

...Kulgam Deaths

## Video Of Police 'Kicking' Women Spark Outrage



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A viral video showing a police officer assaulting women protesters in Kulgam has triggered widespread outrage, leading to protests inside the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. Members of the PDP and the NC on Monday raised in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly the issue of the deaths of two brothers, who were among three people

missing since last month and demanded a high-level probe.

Ruling NC legislators Javed Choudhary, Mian Mehar Ali, Javaid Mirchal and Zaffar Ali Khatana, in order to register their protest, hurried towards the well of the House but were stopped by Marshals.

"Is J&K a police state? Can police shoot, arrest anyone? Is there no law for the police?" said Nazir Gurezi, a | [More on P10](#)

Police Orders Probe

Police on Monday ordered an inquiry after a video surfaced purportedly showing a police officer kicking a woman protester in Kulgam district. "A video has surfaced on social media regarding a police officer's conduct with the public in Kulgam. We have taken cognisance of yesterday's incident and the allegations regarding the officers conduct," Kashmir Zone Police said in | [More on P10](#)

**THE CHIEF MINISTER IS SITTING HERE.** He has heard your issue. He will look into it. He will ensure action."

## JKSSB, JKPSC Fill 11,526 Posts In 2 Yrs: Govt

Denies Any Paper Leak Scandals

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) have collectively filled 11,526 vacancies over the past two years, the government informed the Legislative Assembly.

In response to a query by MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri, the government stated that JKPSC recruited 2,175 candidates

between 2023 and 2024. This included 1,291 from the Open Merit (OM) category, 162 from Scheduled Castes (SC), 180 from Scheduled Tribes (ST), 220 from Residents of Backward Areas (RBA), 60 from ALC/IB, 56 from SLC, 66 from PSP, 116 from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), and 24 from Persons with Disabilities (PHC).

JKPSC made 1,141 selections in 2023 and 1,034 in 2024. During | [More on P10](#)

## Hydro Expansion, Smart Meters & Grid Revamp 24x7 Power For J&K: Omar Plans 3GW Boost By 2027

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said a well-coordinated plan which includes modernisation works in transmission and distribution system is under implementation to ensure 24x7 power supply to the consumers in the Union Territory.

Abdullah also said that no major progress has been achieved in the development of a coal block in Odisha. The coal block was allocated to J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) jointly with NTPC in July, 2013 by the



Union Ministry of Coal. Of the total estimated geological reserves of 396 MT, 266 MT was allocated to NTPC and 130 MT to JKSPDC.

The chief minister, who is also in-charge of the power ministry, shared the information in a written reply to a

Upcoming Power Projects

- » Kirthai-I (390 MW)
- » Dulhasti-II (258 MW)
- » Bursar (800 MW)
- » Sawalkote (1,856 MW)
- » Uri-I Stage-II (240 MW)
- » Ujh (89 MW)
- » Kirthai-II (930 MW)

power supply chain, is under implementation.

"The plan includes development of several generation projects and system upgradation/modernization works in transmission and distribution systems under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) and schemes like Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), with a target completion by 2027-28," Abdullah said.

He said major hydro projects, namely Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar, and Ratle are progressing fast and are expected to collectively add over 3,000 MW in installed capacity after their | [More on P10](#)

### 'NHPC Withholding Data On Hydropower Project Costs'

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

(NHPC) didn't provide details required to determine the current cost of the power projects which it intended to take over. In a written response to a

question from MLA Chanapora, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, Minister in-charge, Power Development Department, informed the House that NHPC didn't | [More on P10](#)

### Ruling Alliance Withdraws Cut Motions

Observer News Service

Jammu: In a significant development, three members of the ruling alliance—Nizamuddin Bhat, Irfan Hafiz Lone, and Muhammad Yusuf Tarigami—have withdrawn their cut motions.

Sources said that the trio was informed that members of the ruling alliance cannot use the parliamentary device to hold the government accountable.

It is noteworthy that cut motions | [More on P10](#)

## When Will Vande Bharat Finally Reach Kashmir? Ruhullah

Observer News Service

Jammu: National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Monday questioned the government over the delay in launching the Delhi-Srinagar Vande Bharat train, asking why promised deadlines have been repeatedly missed.

Speaking in Parliament during a discussion, Ruhullah said that there was no clarity on when the direct train service would begin.

"We were told that the Vande Bharat train from



Delhi to Srinagar would start by January 26. Later, multiple dates were floated in the media, yet nothing has materialized," Ruhullah said, pressing the government for a definitive answer. The National Conference

MP also raised concerns over reports suggesting that passengers may have to switch trains at Jammu or Katra, instead of a direct service to Kashmir. "Why this inconvenience? Why should Kashmir be treated differently?" he asked.

Ruhullah recalled that the railway minister had previously justified the non-operational status of the train by citing extreme winter conditions in Kashmir.

"If sub-zero temperatures are the reason, then why is the delay | [More on P10](#)

### 'Grounds Of Detention Vague, Ambiguous' HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Ex-bar President

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday quashed detention orders of two detainees under Public Safety Act including the former president of a lawyers' body here.

Allowing a plea by advocate Nazir Ahmad Ronga, a Bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar observed that allegations levelled against the former president of Kashmir High Court



Bar Association are "vague, ambiguous and lacking in material particulars, on the basis of which it was not possible for the petitioner (Ronga) to make an effective and suitable representation | [More on P10](#)

### Parliamentary Status No Shield NIA Rejects Er Rashid's Bail Plea

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday opposed the plea of jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, asserting that he cannot use his parliamentary status to "get away from the rigours of imprisonment".

The NIA's response in the Delhi High Court came after Rashid challenged a March 10 trial court order denying him custody parole or

interim bail to attend Lok Sabha proceedings until April 4.

The agency maintained that Rashid, who represents Baramulla, faces serious charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and has no enforceable right to attend Parliament while in lawful custody.

Dismissing his plea as an abuse of the legal process, the NIA argued that Rashid's claim of wanting to serve his constituency | [More on P10](#)

## Assembly Passes Business Advisory Report

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday unanimously approved the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) regarding the House's business schedule.

The motion was moved by Member Mubarak Gul and was put to a voice vote by Speaker Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, receiving unanimous support.

According to the BAC recommendations, House sittings on March 17, 22, and 24, 2025, will run from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with a one-hour break from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Additionally, the Government business initially scheduled for April 11 has been rescheduled to March 25, 2025.

To ensure efficient proceedings, the BAC has mandated that if Ministers choose to read written replies to Demands for Grants, those replies must also be circulated among all members.

Emphasizing the need for discipline, Speaker Rather urged Party Leaders and Chief Whips to ensure members | [More on P10](#)

### Alcohol Consumption In Katra

## SM Influencer Among 7 Booked

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police have booked social media influencer Orhan Awatramani, popularly known as Orri, and seven others for allegedly consuming alcohol at a hotel in Katra, the base camp for the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. The incident has triggered widespread outrage, with political leaders demanding strict action.

According to officials, a complaint was lodged at Katra police station on March 15, alleging that guests at a hotel were consuming alcohol in violation of local rules. An FIR was subsequently registered against the accused, identified as Orhan Awatramani, Darshan Singh, Parth Raina, Ritick Singh, Rashi Dutta, Rakshita Bhogal, Shagun Kohli, and Anastasia Arzamaskina.

