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## Minister to inspect work at Zojila, Banihal Gadkari releases Rs 1973 cr for Kashmir NH; will visit J&K, Ladakh on Apr 10-11

**\*Work to start on more highways shortly**

**Sanjeev Pargal**  
 JAMMU, Mar 25: Ahead of his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir in April, Union Minister for Road, Transport and National Highways Nitin Gadkari has approved Rs 1973 crore for Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri National Highway works.

Gadkari is scheduled to visit the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on April 10 and 11, official sources told the Excelsior.

Ahead of his visit, the Road and Highways Minister has released Rs 992.43 crore for paved shoulders on two-lane Baramulla Greenfield Bypass on Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri National Highway. He also released Rs 980.21 crore for Pattan Greenfield Bypass on Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri National Highway 01.

He will visit Zojila tunnel being constructed on Srinagar-

Kargil National Highway and inspect the ongoing work on April 10. Deadline fixed for construction of the tunnel is 2026 but there are indications that it might be completed ahead of the timeline.

Construction of Zojila tunnel will link the Union Territory of Ladakh by road for full year. Presently, the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway has to be closed for nearly three to four months of winter due to snowfall around Zojila.

However, construction of the tunnel will facilitate movement of traffic to Ladakh throughout the year which will not only help local people of the Union Territory and tourists but will also serve as boon for troops deployed in Eastern Ladakh and other areas along Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China and Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan as their movement and supplies will not be

interrupted.

On April 11, Gadkari accompanied by Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh will visit Ramban and Banihal and inspect progress on ongoing work along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway where recently T5 tunnel was thrown open for traffic reducing congestion in Panthyal area.

Remaining work on widening of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is likely to be completed shortly after which distance between Jammu and Srinagar will be reduced to four or five hours.

Gadkari is likely to announce launch of work on more highways and roads in Jammu and Kashmir during his two-day visit. He is also expected to inaugurate some works which have been completed.

Rs one lakh crore worth National Highways and tunnels (Contd on page 10 Col 1)

## Project to get Rs 8300 cr Central support NPG nod to Solar Park in Ladakh with Rs 20,700 cr investment

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 25: The Network Planning Group (NPG), a body under PM Gati Shakti, has given nod to construction of Solar Park in the Union Territory of Ladakh with an investment of Rs 20,700 crore which include the Central support of Rs 8300 crore.

Approval of the project will help realize the target of 500 GW capacity from non-fossil fuels by the year 2030 in Ladakh, official sources told the Excelsior.

The project was part of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget address after it was first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech in 2020.

The NPG approved 7500 MW Solar Park in Ladakh by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy envisaging an Inter-State Transmission System for Renewable Energy Projects in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The project has 2026 as deadline for completion and is expected to generate employment and boost economy of Ladakh. It will also bring down the carbon emissions.

The project comprises state-of-the-art VSC based HVDC terminals at Pang in Leh and Kaithal in Haryana along with a 350 kV HVDC line.

The project enables evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW RE through a 5 GW transmission system. With a first of its kind system in the world, a transmission utilization of 76% is expected, the officials said.

"The project will facilitate in abating carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions of the order of 26 million tonnes per year," the officials said.

They said the project is a big step towards achieving the Government of India's target of 500 GW capacity from non-fossil fuels by the year 2030.

The project was examined and recommended by the (Contd on page 10 Col 1)



Construction work underway at Anji Khad bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, during a media preview in Reasi district on Sunday. (UNI)

## Specially designed 'Vande Bharat' for Valley Railway to connect Kashmir by year end: Minister

**Fayaz Bukhari**

SRINAGAR, Mar 25: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw today said that Kashmir will be connected with the rest of the country through rail link by the end of this year and a specially designed 'Vande Bharat' train is being developed for the line.

**\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**



Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Saturday. — Excelsior/Shakeel

Addressing a press conference at the Srinagar Railway Station in the Nowgam area here, the Minister said the Udhampur-Banihal track, connecting Jammu with Srinagar, will be completed by December this year, or early next year.

Vaishnaw said that there is good progress on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line and

The Minister said a specially designed 'Vande Bharat' train is also being developed for this line. "Everything like temperature, snow, has been kept in mind while manufacturing this special train. (Contd on page 10 Col 5)

## Couple detained for links with Papalpreet with Papalpreet

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 25: A couple was detained from RS Pura area here for having links with "Waris Punjab De" head and

**\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

Khalistani preacher Amritpal Singh's mentor Papalpreet Singh.

DySP Headquarters, Dr Sunnija Askhoor Wani told the Excelsior that Amrik Singh and his wife Sarabjeet Kour were detained from Kullian area of RS Pura Tehsil and later handed (Contd on page 10 Col 3)

## One killed, 6 hurt in scrap blast

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SAMBA, Mar 25: One person died while six others were injured in a blast at scrap godown in Bari Brahmana Industrial area this afternoon.

