the establishment of advanced facilities such as Eye Banks, strengthening Forensic Medicine, and upgrading Emergency and Trauma Care services across healthcare institutions.

Calling for a pragmatic yet ambitious approach, Dr. Paul assured that NITI Aayog would facilitate linkages with premier national institutions and provide expert guidance to help J&K achieve its healthcare objectives.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo sought NITI Aayog's guidance on strategies to retain senior faculty in medical colleges, attract talent from outside the UT, and extend specialized healthcare services to far-flung, mountainous, and border areas.

He also acknowledged NITI Aayog's crucial role in guiding the UT's health sector reforms, particularly over the past few months, which resulted in the addition of dozens of postgraduate seats and hundreds of MBBS seats across medical colleges in J&K.

The Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah presented a comprehensive overview of the initiatives undertaken following sustained consultations with Dr. Paul over the past several months.

He outlined progress in expanding tertiary healthcare services to district hospitals, augmentation of UG, PG, and DNB seats, and development of a robust governance framework. He also detailed the proposed roles, responsibilities, accountability mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation systems, and implementation timelines.

The Executive Director, SMVDIME, Dr.Yashpal Sharma, made a detailed presentation on the proposed healthcare interventions envisaged with active support from NITI Aayog.

Key interventions deliberated during the meeting included the strengthening of critical care services through Tele-ICU rollout in government hospitals under a hub-and-spoke model. It was revealed during this meeting that the Tele-ICU tender, vetted by Team NITI Aayog, has already been floated. To address diagnostic gaps, particularly in peripheral and underserved areas, the UT also plans to implement Tele-Radiology services, for which the tender is in the final stages.

The Health Department is also exploring the establishment of a Dentistry Department, while the creation of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery and Pedodontics departments in newly established GMCs is under active consideration, the meeting was informed.

Dr. Paul was further apprised about the constitution of a high-level committee tasked with devising collaborative models among AIIMS Jammu, SKIMS Soura, GMC Jammu, GMC Srinagar, and the newly established GMCs. The committee was tasked to focus on cardiology, cancer care, mental health, telemedicine, tele-radiology, and academic integration, including enhancement of UG, PG, and DNB training capacities.

The Department also sought NITI Aayog's assistance in taking up the matter with the National Medical Commission (NMC) for designating District Hospitals as Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, a move aimed at improving clinical exposure and decentralizing healthcare delivery.

Detailed deliberations were also held on strengthening Drug De-addiction, Mental Health, and Social Health priorities, with a draft action plan titled "Circle of Care", prepared by Dr. Arshad Hussain, Professor of Psychiatry, GMC Srinagar, submitted to NITI Aayog for its consideration.

In another major development, facilitated by NITI Aayog, it was learnt that the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) has agreed to provide training to transplant teams along with continued technical support and mentoring. In this regard, a formal request has been submitted by the Health & Medical Education Department seeking support for establishing Liver Transplant facilities in the UT.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of NITI Aayog's continued guidance and support in transforming Jammu & Kashmir's healthcare landscape through technology-driven solutions, academic collaboration, and systemic capacity building, ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for its citizens across the length and breadth of the UT.

CB files charge...

conferring wrongful gain upon Mr. Owais Guroo, son of Ghulam Mohammad Guroo, resident of H. No. 11, Guroo Estate, Chanapora, Baghe-Mehtab, Srinagar, Director of M/s Shuhul Automobiles Pvt. Ltd.

On the basis of evidence collected, the offence under Section 420 IPC stood established. The case was investigated by Inspector Rajesh Kumar, who presented the

charge sheet before the Railway Court today.

Detailing the second case, SSP Parihar said FIR No. 12/2025 under Sections 420 and 120-B IPC was registered on a complaint alleging cheating on the pretext of overseas employment.

The accused, Vinod Kumar, son of Sewa Ram and Vishal Kumar, son of Vinod Kumar, both residents of Village Pandorian, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu, allegedly collected money from several complainants by falsely promising work visas for Dubai.