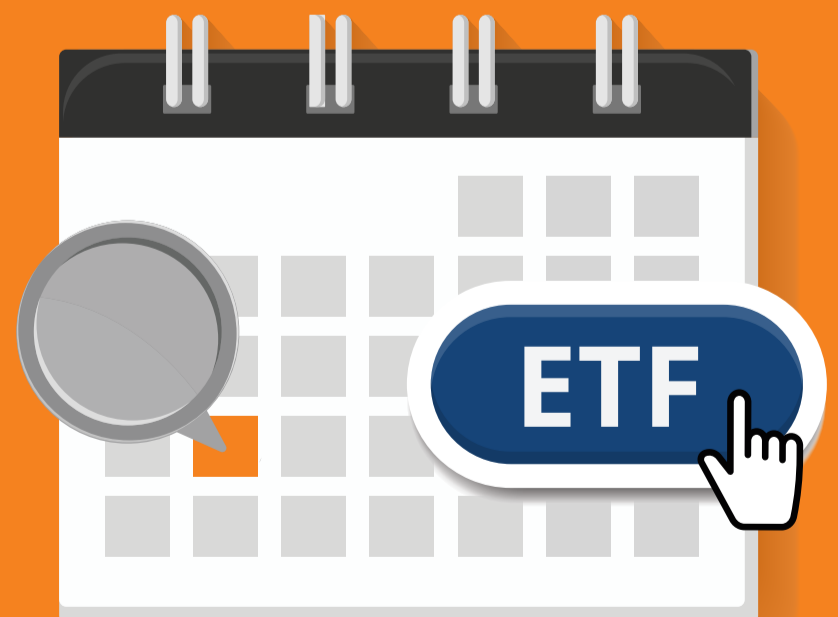
"Despite being informed that alcohol and non-vegetarian food are strictly prohibited in Katra due to its religious significance, the group consumed liquor on the hotel premises," a police officer said.

The police, under instructions from Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi, Paramvir Singh, have launched a manhunt to apprehend the accused. "This is a matter of | [More on P10](#)

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## Food Safety Inspections Held In City



**Syed Mohammad Burhan**

**SRINAGAR:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, a team of Food Safety/Drug and Food Control Organisation conducted intensive inspections of industrial units manufacturing bakery items, sweets, and confectionery in Srinagar.

The inspection team, led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar Yameen ul Nabi along with Food Safety Officers Hakeem Adil and Syed Dilpazi carried out inspections of Manufacturing units of Bakery, sweets and confectionery units in Industrial area Khanmouh collected surveillance samples to check the quality of food items. The inspections aimed to ensure that food business operators in Srinagar maintain the quality and stan-

dards of food products.

Another team of Food Safety Officers comprising of Mr Fayaz Ahmad Bhat and Mr Khalid Bashir carried out inspection of Children Hospital canteens and JVC market and lifted about 7 legal samples for analytical purposes and recommended 4 FBOS under sec 69 for penalty.

The inspections will continue in Srinagar to guarantee that food safety standards are met. Consumers can lodge complaints about food quality by calling 104 with substantial evidence.

The Food Safety/Drug and Food Control Organisation is committed to ensuring that food products in Srinagar are safe for consumption. The organisation will continue to conduct regular inspections and take action against food business operators who fail to meet food safety standards.

## TULIP FESTIVAL

### Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Opening Of Tulip Garden

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting to review the arrangement for the opening of Asia's largest Tulip Garden and to ensure a pleasant experience for visitors during Tulip Festival season.

Situated at the foothills of Zabarwan, the Tulip Garden is the most favorite destination of tourists in the month of April and shall be opened for the public in the last week of March as the 17.5 lakh tulip bulbs have started to bloom gradually.

Addressing the meeting in this regard, Div Com directed a massive publicity campaign for the opening of the famous Tulip garden, time slot and online booking of tickets by the visitors for which link will be available at the official website of the

floriculture department.

Meanwhile, he urged the floriculture department to keep the garden open from 6:00AM in the morning to 8:00PM in the evening.

Div Com directed SMC officials to conduct regular sanitation drives to keep the garden and surroundings clean from littering besides instructed for installation of an adequate number of dustbins at the garden.

He also directed SMC to make the existing toilet block functional and ensure availability of Mobile Toilet Vehicles outside the garden.

Div Com emphasised for efficient management of parking spaces at Botanical Garden to accommodate maximum number of vehicles and instructed SSP Traffic for smooth traffic management particularly during holidays & Sundays when the footfall of tourists & local visitors increase enormously.

## Masjid Bilal's Community Iftar Brings Worshippers Together

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Masjid Bilal in Srinagar's Lal Chowk organizes a daily iftaar drawing hundreds of worshippers who gather to break their fast in a spirit of unity and togetherness.

Situated on the scenic Bund along the Jhelum River, Masjid Bilal has long been a hub of religious and social activities. The annual community iftaar, a tradition upheld for years, aims to foster a sense of brotherhood and solidarity among the local population.

Eyewitnesses reported a warm and welcoming atmosphere as volunteers distributed dates, water, and traditional Kashmiri delicacies before Maghrib prayers. Attendees, including people from different neighborhoods of Srinagar, appreciated the initiative, emphasizing the need for more such gatherings in today's fast-paced world.

"Events like these strengthen our faith and social connections," said Javid Ahmad, a local attendee. "It's heart-

ening to see people from all walks of life come together to share a meal and prayers."

Another resident, Mushtaq Ahmad, praised the Masjid administration's efforts. "In a time when many feel disconnected from their communities, such initiatives remind us of the power of faith and collective goodwill," he said.

A representative of the Masjid Bilal management expressed their commitment to continuing this tradition. "We have been organizing community Iftar for many years now, and our mission remains the same—to ensure that no one feels left out during Ramadan. We welcome everyone with open arms," he said.

Notably, Masjid Bilal is known not only for its spiritual significance but also for its active role in community service, including charitable programs and educational initiatives. As Ramadan progresses, more such events are expected to be held, reinforcing the spirit of generosity and communal harmony in Srinagar.



### SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mushtaq Ahmad Wani S/O: Gh. Mohd Wani R/o Kalashpora Srinagar left for heavenly abode on Sunday 16th of March, The deceased was pious, humble, and down to earth person, may Allah grant him Highest place in Jannah, and give courage to his family to bear this irreparable loss. (Ameen).

The Fateh Khawani will be held in their ancestral graveyard at Nawabazar (Behind Taj Iron Agency) on Wednesday at 10:00 A.M

**Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any eatable item with them**

**FROM: BEREAVED FAMILY**  
CONTACT NO. +91 70064 01604

INFO

## Centre Yet To Approve Revised DPR For Srinagar Metro, Delaying Project

### Approval for Rs 4893 Crore Proposal Still Pending with MoHUA

**Syed Mohammad Burhan**

**SRINAGAR:** The long-anticipated Srinagar Metro Project, expected to alleviate traffic congestion and enhance urban mobility in the city, remains in limbo as it awaits clearance from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

In response to a question raised by MLA Tanveer Sadiq in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, the Housing and Urban Development Department disclosed that the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR), amounting to Rs 4893 crore and prepared by M/s RITES Ltd., has been submitted to the central ministry. However, the proposal has yet to receive official approval, stalling progress on the ambitious transit project.

