

Jammu Smart City wins 3 national honours at PSU Transformation Awards 2025

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19: Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has earned national recognition for its contributions to urban development and public sector innovation, securing three awards at the 5th PSU Transformation Awards 2025.

The awards were presented at the 5th PSU Transformation Conclave, organised by GovConnect and held in New Delhi on 19 December 2025, following a rigorous jury-led evaluation process.

JSCL received the Nation Builder Award (Gold) for the Development of the Tawi Riverfront Project, acknowledging its role in river rejuvenation, ecological restoration, climate-resilient urban planning, sustainability promotion and generation of economic activity.

Outstanding Leadership in Transformation Award was conferred upon Dr. Devansh Yadav, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, in recognition of his leadership in advancing urban mobility transformation in Jammu region.



In addition, the Rising Star Award was presented to Ashish Anand, Senior General Manager (Finance & Accounts), JSCL, for his contribution in strengthening public-centric green mobility initiatives in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

These recognitions reflect JSCL's continued focus on citizen-oriented infrastructure, sustainable urban mobility, and alignment with national development priorities.

Expressing his appreciation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, stated that the national recognition is a collective achievement of the JSCL team and would further

motivate the organisation to pursue efficient, inclusive, and sustainable urban development in line with national objectives.

Prior to the award ceremony, Sunil Thusu, Director (Projects), JSCL, participated in a panel discussion on "Leading with Purpose in a Transforming India." The session brought together senior leaders from sectors such as transport, ports, urban infrastructure, energy, finance, and digital governance, and underscored the role of purposeful leadership in innovation, institutional capacity-building, and alignment with national missions.

In another panel discussion titled "Future-Proofing Public Sector IT: Emerging Trends and Technologies," Ashish Anand, Senior General Manager (F&A), JSCL, shared perspectives on enhancing public sector IT ecosystems through emerging technologies, digital resilience, and future-ready governance frameworks to improve efficiency, transparency, and sustainability across PSUs.

Rajesh Abrol, Senior General Manager (Civil), JSCL, and Engineer-in-Charge of the Tawi Riverfront Development Project, also accompanied the JSCL delegation.

The conclave was co-hosted under the themes of Ease of Doing Business and Viksit Bharat, with participation from leading public sector organisations including Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, GAIL, REC, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), HUDCO, SCI, BEML, TCIL, HSL, MECON Limited, CRIS, NRDC, Indian Ports Association, OPTCL, among others.

PM, Union Ministers, Priyanka Gandhi, Others Meet Speaker Birla After Lok Sabha Adjourned Sine Die

NEW DELHI, DEC 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, NCP-SP's Supriya Sule and other leaders met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in his chamber after the Winter Session of Parliament was adjourned sine die on Friday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Ministers K Ram Mohan Naidu, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Chirag Paswan, and Pralhad Joshi joined the Speaker over tea.

"After the conclusion of the sixth session of the 18th Lok Sabha, a pleasant conversation took place with the Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and esteemed leaders of all parties," Birla said in a post on X.

The Winter Session of Parliament began on December 1 and concluded on Friday, with the Lok Sabha sittings for a cumulative du-



ration of 92 hours and 25 minutes, marking 111 per cent productivity.

Ten government bills were introduced, and eight bills were passed, including those for reforms in the civil nuclear, insurance, and health-care sectors, among others.

Parliament also passed a bill to replace the MGN-REGA rural jobs scheme

with the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill.

The Lok Sabha also passed the Supplementary Demands for Grants – First Batch, 2025–26 and the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill. The Prime Minister initiated a discussion to commemorate the completion of 150 years

of the national song "Vande Mataram". The House discussed the subject for 11 hours and 32 minutes, during which 65 Members participated.

Similarly, the issue of Electoral Reforms was discussed on December 9 and 10 for approximately 13 hours, with the participation of 63 members. (Agencies)

ED Files Fresh Chargesheet Against Chinese Gaming App That Operated During Covid Period

NEW DELHI, DEC 19: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a fresh chargesheet against an online gaming app that was being operated by Chinese nationals in India during the Covid pandemic years, leading to "fraudulent" generation of Rs 400 crore from the players.

