!! Continuations from Page 1!! Omar meets Union...

cent of rural households had tap water connections as on December 8.

In October, the Jammu and Kashmir government informed the Assembly that an additional Rs 6,254 crore would be required to complete all water supply schemes

The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in August 2019 to provide tap water supply to every rural household and is being implemented in partnership with states by 2024. However, the deadline has been extended to December 2028 by the Union government, announced during the Union Budget 2025-26 by Finance Minister

Suspected movements: Search...
suspected persons on Friday night, joint teams of police and security forces aunched a search operation in the Ghagwal area of Samba district, they said. The search operation is underway as troops have cordoned off the area, they

Security forces also launched an intensive search operation in the Singhpura area of Kishtwar district on Friday, they said.

In Rajouri, the security forces launched an extensive search operation after receiving reports of suspected movement of suspicious persons in some villages located

between the Thanamandi and Manjakote subdivisions of the district, they said. Following specific intelligence inputs, the Indian Army also launched a massive search operation in the region, cordoning off the entire area and carrying out continuous searches, they added. As a precautionary security measure, internet connectivity has been completely suspended in the area, they said.

CB chargesheets 3...
the chargesheet before the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Beerwah, Budgam, against the three accused persons for allegedly duping job seekers by issung forged appointment letters.

The accused trio has been identified as Abdul Hamid Sheikh, a resident of Chewdara, Budgam; Adil Shah from Sonwarhere presently living in Zewan, Srinagar; and Mufti Ghulam Hassan Kumar from Sopore currently living in Beerwah, Budgam

The case originated from a written complaint filed by a person named Kumar, who alleged that Sheikh and Shah gave him fake appointment letters purportedly issued by the Railway Recruitment Board, New Delhi, the officials said.

The forged job letter carried fabricated seals and the signature of the DGM, Northern Railway, Paharganj, New Delhi.

A detailed probe was initiated by the EOW, which prima facie established that the accused persons conspired with each other, lured victims on the pretext of providing government jobs, and extracted substantial sums of money

Verification of some appointment letters confirmed that they were forged, the offi-

During the investigation, the complainant -- Kumar -- was also found to be involved in the commission of the said offence.

The probe revealed that Kumar took money from other victims on the false pretext of providing employment and also issued fake job orders to them.

The probe established Kumar's active involvement in the fraudulent scheme along with the other accused persons, the officials said.

Based on the findings and evidence collected during the investigation, a final report under Section 173 of the CrPC has been presented before the court for judicial adjudication, they said.

Winter Session of...

statement, some members were heard raising "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai" slogans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present when the proceedings were adjourned. During the 15 sittings of the Winter Session, the House took up two politicallycharged debates -- one on the 150 years of Vande Matram and the other on election

The prime minister had initiated a discussion to commemorate the completion of 150 years of the national song. The House discussed the subject for 11 hours and 32 minutes, during which 65 members participated.

A debate on air pollution, which was to be initiated by Congress leader Priyanka

The opposition had been insisting on a debate on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in 12 states and Union Territories, but the government made it clear that the poll panel and its functioning cannot be discussed in the House, and agreed to hold a debate on election reforms instead.

The issue was discussed for approximately 13 hours, with the participation of 63 MPs. The opposition, however, focused its attack against the government on SIR, the new law on the appointment of the chief election commissioner and election com-

nissioners, and the "vote chori" issue. Eight bills were passed during the session.

The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB-G RAM G Bill, assuring 125 days of guaranteed jobs for rural India, was passed amid opposition protests on Thursday, including tearing of papers.

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, which seeks to open the tightly-controlled civil nuclear sector for private participation, was also passed during the session

The Lok Sabha also passed a bill to raise foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector to 100 per cent from the current 74 per cent. It is expected to ncrease insurance penetration, lower premiums, and boost job creation.

The Sahka Rima Sahki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Rill cleared by the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote, a day after it was passed by the Lok Sabha. The Lower House also passed a Bill to repeal 65 amendment Acts and six principal laws, which had lost relevance.