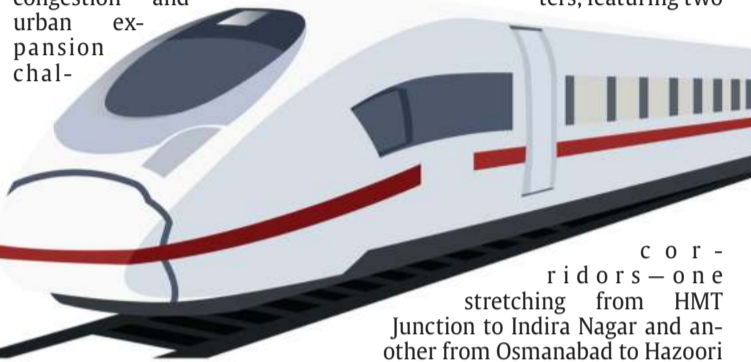
Authorities further confirmed that, as of now, no discussions have been initiated with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) or any other agency regarding the

project's execution and implementation since it remains stuck at the approval stage. Given the current status, setting a fresh timeline for its completion is not feasible.

The Srinagar Metro Project is widely regarded as a vital solution to the city's worsening traffic congestion and urban expansion challenges.

realization of this crucial infrastructure development.

Originally proposed in 2017 as a means to tackle the city's mounting transportation issues, the metro rail project was initially budgeted at Rs 4893 crore. Designed to be executed in two phases, it would span a total of 25 kilometers, featuring two



corridors— one stretching from HMT Junction to Indira Nagar and another from Osmanabad to Hazoori Bagh. However, the lack of progress in securing approval has kept the project from moving forward, leaving Srinagar's commuters in a state of uncertainty.

**THE SRINAGAR METRO PROJECT IS SEEN AS CRUCIAL FOR ADDRESSING THE GROWING TRAFFIC CONGESTION** and urban pressure in the city. However, the delay in its approval has raised concerns among residents and stakeholders about the timely execution of this significant infrastructure initiative.

## Dy CM Visits Bone & Joint Hospital



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary conducted an extensive visit to Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla, Srinagar, to review progress on ongoing development projects.

The visit was aimed to assess key infrastructural works and ensure their timely completion to enhance public healthcare services.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the newly constructed hospital building, emphasizing the importance of modern healthcare infrastructure to cater to the growing medical needs of the people. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while maintaining the highest standards of quality and efficiency.

Interacting with the officials and local residents, the Deputy Chief Minister sought feedback on the in-

frastructural developments in the area. He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment towards accelerating developmental projects for the welfare of people of the UT.

The Deputy Chief Minister was briefed by Professor Dr. Altaf Ahmad Kawoosa, HOD Orthopaedics, GMC Srinagar, about the newly constructed building of Bone and Joint Hospital at Barzulla, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards ensuring high quality healthcare and public services. He assured that all necessary measures will be taken up to equip the Bone & Joint Hospital with state-of-the-art medical facilities and improve healthcare infrastructure.

Later, the Chief Engineer PWD (R&B), Kashmir presented comprehensive reports on the physical and financial milestones of various on-

going projects. These included Convent Bridge, Rajbagh, Srinagar, New Bridge, Parimpora-Shaltang Flyover and Foot Over Bridge at Children Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, pedestrian safety measures and Boulevard Road widening proposal and traffic decongestion initiative.

The Dy CM also visited the New Convent School Bridge, where he reaffirmed the Government's assurance towards enhancing infrastructure that benefits both the residents and visitors. He assured full support for timely completion of all critical projects.

Reaffirming Government's commitment to speed up the infrastructural projects, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the importance of holistic development, prioritising key infrastructure and welfare initiatives for public benefit. He directed the officials to address any bottlenecks and ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated deadlines.

# GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

10-KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR KASHMIR, 190010

(ACADEMIC SECTION)

Subject: Engagement of Dr. Shabir Ahmad Dar, senior Resident on Academic Arrangement Basis, in the Department of Medicine, Government Medical College, Srinagar.

Reference: i. This office Advertisement No. 01 of 2025 Dated. 01-01-2025.  
ii. Character and antecedent verification report received from CID, J&K vide Form No. 116947 Dated. 29 -11-2024.

**OFFICE ORDER NO: 228 OF 2025.**  
**DATED: 17 -03-2025.**

Pursuant to the Selection list issued vide Notification No. 03 & 04-EC of 2025 Dated. 12-03-2025 and on the basis of satisfactory verification report of Character & antecedents by criminal investigation Department (CID), J&K, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Dar, MD, not In-service candidate, is provisionally engaged as Senior Resident in the Discipline of Medicine, Government Medical College, srinagar on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020 and Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024 initially for a period of one year, which is extendable upto (03), years, on the basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD.

The appointment of the above doctor is further subject to the following terms and conditions:-

- The selected candidate is supposed to submit his joining report alongwith an affidavit(s) in the office of the undersigned duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate to the effect that:-
  - he is not in-service candidate, the information if found wrong the selectee shall be punished under Rules which includes confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.
  - he will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of his tenure engagement. In the event he proceeds on strike, his tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.
  - he shall remain disciplined during the whole tenure; any kind of misconduct shall make him liable for termination without any prior notice.
  - he is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no fir pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against him.
  - he shall not claim any experience certificate in case he leaves Senior Residency before completion at least of six months.
  - he will not indulge in any private practice. In case he is found doing private practice his appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.
- The above doctor shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on the prescribed format (Form A) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement same can be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar.
- The appointee is required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled.
- The Senior Resident appointed on an Academic Arrangement basis shall be paid as per S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-2020.
- The Senior Resident appointed on Academic Arrangement basis shall be entitled leaves as per the Government order No. 451-JK (HME) Of 2024 Dated. 08.07.2024.

NO: RA-MC/Secl/SR/Med/10271-74-MC  
Dated: 17-03-2025

DIPK-13121-24  
Dt: 17/03/2025

Principal/Dean  
Govt. Medical College Srinagar

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• PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883  
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• BIJBERHA: 01932-228243  
• PAMPORE: 01933-294132  
• PATTAN: 01954-293507  
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**  
• Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)  
• Mughal Road - (Closed)  
• Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