The first prosecution complaint (chargesheet) against the application named 'Fiewin' was filed by the federal probe agency in October 2024, before a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court located in Kolkata.

The agency had arrested three persons and attached assets worth Rs 26 crore in

the past.

The supplementary chargesheet was filed on December 8 before the same court and two persons – Utkarsh Arya and Sujit Kumar Jha –, and 12 companies "beneficially owned" by Jha have been named as accused, the ED said in a statement.

These companies, the federal probe agency alleged, were used as a corporate structure to conceal the proceeds of crime generated by Fiewin gaming app operators, and this was projected as "business income".

"This gaming app was projected as an app to make fast and easy money and was marketed through YouTube,

Facebook and other digital mechanisms. The app itself involved simplistic games like minesweeper, colour prediction, based totally on luck without any role of skills of the player," the probe agency said.

Investigation revealed, the agency said, that Chinese nationals were operating the app with the help and support of Indian nationals. The accused and their associated companies used to transact the proceeds of crime with the Chinese nationals, receiving and sending money through cryptocurrency.

The funds obtained from gullible online gamers were deposited into the bank accounts of various people

(called recharge persons) who had allowed the use of their accounts by the app owners in lieu of a certain commission, according to the ED investigation.

About Rs 400 crore was generated from the Fiewin app "fraud" and credited into Binance wallets (a global crypto exchange) in the names of Chinese nationals.

The ED found that the Chinese nationals used to communicate and instruct the accused through digital platforms, especially Telegram groups.

The money laundering case stems from an FIR filed at the Cossipore police station in Kolkata. (Agencies)

G RAM G Bill 'Anti Village', Modi Govt Demolished 20 Years Of MGNREGA In One Day: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DEC 19: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the Modi government of demolishing 20 years of MGNREGA in a single day, and dubbed the new VB-G RAM G legislation as "anti village".

Noting that the VB-G RAM G Bill is not a "revamp" of MGNREGA, Gandhi said in a post on X, "Last night, the Modi government demolished twenty years of MGNREGA in one day.

"It demolishes the rights-based, demand-driven guarantee and turns it into a rationed scheme which is controlled from Delhi. It is anti-state and anti-village by design." The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also said that MGNREGA gave the rural worker bargaining power.

"With real options, exploitation and distress migration fell, wages increased, working conditions improved, all while building and reviving rural infrastructure. That leverage is precisely what this government wants to break," Gandhi alleged.



He said by capping work and creating more ways to deny it, the VB-G RAM G Bill weakens the one instrument the rural poor had.

"We saw what MGNREGA meant during Covid. When the economy shut down and livelihoods collapsed, it kept crores from falling into hunger and debt," Gandhi claimed.

It helped women the most – year after year, with women contributing more than half the person-days, the Congress leader said.

"When you ration a jobs programme, it is women, Dalits, Adivasis, landless workers and the poorest OBC communities who get pushed out first," he said.

"To top it all, this law was bulldozed through Parliament without proper scrutiny. The opposition's demand to send the Bill to a standing committee was rejected.

A law that rewires the rural social contract, affecting crores of workers, should never be rammed through without serious committee scrutiny, expert consultation, and public hearings.

"PM Modi's targets are clear: Weaken labour, weaken the leverage of rural India, especially Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis, centralise power, and then sell slogans as reform," Gandhi said.

Asserting that MGNREGA

was among the most successful poverty alleviation and empowerment programmes in the world, he said, "We will not let this government destroy the rural poor's last line of defence. We will stand with workers, panchayats, and states to defeat this move and build a nationwide front to ensure this law is withdrawn." Parliament on Thursday night passed the VB-G RAM G Bill that seeks to replace the 20-year-old MGNREGA and guarantees 125 days of rural wage employment every year amid vociferous protests by the opposition.

