

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Cabinet clears civil...

project, spread over 73.18 acres, will feature a state-of-the-art terminal building spanning 71,500 square meters, including 20,659 square meters of existing structure. The terminal building will be designed to serve 2,900 passengers during peak hours and an annual capacity of 10 million passengers per annum (MPPA).

"The expanded apron will accommodate 15 aircraft parking bays, including 1 wide-body (Code E) (9 existing and 6 proposed), while the 3,658m x 45m runway continues to be operated by the IAF. The project will also include the construction of multi-level car parking facility for 1,000 cars," the release said.

Generally, a civil enclave refers to the area allotted at an airport belonging to any armed force for commercial flights.

According to the release, the project is expected to significantly boost tourism and economic growth by improving connectivity to iconic attractions, including Dal Lake, Shankaracharya Temple, and the Mughal Gardens, thereby generating employment opportunities, stimulating investment, and reinforcing Srinagar's position as a premier tourist and economic destination.

The civil enclave will have various features such as advanced water harvesting systems, maximised natural lighting to reduce energy consumption, and the use of locally-sourced eco-friendly materials to minimize the carbon footprint.

"Architecturally, the new terminal will reflect a harmonious blend of modern design and the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir, incorporating traditional elements such as intricate woodwork and locally inspired craftsmanship while maintaining operational efficiency through streamlined passenger processing areas, spacious lounges, and advanced security and check-in facilities," the release said.

LG thanks PM...

and transforming Srinagar from a beautiful destination into a thriving one.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Sh. Narendra Modi Ji, Jammu Airport's new terminal is set for completion by end of this year. Upon commissioning, the advanced infrastructure in the renowned spiritual city will bolster connectivity and catalyze remarkable economic advancement."

Enhanced aviation infrastructure...

connectivity with the rest of the country but also accelerate economic growth and tourism in the region," the Chief Minister said.

He reiterated that improved connectivity remains central to unlocking the full economic potential of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the approved project will play a pivotal role in positioning the region as a premier tourism and investment destination.

Omar, Farooq ask...

External Affairs has not issued this advisory unnecessarily. If, God forbid, the situation worsens, then it will be an issue for us as to how to evacuate them. So, I appeal to them to take the advisory seriously and leave from there," he added.

To a question on the alleged harassment and eviction threats faced by Kashmiri students studying at CT University in Punjab, the chief minister said he would raise the issue with his counterpart in Punjab.

"I will talk to the Punjab chief minister on this. It must be the University's doing, because the government of Punjab has always supported Jammu and Kashmir. I can say with certainty that the Punjab government will not allow this, and the University will be asked about it," he said, adding, if any Kashmiri student is facing such difficulties, it will be addressed.

Meanwhile, ruling National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah also asked students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in Iran to leave that country immediately, as it would be difficult to evacuate them after the airspace closure.

Abdullah said the students should pack their bags and leave Iran before their parents panic.

"I want to tell the students of Jammu and Kashmir to leave immediately. Otherwise, when the airspace is closed tomorrow, their parents may panic. They should leave before it comes to that. Otherwise, there will be no one to evacuate them. When the advisory has been issued, they should pack their bags and return home," Abdullah said.

The NC president was speaking to reporters after paying tributes to the party's former general secretary, Sheikh Nazir Ahmad, on his eleventh death anniversary at Soura on the outskirts of the city.

Abdullah also wished success to the J-K cricket team, which is playing Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy on Tuesday in its first-ever Ranji finals.

"May God give them success. That is the most important thing. We congratulate them for reaching this far, and hope that they will win the finals," he said.

Asked about the movie Kerala Story 2, Abdullah said, "Let me tell you that we cannot trust our media. It is based on lies and is suppressed by the government. So, talking in front of it holds no significance. First, the media should strengthen its integrity. Until they strengthen their integrity, people will not trust them."

The NC chief said Ahmad sacrificed a lot for the party.

"He was a pillar of strength of the NC. He strengthened the party as its general secretary, the success of which you are seeing today. God willing, I am hopeful that this party will continue to run as its founders envisioned," he said.

Need decisive kinetic...

Sopore Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Iftkhar Talib presented a detailed briefing on the current security environment, counter-terror measures, anti-narcotics operations, and overall law and order management in the district, the spokesperson said.

