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**کاغذات کی گمشدگی**  
 میری گاڑی (i 10 magna) 8030 - JK01L (RC) کی کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈسٹروئڈ نے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے دے دے۔ نمبر پر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر RTO کشمیر سرینگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازیں میٹا کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 Yaqoot Malik W/o Malik Manzoor Ahmad  
 R/o Habib colony Baghat Srinagar  
 MCB

**Public Notice.**  
 It is inform to general public that i want to correct spelling of my name/parantage/Residence in my driving licence bearing no JK-1820160012963 from Masroor Aubaid Hussain s/o Mohammad Ramzan Mir R/o Chandiyan Pajan Kulgam to Masroor Aubaid Hussain s/o Mohd. Ramzan Mir R/o Chandiyan Pajan Kulgam. In this connection if any body having objection he may contact to ARTO Kulgam within 07 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Masroor Aubaid Hussain  
 S/o Mohd Ramzan Mir  
 Chandiyan Pajan Kulgam  
 fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name and DOB in her Adhar Card Vide Aadhar No:- 4318 7341 9791 has been wrongly mentioned as Marfat Reyaz .DOB .01.01.2014 instead of Morifat Reyaz .DOB .10.03.2014. Now I am applying for its Correction as per school & Birth Certificate (DOB) record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.  
 Reyaz Ahmad Dar F/O. Morifat Reyaz  
 R/O :- Unisoo .Tehsil .Langate  
 Distt : Kupwara .Pin Code. 193302 .  
 fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name & Date of Birth (DOB) in her Aadhar Card Vide Aadhar No:- 5998 9446 1790. has been wrongly mentioned as Annul Islam .DOB .26.01.2018 instead of Khajia Anabiya Bint Altaf .DOB 11.07.2018 . Now I am applying for its Correction as per school & Birth Certificate (DOB) record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.  
 Khajia Altaf Hussain  
 F/O. Khajia Anabiya Bint Altaf  
 R/O :- Wulrama .Tehsil .Langate Distt : Kupwara .  
 Pin Code 193302 .  
 fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Srinagar.**  
 | Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org

**CANCELLATION NOTICE**  
 Subject: - Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of MRF equipment's for establishment of Solid Waste Management Facility at Municipal Council Pulwama.  
 Reference:- This Office e-NIT No: MDS/TS /2024-25/ 75 Dated: 06.12.2024. (Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK-267210\_2)  
 Due to non responsive bids , the above subject e-NIT is hereby cancelled.  
 Sd/  
 Executive Engineer,  
 Machinery Division Kashmir.  
 No: MDSK /TS-201/5982-85  
 DIPK-11432/24  
 Date: 01.02.2025

**Office of the Principal Govt Degree College Frisal Homeshalibugh , Kulgam 192232**  
 No: GDCC/Magazmd/25/85 dated 01-02-2025  
**Extension of Date of Submission of CDR for Publishing College Magazine.**  
 Due to poor response to the tender notice for publishing the College Magazine the tender Mot ice for which has been published in the News papers Dated 17/01/2025 is now being extended for a week from the date of publication of this extension Notice. Terms and Conditions will remain the same.  
 Principal  
 Govt Degree College  
 Frisal Kulgam  
 DIPK-11445/24  
 dated: 01-02-2025

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT JAMMU/SRINAGAR**  
**BULLETIN**  
 Jammu, January 30th, 2025  
 The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in exercise of the powers conferred upon him under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 has summoned the Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir to meet at Jammu on Monday, the 3rd of March, 2025 at 10.00 A.M. All the Hon'ble Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly are, accordingly requested to send:-  
 a) not more than ten starred and ten un-starred Questions in relaxation of Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by or before 10th of February, 2025.  
 b) not more than 3 Bills in relaxation of sub-rule (3) of Rule 65 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by or before 10th of February, 2025.  
 c) not more than 4 Resolutions in terms of Rule 174 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by or before 16th of February, 2025.  
 (Manoj Kumar Pandit) Secretary  
 No. LA. 45-65/legn/2025  
 DIPK-11425/24  
 Dated: 01/02/2025

**NOTICE**  
 I, have changed my name from (Old Name) Hajra W/o Mohammad Ashraf Butt R/o Hubby Colony 90 feet Road Behind Police Station, Srinagar to (New Name) Hajira W/o Mohd Ashraf Bhat R/o Sofi Mohalla, Vicharnagh Srinagar Nowshara 190011. In Future i will be known as Hajira W/o Mohd Ashraf Bhat R/o Sofi Mohalla, Vicharnagh Srinagar Nowshara 190011. If anybody is having objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media Line Ads

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**  
 Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420150025460 issued in favour of MUDASIR AHMAD MIR Parentage MOHAMMAD YOSUF MIR Whereas an application has been received by one MUDASIR AHMAD MIR Parentage MOHAMMAD YOSUF MIR wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD YOUSHE MIR Which needs to be changed as MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MIR Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.  
 Assistant Regional Transport officer  
 Budgam Kashmir  
 mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I Rayees Ahmad Wagay S/o Abdul Rashid Wagay R/o Pinjoora Shopian want to correct name and DOB of my son which has been wrongly mentioned as Abdul Manan in adhaar records instead of Manan Rayees and DOB has been wrongly entered as 02-06-2019 instead of 02-06-2021. Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the concerned Office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 fko\_r

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is informed to the General public that my Son's name & Date of Birth (DOB) in his Aadhar Card Vide Aadhar No:- 6557 8751 3285 . has been wrongly mentioned as Khawaja Jaharul Altaf Sadeeqi .DOB .27.07.2016 instead of Khaja Jahanzaib Mukhtar .DOB 11.07.2018 . Now I am applying for its Correction as per school & Birth Certificate (DOB) record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.  
 Khajia Altaf Hussain  
 F/O. Khaja Jahanzaib Mukhtar  
 R/O :- Wulrama .Tehsil .Langate  
 Distt : Kupwara .Pin Code 193302 .  
 fko

**NOTICE**  
 I, have changed my name from (Old Name) Mohd Ashraf Bhat S/o Abdul Ghani Bhat & Zeba H/o Hajra R/o Hubby Colony 90 feet Road Soura, Srinagar to (New Name) Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/o Abdul Gani Bhat & Zeba H/o Hajira R/o Sofi Mohalla, Vicharnagh Srinagar Nowshara 190011. In Future i will be known as Mohammad Ashraf Bhat S/o Abdul Gani Bhat & Zeba H/o Hajira R/o Sofi Mohalla, Vicharnagh Srinagar Nowshara 190011. If anybody is having objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media Line Ads

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.**  
 Sub.issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth. Public Notice.  
 The registrar birth EO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Gazi Abass Dar s/o Sarwar Ali Dar R/o Haigam Tehsil Kohie distt baramulla with verified date of birth 18/06/2020 occurred at SDH pattan. in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
 FKO SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I am applying for the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate of my daughter namely Muntaha Tajamul (D.O.B 29-11-2022) if anybody having any objection He/She may contact for the same at Tehsildar Baramulla within 07 days seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
 Tajamul Islam Dar  
 F/O Muntaha Tajamul  
 R/O Kanispora Baramulla  
 jm

**Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri**  
 Subject Application of Ghulam Mohiuddin Pandit S/o Mohammad Ashaq Pandit R/o Authoora Reshipora for issuance of Inome Dependent Certificate  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwal halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of 10 members and the annual income of the applicant family from all sources consists of Rs 1,10,000 (One Lack Ten Thousand Rupees) The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:  

S No	Name of the family Member	Relation with the Family Head	Age	Occupation	Status
01	Ghulam Mohiuddin Pandit	Self	50	Labour	Married
2	Fatima Begum	Wife	48	H/W	Married
03	Zahid Hussain Pandit	Brother	39	Disable	Un-Married
4	Jameela Mohiuddin	Daughter	22	diSABLE	--
5	Isahat Fatimah	Dughter	21	Student	--
6	Zeeshan Pandith	Son	19	--	--
7	Nusrat Mohiuddin	Daughter	14	--	--
8	Shahida Akhter	--	11	--	--
9	Jozliya Akhter	--	10	--	--
10	Farhan Hussain	Son	7	--	--

 it is further submitted that Ghulam Mohiuddin Pandit S/o Mohammad Ashaq Pandith is labour by profession and is sole earning hand in the said family. The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of Marriage Assistance scholarship for Isahat Fatima Therefore, through this Public Notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 deys (Sevcn days ) positively from the date the notice has been published No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.  
 fko Naib Tehsildar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG**  
 EMAIL: djanantnag@gmail.com : Phone / Fax 01932-237004 (Office)  
**e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS TO DISTRICT JAIL ANANTNAG**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Fresh E-NIT No: 04/2025 Date: 01-02-2025  
 1. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tender through online mode are invited from eligible vendors / firms possessing valid licence for execution of Rate Contract ( valid for the year 2025) for supplies of miscellaneous items as mentioned in Annexure 'K' of this bid document .  
 2. Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of items, quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract, and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the websites www.jktenders.gov.in and www.jkprisons.in  
 3. Schedule of tender:  

a	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.02.2025
b	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.02.2025 from 1600 Hrs to 07.02.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
c	Bid submission Start Date and time	01.02.2025 from 1600 Hrs
d	Bid submission End Date and time	07.02.2025 upto 1600 Hrs
e	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids in online mode	08.02.2025, 1200 Hrs in the office of Superintendent, District Jail Anantnag.

 4. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) :  
 (Note: Same Tender fee & EMD will be entertained for those bidders who have participated in e-NIT No. 03 of 2025 Dated 11-01-2025.)  
 1. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) :  
 a. An amount of 500/- towards cost of tender fee has to be deposited by the bidder in the shape of Treasury Receipt in the following Major Head:  
 b. Major Head : 0056 (Jails)  
 Paid on behalf of : Superintendent District Jail Anantnag.  
 Scanned copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.  
 Sd/-  
 Superintendent,  
 District Jail Anantnag  
 DIPK-11442/24  
 dated: 01-02-2025

Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 (Short term)  
**e-NITNo. 54of2024-25**  
 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UtOf J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore, invites-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/Consortiums betweenbidder/firm and Financier of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electro-mechanical equipment at various Water Supply Schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore". The bidding process shall be completed online on https://jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.  