"Investigation revealed that the accused were operating without any valid Immigration Consultant License and were in clear violation of the Emigration Act," the SSP said, adding that sufficient oral, documentary and circumstantial evidence was collected to substantiate the offences.

The case was investigated by Inspector Kali Charan, who presented the charge sheet before the Court of Electricity Magistrate, Jammu today.

SSP Parihar reiterated that the SCW Crime Branch Jammu remains firmly committed to a zero-tolerance policy against cheating and fraud, and will continue to ensure that offenders are brought to justice through due legal process.

Parliament passes Nuclear...

State, Department of Atomic Energy, Jitendra Singh, said it aims at making India self-reliant in nuclear energy and reducing dependence on other sources of energy.

He asserted that nuclear energy is a reliable 24x7 power supply source, which is not so in the case of other renewable energy options.

Stating that the country has already reached 8.9 GW of nuclear energy in 2025, Singh said by 2047, "if we are able to follow the roadmap we have envisaged, we will be 100 GW, and we would be contributing nearly 10 per cent of the energy requirement..."

He also noted that India's energy requirement will be highly dependent on nuclear sources, with AI coming in a big way.

"This (nuclear energy) will be the most reliable, steady 24x7 source of energy, unlike some other renewable sources," he pointed out.

Defending the opening up of the tightly-controlled civil nuclear sector for private participation, Singh said the "fruits and the outcomes" of opening various sectors to private players have been very rewarding.

He said that when the government opened up the space sector, its economy was dismal, but today it is USD 8 billion.

"And, the pace is so fast that in the next eight to ten years, we hope to go five times to USD 45 billion. The concept of space startups was unheard of. Today, we have over 300 space startups. In the space sector, some of them have turned multi-millionaires. And some of them have global potential. This was possible because private sector participation was allowed. The FDI was allowed," Singh said.

He also asserted that the safety provisions in the nuclear bill have not been compromised in any way.

The safety provisions and their standard operating procedures (SOPs) are the same as in the Atomic Energy Act of 1962, which was enacted when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister, Singh noted.

"The SOP in place clearly mentions 'safety first, second production'," he added.

Lok Sabha nod...

by Mahatma Gandhi many times over and used his name to further political gains. Chouhan said during the UPA rule, MGNREGA was riddled with corruption and the expected amount of funds was not spent on procurement of material for designated jobs.

"Funds were not allotted to the states as expected. MGNREGA was riddled with problems. As per the Act, 60 per cent of the funds were to be spent on labour and 40 per cent on material. But, only 26 per cent was spent on material and funds were siphoned off. Corruption was rampant under MGNREGA," he said.

Chouhan said the G RAM G Bill was brought after extensive deliberations as it was felt that amount to the tune of Rs 10-11 lakh crore should not be spent on merely paying wages, but used for creating permanent assets.

"We have made provisions to improve employment. On the other hand, this vast amount will be used to build fully developed villages which has been the goal of the Modi government," he said.

He said the G RAM G initiative will focus on water security by creating lakes, micro-irrigation channels, developing core rural infrastructure, livelihood related infrastructure and special works to mitigate extreme weather events.

Chouhan said all the assets created will be aggregated to the Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack.

At the outset of the session, Congress member K C Venugopal urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer the Bill to a parliamentary committee for threadbare examination.

Fake Govt Job...

Ishrat Bano, exposing the conspiracy and fraudulent intent behind the transaction. An official spokesperson of Crime Branch Kashmir said the investigation established prima facie involvement of both accused in acts of cheating and criminal conspiracy, adding that such scams exploiting job aspirants would be dealt with strictly under law.

Consequently, the case was registered at Police Station EOW Kashmir and, after completion of investigation, the allegations were found proved. Accordingly, the charge sheet has been submitted before court.

J&K Govt mandates...

buyer for transportation of raw or processed minor minerals.

Officials said a pilot run of GPS-enabled mineral-carrying vehicles has been successfully conducted in Samba district and the department plans to extend GPS, RFID and e-Challan compliance to all mineral transportation across the Union territory by January 26, 2026, following an extensive awareness and enforcement campaign.