The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025 were also among the bills passed in the Lok Sabha during the session. The House also passed the Supplementary Demands for Grants - First Batch, 2025-26.

Parliament passes new...

slogans against the government. The opposition parties later sat on a dharna outside the Samvidhan Sadan in the Parliament complex against the Bill.

The opposition has also demanded that the Bill be sent to a parliamentary panel for further scrutiny.

Responding to the five-hour discussion on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Rural Development Minister Shivraj Chouhan accused the Congress of "killing" the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi several times and using his name to further political gains.

Chouhan said that during the UPA's rule, MGNREGA was riddled with corruption and the expected amount of funds was not spent on procurement of material for designated jobs

Traditional medicine doesn't...

evidence-based validation," the prime minister said.

PM Modi launched several landmark Ayush initiatives including My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP). He also unveiled the Ayush Mark, which is envisioned as a global benchmark for the quality of Ayush products and services. Modi released the WHO technical report on training in Yoga and the Book 'From

Roots to Global Reach: 11 Years of Transformation in Ayush' He also released a commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha, symbolising the global resonance of India's traditional medicinal heritage

Two AGMUT cadre...

IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Jitendra Kumar Meena, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Rajesh Deo, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Rakeah Paweriya, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Bhisham Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2012);

Rajeev Ranjan, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Mohammed Ali, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Dingluaia, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Sandeep Wazir, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Anita Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Jatinder Singh Johar, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Swam Singh Kotwal, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Zahid Nasim Manhas, IPS (AGMUT 2012); Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2012).

Further, Four IPS officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted on Central Deputation, are granted Proforma Promotion to the DIGP grade (LEVEL 13-A in the Pay Matrix) w.e.f. January 1, 2026 and on actual basis with effect from the date of assumption of charge of their immediate juniors in the cadre. They include M Hairsha Vardhan, IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Dr. Navdeep Singh Brar. IPS (AGMUT: 2012); Sandeep Choudhary. IPS (AGMUT: 2012); and Guriqbal Singh, IPS

(AGMUT: 2012). "In pursuance to the recommendations of the Screening Committee in its meeting held on December 8, 2025, the four IPS officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted in the cadre, are hereby promoted to the IGP grade (LEVEL 14 in the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1, 2026 or from the date of assumption of charge, whichever is later," it stated. They include Chinmoy Biswal, IPS (AGMUT: 2008);

Tejinder Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); Sanjay Kumar Tyagi, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); and Ajay Krishan Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2008).

Further, the six IPS officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted on Central Deputation, are hereby granted Proforma Promotion to the IGP grade (LEVEL 14 in the Pav Matrix) w.e.f January 1, 2026 and on actual basis with effect from the date of assumption of charge of their immediate juniors in the cadre, it added. They include Atul Kumar Thakur, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); Pankaj Kumar Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); Anto Alphones, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); Devender Arya, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); Abdul Jabbar, IPS (AGMUT: 2008); Udayabhaskar Billa, IPS (AGMUT: 2008).

"In pursuance to the recommendations of the Screening Committee in its meeting held on December 8, 2025, the 29 officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted in the cadre, are promoted to the Selection Grade (LEVEL 13 in the Pay Matrix)," reads another order.

The promotees include Phunchu Norbu Thungon, IAS (AGMUT: 2012); Sumedha Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2012); Avny Lavasa, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Dr. Aman Gupta, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Dr. Tapasya Raghav, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Rahul Singh, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Anjali Sehrawat, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Anshul Garg, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); T Arun, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Vikas Kundal, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Kesavan R, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Ajit Roy, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Nidhi Malik, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Sanjiv M Gadkar, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Yetindra M Maralkar, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Dr. Lalhriatzuali Ralte, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Nazim Zai Khan, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Pardeep Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Rahul Sharma, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Narinder Singh Bali, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Mohammad Akbar Wani, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Neeraj Bharti, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Duly Kamduk, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Mamata Riba, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); and Jitendra Kumar Jain, IAS (AGMUT: 2013).