S. No.	Description of work	Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)	Tender document Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money deposit	Time of completion (Days)
1.	Various left out mechanical and electrical works of lift WSS Saidpora Dangerpora under NRDWPP/JJM	51.105	Rs 500.00	02% of the estimated cost of work	45 Days

 Position of funds : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)  
 The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division North Sopore.  
 The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).  
 Critical Dates:  
 I Publish Date 31-01-2025 (10:00 am)  
 II Bid submission start date 31-01-2025 (10:00 am)  
 III Bid submission end date 07-02-2025 (06:55 pm)  
 IV Date and time of Bid Opening 08-02-2025 (11:00 am)  
 1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in  
 2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal https://jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the mon the tender portal.  
 3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.  
 4. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document and shall be payable at Srinagar.  
 a. Earnest Money Deposit shall be uploaded separately against each work instead. However, to ensure due performance of the contract, Performance Security is to be obtained from the successful bidder.  
 b. The cost of tender documents should be inform of Treasury Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore.  
 5. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipts, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.  
 6. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer with-draws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.  
 7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website https://jktenders.gov.in  
 8. Queries by email if any, should be made at phe.mdns2@gmail.com  
 No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/7452-57  
 DIPK-11422/24 Dated: 01-02-2025  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

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BOOK  
APPOINTMENT

## UNION BUDGET 2025-26

# Big Relief For Taxpayers, No Income Tax Up To Rs 12 Lakh

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Feb 1: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday announced significant income tax cuts for the middle class and unveiled a blueprint for next generation reforms for Viksit Bharat as she treaded a fine line between fiscal prudence and providing a thrust to growth.

Individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh in a year will not have to pay any taxes after she raised the exemption threshold from Rs 7 lakh. An additional Rs 75,000 standard deduction is available for the salaried class.

Presenting her eighth straight budget, she also altered tax slabs for people earning above this threshold to help save up to Rs 1.1 lakh in taxes for those with income up to Rs 25 lakh in a year.

The raising of the rebate leads to 1 crore people not having to pay any tax, she said.

The overall tax slab regime will benefit 6.3 crore people,



or more than 80 per cent of taxpayers.

"The new structure will substantially reduce taxes on

the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment,"

Sitharaman said presenting what was dubbed as 'reformist' budget for the next fiscal in Lok Sabha.

The Budget for April 2025 to March 2026 fiscal (FY26) proposed to raise foreign investment limit in insurance sector to 100 per cent from current 74 per cent and continued spending spree on infrastructure while raising allocations for social sectors as well as providing for measures for poor, youth, farmers and women.

All this she did while managing to stick to the fiscal consolidation roadmap, projecting a fiscal deficit of 4.4 per cent of the GDP in FY26 as against an estimated 4.8 per cent in the current year ending March 31.

Commenting on the announcements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is a "people's budget" that fulfils the dreams of every Indian and said that it is a "force-multiplier" that will boost consumption. | More on P6

## Here is How Salaried Class will Benefit from New Tax Regime

Agenceis

Individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually will not have to pay any income tax under the new tax regime as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday gave relief to middle class by raising exemption limit and rejigging slabs.

For salaried employees, this nil tax limit will be Rs 12.75 lakh per annum, after taking into account a standard deduction of Rs 75,000.

Higher exemptions and rejigs have been effected under the new income tax regime. "I am now happy to

announce that there will be no income tax payable up to income of Rs 12 lakh (i.e. average income of Rs 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime," the finance minister said.

"The new structure will substantially reduce the taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands, boosting household consumption, savings and investment," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

As per the rejig, for people earning more than Rs 12 lakh per annum, there will be nil tax for income up to Rs 4 lakh. | More on P6



## Budget 2025: What Got Costlier & Cheaper

Press Trust of India

New Delhi- Imported life saving drugs and medicines used in the treatment of cancer, rare and other severe chronic diseases, along with imported premium cars and motorcycles, are set to become cheaper with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing cuts in customs duty in the Union Budget 2025-26.

However, certain items like interactive flat panel (touch screen) displays imported as fully built units and certain knitted fabrics will become costlier due to increase in basic customs duties.

The following is a list of items set to become cheaper and costlier.

"Imported cars priced over USD 40,000 or engine capacity of more than 3,000 cc

"Imported motorcycles as completely built (CBU) unit with engine capacity not exceeding 1600cc

"Motorcycles with engine capacity not exceeding 1600cc imported in semi-knocked down (SKD) form

"Motorcycles with engine capacity not exceeding 1600cc imported in completely knocked down form

"Imported motorcycles with engine capacity of 1600cc and above in CBU form

"Motorcycles with engine capacity of 1600cc and above in SKD form | More on P6

## Mixed Reaction From Kashmir Inc

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Centre proposing allocation of Rs 41000.07 crore to Jammu & Kashmir in the 2025-26 Union Budget evoked a mixed response from the business community in the Union Territory.

Some traders welcomed key initiatives like tax relief and MSME support, while others voiced concerns over reduced financial allocations and the absence of a special economic package to revive the struggling industrial sector.

The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA)—expressed its strong approval to the Union Budget highlighting the enhancement of the income tax slab to Rs 12 lakh.

KTA President Aijaz Shahidhar in a statement, said, "The KTA believes that this increase will provide much-needed relief to taxpayers, allowing them to retain a larger portion of their hard-earned income."

President of the Kashmir

Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCC&I), Javid Tenga voiced concern over the Rs 1,200 crore 'reduction' in the budget compared to the previous year.

He said the trade body had expected an increase of at least 20-25% to support development and fund inflows in the region. "We are disappointed because we were expecting a boost in financial allocations. This reduction raises serious concerns about how development will take place and how funds will be generated for various sectors," Tenga said.

However, he acknowledged some positive aspects at the central level, particularly the increase in the Credit Guarantee Fund for MSMEs from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore and the enhancement of the Prime Minister's Mudra Scheme from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

He said these steps would benefit young entrepreneurs, especially given | More on P6

## J&K Gets Rs 41,000 Crore Central Assistance

Ladakh gets Rs 4692 Crore Budget

Agenceis

New Delhi, Feb 1: The Centre has allocated Rs 41,000.07 crore to Jammu and Kashmir in the Union Budget for 2025-26, which is almost the same as the revised estimate for the 2024-25 fiscal.

Additionally, the Jammu and Kashmir Police -- directly controlled by the Union home ministry since the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of the erstwhile state



-- will receive Rs 9,325.73 crore, up from Rs 8,665.94 crore in 2024-25.

In the budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on Saturday, Rs 40,619.30 crore has been

allocated as central assistance to meet the resource gap in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rs 279 crore has been allocated as grants towards contribution to the Union Territory Disaster Response Fund and Rs 101.77 crore as support for capital expenditure.

The Centre had allocated Rs 42,277.74 crore to Jammu and Kashmir for the 2024-25 fiscal that was later revised downwards to Rs 41,000.07 crore. In the 2023-24 fiscal, the allocation for Jammu and Kashmir was Rs 41,751.44 crore.

The allocation | More on P6

## J&K Police Gets 9325 Cr in Union Budget

The Government of India has allocated Rs 9325 crore for the Jammu & Kashmir Police, which is under the administrative control of the Union Home Ministry, in the Union Budget for 2025-26. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) demands for grants for 2025-26, Rs 9325.73 crore have been allocated to the J&K Police in the Union Budget. Of this amount, Rs 8897.72 crore has been earmarked for the revenue expenditure | More on P6

## NC Satisfied, Congress, PC Critical

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The ruling National Conference on Saturday expressed satisfaction over some of the announcements made in the Union Budget 2025 while the other parties including Congress, Peoples Conference and CPI (M) criticised the financial plan.

NC Spokesman and MLA Zaidal, Tanvir Sadiq while speaking to the media persons here said that some of the reforms in the Budget were positive.

However, he said that Jammu and Kashmir should be included in the 50 new tourist destinations and medical tourism. "We are expecting J&K to be included in it," he said.

Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra said it has ignored the genuine case of youth of J&K for special attention.

"The union budget has

ignored J&K in terms of the special focus needed here to give relief to worst suffering people especially the youth in special circumstances prevailing in this border region and rather the budget focussed more on Bihar & Delhi for political considerations," he said.

In his stinging remarks on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over Jammu & Kashmir's allocation, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone said that it is time for him to seek the return of shawls gifted by him to Union Ministers and revise his cloudless weather commentary made at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district.

In a post on X, Lone pointed out that there has been a reduction in J&K's allocation in the Union Budget. "The proposed allocation to J&K in the Union Budget is approximately 41,000 crores. It is approximately 1,000 crore less than the previous allocation. | More on P6

## LG hails Union Budget for 2025-26

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hailed the Union Budget for 2025-2026, presented by the Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in Parliament on Saturday. The Lieutenant Governor has posted on X: "My heartfelt thanks to Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for a pragmatic Budget for Viksit Bharat. Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji for putting economy on a fast-track and bold development initiatives for poor, youth, farmers and women.

Big boost to the middle class. The revised tax rate structure is a historic move to bring change in the lives of | More on P6

## Ayub Posted Deputy Secretary in DoPT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of India has posted Arshad Ayub Sheikh, Inspector General Registration Department, as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Personnel & Training, Delhi under the Central Staffing Scheme for a tenure upto 31.10.2028.

Ayub, who has served as special secretary to three chief secretaries of J&K and was later inducted into IAS, was recommended for Central deputation by the Ministry of Home Affairs, reads the order issued by Department of Personnel & Trainings, Government of India.

The order states that as per



Appointments Committee of Cabinet's circular dated August, 17, 2005, an officer should join the post within three weeks from the date of issue of DoP&T's appointment order, failing which the process of debarment from the central staffing Scheme shall be initiated.



## Fresh Snow, Rain Ends Dry Spell in Kashmir

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches and rain in the plains ended the prolonged dry spell in the Kashmir valley, with the Meteorological Department forecasting a possibility of more precipitation over the next four days.

Intermittent snowfall was reported in the higher reaches of Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara and Sonmarg districts of the valley, officials said.

They said traces of snowfall were seen early morning in some parts of | More on P6

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Tourists called it "exotic." Designers called it "versatile." Influencers called it "#SustainableFashion." They stripped it of its quiet dignity, stuffed it with sequins and embroidery, and called it art. They forgot—or perhaps never knew—that the Pheran wasn't just a piece of clothing



# Pheran Fashion?

*Oh, the Misappropriation!*

MAHOOR HAYA SHAH

**T**hey stole it, the Pheran. Not the fabric, not the wool, not the thread—but the soul of it. They dragged it from the dusty alleys of downtown Srinagar, from its smoky kangris and the whispers of grandmothers by the fire, into boutiques with names like 'Artisanal Kashmir' and 'Rustic Reverie'. Suddenly, this winter armor of the valley, this shapeless, timeless robe of resilience, had price tags and runway struts, slapped with labels that read 'Bohemian chic' or 'Ethnic elegance.' And it burned. Like the ember hidden in a kangri basket—it burned.