**\*Pic on page 10  
 Video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

The dead and injured were working as labourers and were associated in segregation of scraps along with others. The deceased has been identified as Mohan Lal, 35, resident of Rajouri. His body has been kept (Contd on page 10 Col 3)

## 2 militant associates arrested

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Mar 25: Security forces today arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) in Sumlar area of Bandipora and recovered incriminating materials and two Chinese grenades from their possession.

A police spokesman said that acting on specific information regarding movement of militant associates, police along with I-RR of Army and CRPF at a checkpoint established at Sumlar near Fisheries Farm Bandipora intercepted two sus- (Contd on page 10 Col 1)

## HC seeks personal appearance of top officers

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Mar 25: The High Court has sought personal appearance of top officers of various departments including Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commissioner / Secretaries of Education and Power Development Departments for not implementing the court directions. Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice M A Chowdhary and Justice Moksha Kazmi while dealing (Contd on page 10 Col 7)

## Pendency of cases in HC witnesses decline since 2019 Efficacy of e-Lok Adalats: Disposal rate at 70% in J&K, Ladakh UTs

**Mohinder Verma**

JAMMU, Mar 25: The e-Lok Adalats concept is proving efficacious in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh with disposal rate of cases at 70% as assessed by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA). Moreover, over 7 lakh hearings have been conducted by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Subordinate Judiciary thereby considerably saved time and money besides helping the litigants.

Lok Adalat is organized at such intervals as felt required with a view to reduce pendency of cases in courts and settle disputes at pre-litigation stage. During the Covid pandemic,

the Legal Services Authorities under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) ingeniously integrated technology to move Lok Adalat on to the virtual platform, better known as e-Lok Adalats.

The first e-Lok Adalat was held in Madhya Pradesh on 27.06.2020 and later directions were issued to all the High Courts across the country to start e-Lok Adalats, which are organized simultaneously with regular Lok Adalats and benches are constituted on the basis of volume of cases referred by various courts or tribunals and institutions for pre-litigation cases.

As per NLSA data of period between June 2020 and January

2023, a total of 2281 pre-litigation cases were taken up during e-Lok Adalats out of which 1575 cases were disposed of in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Similarly, a total of 8923 pending cases in courts were taken by during e-Lok Adalats out of which 6291 were settled by the benches. In this way, out of total 11204 cases, 7866 were disposed of and disposal rate has been assessed at 70%.

As directed by the NLSA, Legal Services Authorities of J&K and Ladakh are taking steps to promote e-Lok Adalats which include Standard Operating Procedure for conduct of e-Lok

Adalat, technical training through system officers to court staff, WhatsApp groups for litigants, advocates and respondents for conveying their relevant information/link for attending e-Lok Adalats and video-conferencing link and cause list is displayed on the website of the District Courts.

Not only e-Lok Adalats, even virtual hearing of cases has led to disposal of large number of cases in the Union Territory of J&K and Ladakh and this can be gauged from the official data, which reveals that a total of 716240 hearings have been conducted by J&K and Ladakh High Court as well as District Courts as on (Contd on page 10 Col 1)

## Wintry conditions return as rains, snowfall lash J&K; houses damaged in Rajouri, Reasi

### Road sinks in Reasi, cars hit by tree fall

**Govind Sharma**

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, Mar 25: Wintry conditions returned in Jammu and Kashmir with intermittent rainfall since last evening in plain and hilly areas of Jammu province and snowfall in upper reaches of Kashmir as well as Jammu region, forcing people to take out their warm clothes while as a house was damaged in Rajouri area due to lightning strike and a portion of house damaged due to fall of boulder in Reasi district.

According to weatherman, light to moderate rainfall lashed plain areas of Jammu province

since last evening while fresh snowfall was experienced in high-altitude areas of Jammu division as well as Kashmir province thus dipping the mercury by several notches. Light snowfall was received in Chinta Valley of Doda district, Silthan, Marwa, Warwan and Chatroo areas of Kishtwar, and Bani, Sarthal and Joran Wali Mata

**\*Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

areas of Kathua district. "Higher reaches of Udhampur including Pancheri and Latti, also experienced light snowfall. Snowfall was also witnessed in Pir Ki Gali, Nadiyan and other higher reaches of Poonch district. Mughal Road and Pir Panjal areas of Rajouri district and Mahu, Natha Top, Sanasar and Jawahar Tunnel area in Ramban district also experi- (Contd on page 10 Col 3)



Sula Park-Baradhari Road in Reasi district damaged due to continuous rainfall on Saturday. More pics on page 10. — Excelsior/Romesh Mengi

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