The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote late on Thursday night, hours after the Lok Sabha cleared it, amid strong protests by the opposition over the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the existing rural employment guarantee scheme and accusing the government of putting the financial burden on states. (Agencies)

Cyclone-hit Sri Lanka's recovery fund exceeds SLR 4 billion: Official

COLOMBO, DEC 19: Cyclone-hit Sri Lanka's rebuilding fund has exceeded SLR 4.2 billion through contributions, a top finance ministry official said on Friday.

President Anura Kumara Disسانayake constituted the 'Rebuild Sri Lanka Fund' in the immediate aftermath of the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

"Based on the update that has been received from the Treasury Operations Department of the Ministry of Finance, we are happy to share that as of today the total amount received is SLR 4,286 million, which comprises of deposits of SLR 4,263 million direct deposits into the bank accounts as well as SLR 23 million received in foreign currencies, signifying a total of over SLR 4.2 billion rupees," Harshana Suriyapperuma said. He added that the amount equals USD 13.86 million.

The amount received in foreign currencies itself had exceeded USD 6 million, he



said. Contributions had come from well-wishers, supporters, Sri Lankan entrepreneurs, organisations, businesses, overseas Sri Lankans, and other organisations assisting the island nation at the moment, he said.

Suriyapperuma said the government was aware of the moves by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Develop-

ment Bank and many other organisations to grant assistance to Sri Lanka for its rebuilding efforts.

The money received through the bank accounts collected through North America was ranked at the highest position, followed by donations and contributions received from Australia, China, and the UK, Suriyapperuma said.

The Sri Lankan parliament is expected to give its nod to the SLR 500 billion

supplementary estimate later today to cover the recovery expenditure.

The cost of recovery is expected to be around USD 6-7 billion, according to the government's preliminary estimates.

Widespread flooding, landslides and severe infrastructure collapse across the island nation severely strained the country's disaster-response capacity in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah. (PTI)

Cash-For-Query: Delhi HC Sets Aside Lokpal Order Against Mahua Moitra

NEW DELHI, DEC 19: The Delhi High Court on Friday set aside an order of the Lokpal granting sanction to the CBI to file a chargesheet against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the alleged cash-for-query scam.

A bench of justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar, while pronouncing the order in Moitra's plea, said "The order is set aside. We have requested the Lokpal to accord consideration for grant of sanction under Section 20 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act in accordance with the relevant provisions within one month".

The cash-for-query scam pertains to the allegation that Moitra had asked questions in the House in exchange for cash and gifts from a businessman.

Moitra's counsel had contended that there was clear



infirmity in the procedure adopted by the Lokpal. He had referred to Section 20(7) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act saying it demands that comments of public servants be obtained before granting sanction.

The plea was opposed by the CBI, which had argued that Moitra has no right to produce documents in the

Lokpal's proceedings and she is only entitled to give comments and not even an oral hearing.

Moitra has also sought to restrain the CBI from taking any steps in furtherance of the sanction order, including but not limited to filing any chargesheet during the pendency of the present proceedings.

Putin tells his annual news conference that Kremlin's military goals will be achieved in Ukraine

MOSCOW, DEC 19: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Moscow's troops were advancing across the battlefield in Ukraine, voicing confidence that the Kremlin's military goals would be achieved.

Speaking at his highly orchestrated year-end news conference, Putin declared that Russian forces have "fully seized strategic initiative" and would make more gains by the year's end.

Russia's larger, better-equipped army has made slow but steady progress in Ukraine in recent months.



The annual live news conference is combined with a nationwide call-in show that offers Russians across the country the opportunity to ask questions of Putin, who

has led the country for 25 years. Putin has used it to cement his power and air his views on domestic and global affairs. This year, observers are

watching for Putin's remarks on Ukraine and the US-backed peace plan there.

US President Donald Trump has unleashed an extensive diplomatic push to end nearly four years of fighting after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, but Washington's efforts have run into sharply conflicting demands by Moscow and Kyiv.

Putin reaffirmed that Moscow was ready for a peaceful settlement that would address the "root causes" of the conflict, a reference to the Kremlin's tough conditions for a deal.