The Pheran was never meant to be glamorous. It wasn't meant for billboards or Instagram hashtags. It was meant for survival. It's what you wore when the snow suffocated the world outside. When the mountains turned white, and the air cut like knives, the Pheran was what saved you. It carried the smell of home: smoke from wood fires, the sharp musk of almond oil, and the faint tang of survival. But now? Now it reeks of appropriation.

I remember my grandmother's Pheran. It hung off her small, hunched frame like a second skin. The cuffs were frayed, the fabric patched in places where time had gnawed at it. She'd sit by the window, cradling her

their cameras and notebooks. Tourists called it "exotic." Designers called it "versatile." Influencers called it "#SustainableFashion." They stripped it of its quiet dignity, stuffed it with sequins and embroidery, and called

you pulled over your shivering shoulders as you prayed for the snow to stop. It was what you wore to funerals, to weddings, to the fields, and to the markets. It was what the poets wrote about and what the laborers worked in. It

“**So if you must wear it, wear it with respect. Wear it with the knowledge that it doesn't belong to you. Wear it knowing that it carries stories too heavy for your shoulders. And if you can't do that? Leave it alone. Let it stay in the valley, where it belongs, hanging off the shoulders of people who carry the weight of history in every thread**

kangri like it was a living thing, mumbling a prayer or a story in Kashmiri that always sounded like poetry. This was the Pheran. A testimony to lives lived in defiance of winters that tried to kill them.

But then came the outsiders with

it art. They forgot—or perhaps never knew—that the Pheran wasn't just a piece of clothing. It was a rebellion. A refusal to freeze, to falter, to disappear under the weight of snow and time.

The Pheran wasn't just a garment—it was a way of life. It was what

was both the armor of the Kashmiri man and the sanctuary of the Kashmiri woman, a home within a home, stitched with secrets and strength.

But now, the Pheran stands in glass display cases, sold to those who will never understand its weight. It's paraded

in places where it doesn't belong, worn by those who will never feel the sting of Kashmiri winter. It has been renamed, rebranded, and resold—but what they sell isn't the Pheran. It's a hollow shell of what it once was.

I saw a fashion show once, online. The models walked down the runway in their bastardized versions of the Pheran—tailored at the waist, bedazzled with rhinestones, worn over skinny jeans and stilettos. And the crowd clapped. They clapped for something they didn't understand. I sat there, staring at the screen, thinking of the old man in Sopore who wore his faded, soot-streaked Pheran as he sold walnuts on the roadside. I thought of the young girl in Anantnag who hid her kangri beneath hers, warming her hands as she walked to school. I thought of the artisans in Rainawari, their hands raw from spinning wool in the dead of winter, who crafted these robes not as fashion statements but as shields.

To wear a Pheran is to carry the history of a valley. It's to wrap yourself in the memories of those who strove to keep their culture alive in a world that seems determined to erase it. It's to wear Kashmir.

And yet, despite it all, the Pheran survives. It endures. Because that's what it was always meant to do—endure. It's a quiet rebellion against the cold, against the theft of culture, against forgetting.

So if you must wear it, wear it with respect. Wear it with the knowledge that it carries stories too heavy for your shoulders. And if you can't do that? Leave it alone. Let it stay in the valley, where it belongs, hanging off the shoulders of people who carry the weight of history in every thread.

The Pheran doesn't need sequins. It doesn't need a rebranding campaign. What it needs is what it has always needed: to be left alone, to keep its people warm, and to hold its stories close, far away from the spotlight.

Because the Pheran isn't a trend. It's a testament. A reminder that, in the coldest of winters, Kashmir still finds a way to survive.

*The author is a Srinagar-based columnist. Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*

## Islam on Trial in India



Shashi Tharoor

**I**n early January, India's Supreme Court upheld a lower court's directive to consolidate 15 lawsuits by Hindu activists seeking the right to investigate the possible existence of sacred Hindu places of worship beneath the Shahi Eidgah, a mosque in Mathura. The Court emphasized that the move benefits all parties, by avoiding multiple proceedings and reducing the risk of conflicting judgments. More fundamentally, however, the Court seems to be attempting to safeguard judicial stability at a time of proliferating religious disputes and prevent the escalation of tensions.

India is full of mosques established during periods of Islamic rule, between roughly the eleventh and eighteenth centuries. Many Indians believe that Muslim rulers, including the Mughal Empire, often deliberately erected mosques over Hindu temples and shrines that had been looted and destroyed. The issue is a sensitive one in Indian politics, and the family of organizations known as the "Sangh Parivar," a movement associated with the Hindutva (Hindu-nationalist) cause, has actively stoked passions.

For the first four decades after independence, the issue largely simmered on the back burner. But in the 1980s, tensions boiled over, as a popular movement emerged to reclaim the Ram Janmabhoomi – the birthplace of the Hindu deity Lord Rama – in Ayodhya. A long campaign of agitation culminated, in December 1992, with the destruction of a sixteenth-century mosque, the Babri Masjid, by a rampaging mob of Hindutva fanatics.

In 2019, after a protracted court case, the Hindu side was given permission to erect a temple on the holy site, which was consecrated last year, while Muslims were awarded a token five acres of land elsewhere



“**History has often been contested terrain in India, but the revival of historical disputes today is an ominous sign. With its decision to consolidate the Mathura lawsuits, the Supreme Court has taken a step to rein in this trend. The Court has also restrained lower courts from entertaining new lawsuits that seek to reclaim religious places – particularly by targeting mosques and dargahs that are allegedly built over temple ruins – and from issuing orders on pending cases**

to construct a new mosque. In other words, a land dispute that featured the criminal destruction of property was settled in favor of the culprits. The ruling also demanded that Hindus' religious sentiments be respected – even, apparently, at the expense of the religious sentiments of minorities. Yet those who lost out in the judgment – the Muslims of the area – held their peace.

To most Indian Muslims, such disputes are not about specific mosques, but rather about their place in Indian society, and the destruction of the Babri Masjid felt like a betrayal of the compact that underpinned India's pluralist democracy. But Muslims also hoped that restoring the Ram Janmabhoomi would buy them peace, closing a dispute that had poisoned Hindu-Muslim relations across northern India for a generation and marking the end of efforts to restore prominent Hindu temples the Mughals had allegedly destroyed.

No such luck. Hindu chauvinists viewed the Ram Janmabhoomi decision as a triumph for a Hindutva reinterpretation of the Indian national idea. Rather than sating their appetite for destroying

mosques, the court's ruling intensified it.

The Babri Masjid was explicitly exempted from the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, which was enacted in 1991 to prevent the emergence of more movements like the one in Ayodhya. Seeking to maintain the religious character of all places of worship in India as they existed on August 15, 1947 – at the time of independence – the Act prohibits the conversion of any place of worship, and bars any related legal proceedings.

Despite the Act's explicit provisions, its implementation faces challenges. For example, a 2022 court order authorizing a video inspection of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi unleashed a flood of copycat cases calling for inspections of various mosques. The litigants argue that, by preventing courts from hearing cases related to the religious character of places of worship, the Act restricts access to justice. This has fueled debates about the Act's constitutionality and impact on the rights of individuals and communities.

William F. Buckley famously wrote that conservatives "stand athwart history, yelling Stop." But India's Hindutva

nationalists issue history a different directive: "Turn back!" They do so not out of deep reverence for the past, but out of a desire to co-opt history to reshape the present. As the Supreme Court recognizes, if a challenged mosque is found to be built on a demolished temple, demands will inevitably arise for that temple to be restored. Each restored temple would amount to a brick in the construction of a new Hindutva version of India.

Already, the ideal of interfaith coexistence has been effectively jettisoned, with Muslims being pushed to the margins of the national narrative. The celebrations at Ayodhya, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state machinery were openly involved, amounted to a giant step toward the declaration of a state religion. "Hindu Rashtra" is being built before our eyes.

History has often been contested terrain in India, but the revival of historical disputes today is an ominous sign. With its decision to consolidate the Mathura lawsuits, the Supreme Court has taken a step to rein in this trend. The Court has also restrained lower courts from entertaining new lawsuits that seek to reclaim religious places – particularly by targeting mosques and dargahs that are allegedly built over temple ruins – and from issuing orders on pending cases.

But the Supreme Court must go further. Replacing old mosques with new versions of older temples does not right old wrongs; it perpetrates new ones. Faded scars become gaping wounds. Unless the judiciary puts a firm stop to these disputes, Muslims might start to resist. A new wave of communal violence will only spawn new hostages to history, with future generations being taught about yet more wrongs they must set right.

*The Hindutva movement is happy to use history as cannon fodder. But their obsession with undoing the past is imperiling India's future. Shashi Tharoor, an MP of the Indian National Congress, was re-elected to the Lok Sabha for a fourth successive term, representing Thiruvananthapuram. Project Syndicate, 2025.*

# Rise of Adventure Sports in Kashmir



The soothing mountain zephyrs blowing over the mossy green valleys and the soaring snow-covered cliffs reflecting on the blue waters of the lakes are flawless instances of the natural union that make Kashmir one among the breathtaking escaping places in the Himalayan region

Mohammad Hanief

Kashmir is becoming a popular destination for adventure tourism due to its natural beauty, diverse topography, and climate as the valley's snow-capped mountains and valleys offering perfect settings for trekking, skiing, and white-water rafting. Efforts are being made to promote lesser-known destinations within Kashmir, encouraging travellers to explore offbeat paths and discover hidden gems.

In addition to the remarkable increase in tourist arrivals, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing several other exciting developments in its tourism sector. New roads, improved connectivity, and upgraded facilities are being developed to ensure that tourists can easily and comfortably explore the region's natural beauty.

Kashmir offers the tourists to choose from a plethora of adventurous sporting events of trekking, mountain climbing, mountain biking, river rafting, horse polo, golf, para-gliding, fishing, skiing, hunting, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, canoe trips, snow skiing, cross-country skiing, heli-skiing, ski-mountaineering, water skiing, camping, rock climbing, hiking, snowboarding and trans-Himalayan jeep safaris.

Kashmir is marked by four seasons and all seasons are permis-

sible to take up any adventure activity in Jammu and Kashmir. With this huge potential for adventure tourism, Kashmir is one of the most sought after tourist destinations of India for both domestic as well as foreign tourists and adventure seekers all through the year.