The department is also setting up Quick Response Teams (QRTs) at the district level, equipped with modern gadgets and logistics, to respond swiftly to incidents of illegal mining. Point-of-Sale (PoS) machines are being provided to enforcement agencies for on-the-spot digital challaning and compounding of violations, they added.

An Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS), developed in collaboration with BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics), has also been deployed. The system integrates GPS tracking, RFID, e-challan, weighbridge data and public grievance redressal on a real-time digital dashboard to enhance transparency and accountability in mining operations, officials said.

They said that 114 system-generated alerts were verified on the ground, leading to confiscation of 14 cases of illegal mining and imposition of penalties amounting to Rs 90 lakh.

For the financial year 2025-26, the department has set a revenue target of Rs 300 crore, including Rs 200 crore from minor minerals and Rs 100 crore from related activities. Revenues from major minerals are projected from 2026-27 following completion of the limestone auction process, officials added.

Modi conferred with...

Muscat," Modi said. He also dedicated the award to the seafarers who have, through centuries of exchange, contributed to the progress of both nations.

Instituted in 1970 by Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Order of Oman (First Class) has been bestowed upon select global leaders in recognition of their contribution to public life and bilateral relations.

Modi's visit to Muscat marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Oman, with both sides focusing on deepening strategic partnership in trade, investment, energy, defence and culture.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that Oman's highest civilian honour bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "grand endorsement of his statesmanship and his acceptance as a global leader".

In a message posted on 'X', Shah said, "The back-to-back honours to our Prime Minister Modi ji attest to the power of 140 crore Indians and the emergence of India as a transformed nation under his leadership."

"Oman's highest civilian honour; 'The First Class of the Order of Oman', being conferred on PM Shri @narendramodi ji is a grand endorsement of his statesmanship and his acceptance as a global leader," he said.

Police attaches drug...

followed confirmation by the competent authority under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, marking a significant step towards dismantling the financial network of organised drug trafficking in the region, they said.

The attached property in the name of the accused's wife, Shahnaz Kouser, comprises a three-storey under construction building at Kamsar, with an estimated value of Rs 1.10 crore, the officials said.

The police appealed to the general public to share any credible information related to drug peddling or illicit narcotics activities in the region.

The identity of the informants will be kept strictly confidential, they said.

Leopard mauls 5-year-old girl to death in Anantnag

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A five-year-old girl was mauled to death by a leopard in Anantnag district, officials said on Thursday.

The incident took place in the Srigufwara area of Bijbehara in the south Kashmir district on Wednesday night, they said.

The big cat attacked the girl outside her home and dragged her into the nearby bushes. Her body was found after the police and rescue teams launched a search.

The incident has triggered panic in the area, the officials said.

Northern Army commander reviews security in south Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Thursday reviewed the security scenario and operational preparedness of the forces in south Kashmir.

In a post on X, the Northern Command said Lt Gen Sharma commended the troops for their exemplary professionalism, firm resolve and unwavering commitment towards achieving operational excellence.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, reviewed the security architecture and operational preparedness of forces in South #Kashmir," it said.

According to the Northern Command, Lt Gen Sharma was briefed on the joint intelligence framework, refined operating procedures and strengthened coordinated response mechanisms -- crucial for maintaining operational readiness in a challenging security environment.



SC collegium recommends elevation of 5 judges as HC Chief Justices

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court collegium on Thursday recommended to the Centre elevation of five judges as chief justices of different high courts across the country.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant took the decision in a meeting held during the day.

Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta of Allahabad High Court has been elevated to Uttarakhand after retirement of the incumbent chief justice on January 9.

Justice Revati P Mohite Dere of Bombay High Court has been recommended to Meghalaya while Justice MS Sonak of Bombay has been elevated to Jharkhand High Court after retirement of the incumbent chief justice on January 8.

Justice A Muhamed Mustaque of Kerala High Court has been elevated to Sikkim and Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo from Orissa to Patna High Court as chief justice. In another decision, the collegium recommended the transfer of Justice Soumen Sen, Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court as chief justice of Kerala High Court after retirement of the incumbent chief justice on January 9.