**PRAYERS**

FAJR 5: 15  
ZUHR 12: 40  
ASR 4:56  
Magrib 6:43  
ISHA 8:02

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
17 Ramazan  
1446

## This Day In History

- 1902- Turkey grants Germany syndicate the first concession to construct a railroad through Turkish territory to Baghdad, to be linked to Berlin
- 1909- Russia and Bulgaria reach an agreement in which late 19th century Russian financial claims are cancelled to meet compensation due to Turkey from Bulgaria
- 1915- French battleship Bouvet explodes, 640 killed
- 1922 - British magistrates in India sentence Mahatma Gandhi to 6 years imprisonment for disobedience
- 1937 - The human-powered aircraft, Pedaliente, flies 1 kilometre (0.62 miles) outside Milan.
- 1940 - Benito Mussolini joins Hitler in Germany's war against France & Britain
- 1943 - Red Army evacuates Belgorod
- 1944 - Nazi Germany occupies Hungary
- 1944 - 2,500 women trample guards & floorwalkers to purchase 1,500 alarm clocks announced for sale in a Chicago Illinois dept store
- 1945 - 1,250 US bombers attacks Berlin
- 1948 - France & Great Britain & Benelux sign Treaty of Brussels
- 1948 - Soviet consultants have left Yugoslavia in first sign of Tito-Stalin split.
- 1949 - NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Org) ratified
- 1952 - 1st plastic lens for cataract patients fitted (Philadelphia)
- 1955 - I Hatojama recognized as premier of Japan
- 1959 - US President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs Hawaii statehood bill
- 1962 - Algerian War ends after 7½ yrs (250,000 die), Ben Bella flees
- 1963 - France performs underground nuclear test at Ecker, Algeria
- 1965 - USSR launches Voshkod 2; Alexei Leonov makes 1st spacewalk (20 mins)
- 1967 - Oil tanker Torrey Canyon hits a rock off Cornwall & spills oil
- 1968 - Congress repeals requirement for a gold reserve
- 1970 - Two-week US postal strike begins; it is against the government and is the largest wildcat strike in US history
- 1971 - 200 die in landslide into Lake Yanahuani, Chungar Peru
- 1972 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1972 - Ulster Vanguard hold a rally of 60,000 people in Belfast; William Craig tells the crowd: "if and when the politicians fail us, it may be our job to liquidate the enemy"
- 1974 - Most Arab oil producing nations end embargo against US
- 1975 - Kurds end fight against Iraqi army
- 1977 - US restricts citizens from visiting Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea & Cambodia
- 1977 - Vietnam hands over MIA to US
- 1978 - 250,000 attend rock concert California Jam II in Ontario, Calif
- 1978 - Former Pakistani premier Ali Bhutto sentenced to death
- 1979 - Battles between Kurds & Iranians break in Sananday, Iran
- 1986 - US Treasury Dept announces plans to alter paper money
- 1989 - 27th space shuttle mission, STS-29 (Discovery 8), returns to Earth
- 1989 - In Egypt, a 4,400-year-old mummy is found in the Pyramid of Cheops.
- 1990 - Largest art robbery in US history: 13 works of art worth over \$500 million are stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston
- 1990 - 1st free elections in East Germany, Conservatives beat Communists
- 1990 - 32-day lockout by baseball owners ends
- 1990 - A Tampa little leaguer dies after being struck by a pitch
- 1991 - Reggie Miller (Indiana) ends NBA free throw streak of 52 games
- 1992 - Zimbabwe beat England by 9 runs in World Cup at Albany
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-62 (Columbia 16), lands
- 1995 - STS 67 (Endavour 8) lands after 16½ days
- 1996 - 50,000 swimmers raise 15 million for charity during BT's Swimathon '96
- 1996 - A nightclub fire in Quezon City, Philippines kills 162.
- 1997 - Russian AN-24 plane crashes in Turkey, 50 die

## Trump To Talk To Putin Today To Push For Ending Ukraine War.

Agencies

Washington: President Donald Trump said he would speak to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday as he pushes to end the war in Ukraine. The US leader disclosed the upcoming conversation to reporters while flying from Florida to Washington on Air Force One on Sunday evening. "We will see if we have something to announce maybe by Tuesday. I will be speaking to President Pu-

**“We will see if we have something to announce maybe by Tuesday. I will be speaking to President Putin on Tuesday”**



tin on Tuesday," Trump said. "A lot of work's been done over the weekend. We want to see if we can bring that war to an end." Although Russia failed in its in-

terial goal to topple Ukraine with its invasion three years ago, it still controls large swaths of the country. Trump said land and power plants are part of the conversation around bringing the war to a close. "We will be talking about land. We will be talking about power plants," he said.

## Trump Freezes US-Funded Media Outlets Including Voice Of America



A crew from Voice of America make a live report as they stand in the a causeway leading to US President-elect Donald Trump's estate in Mar-a-Lago in West Palm Beach on December 13, 2024. (AFP)

Agencies

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's administration on Saturday put journalists at Voice of America and other US-funded broadcasters on leave, abruptly freezing decades-old outlets long seen as critical to countering Russian and Chinese information offensives. Hundreds of staffers at VOA, Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe and other outlets received a weekend email saying they will be barred from their offices and should surrender press passes and office-issued equipment. Trump, who has already eviscerated the US global aid agency and the Education Department, on Friday issued an executive order listing the US Agency for Global Media as among "elements of the federal bureaucracy that the president has determined are unnecessary." Kari Lake, a firebrand Trump supporter put in charge of the media agency after she lost a US Senate bid, said in an email to the outlets that federal grant money "no longer effectuates agency priorities." The White House said the cuts

would ensure "taxpayers are no longer on the hook for radical propaganda," marking a dramatic tone shift toward the networks established to extend US influence overseas. White House press official Harrison Fields wrote "goodbye" on X in 20 languages, a jab at the outlets' multilingual coverage. VOA director Michael Abramowitz said he was among 1,300 staffers placed on leave Saturday. "VOA needs thoughtful reform, and we have made progress in that regard. But today's action will leave Voice of America unable to carry out its vital mission," he said on Facebook, noting that its coverage — in 48 languages — reaches 360 million people each week. The head of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which started broadcasting into the Soviet bloc during the Cold War, called the cancellation of funding "a massive gift to America's enemies." "The Iranian ayatollahs, Chinese communist leaders, and autocrats in Moscow and Minsk would celebrate the demise of RFE/RL after 75 years," its president, Stephen Capus, said in a statement.



## Modi Conveys Concerns To Kiwi PM Over Anti-India Activities In New Zealand

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India and New Zealand on Monday inked a pact to institutionalise their defence ties and vowed to boost cooperation in the Indo-Pacific even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged concerns to his Kiwi counterpart Christopher Luxon over certain unlawful elements indulging in anti-India activities in the island nation. Following talks between Modi and Luxon, the two sides signed six agreements to ramp up cooperation in several areas including education, sports, agriculture and climate change, and decided to prepare a roadmap for cooperation in the defence industry sector. In his media statement, Modi said India and New Zealand support a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific, adding "we believe in the policy of development, not expansionism", remarks that came amid growing global concerns over China's expansionist behaviour in the region. Advertisement The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting an Indo-Pacific where sovereignty and territorial integ-

egrity are respected, according to a joint statement. Luxon arrived in the national capital on Sunday on a five-day visit primarily to push for deeper economic engagement between the two sides. Both prime ministers welcomed the launch of negotiations for a "balanced, ambitious, comprehensive, and mutually beneficial2 free trade agreement (FTA)

**“Strict action is necessary against those guilty of terrorist attacks. We will continue to cooperate together against terrorist, separatist and radical elements”**

between the two countries to achieve deeper economic integration. Within the context of FTA negotiations, Modi and Luxon agreed for discussions between respective authorities on both sides to explore early implementation of cooperation in the digital payments sector. In the context of the negotiations for the trade deal, the two sides agreed to start discussions on an arrangement facilitating the mobility of professionals and skilled workers, primarily to address the chal-

lenge of irregular migration, according to a joint statement. In his remarks, Modi, referring to the 2019 Christchurch terror attack and the 26/11 Mumbai strike, said that terrorism in any form is "unacceptable." "Strict action is necessary against those guilty of terrorist attacks. We will continue to cooperate together against terrorist, separatist and radical

elements," he said. "In this context, we shared our concern about anti-India activities by some illegal elements in New Zealand. We are confident that we will continue to get the cooperation of the New Zealand government against all these illegal elements," he said. Modi said both sides decided to strengthen and institutionalise defence and security partnership and a roadmap will be prepared for cooperation in the defence industry sector.