The foothills of Jammu, the magnificent mountains of Ladakh, and the lakes and valleys of Kashmir that soar high into the skies offer a number of activities for people of all age groups. In fact, every region offers a number of adventure activities depending on the geographical structure and climatic conditions. The spirit of adventure and desire to explore leads us to scale mountains and dive deep in the oceans.

The lakes and rivers of Jammu and Kashmir are mostly fed by melting glaciers. At high altitudes, these waterways are fast paced. A few of them make their way through the rocky landscapes of Zaskar and Ladakh, perfect for white water rafting. The river Indus and river Zaskar are the major rivers that are used for wild water rafting, parasailing, and swimming.

Pahalgam is one of those locations, where facilities for angling, canoeing and kayaking are provided. The most popular activity in the lakes of Jammu and Kashmir is trout fishing.

The mystical lands of Zaskar and Ladakh, are the best places for mountaineering and several other sports. The snowy slopes and rocky mountains are perfect locations for skiing and trekking. The steep hills of the Himalaya and Karakoram range are equipped with all the facilities relating to these sports.

Gulmarg is a world famous hill station for skiing. The route of Sonmarg to Pahalgam is covered with dense alpine, ideal for trying out Alpine Skiing. Apart from this, sports like cross country skiing, snowboarding and ice skating have unlimited possibilities in the entire Kashmir valley.

In Ladakh and forested hills of Jammu, one can enjoy Bungee Jumps, Mountain Cycling, Jeep Safaris and Cave Exploration. Apart from all such adventures, Gulmarg has one of the world's highest green golf courses.

Sports like Paragliding, Hot Air Ballooning, Air Surfing and Sky Diving are becoming increasingly popular with the youth. Zaskar, Sanasar and few other parts of Jammu are hot spots for hot air ballooning. One can find several training camps that are set up for Paragliding.

These adventure activities can be endorsed in any season. Jammu and Kashmir, the paradise on earth, is not only about natural beauty and romantic weather, but

the best adventure sports.

Exploring new and innovative arenas and activities in adventure sports would not only throw gates of opportunities wide open, but would provide an ample opportunity to tourism players to explore innovative ways to grab domestic and foreign footfall, facilitate adventure sports organizers, professionals and lovers to pool in their efforts to explore more possibilities and potentialities. This would encourage more adventure sports activities, promote adventure tourism, bring in more areas on tourism world map, generate more income and livelihood, enhance skill management, earn more profits and ensure well-being.

The existing infrastructure offers just a baseline support; real push will emerge from strong public-private partnerships. Huge challenges on account of planning, connectivity, infrastructure, marketing, promotional strategies, trained human resources and other skills cannot be underestimated. All these gaps could be timely and thoroughly addressed to sustain adventure sports activities on eco-friendly and sustainable lines.

Given the trends emerging in both the tourism and sports sectors, it is not surprising that significant growth is also occurring in travel for sports related purposes. Sports tourism attractions

are destinations that provide tourists with things to see and do related to sport. Attractions can be natural (parks, mountains, wildlife) or manmade (museums, stadiums, stores).

General characteristics represented in this core area of sports tourism include visits to state-of-the-art sports facilities and/or unique sports facilities that generally house sporting events such as stadiums, arenas and domes; sports museums and hall/walls of fame dedicated to sports heritage and honoring sports heroes and leaders; hiking trails developed for exploring nature and so on.

Sports tourism resorts are well planned and integrated resort complexes with sports or health as their primary focus and marketing strategy. In many situations, these vacation centers offer high-quality facilities and services to sport tourists.

One of the popular activity, especially in winter, is skiing in Kashmir. However, this sport doesn't remain restricted to only winters. It is an adventure that can be enjoyed all around the year. The lofty summits and the shimmering snow provide tourists with the ideal setting to enjoy a winter delight like skiing. Gulmarg is the perfect place for such sport and relishes the game with your heart's content. Equipment necessary for skiing like skis,

sticks, boots, goggles, and gloves is all available in the local Gulmarg ski shops.

Apart from Gulmarg, one can also enjoy skiing in Pahalgam. Adventurers here can enjoy the winter sun and snow. Tourists can take part in various skiing activities like snowboarding, hockey skiing, and ice skiing. The crystal clear snow-capped hills and the tranquility of Kashmir calls tourists to visit and explore this abode of snow and ice.

The soothing mountain zephyrs blowing over the mossy green valleys and the soaring snow-covered cliffs reflecting on the blue waters of the lakes are flawless instances of the natural union that make Kashmir one among the breathtaking escaping places in the Himalayan region. One can visit Kashmir for a leisure gateway and indulge in adventure sports. The region has emerged into a hub of adventure sports.

More adventure sports opportunities would mean secure and sustainable livelihoods for those directly or indirectly related with sports and tourism sector. Establishing a sustainable adventure sports portfolio for the Valley also means investing in building infrastructure and developing skill sets.

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# What Popular Media Often Gets Wrong About Domestic Violence

Kaytee Gillis

Domestic violence affects millions of people every year. It is so common that most of us either have experienced or know someone who has experienced abuse in a relationship.

While popular media plays an important role in raising awareness about issues such as intimate partner violence, it unfortunately often misrepresents or simplifies the complexities of this social issue by perpetuating some common myths.

## The myth of the "clean break"

One of the most common and also the most damaging misconceptions about domestic violence that is reinforced in media is the idea that abuse ends once the victim leaves. Popular movies like *It Ends with Us*, based on Colleen Hoover's bestselling novel, seem to suggest that leaving the abuser is the final step to freedom. In the story, the main character, Lily, struggles with an abusive partner but ultimately escapes and moves on to a

healthier relationship.

In reality, leaving an abusive relationship can increase the risk of violence. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the most dangerous time for a victim of IPV is when they attempt to leave or after they've left.<sup>1</sup> Abusers often escalate their behavior to regain control, sometimes resorting to stalking, harassment, and even physical violence.<sup>1</sup> This ongoing threat is rarely depicted in media portrayals, which often focus on a "happy ending" after the victim walks away. Many of my clients, me included, experienced post separation abuse after leaving a relationship. While reinforcing the idea of a clean break may be an attempt to create a hopeful narrative, this can leave many victims feeling isolated.

## The overemphasis on physical abuse

While physical violence is certainly present in many abusive relationships, it is far from the only form of control and manipulation used by abusive people. Domestic abuse is about main-



taining power and control, which is often done in ways other than (or in addition to) physical abuse. Unfortunately, many media portrayals tend to emphasize physical violence as the main indicator of abuse, which can reinforce the myth in society that abuse is only real if it involves physical injuries. Many of my clients have struggled to recognize their own abuse, saying things like, "well, they never hit me," while failing to consider all

of the ways they were harmed. Emotional and psychological abuse can be just as damaging as physical violence, yet, these types of abuse are frequently underrepresented or ignored in mainstream media.<sup>1</sup> This myth is reinforced in our judicial system, which makes laws protecting against physical harm, but struggles to recognize other forms of coercive control.

## The idealization of the abuser's

change

Another popular narrative in media portrayals of domestic abuse is the idea that an abuser can "change" if only they are loved enough. This perpetuates the dangerous myth that abuse is something that can be overcome through love and support, which is dangerous, especially for victims who are young and naive. By presenting the idea that love can "fix" an abuser, we perpetuate the belief that the victim is somehow responsible for their abuser's actions, or that they can help their partner change by simply being patient or understanding.

This myth is something that causes many victims to stay in abusive relationships, hoping their partner will change. Many of my clients have tearfully pleaded with their partners to get help and stop the abusive behavior, believing their promises to change during the honeymoon phase of the abuse cycle. This belief fuels the denial and self-blame that many victims feel, and undoubtedly contributes to how difficult it can be for victims to leave.

## The idea of the "perfect victim"

This last myth is one that has gained attention in academia only recently: the idea of the "ideal victim."<sup>3,4</sup> Popular media often portrays survivors of domestic violence as resilient and strong, showing scenes of individuals who overcome their trauma and live happily immediately after leaving the abuser.

The truth is that healing from abuse can feel like riding a wave, or even a Ferris wheel. Many of us do not feel resilient, or that we have recovered, until years later. Many survivors will experience stress such as physical health concerns, setbacks in their mental health, and difficulty trusting others after leaving an abusive relationship. The pressure to appear strong or "perfect" can alienate those who may still be struggling or unable to move on as quickly. By only showing the "ideal" survivor, media fail to represent the reality that so many of us face.

The article was originally published by *Psychology Today*

# Gaza ceasefire sees its smoothest exchange yet of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners

Khan Younis, Feb 1: The ceasefire in Gaza saw its smoothest exchange yet of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners on Saturday, and the crucial Rafah border crossing reopened just days before discussions on the truce's far more difficult second phase begin.

Those talks start Monday, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet with US President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday, giving him a chance to showcase his ties to Israel's closest ally and press his case for what should come next after 15 months of war.

Many details of the ceasefire's second phase still need to be worked out, but it calls for the release of the remaining hostages and an indefinite extension of the truce in the deadliest and most destructive war ever between Israel and Hamas. The fighting could resume in early March if an agreement isn't reached.

Hamas on Saturday freed three male hostages, and Israel released 183 Palestinian prisoners in the fourth such exchange. The next is planned for next Saturday.

Militants handed Argentinian-Israeli Yarden Bibas and French-Israeli Ofer Kalderon to Red Cross officials in the southern city of Khan Younis, while American-Israeli hostage Keith Siegel, looking pale and thin, was handed over later in Gaza City.

All three were taken during the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on Israel that sparked the



war. Eighteen hostages have now been released since the ceasefire began on January 19.

The latest releases were quick and orderly, in contrast to chaotic scenes on Thursday when armed militants appeared to struggle to hold back a crowd. On Saturday, the militants stood in rows as the hostages walked onto a stage and waved.

Hamas has sought to show it remains in control in Gaza even though a number of its military leaders have been killed, while displaying anti-Israel slogans during the handovers.

In Tel Aviv's Hostages Square — a name it was given after the war began — thousands of people watched the handover on a large screen, cheering.

A bus later departed Ofer Military Prison with over two dozen Palestinian prisoners bound for the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Jubilant crowds cheered and hoisted the prisoners on their shoulders. Many appeared frail and thin.

After his release, Bibas closed his eyes as his father, Eli, and sister Ofri hugged him and cried. "Sweetheart," his father said. "A quarter of our heart has returned to us," the Bibas family said in a statement.

Kalderon, 54, was also captured from Kibbutz Nir Oz. His two children, Erez and Sahar, were taken alongside him and released during the earlier ceasefire.