He said the DGP reviewed operational strategies, intelligence grid, area domination plans, and measures being undertaken to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

Addressing the officers, Prabhat stressed the need for focused and sustained action against elements supporting terrorism.

He called for decisive and uncompromising kinetic operations against Pakistani terrorists, the spokesperson said.

Prabhat emphasised strengthening intelligence generation, maintaining operational momentum and ensuring close coordination among all security agencies, he said.

According to the spokesperson, the DGP appreciated the efforts of Sopore police and urged officers to remain vigilant, proactive and committed to ensuring peace, stability and security in the district.

Northern Army Commander...

campaign spanning nearly a year, officials said.

The killing of Saifullah, a notorious JeM commander, is being seen as a major operational success. He had reportedly infiltrated Jammu and Kashmir nearly five

years ago and had remained active in the region, allegedly masterminding several deadly attacks on security forces, including a July 2024 attack in which four soldiers were killed.

He had also escaped multiple encounters in the past.

Inspector General of Police (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti said on Monday that security forces had neutralised a seven-member JeM terror module, dubbed the "Israel Group," bringing an end to a year-and-a-half-long operation in the Kishtwar belt.

The General Officer Commanding of Counter-Insurgency Force Delta A P S Bal issued a stern warning to anti-national elements.

"My message to anti-national elements is clear - anyone who is an enemy of the nation, wherever they may be and in whatever form, will be identified, targeted and neutralised," he told reporters in Kishtwar.

Elaborate security arrangements...

maintained to counter potential terrorist threats. Checking and surveillance have been stepped up across the Valley, officials said.

Additional checkpoints have been set up at important entry points, especially around the city, and increased patrolling, area domination operations, and surprise inspections are being conducted along vital roadways to prevent any untoward incident, they said.

Vehicles are being randomly checked at entry and exit points of the city, especially on the roads leading to the university, officials said.

They said the security forces have strengthened intelligence gathering mechanisms and are ensuring effective area and night domination.

Counterinsurgency and quick reaction teams have been strategically deployed to ensure a swift response to any emerging situation, they added.

Kashmir Police chief V K Birdi had last week reviewed the security measures in the valley ahead of the vice president's visit.

Birdi, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, chaired a high-level security review meeting at PCR Kashmir here in preparation for the VVIP visit, a police spokesman had said.

During the meeting, detailed security plans were presented and reviewed to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the visit. The IGP Kashmir laid special emphasis on securing critical infrastructure and safeguarding vital installations, the spokesman had said.

Birdi directed officers to enhance security measures across both urban and rural areas of the Valley, with intensified round-the-clock patrolling and strengthened surveillance at key entry and exit points.

The IGP had instructed that personnel be thoroughly briefed on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and that vulnerable areas be closely monitored to enable prompt action against any suspicious activity.

Radhakrishnan will be the chief guest at the convocation and deliver the convocation address in his first visit to Kashmir since assuming office.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of the Kashmir University, Manoj Sinha, will preside over the convocation, while Chief Minister and Pro-Chancellor Omar Abdullah will attend the convocation as the Guest of Honour.

A total of 59,558 degrees, which include 44,910 Undergraduates, 13,545 Postgraduates, 461 MD/MBS, four MCH, 18 M.Phil and 620 Ph.Ds, shall be conferred during the 21st convocation.

Cabinet approves renaming...

state of Kerala as 'Keralam', Vaishnav said.

After approval of Union Cabinet, the president of India will refer a Bill, namely the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to the State Legislative Assembly of Kerala for expressing its views under proviso to Article 3 of the Constitution of India.

After receipt of the views of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, the government of India will obtain the recommendation of the president for introduction of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to alter the name of Kerala as 'Keralam' in Parliament, an official release said.

The Legislative Assembly of Kerala passed a resolution on June 24, 2024 to alter the name of Kerala to 'Keralam'.

"The name of our State is 'Keralam' in Malayalam Language. States were formed on the basis of language on the 1st day of November, 1956. The Kerala Piravi Day is also on the 1st day of November.

"Since the time of National Independence Struggle, there has been a strong demand for the formation of United Kerala for the people speaking Malayalam language. But in the First Schedule to the Constitution the name of our State is recorded as 'Kerala'. This Assembly unanimously appeals to the Central Government to take urgent steps as per Article 3 of the Constitution for modifying the name as 'Keralam', the Kerala Assembly resolution read.