## Women, Children Killed In US Airstrikes Targeting Ansarallah Leadership In Yemen

Agencies

Sanna: The airstrikes carried out by US and UK warplanes overnight were part of a new campaign to "take out" leaders of the Ansarallah resistance movement and "hold Iran accountable" for supporting them, a top White House official said on 16 March. "This was an overwhelming response that actually targeted multiple Houthi [Ansarallah] leaders and took them out," Trump national security adviser Mike Waltz said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. Most of the 31 people killed in the strikes were women and children, said Sanaa's health ministry spokesperson Anees al-Asabi on Sunday, who also reported 101 oth-

ers wounded. "Targeting civilians proves US weakness; this will not deter us from supporting Gaza but will instead escalate the situation to something even stronger and more severe," said the Yemeni Supreme Political Council in a statement. The difference between strikes targeting Yemen under Trump compared to those carried out under former president Joe Biden is that the US is now "going after the Houthi leadership and holding Iran responsible," Waltz stated. "We inherited a terrible situation, and this is one of what will be a sustained effort to right that wrong and to reopen global commerce," he added. Trump also warned Iran to end military support for Ansarallah. He said if Iran threatened the

United States, "America will hold you fully accountable, and we won't be nice about it!" IRGC Commander-in-chief Major General Hossein Salami reiterated on Sunday that Iran does not dictate the policies of Ansarallah in Yemen. Nasruddin Amer, deputy head of the Ansarallah media office, said the airstrikes would not deter the Yemeni resistance movement. "Sanaa will remain Gaza's shield and support and will not abandon it no matter the challenges," he wrote on social media. The midnight attack marks the first western airstrikes to hit Yemen since the Gaza ceasefire deal took effect in January. It also comes days after Trump added Ansarallah back to the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

## Security Tightened At Aurangzeb's Grave In Maharashtra

Press Trust Of India

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: As calls for the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's grave intensify, the police administration has stepped up security, making it mandatory for visitors to furnish their identity cards before entering the site in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, an official said on Monday. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) staged protests at various government offices during the day and submitted memorandums for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave in Khuldabad. Aurangzeb is remembered in Maharashtra for his battles with the Marathas, who resisted his expansionist ambitions. Maratha warrior king Shivaji Maharaj's son, Sambhaji, was captured, tortured, and executed on his orders.

been deployed at various points and the grave site. Tourists visiting the grave now have to write their names in a visitors register kept with a team of Home Guards and have to furnish identity documents, he said. Parvez Kabeer Ahmed, the caretaker of the grave, said, "The situation here is peaceful, and people should not believe in rumours. Footfall of visitors has gone down after the demands to demolish the grave have come up. The footfall is usually low during Ramzan. Nearly 100 people visit daily, but the number has gone down since the issue was raised." The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) staged protests at government offices in different parts of Maharashtra and submitted memorandums for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave. In the memorandum addressed to



The Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar rural police department has implemented multiple security posts from the entry point to Khuldabad town to the grave site. An official said a State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) company of 50 policemen, 30 personnel from local police and 20 Home Guards have

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the VHP stated that Aurangzeb had killed two sons of Sikh guru Guru Gobind Singh because they refused to convert, tortured and killed Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and demolished temples in Kashi, Mathura, Somnath.

## Delhi HC Directs Centre on Plea to Rename India as Bharat

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to expeditiously comply with an order of the Supreme Court for considering a representation for amending the Constitution and replacing the word India with "Bharat" or "Hindustan". Justice Sachin Datta also allowed the petitioner to withdraw his petition in this regard. The order passed on March 12 said, "After some hearing, senior counsel for the petitioner seeks to withdraw the present petition with leave to pursue the matter with the ministries concerned for disposal of the petitioner's representation in terms of the order dated June 3, 2020 passed by the Supreme Court...the present petition stands dismissed as withdrawn." The Centre's counsel should appropriately convey to the ministries concerned for expeditious compliance of the order passed by the Supreme Court, it added. The petitioner had initially approached the Supreme Court, which in 2020, directed the petition be treated as a representation that could be considered by appropriate ministries. Petitioner Namaha, represented by senior advocate Sanjeev Sagar, then moved the high court for a direction to the authorities to decide his representation. "The petitioner is left with no op-

**“The petitioner is left with no option but to approach this court, by way of the present petition as there is no update from the respondents about any decision taken on the representation of the petitioner”**

tion but to approach this court, by way of the present petition as there is no update from the respondents about any decision taken on the representation of the petitioner," the plea said. It said the English name "India" did not represent the culture and tradition of the country and renaming it to "Bharat" would help citizens shed the "colonial baggage". The plea, therefore, sought amendment to Article 1 of the Constitution, which deals with the name and territory of the Union. Referring to the 1948 Constituent assembly debate on Article 1 of the then draft constitution, the plea said even at that time there was a "strong wave" in favour of naming the country as "Bharat" or "Hindustan".

### NEWS MAKERS

## Around 50 Injured In Bee Attack During Funeral Gathering In Jaipur



Around 50 people, who had gathered for a funeral here, were injured in a bee attack on Monday, police said. The incident occurred in Peeli ki Talai of Amber area when during the cremation of a person bees came out of the hive due to the heat of the fire and attacked the group of people, Station House Officer (SHO) Antim Sharma said. He said around 50 people were injured and they were taken to the nearest first aid centre from where some people were referred to Sawai Mansingh Hospital in Jaipur. Most of the people were sent home after first aid, the officer added.

Just over a day after blasting off, a SpaceX crew capsule arrived at the International Space Station on Sunday, delivering the replacements for NASA's two stuck astronauts.

The four newcomers — representing the US, Japan and Russia — will spend some time learning the station's ins and outs from Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams. Then the two will strap into their own SpaceX capsule later this week, one that has been up there since last year, to close out an unexpected extended mission that began last June.

Wilmore and Williams expected to be gone just a week when they launched on Boeing's first astronaut flight. They hit the nine-month mark earlier this month.

The Boeing Starliner capsule encountered so many problems that NASA insisted it come back empty, leaving its test pilots behind to wait for a SpaceX lift.

While the seven space station residents prepared for the new arrivals, one of the Russians — Ivan Vagner — briefly put on an alien mask in a lighthearted moment. Wilmore swung open the space station's hatch and rang the ship's bell as the new crew floated in one by one and were greeted

## NASA announces Sunita, Wilmore's return date to earth



**“Wilmore and Williams expected to be gone just a week when they launched on Boeing's first astronaut flight. They hit the nine-month mark earlier this month.”**

with hugs and handshakes. "It was a wonderful day. Great to see our friends arrive," Williams told Mission Control.

Wilmore's and Williams' ride arrived back in late September with a downsized crew of two and two empty seats reserved for the leg back. But more delays resulted when their replacements' brand new capsule needed extensive battery repairs. An older capsule took its place, pushing up their return by a couple weeks to mid-March.