"I am here. I am here. I didn't give up," Kalderon said as they embraced.

There were similar scenes among the released Palestinians. "Certainly, it's an indescribable feeling, and undoubtedly a mixed feeling of both sadness and joy, as we have left our brothers in captivity," said Mohammad Kaskus, who had been sentenced to 25 years over attacks against Israelis.

Palestinians who had been sentenced over their connection

to deadly attacks against Israelis described harsh conditions, beatings and other abuse in prison. The Israeli Prison Authority didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ceasefire brings respite to battered Gaza

The ceasefire has held for two weeks, allowing for hundreds of trucks of aid to flow into the tiny coastal territory and for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to return to shattered homes in northern Gaza.

And on Saturday, 50 sick and wounded Palestinian children were leaving Gaza for treatment through the Rafah border crossing to Egypt as the enclave's sole exit opened for the first time since Israel captured it nine months ago.

During the ceasefire's six-week first phase, 33 Israeli hostages are to be freed in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. Israel says it has received information from Hamas that eight of those hostages are dead. About 80 hostages remain in Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel says it is committed to destroying Hamas. The militant group says it won't release the remaining hostages without an end to the war and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Powerful Arab nations on Saturday again rejected Trump's suggestion to relocate the now largely homeless Palestinians from Gaza to neighboring Egypt and Jordan in a temporary or long-term move so that, as Trump put it, "we just clean out that whole thing."

to recent years, it has had to slow the pace of fiscal consolidation to provide firmer support to growth.

"In particular, announced tax relief measures have constrained the growth of revenue receipts, which will rise at its slowest pace since 2022-23; as such, falling expenditure as a share of GDP has borne the brunt of the projected narrowing of the fiscal deficit even as the emphasis on capital expenditure has been sustained," he said.

"Although the Union government remains on track to meet its near-term policy goals, we do not expect a sufficient improvement in the debt burden, or the proportion of the budget earmarked for debt servicing to change our broader assessment that India's fiscal strength will remain weaker than most of its investment-grade peers," he added.

**Here is How Salaried**

5 per cent for income between Rs 4 and 8 lakh, 10 per cent for Rs 8-12 lakh, 15 per cent for Rs 12-16 lakh.

A 20 per cent income tax will be levied on income between Rs 16 and 20 lakh, 25 per cent on Rs 20-24 lakh and 30 per cent above Rs 24 lakh per annum.

A tax payer in the new regime with an income of Rs 12 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 80,000 in tax. A person having income of Rs 18 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 70,000 in tax.

A person with an income of Rs 25 lakh gets a benefit of Rs 1.10 lakh.

The opposition, however, has criticised the timing of the announcement. Some leaders termed it an "election gimmick", questioning why such relief wasn't introduced earlier. A few others expressed skepticism, suggesting that the government was leveraging fiscal policies for electoral gains.

**Budget 2025: What**

- \*Motorcycles with engine capacity of 1600cc and above in CKD form
- Imported vehicles for transport of 10 or more persons
- \*Parts of electronic toys
- \*Synthetic flavouring essences and mixtures, used in food and drink industries
- \*Articles of Jewellery, goldsmiths' and silver-smiths' ware
- \*Ethernet switches Carrier grade
- Costlier
- \*Smart meter
- \*Solar Cells
- \*Imported footwear
- \*Imported Candles and tapers
- \*Imported Yachts and other vessels
- \*PVC Flex Films, PVC Flex Sheets, PVC Flex Banner
- \*Certain imported knitted fabrics
- \* Interactive Flat Panel Displays which are imported as completely built units.

**Mixed Reaction**

J&K's high unemployment rate.

In the tourism sector, Tenga welcomed the government's plan to develop 50 new destinations, exuding hope that at least 8-10 of them would be in Kashmir, given the region's prominence in the industry.

On the ground level, however, Tenga noted that the budget lacked direct relief for traders and industrialists in J&K. "There is no special package for our industrial sector, which has been our long-standing demand. We have represented this issue multiple times before the Finance Minister and the J&K administration, and we will raise it again," he said, adding, "We need a relief package and the restoration of the Rs 1,200 crore cut."

Meanwhile, in a statement, a KCCI

spokesman said, "The budget includes several commendable initiatives that promise to enhance economic activity. However, there is a pressing need for a special revival and infrastructural development package tailored to the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir, more so considering the huge unemployment problem being faced by the youth in the Union Territory."

The KCCI spokesman while listing the "steps in right direction" said, "Provision for an increase in medical seats by 10,000, an increase of 7500 seats in ITIs, the availability of 36 cancer drugs free of charge, the introduction of Mudra loans for homestays to boost tourism, tax exemption on interest on savings of senior citizens, and the Atal Tinkering scheme covering 50,000 schools will enhance the quality of life and economic prospects in the region."

The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) warmly welcomed the crucial infrastructure and institutional support for the manufacturing sector, recognizing its potential to drive employment and strengthen the supply chain ecosystem.

In response to the Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Valley's leading industrial body emphasized the significance of the initiatives proposed by the Union government, including accomplishing the vision under the "National Manufacturing Mission" to support manufacturing industries of all sizes.

"We are pleased that the Finance Minister has recognized MSMEs as the second engine for economic growth and a cornerstone of the Indian economy, with specific provisions aimed at enhancing their scalability, technological up-gradation, and access to capital," stated the Advisory Committee of FCIK, led by Shahid Kamili, after reviewing the budget provisions.

The committee noted that the recognition of MSMEs, given their 30% contribution to India's GDP, nearly 45% of the country's exports, and employment of around 80 million people nationwide, is highly encouraging. For the first time in years, these enterprises have received a significant boost, with a series of measures aimed at supporting their growth and long-term sustainability.

"The enhanced credit guarantee cover for MSMEs, now increased to Rs 10 crore, along with various credit schemes for the MSME sector and startups, including a dedicated Rs 10,000 crore 'Fund of Funds', will be crucial for advancing financial inclusion," said FCIK.

Mohammad Yaseen Khan, another prominent trade leader said, "The budget lacks the elements to address the specific economic challenges of J&K."

However, he appreciated the changes in tax slabs and some central schemes but was quick to add that "there is nothing in the budget for middle-class traders on the ground."

**J&K Gets Rs 41,000**

for the Jammu and Kashmir Police for the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal is Rs 659.79 crore higher than in 2024-25.

The Union home ministry said the fund was for meeting administrative expenditures.

The Jammu Kashmir Police is responsible for maintaining and enforcing law and order and traffic management in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called the budget "pragmatic" and said it reflected India's growing aspiration for accelerated growth and to stimulate the private sector.

The Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit and senior CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami, however, called the budget allocation "disappointing".

"My heartfelt thanks to (Union) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a pragmatic

# Trump fires director of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Palm Beach (US): President Donald Trump has fired the director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Rohit Chopra, in the latest purge of a Biden administration holdover.

Chopra was one of the more important regulators from the previous Democratic administration who was still on the job since Trump took office on January 20. Chopra's tenure saw the removal of medical debt from credit reports and limits on overdrafts penalties, all based on the premise that the financial system could be fairer and more competitive in ways that helped consumers. But many in the financial industry viewed his actions as regulatory overreach.

In a social media post Saturday about his departure, Chopra thanked people across the country who "shared their ideas and experiences" with the government's consumer financial watchdog agency.

"You helped us hold powerful companies & their executives accountable for breaking the law, and you made our work better," Chopra posted above on X above pictures of his letter announcing that he would no longer lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

During Trump's first term, the Republican had picked Chopra as a Democratic member of the Federal Trade Commission.

In his letter, Chopra noted that the bureau was ready to work with the Trump administration. He said the agency had prepared rules to block Russia, China and

others from using data brokers to surveil Americans, and had put forth policies intended to prevent people from losing access to banking services for exercising their constitutional right to express their political or religious views.

The letter noted the CFPB has also analysed Trump's campaign proposal to cap credit card interest rates.

Chopra was notified of his firing in an email, according to a person familiar with the notice who was not authorised to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Under the law, Chopra was to serve a five-year term, which meant he could have stayed on as the CFPB director. But he had publicly stated that he would leave his post if the new president asked.

In many ways, Chopra exemplified some of the tensions between Trump's promises to curb regulations for businesses and his populist appeals to voters. When The Associated Press reported on January 22 that Chopra remained in his job after Trump took the oath of office, his critics in the financial sector quickly said the president needed to dismiss him.

"The longer Director Chopra stays, the harder it will be for this pro-growth administration to undo the politically-driven, government-price setting agenda that former President Biden's appointee has engaged in over the last several years at the Bureau," emailed Weston Loyd, press secretary at the Consumer Bankers Association.

indicates J&K will continue to remain under the Union government's control for a longer period.

In 2019, the Union Government took over the power of legislating on J&K Police through the J&K Reorganisation Act. "Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Legislative Assembly may make laws for the whole or any part of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List except the subjects mentioned at entries 1 and 2, namely 'Public Order' and 'Police' respectively, or the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India in so far as any such matter is applicable in relation to the Union territories," section 28 of the law bifurcating J&K into two UTs states.

**NC Satisfied**

When adjusted for inflation, it is reduced by another 2,000 to 3,000 crores," he said.

The CPI (M) said that the Union Budget 2025-26 is a "cruel betrayal" of the requirements of the people of India. "Instead of addressing the root cause of the demand problem being faced by so many sectors of the economy, the lack of purchasing power in the hands of large sections of the population because of mass unemployment and shrinking wages, the Modi government through the budget is seeking to stimulate the economy by giving tax cuts to the small minority with higher incomes even as expenditures are cut."

"While the Economic Survey shows the desperate plight of India's labour force, pointing out the decrease in earnings over the last five years, this budget with its emphasis on cutting government expenditures while giving concessions to the rich will only increase the huge inequalities in India. Instead of mobilizing resources by taxing the rich and the big corporate houses and pushing up public investment that would help generate employment and ensure a minimum wage for our people, it has chosen to do the opposite," the statement added.

**LG hails Union**

middle class. PM has also provided huge relief to taxpayers by raising the TDS limit on rent, enhancing social security and formalising the gig economy.

Budget 2025-26 reflects India's growing aspiration for accelerated growth and to stimulate private sector investments. The focus on agricultural growth with various initiatives including Agri District Programme seeks to translate the vision of rural prosperity and social equity.

India is the fastest-growing among all major global economies and this budget will further boost infrastructure sector, MSMEs, energy sector, innovation, employment generation, and push transformative reforms in key sectors for more inclusive and more sustainable growth."