Further, four IAS officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted on Central Deputation, are granted Proforma Promotion to the Selection Grade of IAS (LEVEL 13 in the Pay Matrix). They are Dr. Shah Faesal, IAS (AGMUT: 2010); Ruchika Katyal, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); Dr. Naveen Aggarwal, IAS (AGMUT: 2013); and Kriti Garg, IAS (AGMUT: 2013).

"In pursuance to the recommendations of the Screening Committee in its meeting held on December 8, 2025, the 22 IPS officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted in the cadre, are promoted to the Selection Grade (LEVEL 13 in the Pay Matrix) with effect from January 1, 2026 or from the date of assumption of charge, whichever is later,;' it further stated. They include Ashish Kumar Mishra, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Nagpure Amod Ashok, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Darade Sharad Bhaskar, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); V Hareshwar Swami, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Vichitra Veer, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Jimmy Chiram, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Ankit Chauhan, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Prashant Priya Gautam, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Gurinderpal Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Apoorva Gupta, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Ankit Kumar Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Vikas Kumar, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Mohd. Irshad Haider, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Kumar Gyanesh, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Anil Kumar Lal, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Rajendra Prasad Meena, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Altaf Ahmed Shah, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Bakar Hussain Samoon, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Ranjit Singh Samyal, IPS (AGMUT: 2013); Mohd. Yaseen Kichloo, IPS (AGMUT: 2013);

Further, Chandan Kohli IPS (AGMUT: 2013) and Surendra Choudhary, IPS (AGMUT: 2013), currently posted on Central Deputation, are granted Proforma Promotion to the Selection Grade (LEVEL 13 in the Pay Matrix) w.e. January 1, 2026 and on actual basis with effect from the date of assumption of charge of their immediate juniors in the cadre.

As per another order, 14 IPS officers of Joint AGMUT: 2017 Cadre have been promoted to Junior Administrative Grade (Level-12 in the Pay Matrix) of Indian Police Service with effect from January 1, 2026. They include Bisma Qazi, S u m i t Kumar Jha, Tanushree, Sahil Sarangal, Sachin Kumar Singhal, Rahul Gupta, Narra Chaitanya, Anayat Ali Choudhary, Nikhil Borkar, Aishwarya Sharma, Mohita Sharma, Rajneesh Garg, Hareesh H.P., and Manishi Chandra.

Dense fog disrupts...
Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, two degrees down from the previous night's 0.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

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

In south Kashmir, Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius. Kokernag and Qazigund recorded a low of 0.5 degrees and minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, respectively, they said The temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at minus 2.8 degrees

Celsius, they said. In Gulmarg, the minimum temperature settled above the freezing point at 1.0

degrees Celsius, the weather officials said. The Kashmir Valley is bracing for the onset of Chillai-Kalan on December 21 as chances of snowfall are with highest in the 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. 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, the MeT

Action taken by...

He said that the Central government is taking appropriate steps and that any decision taken would be in Ladakh's interest.

Wangchuk was detained under the stringent NSA on September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union Territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence.

The Lieutenant Governor, who inaugurated a three-day painting exhibition titled 'Memory Imprints' by eminent artist Milan Sharma at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery here, said a large number of infrastructure and road projects are currently underway in Ladakh and that all these projects have been taken up with the Government of India and the finance minister.

"In several of these projects, funds of the Union Territory are also being utilised. There were some difficulties related to land acquisition, about which I have also apprised the Union Home Minister and the Finance Minister," he said.

Thanking the Union government for its support, Gupta said the Centre is making every possible effort for the development of Ladakh.

He added that Ladakh's increasing focus on renewable energy would open a new chapter in its development journey.

"Recently, we have established the world's first unique project related to thermal power. In recent days, the solar energy project in the Pangong area has also been taken forward. ONGC is also working there. I believe that in the future, geothermal energy projects to be set up in Ladakh will be capable of supplying electricity to the entire country," he said.