Weather permitting, the SpaceX capsule carrying Wilmore, Williams and two other astronauts will undock from the space station early Tuesday and splash down off Florida's coast later that evening.

Until then, there will be 11 aboard the orbiting lab, representing the US, Russia and Japan.

## 'Indian Railways Providing High-Quality Services To Passengers'

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & IT, Ashwini Vaishnav, highlighted the achievements and future plans of Indian Railways during a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. He stated that Indian Railways is providing safe and high-quality services to passengers at affordable fares while securing a leading position globally. Comparing Rail fares, he mentioned that fares in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are higher than in India, while in Western countries, rail fares are 10-20 times higher than in India.

On the subsidy provided to passengers, the Railway Minister said that while the cost of train travel per kilometer is ₹1.38, passengers are charged only 73 paise, meaning a subsidy of 47% is provided. In the financial year 2022-23, passengers received a subsidy of ₹57,000 crore, which increased to approximately ₹60,000 crore in 2023-24 (provisional figures). He emphasised that the goal is to provide safe and improved services at minimal fares.

Highlighting the benefits of Railway electrification, the Minister noted that despite an increase in the number of passengers and cargo, energy expenses have remained stable.

Indian Railways aims to achieve Scope 1 net zero emissions by 2025 and Scope 2 net zero emissions by 2030. This non-fossil energy-based goal will completely offset the Railway's carbon emissions.

The Railway Minister also announced that locomotives manufactured at the Madhepura factory in Bihar will soon be exported. Indian Railways is exporting passenger coaches to Mozambique, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, while locomotives are being exported to Mozambique, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Additionally, bogie underframes are being exported to the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, France and Australia, while propulsion parts are being sent to France, Mexico, Germany, Spain, Romania and Italy.

This year, India produced 1,400 locomotives, surpassing the combined production of the

U.S. and Europe. Additionally, 200,000 new wagons have been added to the fleet. The Railway Minister stated that in FY 2024-25, Indian Railways will transport 1.6 billion tons of cargo, making it one of the world's top three freight carriers, alongside China and the U.S. This underscores the increasing capacity of Indian Railways and its crucial role in the logistics sector.

He further stated that 41,000 LHB coaches have been manufactured with a strong focus on railway safety.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term, all ICF coaches will be replaced with LHB coaches. The implementation of long Rails, electronic interlocking, fog safety devices and the 'Kavach' safety system is progressing rapidly.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Vaishnav mentioned that earlier, Indian Railways received ₹25,000 crore in financial support, which has now increased to ₹2.5 lakh crore. This funding has led to significant infrastructure improvements, including the construction of 50 Namo Bharat trains designed for short-distance travel, offering both AC and non-AC options.

Regarding the recent incident at New Delhi Railway Station, the Railway Minister informed the House that a high-level committee is investigating the unfortunate accident. All CCTV footage and relevant data have been secured and approximately 300 individuals have been interviewed to verify facts. Ten critical measures have been taken to prevent such incidents in the future.

The Railway Minister reiterated the government's commitment to serving the poorest sections of society. He emphasised that the number of general coaches is being increased to 2.5 times that of AC coaches. Under the current production plan, 17,000 non-AC coaches are scheduled for manufacturing. He also stated that Indian Railways' financial position is strong, with continuous efforts to improve it. The Railway sector has successfully overcome challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with passenger numbers increasing and growth observed in both passenger and freight transportation.

about the presence of terrorists in the area, the officials said. The search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened fire towards the security forces' positions. One terrorist was killed in retaliatory firing and some arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot, they said. The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorist were yet to be ascertained.

## Terrorist Killed In Kupwara

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** An unidentified terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in the Zachaldara area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday, officials here said.

The security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Krumhoora village in Zachaldara following information

about the presence of terrorists in the area, the officials said.

The search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists opened fire towards the security forces' positions. One terrorist was killed in retaliatory firing and some arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot, they said.

The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorist were yet to be ascertained.

## Govt Committed To Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure: Sakina Itoo

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has reiterated its commitment to addressing gaps in the health sector and enhancing medical facilities in accordance with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms.

Responding to a query by MLA Daleep Singh Parihar, Health and Medical Education Department Minister Sakina Itoo stated that the administration is actively working to resolve the shortage of doctors across various healthcare institutions.

"Significant measures are being undertaken to fill vacancies for Medical Officers to ensure that healthcare services remain accessible to the public. Out of the 365 newly appointed Medical Officers, 14 have been assigned to District Doda, strengthening the



healthcare infrastructure in the region," Itoo said.

She further informed that 22 doctors are currently serving at healthcare centers including SDH Baderwah, SDH Gandoh, PHC Chinga, Bhella, Bhalla, Prem Nagar, Tapri, and Changa. Additionally, under the National Health Mission (NHM), 19 doctors have been deployed to further bolster medical services at these institutions.

"To reinforce healthcare delivery, 37 paramedics and non-gazetted NHM staff have been

deployed, ensuring that patients receive timely medical care and the infrastructure remains well-supported," she added.

Itoo also highlighted that the recruitment process for 181 Medical Officer positions is in progress through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). "Once finalized, these doctors will be placed in health institutions facing acute shortages," she stated.

According to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's 2023 report, Jammu and Kashmir boasts 554 NTPHCs, making it one of the regions with the highest density of health institutions in the country. "J&K is dedicated to consolidating its existing healthcare network, which currently includes over 4,200 institutions spanning Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary levels," the minister emphasized.

## Intellectual Property Awareness Program Concludes Under MSME Innovative Scheme

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** The Intellectual Property Awareness (IP) Program under the MSME Innovative Scheme concluded successfully in Bandipora. Organized by the Ministry of MSME (PPDC Extension Centre, Srinagar) in collaboration with Hassan Khoiyami Memorial Government Degree College Patushay Bandipora, the program aimed to empower students with IPR awareness, industrial-level technology insights, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The valedictory session was presided over by Prof. Bilquees Rasool, Principal, Hassan Khoiyami Memorial Government Degree College Patushay Bandipora, who emphasized the significance of IPR and technological advancements. "We are delighted to collaborate with MSME for this IPR awareness program. Such initiatives help enrich students' skills and create opportunities in fields like drone technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), IoT, and robotics," she stated.

A special lecture on IPR was delivered by the Guest

of honour at the event Shahid Ansari, Founder and CEO of Startup Kashmir, who provided valuable insights into intellectual property rights, patents, trademarks, copyrights, and how startups can leverage IPR for innovation and business growth. In addition to the lecture, Shahid conducted practical sessions, where students engaged in real-world case studies on patents and trademarks, simulated the process of filing intellectual property applications, and explored strategies for protecting and commercializing their innovations.

He highlighted the pivotal role played by the MSME sector in shaping the economy, driving the country's manufacturing sector growth, and boosting the 'Make in India' initiative. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the MSME sector has witnessed unprecedented growth and brought remarkable transformation to the Indian economy. MSME exports increased from Rs 3.95 lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs 12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25. This figure shows that MSMEs are

## Can J&K Tribunal Be Moved To Old HC Building? SC To Centre

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre if the Jammu and Kashmir Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) could be moved to the old high court building.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh asked the additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati to inform it about the time frame for the construction of the new high court building at Jammu for which land was allocated. Bhati offered to seek instructions on the issue and said for the time being CAT, Jammu could shift to a rented accommodation. The bench directed the Centre to provide sufficient staffers to the tribunal once it moved to the rented premises.