**Fresh Snow,**

South Kashmir.

In Srinagar and adjoining areas, intermittent rainfall has been going on since last evening.

The downpour brought down the maximum temperature on Friday by couple of degrees while the minimum temperature settled above freezing point in the city last night, the Met said.

Srinagar city recorded a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius last night, which was 1.4 degrees above the normal for this time of the year, the Met said.

Most places in Kashmir recorded higher than usual minimum temperatures last night except for Gulmarg skiing resort in North Kashmir, where the mercury settled at minus 7.2 degrees Celsius.

**J&K Police Gets 9325**

and Rs 428.01 crore for the capital expenditure.

These budgetary provisions have been made to meet the administrative expenditures of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which is responsible for maintaining and enforcing law and order and managing traffic in J&K.

Since 2024-25, the J&K Police's budget has been part of the Union Budget. While the Union government has described the takeover of the J&K Police budget as an act of financial benevolence, opposition parties have argued that it

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

## Big Relief For

investment and growth.

"The Budget lays a strong foundation to increase savings and make citizens partners in development," he said.

Sitharaman's budget has proposals aimed at boosting both consumption and investment, which in turn are expected to give a flip to domestic economic activity, protecting the growth outlook amidst global uncertainties. While maintaining the thrust on infrastructure development, it also continued to provide increasing support to the MSME and the agricultural sector.

Also announced were duty cuts on intermediaries and certain life saving drugs.

To balance the revenue lost, she budgeted a modest increase in capital spending at Rs 11.21 lakh crore in the next financial year compared to a lowered Rs 10.18 lakh crore in current fiscal. Besides, an increase in dividend expected from the Reserve Bank and other government-owned financial institutions will also help to contain the losses.

The budget comes against the backdrop of the Indian economy growing at its weakest pace since pandemic and rising geopolitical risks particularly with the new US President Donald Trump threatening to impose widespread tariffs including on India.

The 6.4 per cent GDP growth estimated for the current fiscal and 6.3 to 6.8 per cent in the next are well below the 8 per cent growth needed to meet the ambitious goal of making India a developed nation by 2047.

"Our endeavour will be to keep the fiscal deficit each year such that the central government debt remains on a declining path as a percentage of the GDP," she said, projecting debt at 50 per cent of GDP by March 2031.

Other measures include a national mission to push high-yielding crops with a special focus on pulses and cotton production, hike in the limit of subsidised credit to farmers to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 3 lakh, missions to push manufacturing and exports, a new policy for labour intensive sectors like leather and footwear and a scheme to make India a global hub for toy manufacturing.

The finance minister also announced a social security cover for nearly 1 crore gig workers and a Rs 10,000 crore fund of funds for startups.

Another major announcement was setting a target of at least 100 gigawatt of electricity from nuclear energy by 2047 and amendment to nuclear liability regulations to allow private sector investment.

Sitharaman also announced reduction in duties on a raft of goods including open cells, while fully exempting critical minerals such as cobalt, scraps of lithium-ion battery, lead, zinc and a few others from import duty.

She proposed a hike in the threshold of tax collected at source on remittances under the RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, benefiting the travel and foreign exchange sectors. Students and individuals seeking medical treatment will also benefit from this.

Rationalising TDS provisions, the finance minister increased the thresholds for non-deduction across various TDS provisions broadly ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000. The threshold for TDS on rent has been increased from Rs 2.40 lakh to Rs 6 lakh.

That apart, omissions of higher TDS/TCS rates are now applicable for non-filers.

Commenting on the Budget, Christian de Guzman, Senior Vice President, Moody's Ratings, said: "As the government unveiled its budget for 2025-26 amid a somewhat dampened macroeconomic backdrop as compared

to recent years, it has had to slow the pace of fiscal consolidation to provide firmer support to growth."

"In particular, announced tax relief measures have constrained the growth of revenue receipts, which will rise at its slowest pace since 2022-23; as such, falling expenditure as a share of GDP has borne the brunt of the projected narrowing of the fiscal deficit even as the emphasis on capital expenditure has been sustained," he said.

"Although the Union government remains on track to meet its near-term policy goals, we do not expect a sufficient improvement in the debt burden, or the proportion of the budget earmarked for debt servicing to change our broader assessment that India's fiscal strength will remain weaker than most of its investment-grade peers," he added.

**Here is How Salaried**

5 per cent for income between Rs 4 and 8 lakh, 10 per cent for Rs 8-12 lakh, 15 per cent for Rs 12-16 lakh.

A 20 per cent income tax will be levied on income between Rs 16 and 20 lakh, 25 per cent on Rs 20-24 lakh and 30 per cent above Rs 24 lakh per annum.

A tax payer in the new regime with an income of Rs 12 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 80,000 in tax. A person having income of Rs 18 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 70,000 in tax.

A person with an income of Rs 25 lakh gets a benefit of Rs 1.10 lakh.

The opposition, however, has criticised the timing of the announcement. Some leaders termed it an "election gimmick", questioning why such relief wasn't introduced earlier. A few others expressed skepticism, suggesting that the government was leveraging fiscal policies for electoral gains.

**Budget 2025: What**

- \*Motorcycles with engine capacity of 1600cc and above in CKD form
- Imported vehicles for transport of 10 or more persons
- \*Parts of electronic toys
- \*Synthetic flavouring essences and mixtures, used in food and drink industries
- \*Articles of Jewellery, goldsmiths' and silver-smiths' ware
- \*Ethernet switches Carrier grade
- Costlier
- \*Smart meter
- \*Solar Cells
- \*Imported footwear
- \*Imported Candles and tapers
- \*Imported Yachts and other vessels
- \*PVC Flex Films, PVC Flex Sheets, PVC Flex Banner
- \*Certain imported knitted fabrics
- \* Interactive Flat Panel Displays which are imported as completely built units.

**Mixed Reaction**

J&K's high unemployment rate.

In the tourism sector, Tenga welcomed the government's plan to develop 50 new destinations, exuding hope that at least 8-10 of them would be in Kashmir, given the region's prominence in the industry.

On the ground level, however, Tenga noted that the budget lacked direct relief for traders and industrialists in J&K. "There is no special package for our industrial sector, which has been our long-standing demand. We have represented this issue multiple times before the Finance Minister and the J&K administration, and we will raise it again," he said, adding, "We need a relief package and the restoration of the Rs 1,200 crore cut."

Meanwhile, in a statement, a KCCI

spokesman said, "The budget includes several commendable initiatives that promise to enhance economic activity. However, there is a pressing need for a special revival and infrastructural development package tailored to the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir, more so considering the huge unemployment problem being faced by the youth in the Union Territory."

The KCCI spokesman while listing the "steps in right direction" said, "Provision for an increase in medical seats by 10,000, an increase of 7500 seats in ITIs, the availability of 36 cancer drugs free of charge, the introduction of Mudra loans for homestays to boost tourism, tax exemption on interest on savings of senior citizens, and the Atal Tinkering scheme covering 50,000 schools will enhance the quality of life and economic prospects in the region."

The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) warmly welcomed the crucial infrastructure and institutional support for the manufacturing sector, recognizing its potential to drive employment and strengthen the supply chain ecosystem.

In response to the Union Budget 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Valley's leading industrial body emphasized the significance of the initiatives proposed by the Union government, including accomplishing the vision under the "National Manufacturing Mission" to support manufacturing industries of all sizes.

"We are pleased that the Finance Minister has recognized MSMEs as the second engine for economic growth and a cornerstone of the Indian economy, with specific provisions aimed at enhancing their scalability, technological up-gradation, and access to capital," stated the Advisory Committee of FCIK, led by Shahid Kamili, after reviewing the budget provisions.

The committee noted that the recognition of MSMEs, given their 30% contribution to India's GDP, nearly 45% of the country's exports, and employment of around 80 million people nationwide, is highly encouraging. For the first time in years, these enterprises have received a significant boost, with a series of measures aimed at supporting their growth and long-term sustainability.

"The enhanced credit guarantee cover for MSMEs, now increased to Rs 10 crore, along with various credit schemes for the MSME sector and startups, including a dedicated Rs 10,000 crore 'Fund of Funds', will be crucial for advancing financial inclusion," said FCIK.

Mohammad Yaseen Khan, another prominent trade leader said, "The budget lacks the elements to address the specific economic challenges of J&K."

However, he appreciated the changes in tax slabs and some central schemes but was quick to add that "there is nothing in the budget for middle-class traders on the ground."

**J&K Gets Rs 41,000**

for the Jammu and Kashmir Police for the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal is Rs 659.79 crore higher than in 2024-25.

The Union home ministry said the fund was for meeting administrative expenditures.

The Jammu Kashmir Police is responsible for maintaining and enforcing law and order and traffic management in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called the budget "pragmatic" and said it reflected India's growing aspiration for accelerated growth and to stimulate the private sector.

The Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit and senior CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami, however, called the budget allocation "disappointing".

"My heartfelt thanks to (Union) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a pragmatic

## Deputy Chief Minister Conducts Extensive Tour Of Kathua



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a whirlwind tour of Kathua, engaging with local residents, stakeholders and officials to assess concerns related to land acquisition for industrial expansion under SIDCO in Barwal.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated government's commitment towards a balanced and sustainable development, ensuring that the interests of the local population, environment, and industrial growth are harmonised.

Speaking to the affected residents and industry representatives, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government is taking a cautious and inclusive approach in developing industrial zones, ensuring that the benefits of such projects extend to all stakeholders, particularly the local communities. He emphasized that while industrialization is crucial for economic growth and employment generation, it must be pursued responsibly, keeping in mind the environmental sustainability and public welfare.

"The government is fully aware of the concerns of the people regarding land acquisition and its impact on their livelihoods. We are committed towards ensuring that no one is unfairly affected by these development projects. Industrial expansion must go hand in hand with environmental conservation and social responsibility. We will ensure that those impacted by land acquisition receive adequate compensation and rehabilitation measures" maintained the Deputy

Chief Minister.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also addressed the recent large-scale felling of over 250 trees in the Barwal area, which occurred as part of the land acquisition process for SIDCO. Acknowledging public outcry over the incident, he assured that a detailed investigation would be carried out to determine who granted the necessary clearances for tree cutting and whether the due process was followed.

"The ecological balance of Jammu & Kashmir is of utmost importance. We cannot afford to compromise on environmental concerns in the name of industrialization. I have directed the officials to launch a comprehensive inquiry into the tree-felling incident in Barwal, and strict action will be taken against any violations of environmental norms," he said.