Thereafter, the Kerala government requested the central government to take necessary steps to amend the First Schedule to the Constitution by altering the name of 'Kerala' as 'Keralam' according to Article 3 of the Constitution.

The Article 3 of the Constitution provides for alteration of names of existing states.

According to Article 3, Parliament may by law alter the name of any state. Further proviso to Article 3 states that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the president and unless where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the states, the Bill has been referred by the president to the legislature of that state for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the president may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.

The matter regarding alteration of the name Kerala as Keralam was considered in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and with the approval of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the draft note for the Cabinet for the alteration of name of Kerala as Keralam was circulated to the Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice for their comments.

The Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice have concurred with the proposal for the alteration of name of Kerala' as 'Keralam'.

Over 1,000 doctor ...

contractual basis, utilisation of National Health Mission (NHM) and other centrally sponsored schemes for hiring of specialists, tele-medicine and e-Sanjeevani services for expert consultations, the department said.

These steps are expected to substantially reduce avoidable referrals and improve access to specialist healthcare at the peripheral level.

With the establishment of seven new Government Medical Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir, the department said the referral load to GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar has reduced considerably as major specialist services are now being pro-

evening of February 23, 2026," the spokesperson added.

On his disclosure, the police recovered the diesel stolen from the construction site as well as the vehicle bearing registration No JK06C-6498 that was used in committing the theft.

Further investigation into the matter is currently in progress to trace any accomplices and work out the forward and backward linkages connected to the case.

Drug Peddler arrested, heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu Police today arrested a drug peddler and recovered a quantity of heroin (chitta) in an operation carried out by Police Station Miran Sahib, officials said.

A police spokesperson said that on Tuesday, a team from PS Miran Sahib, led by SHO Miran Sahib Inspector Jatinder Singh, under the supervision of SP Headquarters Jammu and SDPO R S Pura, was conducting naka duty near Dak Bungalow, Miran Sahib at around 1300 hours when they spotted a suspicious person coming from Maralia towards the Dak Bungalow turn. "On noticing the police party, the individual attempted to flee, raising suspicion," the police spokesperson told reporters. "Our alert team intercepted and apprehended him. During questioning, he identified himself as Jagir Singh (S/o Surjit Singh) R/o Darsopur, Miran Sahib, District Jammu."

During the subsequent personal search, police recovered 7.50 grams of heroin-like substance, wrapped in polythene, from his possession. In this regard, a case under FIR No. 30/2026 registered at Police Station Miran Sahib has been filed under Sections 8/21/22

vided in these newly established institutions.

In addition, consultants and medical officers posted at Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are actively delivering services at the peripheral level, thereby minimising routine referrals.

These measures have significantly strengthened the availability of specialist care within the districts and contributed to reducing unnecessary patient transfers to the tertiary hospitals at Jammu and Srinagar, the department said.

Referrals are made to GMC Jammu/Srinagar only in extreme emergencies.

On the paramedical front, the department said 292 vacancies in the non-gazetted/paramedical category from the Directorate of Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Health (MCH), and Immunization have been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment, which stands advertised for making selection of suitable candidates.

Also 290 vacancies in the non-gazetted/paramedical category from the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu have also been referred to the JKSSB for recruitment. Besides 608 posts of Directorate of Health Services, Jammu are also in the process of referral to JKSSB for recruitment, after having concurrence of Finance Department, the department said.

Furthermore, it said 802 non-gazetted, Multi-tasking staff vacancies and sanitation worker posts pertaining to Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir are under examination in the department for further referral to JKSSB. These posts shall be referred after having concurrence of Finance Department.

Bullet-wounded canine...

operation Trashi-I at Kishtwar, assault dog 'Tyson', displayed extraordinary courage by taking the first bullet while leading the entry into the terrorists' hideout. Undeterred by his injuries, he pressed forward and launched a fierce assault, compelling the terrorists to open fire and thereby confirming their presence," the army's White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The army said Tyson's fearlessness enabled troops of White Knight Corps, police, and the CRPF to precisely engage and neutralise the three Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

"Wounded yet in high spirits, alert and recovering well, Tyson exemplifies unwavering devotion to duty - a true warrior and a soldier in every sense," the army said, adding, "the hunt continues - those who seek to disturb peace will find no sanctuary."