On January 2, the top court batted for a permanent building, along with permanent staff, for the Jammu and Kashmir CAT, saying it was prudent for the government not to deploy outsourced staffers in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

## Why Another University? Because Our Future Depends on It.



Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi

Some argue that Kashmir doesn't need another university—that with 11 government-run universities, we should focus on bringing in industries instead. But this thinking gets the problem completely wrong.

It's not that we have run out of jobs. It's that our graduates aren't prepared for the jobs that exist. Employers don't hire degrees; they hire skills, innovation, and problem-solving ability—qualities that our current universities fail to instill. This is why thousands of our students remain unemployed despite holding degrees. We are not adding to the problem by producing more graduates—we are fixing the root cause by creating a university that actually prepares them for real-world opportunities.

Look at the world's top universities—Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Oxford, IITs, IIMs—none of them are just 'degree mills.' They are engines of research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Why aren't their graduates jobless or their PhDs selling dry fruits on the road? So again, it's not that we have enough PhDs and other degree holders. The problem in J&K isn't that we have universities—it's that these universities fail to produce globally competitive graduates.

Also, it's not just about producing students for industry. It's about creating industries at home. Stanford alone helped create Silicon Valley, a global tech powerhouse. Imagine what Kashmir could achieve if we built an ecosystem that nurtured job creators, innovators, and industry leaders rather than just job seekers. We have not understood the

massive role of universities in nation-building. This is because our universities have not shown it to us. We think universities are simply big colleges. So we tend to think all universities must be the same.

Every major innovation—from AI to medical breakthroughs—comes from universities with strong research foundations.

What role have our current universities played in shaping our economy? Have they provided groundbreaking models to the government for economic growth? What medical or scientific innovations have they contributed—have we produced anything remotely close to a COVID vaccine? What have we given to humanity, to the world? Where is our contribution to poverty alleviation, climate change, or sustainable development in J&K?

When we say we want to build a university, it's not just about getting our graduates jobs—though that is important. Let's broaden our vision. A true university drives research that shapes policy, fuels technological advancements, strengthens economies, deepens our understanding of religion and philosophy, enriches poetry and literature, revolutionizes media, and sparks innovation across industries. This is what it means to build a living, breathing community—an alive nation. A Zinda Qom.

University of WathHarbor isn't just about education; it's about laying the foundation for Jammu & Kashmir's own innovation and tech-driven industries. We're not waiting for someone else to build it for us. We're doing it together—a people's university, funded by the people, for the people.

This isn't just a university. It's a movement. Be part of Kashmir's future.

Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi is the founder of The University of WathHarbor Project. He can be contacted at [makhdoomi.mehboob6@gmail.com](mailto:makhdoomi.mehboob6@gmail.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF CAVEAT APPLICATION**  
FROM THE OFFICE OF ZAHID HUSSAIN DAR, ADVOCATE  
at HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH,  
AND ALL DISTRICTS COURTS OF UT OF J&K.  
Off. A1, Town Tower, New Colony, Pricchoo, Pulwama, 192301,  
advocatezahidhussain6@gmail.com, 01933295000, 9566595655

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT PULWAMA

In the case of:  
Imtiyaz Ahmad Zargar S/o Mohammad Yousuf Zargar R/o Danganpora Pulwama.  
(Caveator)

VERSUS  
Public at Large (Non-Caveator)

In the Matter of: Caveat Application.  
May it please your Honour,  
The application is submitted as under

- That the Caveator is the Lawful Owner of a piece of Land measuring 15 Marlas situated at Zargar Mohallah, Dalipora Pulwama over which the Caveator is constructing his house and brick work of two stories is already complete.
- That the Caveator has started the work of roof top and few jealous neighbors of the caveator are conspiring with each other to file a frivolous litigation against the caveator in order to harass the caveator.
- That the Caveator has an apprehension that his neighbors may jointly, individually or through some other person, approach this Hon'ble Court by way of a suit/application/petition to get an ex-parte order so that they may stop the caveator from constructing his roof top.
- That in case an ex-parte order is passed against the Caveator, an irreparable loss will be caused to the Caveator which cannot be compensated later on, as such the Caveator is praying that the Caveator be informed and heard before any ex-parte order is passed.
- That a copy of this application is/has been published in the daily newspaper.

In the premises, it is therefore prayed that in the interests of Justice, the Caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before any ex-parte injunction/Order is passed by the Hon'ble Court on the presentation of suit/application by any person against the Caveator.

Caveator  
Counsel for the Caveator  
Zahid Hussain Dar  
(Advocate)

Date: 17-03-2025

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS**  
**OFFICE OF THE WARDEN GUJJAR AND BAKERWAL GIRLS HOSTEL SRINAGAR**  
NEAR HAMDANIA COLONY BEMINA SRINAGAR  
Email id: wardenbgirlshostelsr@gmail.com | Phone: 9070001219

ADVT. NOTICE NO. 02 OF 2025  
DATED: 16/03/2025

Subject:- Advertisement for the engagement of Tutors on part time basis in G&B Girls Hostel Srinagar for the academic Session 2025.

Application on plain paper are invited from the desirous unemployed/ Trained Graduate/Post Graduate Candidates for engagement as part time tutors for teaching classes 6th - 12th in G&B Girls Hostel Srinagar, for the Academic Session 2025 for a period of 06 months only.

Terms & Conditions:

- The engaged candidates shall have no right of confirmation, regularization, or continuation and shall stand automatically disengaged after the culmination of academic session.
- The honorarium will be paid subject to the availability of funds.
- The applications should be accompanied with attested copies of the qualification certificates, recent passport size photograph, and other relevant testimonials.
- The applications should reach to this office by or before 27-03-2025 up to 02:00 PM.
- The date of interview will be notified after the last date of submission of application forms.
- The candidate found negligent during teaching the inmates of the hostel shall be terminated without any prior notices.
- The details regarding honorarium and teaching timings can be had from the office of the undersigned.

No: -GBGH/SGR/2024/151  
Date: 16.03.2025  
DIPK-13126-24  
DT: 17/03/2025

Yours faithfully,  
Warden  
Gujjar and Bakerwal Girls Hostel  
Srinagar

NORTHERN RAILWAY							
E- TENDER NOTICE							
The Deputy Chief Engineer/Bridge Line/Jammu Tawi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-							
S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Completion period of work
1	OT-06-JAT-2025	Painting of various bridges in BAHAL-BDGM- BRML section under SSE/BR / M/BDGM over FZR Division in jurisdiction of Dy. CE/BL/JAT.	2,46,81,562.10	2,73,300.00	04.04.2025	21.03.2025 to 04.04.2025	10 Months
Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender			Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.				
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.			The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> .				
No.80-W/30/Bridges/ Invitation Dated: 12.03.2025 <span style="float:right">821/25</span>							

## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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# Are the Yemen Attacks about Houthis?