Terror accused confesses to crime; sentenced to 4 years, 4 months imprisonment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An accused in a terror case in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir has been sentenced to four years and four months imprisonment after he confessed to involvement in the crime, a police spokesman said here on Thursday.

"In a major boost to the fight against terrorism, Police in Pulwama have secured conviction in a terror-related case, after the accused confessed his involvement before the court through video conferencing," the spokesperson said.

He said the case was registered on December 1, 2020 under Sections 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the ULA(P) Act, Section 307 of IPC and Sections 7/27 of Arms Act.

The convict has been identified as Zamir Sadiq Lone, who was arrested in November 2021.

The case also involved three other accused terrorists, who were eliminated in earlier security operations, the spokesman said.

"Upon conclusion of the trial, the court sentenced the convicted accused to four years and four months of imprisonment, along with a fine of 10,000," he added.

Night temperatures rise above freezing point in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is experiencing a huge relief from intense cold as night temperatures rose and settled above the freezing point, with rain and snow expected to coincide with the oncoming "Chillai-Kalan", the 40-day harshest winter period, officials said on Thursday.

The mercury in most places in the valley settled above the freezing point, with Srinagar recording a low of 0.2 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, an improvement from the previous night's minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

Night temperatures were 2.2 notches above normal for this time of the season. The minimum temperature across the valley hovered between 1.7 to 6.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

A thick layer of fog engulfed Srinagar and most other parts of the valley, especially near water bodies, during the early hours.

Qazigund in south Kashmir recorded a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius -- up by over three degrees, while the temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at minus 1 degrees Celsius. Kokernag in south Kashmir registered a low of 1.8 degrees Celsius, they said.

In Gulmarg, the minimum temperature settled above the freezing point at 1.6 degrees Celsius, the same as the previous night, the weather officials said.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius. Pulwama town was the coldest spot with a minimum of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, they said.

The Kashmir Valley is bracing for the onset of Chillai-Kalan on December 21. Chances of snowfall is highest in this period, with temperatures dropping sharply across the valley. Chillai-Kalan ends on January 30.

So far this winter, the valley has not witnessed any major wet spell, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed optimism, saying the dry spell would end soon.

"Alhamdulillah, this prolonged dry spell in J-K that has persisted since early last month looks like it will finally end this weekend," Abdullah wrote on X.

The dry weather so far has led to an increase in ailments like cough and the common cold, but the meteorological department (MeT) has forecast a spell of wet weather on December 20-21, coinciding with the onset of 'Chillai-Kalan'.

Moderate to heavy snowfall is expected in the higher reaches of Kashmir, while light to moderate precipitation may affect the plains, ending the dry spell, officials said.

J&K Govt constitutes committees for strict implementation of Indian Aircraft Rules near Airports

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday constituted committees for strict implementation of Rule 91 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, aimed at ensuring aviation safety and compliance around airports in the Union Territory.

The order was issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

The Jammu Division Committee will be chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, and include as members the Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation; Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu; and J&K Pollution Control Board. The Director Airport, Jammu will serve as Member Secretary.

Similarly, the Kashmir Division Committee will be headed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, with members comprising the Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department; Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, and Pulwama; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Senior Superintendents of Police of Srinagar, Budgam, and Pulwama; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Srinagar; and J&K Pollution Control Board. The Director Airport, Srinagar will act as Member Secretary. Both committees are tasked with the immediate identification and mapping of unauthorized slaughterhouses, meat shops, dairies, piggeries, garbage dumps, and other prohibited facilities within a 10 km radius of the international airports in Srinagar and Jammu. Strict enforcement measures, including closure or relocation of non-compliant units, will be carried out in coordination with municipal authorities, pollution control boards, and law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, the committees are required to institutionalize compliance monitoring mechanisms and submit quarterly reports to the Director General of Civil Aviation, Government of India, ensuring sustained adherence to aviation safety norms in the region.