On tourism, the LG Gupta said Ladakh should emerge as a year-round tourist destination.

"Tourism should function throughout the year. Our constant effort will be to ensure that more and more tourists visit Ladakh. It is not a tourism destination for just three or four months, but should be developed as a year-round destination. In the coming time, we will provide all necessary facilities to tourists accordingly," he

Commenting on the change of name of the MGNREGA scheme, Gupta said "The government has already taken a decision on this, and what impact it will have-I do

not think it would be appropriate for me to comment on that.' The three-day exhibition "Memory Imprints" by Milan Sharma is being organised

by Jammu's Kala Kendra at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta inaugurated the three-day Third Edition of Mahotsay - Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, a flagship annual initiative of LEAD (LJK - Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue), aimed at celebrating the region's rich cultural heritage, entrepreneurial spirit, and collective identity.

Mahotsav serves as a vibrant platform rooted in the ideals of Swadeshi, selfreliance (Swavlamban), and cultural heritage (Sanskriti), bringing together artisans, performers, entrepreneurs, and community groups to showcase traditional knowledge, handicrafts, folk arts, and innovation from across Ladakh, Jammu, and Kashmir. Previous editions in 2023 and 2024 received widespread public apprecia-

The event was graced by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and noted film personality Preeti Sapru Walia as Guests of Honour, along with DIG Jammu-Kathua Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, LEAD Convener Harinder Gupta, and members Sunil Shah, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, Rajeev Gupta, and Sanjeev Sharma, in addition to artists, youth, students, and

entrepreneurs from across the region.

The Lt Governor appreciated the cultural performances, exhibitions, and partici pation of artists from Ladakh, congratulating LEAD, organisers, and volunteers for promoting cultural preservation, local livelihoods, and self-reliance. Concluding, he invited citizens nationwide to experience Ladakh's natural beauty, rich culture, and innovative development initiatives, expressing confidence that the Mahotsav would strengthen cultural unity and the vision of a self-reliant India.

64 drug samples...

Further, the State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 141 drug samples as NSQ, they said. According to routine regulatory surveillance activity, the list of NSQ and spurious drugs is uploaded on the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) portal every month. "For November 2025, Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 64 drug samples to be not of standard quality, while the State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 141 drug samples as NSQ," health ministry statement said.

NSQ drug samples are based on failure in one or other specified quality parame ters. The failure is specific to the drug products of the batch tested by the government laboratory, and it does not warrant any concerns on the other drug products available in the market, it said.

Further, in November, two drug samples from the north zone, Ghaziabad, were identified as spurious drugs, which were manufactured by unauthorised manufac turers using a brand name owned by another company. The matter is under investigation, and action will be taken as per the Act and Rules.

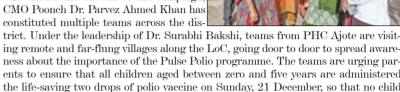
Door-to-Door Polio awareness campaign launched

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Ahead of the nationwide Pulse Polio Campaign scheduled on 23 December, the Health Department in Poonch district has launched a special outreach initiative to ensure maximum coverage, particularly in areas along the India-Pakistan Line of Control (LoC). While the government and health author-

ities are promoting the Pulse Polio drive through print, electronic and social media across the country, a unique grassroots effort is underway in the border areas of Poonch district by the staff of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Ajote. To ensure the success of the campaign,

CMO Poonch Dr. Parvez Ahmed Khan has constituted multiple teams across the dis-



Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Surabhi Bakshi said that the LoC areas face serious communication challenges, making it difficult to reach people through con ventional means. "Due to limited connectivity in border villages, we are personally visiting households to appeal to parents to get their children vaccinated against

Good Governance Week begins in Poonch under "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore "

POONCH: The first day of Good Governance Week under the nationwide initiative "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" was observed across various sub-divisions and tehsils o district Poonch, including Surankote, Mendhar, Mandi, Balakote, Mankote and Haveli, with a series of field visits, inspections and public outreach programmes.

Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma (JKAS), today visited Panchayat Sagra, Block Mankote, where Central Prabhari Officer, Sh. Vivek Gupta, IRS, was on tour of the district besides Additional Deputy Commssioner, Mustafa Malik, SDM



Mendar, Imran Kataria, ACD, Shakeel Amhed Malik, DSEO(Nodal Officer ABP Javid Ahmed, Javid Ahmed, ABP, Ajaz Ahmed, besides Chief Education Officer Mukhtar Manhas, Tehsildar Mankote, Maroof Ahmed Qadri, executive engineers BDOs, Block and other concerned officers was accompanied.

During the visit, the Central Prabhari Officer inspected the Health Centre Government High School, Tehsil Office and Anganwadi Centre to assess service delivery and infrastructure facilities at the grassroots level. SDM Surankote Farood Khan, concerned Tehsildars, conducted Good Governance Week activities and pub lic interactions in their respective jurisdictions. A Public Darbar was organized at Panchayat Sagra, Block Mankote, under the chairmanship of Central Prabhari Officer Sh. Vivek Gupta, IRS, to review the progress of various interventions under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). During the Darbar, issues related to the Health, Social Welfare, Education, Agriculture and allied departments were dis cussed in detail. The Central Prabhari Officer directed the BDO Mankote and BMO Mendhar to conduct inspections of 11 health institutions in Block Mankote and submit a detailed report highlighting infrastructure gaps and bottlenecks. He als instructed the CDPO and ABP Fellow to rectify data discrepancies in the JJM data base and emphasized that corrections are essential for accurate KPI performance.

PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya Rajouri celebrates Annual Day ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Annual Day was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm on Thursday 18 December 2025 in the vidyalaya premises. Students, teachers, and parents partic ipated actively in the event. The programme began with a welcome of chief guest CMS Rawat, DIG SHQ BSF Rajouri and guest of honour Kamal Rawat, Commandant 61 Bn. BSF Rajouri. Programme followed by cultural performances such as dances, skit and patriotic songs presented by students. The chief guest of the function Sh CMS

Rawat , DIG SHQ BSF Rajouri appreciated the talent and confidence of the students. Chief guest of the function CMS Rawat, DIG SHQ BSF Rajouri and guest of honour Kamal Rawat, Commandant 61 Bn. distribued prizes to winners of different events for excellence in academics, Co-scholastic events and sports. The school principal Vikrant Kumar



Sharma presented the Annual Report of Vidyalaya and highlighted the achievements of the school during the year and encouraged students to work hard and maintain dis cipline to achieve heights of success in life. Chief guest of the function CMS Rawat DIG SHQ BSF Rajouri blessed the students and congratulated staff of the Vidyalaya for wonderful performances during the function in his concluding speech The programme ended with a vote of thanks presented by Vinay Sharma, Senior most teacher of the Vidyalay and the National Anthem.

Bharti Airtel announces leadership changes **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Bharti Airtel has announced a planned leadership transition, with Gopa Vittal set to become Executive Vice Chairman effective January 1, 2026. Vittal, who has served as Managing Director & CEO for the past 13 years, will oversee Bhart Airtel and its subsidiaries, while driving group synergies in digital, technology, net work strategy, procurement, talent, and

long-term strategy. As part of the succession plan, Shashwat Sharma, currently CEO designate, will succeed Vittal as Managing Director & CEO of Bharti Airtel India from January 1, 2026. Sharma has worked closely with Vittal over the past year to ensure a smooth transition





and will report to him. Additionally, Soumen Ray, Chief Financial Officer of Bharti Airtel India, will be appointed Group CFO reporting to Vittal. Akhil Garg will take over as CFO o Bharti Airtel India, reporting to Sharma and Ray. Rohit Puri will be appointed Company Secretary & Compliance Officer, while Pankaj Tewari will continue as Group Company Secretary. Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said the transition reflects both continuity and change, expressing confidence that Vittal and Sharma will build on the company's momentum and strengthen Airtel's position as a global telecom leader.