He further added that the government is exploring alternative measures such as afforestation programs and green industrial practices to ensure that environmental damage is minimised.

In addition to industrial development concerns, the Deputy Chief Minister also addressed the growing challenges posed by drug trafficking, illegal mining and industrial mafias in the region. He stated that these issues are undermining the socio-economic fabric of the region and warned that the government will take strict and decisive action against any individuals or groups involved in such activities. He also appealed the public to cooperate with law enforcement authorities by reporting any suspicious activities related to illegal trade and organised crime.

## Digital Addiction On Rise In Kashmir

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The rising trend of digital addiction among children and young people in Kashmir has become a concern, with experts warning that children of working parents are particularly vulnerable.

The lack of parental supervision for long hours often leads children to excessive screen use, making them more susceptible to the negative effects of digital addiction.

Mental health professionals said this addiction is primarily driven by the absence of parental care combined with uncontrolled exposure to screens.

Dr Abrar Guroo, a Consultant Psychiatrist at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, said that children with working parents are at a higher risk of developing digital addiction.

He called for following international guidelines, which recommend restricting mobile phone usage, especially for children under the age of five. "Instead of being exposed to screens, children should be encouraged to participate in activities that promote cognitive development," he said, adding that monitoring the content children consume is also crucial in preventing long-term behavioural consequences.

The emotional and psychological impact of digital addiction is severe, as many children experience heightened levels of anxiety and depression. They often feel irritable or restless when deprived of screen time, and excessive

digital consumption can impair sleep patterns, cause chronic fatigue, and lead to poor emotional regulation. Many children gradually

digital world.

Parents also said their children exhibit frustration and aggression when screen time is interrupted.

According to Dr Guroo, early exposure to digital screens and social media can lead to developmental issues, including difficulties with socialization, emotional regulation, and speech development. He mentioned the concept of "virtual autism", a condition where excessive screen time causes children to withdraw from real-world interactions.

Such children, he said, struggle to communicate effectively, have difficulty expressing emotions, and become detached from their surroundings. "Unlike human communication, which involves emotional feedback, mobile devices offer only one-way interaction, further hampering their ability to connect with others," he said.

To address this growing issue, Dr Guroo said parents must take proactive steps in managing their children's screen time. He called for encouraging real-life interactions, promoting outdoor activities, and replacing screens with hands-on tasks like reading or creative play can help mitigate the harmful effects of digital addiction.

"Establishing a structured daily routine with clear boundaries on screen usage is essential. In cases where children show early signs of dependency, seeking professional help becomes necessary," he said—(KNO)



**"Instead of being exposed to screens, children should be encouraged to participate in activities that promote cognitive development," he said,**

lose interest in social interactions and family activities, and their academic performance declines as they become increasingly absorbed in the

## J&K Bank Gives A Warm Send Off To Its General Manager

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank bid a warm farewell to its General Manager Tabassum Nazir, who superannuated yesterday after serving the institution with dedication for over 35 years in various key capacities.

Executive Director (ED) Sudhir Gupta chaired the farewell function held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, which was attended by General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other senior officials.

In his message on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee lauded her contribution to the Bank's growth and success. "Her commitment and unique leadership will leave a lasting impact on the institution. She has been an inspiration to many, and we deeply appreciate her dedication over the decades. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours," he said.

Commending her contribu-



tion, ED Sudhir Gupta said that Tabassum Nazir has set high benchmark of performance for younger staff especially women officers of the Bank.

Expressing her gratitude, Tabassum Nazir thanked the Bank's leadership and colleagues for their support throughout her journey. "I carry with me countless cherished memories from this beloved institution, which I consider the most precious gift of my life," she said.

The event concluded with heartfelt wishes for her future from her colleagues, acknowledging her valuable contribution to the Bank's rich legacy.

## Family Of Deceased Nowgam Youth Stages Protest, Seeks Justice

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The family of a young man from Nowgam, Srinagar, whose dead body was found inside his vehicle at Digidol, Ramban, last month, staged a protest on Saturday, demanding a thorough investigation into his death.

The protesters, carrying placards, gathered at Railway Colony, Nowgam, urging the authorities to probe the matter and deliver justice.

The deceased, Umar Yaseen, was a Railway Colony, Nowgam resident. His body was discovered under mysterious circumstances in his vehicle in the Digidol area of Ramban district. While the exact cause of death remains unknown, his family firmly believes that it was not a natural death but a case of murder.

The father of the deceased expressed deep anguish and called for a fair and transparent probe. "We do not suspect

anyone in particular, but we strongly believe that our son did not die a natural death. We urge the police to investigate thoroughly and bring the truth to light," he said.

The protestors held banners and placards seeking justice for Umar Yaseen, appealing to authorities to expedite the investigation. The bereaved family demanded that law enforcement agencies uncover the circumstances leading to his tragic death. (KNT)

## CS visits IE Samba To Take Stock Of Its Development

Observer News Service

**SAMBA:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo conducted a comprehensive review of the operations and service efficiency being provided to the industrial houses in the Industrial Estates (IEs) of Samba district.

During the visit, General Manager, ACTL Samba, Jitendra Khanna, briefed the Chief Secretary on the operational blueprint, ongoing projects, and key initiatives undertaken to enhance efficiency

and delivery of services.

The Chief Secretary inspected various operational aspects of the facility, assessed workflow mechanisms, and reviewed measures adopted to streamline industrial processes.

He took stock of all the amenities like power, water, roads and sewerage network there. He took this occasion to emphasise on the fact that the government is committed to provide the work environment best for the devel-

opment and prosperity of the industrial sector here.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjeet Singh, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, along with other senior officers, was present during the visit. The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of ensuring seamless industrial operations and directed officials to facilitate an enabling environment for industrial growth in the region.

## DC Anantnag Reviews Preparations For Shri Amamath Ji Yatra 2025



Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, chaired a preliminary meeting to review the arrangements for Shri Amamath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025. The meeting focused on continuing the well-established framework of past Yatras while identifying areas for further refinement to enhance pilgrim convenience and safety.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements made in previous years and emphasized the need for seamless coordination among departments to maintain the standard of services and introduce necessary improvements. Infrastructure development, medical facilities, sanitation, traffic management, and other essential services will continue to be key focus areas, with refinements based on past experiences.

The Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department and Municipalities were directed to sustain their efforts in waste management, sanitation facilities, and cleanliness drives along the Yatra routes and at base camps, ensuring an efficient and hygienic environment.

The Transport Department and Traffic Police will follow the established traffic management plan, including designated parking zones, personnel deployment, and congestion control measures, while incorporating improvements where required.

The Jal Shakti Department was instructed to ensure adequate potable water supply, with necessary enhancements where needed. Measures will also be taken to strengthen telecommunication services, improve signage along the route, and upgrade public convenience facilities.

## District Information Centre B'pora Organizes Interaction For Media Persons

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The District Information Centre (DIC) Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora, organized an Interaction-cum-Felicitation Ceremony for media persons on Saturday at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Zaffar Husson Shawl, District Information Officer (DIO), Aadil Manzoor Wani besides media persons.

Addressing the function, DC acknowledged the pivotal role of the media in highlighting public issues, disseminating informa-

tion, and fostering awareness among the masses.

He lauded the role of media in highlighting developmental, social, and administrative achievements & progress.

He emphasized the importance of constructive collaboration between the District Administration and the media, highlighting that such synergy is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and public welfare. He stated that the felicitation ceremony is aimed at recognizing the media as a vital stakeholder in the district's development.

On the occasion, media persons from various outlets were felicitated & presented mementos for their remarkable contributions in the implementation of developmental works & schemes.

## Muslims In Tral Help Perform Last Rites Of Sikh Neighbor

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** In a moving display of communal harmony and brotherhood, local Muslims in Chandrigam Tral came together to assist in performing the last rites of their Sikh neighbor, Suraj Singh, who passed away suddenly due to a brain hemorrhage.

Locals of the area set aside religious differences and stood in solidarity with the grieving Sikh family, offering both emotional and logistical support

during their time of loss.

Eyewitnesses recounted saying Muslim neighbors actively participated in the funeral arrangements, ensuring that all rituals were carried out respectfully. "Suraj Singh was not just a neighbor; he was family to us. His loss is deeply felt by the entire village," said one of the locals who assisted in the rites.

"This is the real essence of Kashmiriyat," remarked an elderly resident, referring to the Kashmir's syncretic ethos. [KNT]

## Nearly 99% JK Schools Lack Digital Library

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Jammu and Kashmir more than 98 percent of educational institutes sans digital library services—raising a question of limiting students' access to a wide range of re-structured and efficient information.

The total number of schools having less than two percent of digital libraries does not remain confined to government-run-schools only but the majority of the private schools of Jammu and Kashmir also lack the vital services for the students.

According to details, only 373 schools across Jammu and Kashmir were having digital library services available for the students.

The recent official figures reveal that "Among the total 24,296 government and private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, only 373 institutions that amount to 1.53 percent were having the digital libraries."

It also reveals that in 5452 private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, more than 12 Lakh students and in the case of 18,785 government schools, over 14 Lakh students were enrolled.

The official figures further reveal that among the total schools in Jammu and Kashmir, 26 percent of private and government educational institutions were either lacking libraries, books



banks or reading corners.

According to the recent official figures, only 18,000 schools out of 24,296 institutions of Jammu and Kashmir were having libraries, books banks or reading corners.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir earlier used to have a total of 28,805 government and private schools. However, as per the official figures, the count had reduced to 24,279 schools.

An official had said that the count of overall public schools in Jammu and Kashmir reduced because of having zero or extremely low students enrollment. Those schools were merged with the nearby public schools.

The official figures previously had revealed that the primary schools category of public schools was hit badly wherein the count of overall public schools in Jammu and Kashmir reduced by nearly 30 percent—(KNO)



### SAD DEMISE



With Profound Grief And Sorrow, We Announce The Sad Demise Of Shakeela Begum, Beloved Wife Of Late Abdul Ahad, Who Departed For Her Heavenly Abode On Friday, 31st January 2025. Taziyat Will Be Observed For Three Days Only At Umarabad Hmt, Opposite Noora Hospital.

We Kindly Request Ladies Not To Bring Any Eatable Items. May Allah (SWT) Grant The Departed Soul Eternal Peace And Jannat-Ul-Firdous. May He Also Give Strength And Patience To The Bereaved Family To Bear This Irreparable Loss.