After sustaining an injury to one of his front legs, the K9 soldier was evacuated by helicopter and admitted to a veterinary hospital, officials said.

General Officer Commanding of White Knight Corps, Lt Gen P K Mishra, visited Tyson at the veterinary facility and reviewed his medical condition, they said.

The corps commander interacted with the attending veterinary team, directed that the best possible care be ensured, and commended the role of army dog units in counter-terror operations.

JKPSC Civil Judge...

Commission.

The Mains Examination was conducted from November 16 to 26, 2025. Following evaluation, 124 candidates were declared qualified for the interview stage vide Notification dated January 20, 2026.

The viva-voce of 124 candidates was conducted from February 17 to 24, 2026 at the JKPSC office in Jammu.

In its meeting held on Tuesday, the Commission decided to declare the result of 120 candidates who appeared in the interview by notifying their aggregate marks. The result of four candidates has been withheld.

Based on aggregate merit in the written examination and viva-voce, 41 candidates have been shortlisted and directed to report for medical examination before the respective Medical Boards constituted or to be constituted at Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College Srinagar. The schedule for medical examination will be notified separately.

Secretary Bashir Ahmad Dar clarified that "mere calling a candidate for medical examination does not confer any right to final selection. The recommendation shall be subject to fulfillment of all eligibility conditions and satisfactory medical fitness as per rules."

The candidature of one candidate bearing Roll No. 7901909 had earlier been rejected for not producing the EWS certificate in conformity with J&K Reservation Rules. However, the candidate was subsequently interviewed in compliance with orders of the High Court.

The Commission further informed that detailed mark sheets will be uploaded on the official website after completion of the entire examination process and forwarding of the select list to the Government for appointments.

Reiterating the Commission's commitment to merit and transparency, Dar added, "JKPSC remains steadfast in upholding the sanctity of competitive examinations and ensuring that the judicial system is strengthened with competent and deserving officers."

With the declaration of results and commencement of medical examination, the long-awaited recruitment to the entry-level judicial posts in Jammu and Kashmir has entered its final stage.

Development must translate...

daily lives of people.

"From healthcare and sanitation to roads, schools and drinking water, these projects reflect our resolve to ensure comprehensive development of Ganderbal. Our focus is not merely on announcements but on timely execution and quality outcomes," he said.

He emphasized that investments in urban beautification, clean water supply, modern healthcare infrastructure and road connectivity would not only strengthen public services but also create economic opportunities and raise the overall quality of life. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed Mission Yuva disbursement letters worth Rs 55 lakh among beneficiaries.

Later, the Chief Minister held a public interaction at the Dak Bungalow Ganderbal, where he listened to the demands and grievances of people from various areas of the district. Delegations from Phek, Safapora, Manigam, Batvina, Numar, Wakura, Lar, Sherpathri, Yangpora, the Traders Federation Ganderbal, the Health Employees Confederation Ganderbal and other groups apprised him of issues relating to drinking water supply, lift irrigation, upgradation of sports infrastructure, establishment of a fire service station, and improvement of schools, among other demands.

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Qazi Sarwar, Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal Khalil Poswal and other concerned officers accompanied the Chief Minister during the tour. Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana participated in the foundation laying ceremony through virtual mode.

of the NDPS Act, the spokesperson said. "The accused has been arrested and the contraband seized. Further investigation is underway to unearth the nexus and work out forward and backward linkages in the case," he added.

Two drug peddlers arrested; Psychotropic substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SOPORE: Continuing its sustained action against the drug menace, Police in Sopore apprehended two drug peddlers and recovered psychotropic substance from their possession.

During naka checking, a two-wheeler bearing registration number JK05P-6829, coming from Badambagh towards Amargah was intercepted. During search, SpasmoProxylon Plus capsules were recovered from the two persons riding a motorcycle. They have been identified as Riyaz Ahmad Kumar son of Mohammad Ramzan Kumar and Sameer Bashir son of Bashir Ahmad Bhat, both residents of Badambagh Sopore.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 22/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Turzoo, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and wider linkages involved.

| NORTHERN RAILWAY | | | | | | |
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