**Grief-Stricken:**  
Sons:  
Jahangir Ahmad Malik | Mohammad Altaf Malik  
Contact: 88999 27510 | 70063 42835



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd**

**Office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I (TLMD-I), Bemina, Srinagar**

Ph. No. 0194-2492427, 9419181913 E-mail: tlmddtech@gmail.com

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**Tender Extension Notice-III**

**Subject:** Tender Extension Notice for e-NIT mentioned below:

e-NIT No	Tender Ref ID	Work Description
13/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2024-25; Dated: 18.12.2024	2024_PDD_268366_1	Revamping of old worn out fault prone electric/ civil infrastructure at 100MVA, 132/33kV Badampora Grid Substation

Due to poor response, the last dates for submission of e-bid and opening of Techno Commercial bids for the above mentioned e-NIT are hereby extended as under:

1.	Last date for submission of e-Bid	11.02.2025 (02:00 PM)
2.	Last date for submission of Hard Copy of e-Bid in the office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-I, Bemina, Srinagar	12.02.2025 (04:00 PM)
3.	Date for online opening of Techno-Commercial e-Bid	13.02.2025 (02:00 PM)

All other terms and conditions remain same.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
TLMD-1<sup>st</sup> Bemina Sgr  
Transmission (Kashmir), JKPTCL, Bemina

No.: TLMD-I/TS/13A/24-25/5831-35  
Dated: 01.02.2025  
DIPK-NB-3348/24 dated: 01-02-2025

## J&K Refuse To Bat, Allege 'Pitch Fixing' During Ranji Game Against Baroda

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** J&K did not take the field at the start of the third day of their ongoing Elite Group A Ranji Trophy clash against Baroda alleging that the pitch was tampered with overnight to favour the home team at the Reliance Stadium in Vadodara, a report said on Saturday.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, J&K alleged that the pitch was tampered to help the home team Baroda force an outright win to ensure qualification for the quarterfinal stage and play was held up for one hour and 25 minutes in the first



session on Saturday. J&K, Baroda and Mumbai are involved in a three-pronged

battled for knockouts qualification from Group A with only two teams from each group set

to progress.

On Saturday, Mumbai crushed Meghalaya by an innings and 456 runs for their biggest ever victory by innings' margin to win with a bonus point.

The contest in Vadodara, supposed to begin at 9:30 am, began only at 10:55 am on Saturday after the intervention of the match referee Arjan Kripal Singh.

According to J&K players and the team management, the surface was balanced on Day 2, but turned into a damp and unpredictable track at the start of Day 3, making batting significantly more difficult, an India Today report said.

When PTI contacted an of-

ficial travelling with the J&K team on the matter, he denied having any such information.

"I do not know anything about it," he told PTI.

The report added that match officials extended play by one hour on Saturday, with the Baroda Cricket Association stating that the dampness in the pitch was the cause, which is not unusual during the winter season.

J&K, resuming at 125/1 on Day Three, were bowled out for 284 in their second innings, setting a target of 365 for Baroda to win. The hosts reached 58 for two at stumps, needing another 307 runs on the final day.

### Short TAKES

#### JKSC, Dutch FA Begin Refresher Coaching Course In Jammu

The J&K Sports Council, in collaboration with the KNVB Dutch Football Association, has launched a Refresher Football Coaching Course in Jammu.

For the first time, the International Football Coaching & Life Skills Program has been introduced in J&K, with 35 local coaches getting the opportunity to participate in the KNVB World Coaches Program.

The World Coaches Program, established by the Royal Netherlands Football Association, has a strong presence in India and its various states and union territories. The program aims to develop football at the grassroots level by providing structured training and knowledge sharing with local coaches.

The five-day course commenced on Saturday at Mini Stadium Parade, Jammu, under the guidance of Dutch instructors Roger Schouwenaar and Raimond Massop. Both instructors, holding UEFA-A Coaching Licenses, bring over 20 years of international coaching experience across 40+ countries.

#### Sports Budget Raised By Rs 350 Crore+, Khelo India Gets Boost

The government's flagship Khelo India programme to scout and nurture athletes at the grassroots level was the biggest beneficiary as the allocation for sports was hiked substantially by Rs 351.98 crore in the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday.

The ambitious scheme has been allocated Rs 1,000 crore for the financial year 2025-26. This is Rs 200 crore more than the grant of Rs 800 crore in 2024-25. Overall, the Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports was designated Rs 3,794.30 crore, an overall jump of Rs 351.98 crore.

The increase is substantial considering there is no major sporting event like the Olympics, Commonwealth or Asian Games lined up in the next one year.

#### Bopanna Meets LG, Shares Plans For J&K's Tennis Talent

Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna on Saturday met LG Manoj Sinha and shared details of his initiative to nurture and shape the young tennis talent of J&K at his academy in Bengaluru, an official spokesperson said.

As part of a programme aimed at empowering underprivileged children, Bopanna explained that selected youngsters would receive both sporting and educational opportunities at his tennis academy in Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Kamal India Foundation.

The initiative will provide children from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions with free boarding, lodging, education, and comprehensive tennis training in Bengaluru, Bopanna added. The LG lauded Bopanna for his noble effort to empower children from underprivileged backgrounds through sports and education.

## Real Kashmir Face Shillong In I-League At TRC Today

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir FC is all geared up to take on Shillong Lajong FC in an I-League 2024-25 match on Sunday at TRC Ground here. The game will kick off at 2:00 PM and airs on Sony Sports 2 and SSEN app and website.

Both these teams have recorded 16 points from their 11 games, making it a crucial encounter for both sides.

Addressing a pre-match press conference on Saturday, Real Kashmir head coach Ishfaq Ahmad expressed confidence in securing a positive result.

"Shillong Lajong FC is a strong team, but we are hopeful of a win," Ishfaq said.

He acknowledged the challenges RKFC has faced



in away matches, particularly in adapting to different weather conditions.

"In away matches, we get very little time to adjust. From playing in sub-zero temperatures in Kashmir, we suddenly have to compete in places where the temperature is 35 degrees Celsius. It takes time to adapt," he explained.

The head coach emphasized the need for an indoor stadium in Kashmir so that footballers

can train properly during harsh winters.

"Our training is affected in winter. An all-weather indoor stadium is necessary for better preparations," he added.

Real Kashmir defender Mohammad Hammad also shared similar views, highlighting the advantage of playing at home.

"Shillong Lajong FC is a good side, but playing at our home ground gives us an edge," he said.

## IUST Shines In All India Inter-University Winter Sports

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** The Islamic University of Science & Technology bagged the winner's trophy in the All India Inter-University Winter Sports Championship in Snow Skiing. IUST also clinched the runner-up trophy in the boys' category and achieved an impressive third-place finish in Ice Stock, marking a significant milestone in its sports journey.

The felicitation ceremony was attended by Satish Sharma, Sports Minister of J&K, as the Chief Guest, along with Guests of Honour, including Farooq Ahmad Shah (MLA, Gulmarg), Prof. Shakil Ahmed Romshoo (Vice Chancellor, IUST), Prof. Nilofer Khan (Vice Chancellor, KU) and Prof. Prof Ravinder Nath (Vice Chancellor, CUK).



Prof. Shakil Ahmed Romshoo emphasized that this victory reflects IUST's dedication to promoting athletics and nurturing young talent, further strengthening Kashmir's reputation as a premier destination for winter sports.

Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director Physical Education and Sports at IUST, expressed immense pride in the athletes' dedication and resilience and reiterated IUST's commitment to fostering sports excel-

lence and encouraging students to compete at national and international levels.

IUST's athletes delivered outstanding performances in various categories.

In Ice Stock, the men's team, consisting of Abdul Moiz Qadari, Abdul Qadeer Khanday, Mohd Taif Khanday and Mohd Azim, won gold, while Toyebah Tariq secured a silver medal in the women's category. In Snow Skiing, Sadiya Ajjaz dominated the women's category, winning two gold medals.



## CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

### کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-BAGH-I-ISLAM COLONY LAL NAGAR, CHANAPORA SRINAGAR 190 015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899  
Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/DCC-66/2025/1022 Dated:-24-JAN-2025

**Subject: - Notice for inviting tenders for Anticancer Drugs and other related supportive drugs etc.**

(TENDER NOTICE)

- Sealed tenders in two cover bid system affixed with Rs.10/- Revenue Stamps are invited for and on behalf of Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir from Manufacturers/Firms/Companies/Stockists/Authorised distributors for one year W.e.f. date of approval of rate contract which must reach this office by or before **22-02-2025** for the following groups.

<b>Group-A</b>	<b>Anticancer Drugs</b>	<b>Annexure A</b>
<b>Group-B</b>	<b>Colostomy/Urostomy / ileostomy Bags</b>	<b>Annexure B</b>
<b>Group-C</b>	<b>Surgical Items / Supportive Drugs</b>	<b>Annexure C</b>
- The tenders should be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit for Group "A" of **Rs. 1.00 lac, for Group "B" Rs, 60,000/- & for Group "C" Rs, 5,000/-** in shape of CDR/FDR to be drawn on any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Cancer Society of Kashmir. Without which tenders shall not be entertained.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir 4-Baghi Islam Colony Lalnagar Chanapora.
- Tenders should invariably be submitted in two Bid System containing two parts as detailed below:-

**Part I** ----- **Techno Commercial Bid in separate sealed cover**  
**Part II** ----- **Price Bid/Financial Bid for all groups in another sealed cover.**

Both sealed covers to be put in outer cover.
- Detailed tender notice along with list of drugs & containing other terms & conditions can be collect from CSK office against the cash payment of **Rs, 500/-** each on all working days from **10:00 Am to 04:00 Pm.**
- Authorised distributor shall enclose copy of authorisation letter of the concerned company.
- CSK reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/tenders without assigning any reason thereof. On acceptance of tender and its communication to the successful tenderer, the same shall be binding upon the successful tenderer with immediate effect.

SD/-  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR



## CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

### کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-BAGH-I-ISLAM COLONY LAL NAGAR, CHANAPORA SRINAGAR 190 015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899  
Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Is Organizing

ON THE EVE OF  
 WORLD CANCER DAY  
 ON 04<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

FREE CONSULTATION  
 & AWARENESS PROGRAMME  
 about various types of cancers,  
 its causes, early detection & prevention.

Patients can avail the opportunity by  
 registering their names in CSK's office or on  
 phone no's of the society shown below.

TIME: - 10:30AM TO 2:00PM

For prior appointment contact :-  
 0194-2441899/3500478/3500479

VENUE: - CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR,  
 4-BAGH-I-ISLAM COLONY LAL NAGAR, CHANAPORA, SRINAGAR 190015.