Wajahat Qazi

### KO VIEW

## Declining Militant Numbers

The number of active militants in Jammu and Kashmir has shrunk to 76, a report has revealed. About 59 of these are from Pakistan and just 17 are local - 3 in the Jammu region and 14 in the Valley. Among the foreigners, three are said to belong to Hizbul Mujahideen, 21 to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and 35 to Lashkar-e-Taiba. Official data, on the other hand, has indicated a significant drop in youth taking up guns, marking the lowest figures in 15 years. This is for the first time since 2011-12, that the number of active local militants has fallen to single digits, taking forward a trend from 2023 and 2024, with only one new recruit recorded in 2025 so far.

The drastically reduced number of militants has, in turn, resulted in a corresponding drop in the levels of violence, much more so in the plains. True, there have been occasional spikes in attacks but even these are growing now fewer and far between. Would this trend sustain? There's hope that it will, although such moments in the past haven't been built upon but frittered away. For example, the number of militants - both local and foreign - had, more or less, declined to the same levels in 2011. This had momentarily ushered in a peaceful environment. But the numbers surged again from thereon, especially the local recruitment, with south Kashmir as its hub. And by 2015, we had over 300 local militants in the Valley. However, the situation since has drastically metamorphosed, and, on their face, the things seem unlikely to go back to square one. But, it is also true that Kashmir remains an uncertain place.

The air in J&K is now filled with hope and a sense of foreboding. In recent years, Kashmir has transformed in most of its aspects. It is now easier to predict the continuation of the existing normalcy but the place can still surprise with its unpredictability. Last year, dramatic attacks claimed the lives of several security personnel and broke the prevailing calm. However, the occasional spikes in violence didn't detract from the larger drift of normalcy. It is this normalcy in the UT that made possible the peaceful Assembly elections after the break of a decade.

Looking back at the last five years, the two trends have largely undergirded the current calm: one is the steady decline in militancy and another is the growth in tourism. Going by the government data, millions of tourists have visited the union territory, something that has lifted the local economy otherwise crippled by the extended post Article 370 blockade followed by the COVID-19 shutdown.

The current hybrid governance has succeeded in building on these security and economic gains. The central government has also made it known that it is working on a comprehensive security and development roadmap for the UT which hopefully will further improve the situation, and usher in lasting peace and prosperity. But, at the same time, it is important that the elected government is given its due precedence in the matters of governance, and which won't be possible unless J&K is returned its lost statehood.

“While it is a given that hard power, force and strike capacity are both constants and variables in a given politico-strategic mix but hem in a given country too much, then things go into the domain of the ‘unknown unknown’. This assumes salience against the backdrop of a multi-polar or tri-polar world where other powers are also asserting themselves and the US is also retrenching

Soon after the US president Donald Trump ordered attacks on Yemen's Houthis 'to free up shipping lanes', about 31 people were killed in the region. The question is: are these attacks actually aimed at Houthis and to free up shipping lanes? Yes and no.

To get a grip on the nature and rationale of these attacks, a wee digression is called for here. If we rewind only a few days and take a detour to Ukraine and Russia, the answer may fall into perspective.

The interregnum between talks between Russia, the US and Ukraine, Zelensky's White House visit, and then talks again were filled with, one, a barrage of Ukrainian drone attacks on Russia, Russia's huge advances and military gains in Kursk, and so on. These were the prelude and interlude to talks. What was the point? To gain a firmer hand or position in the negotiations over a ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia mediated by the US. Now what relevance does this have over US attacks on Houthis? Do they actually mean anything?

Yes. Everything.

In the 'fog of war', battlefield wins or losses determine the nature, scope and tenor of negotiations in a given militarized conflict. What is the relevance to Yemen's Houthis? It may be pertinent to mention here that these attacks come after the decapitation of Hezbollah by Iran and the attendant attacks on Lebanon. And as this essay goes to press, the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel looks increasingly tenuous.

Delineation of these issues or themes may cut to the heart of the matter: given that Houthis in Yemen and Hezbollah in Lebanon are seen as the 'axis of resistance' by Iran, the real target appears to be Iran itself. Why? One, Iran appeared to be 'recalcitrant' to nuclear talks suggested implicitly (and maybe behind the scenes) by the US. Two, US presi-

dent Donald Trump has stated a policy of 'maximum pressure' on Iran. Here's then where the attacks on Houthis come into play. It appears to be a prelude to denuding Iran of what the country thinks of as its 'outer security perimeter' and putting pressure on the country.

Will this pressure work? No one knows. Is this a good policy? No. Why? Because pressure, control and aggression work - but only up to a point. Then, to use a phrase from economics, 'diminishing returns' set in and there is also the matter of public disaffection. The US might be banking on the Shiite-Sunni schism and the fact of Iran's Shiite nature and its isolation in the sunni world because of this schism. That is,

“To get a grip on the nature and rationale of these attacks, a wee digression is called for here. If we rewind only a few days and take a detour to Ukraine and Russia, the answer may fall into perspective.

if Iran is pressured by whatever means there will be no disaffection in the broader Muslim world because Iran is Shiite. Plus with respect to internal security of the West, there will be no repercussions because Iran has 'zero strike capability' within the West - unlike ISIS or Al-Qaeda remnants which gyrate to a particular interpretation of Sunni Islam. In this schema, the US would deem attacks on Houthis as kosher and the fallout minimalist - if not zero. But this is bad policy.

While it is a given that hard power, force and strike capacity are both constants and variables in a given politico-strategic mix but hem in a given country too much, then things go into the domain of the 'unknown unknown'. This assumes salience against the backdrop of a multi-polar or

tri-polar world where other powers are also asserting themselves and the US is also retrenching. These cross cutting themes then create a security problematic whose nature can take any shape and form. If the real name of the game is to bring Iran to the negotiating table, the US must 'man up'. What does this mean? It means taking into consideration the legitimate security needs and interests of Iran and other players in the region and then engaging in diplomacy that is not zero sum. This would require diplomatic insight, finesse and subtlety and a robust understanding of the region's history, dynamics and other relevant parameters and equations. The starting point toward this, for

Donald Trump would be to understand in very clear terms the '(dis)utility of force', its diminishing returns and other allied issues. For Trump to gain a handle on this, it would be desirable to see that while force is a necessary concomitant to diplomacy but ultimately Clausewitz dictum that 'War is a continuation of politics by other means must be inverted to 'All war is bad politics'.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author has a Masters with Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Worked as Associate Editor of Kashmir Observer



Did you know ?

### Understanding Why Interest-Based Income is Haram: The Case for Shariah-Compliant Investments in India

Irshad Mushtaq

The concept of earning through interest, known as Riba, is fundamental in Islamic finance. It is strictly prohibited (haram) for several reasons that extend beyond mere financial transactions. Understanding these principles can illuminate why many individuals seek out Shariah-compliant investment vehicles, such as exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and mutual funds, particularly in the Indian stock market.

#### The Prohibition of Riba (Interest)

1. Equity and Justice: Islamic teachings emphasize fairness and justice in financial dealings. Interest generates income without risk or effort, creating a disparity between those who earn interest and those who engage in genuinely productive economic activities. This inequity can lead to exploitation, as individuals in high debt may find it increasingly difficult to escape their financial burdens, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

2. Risk and Reward: Shariah finance promotes shared risk and mutual cooperation. Investments in businesses inherently involve risk, and parties are encouraged to share profits and losses. Interest-based income sidesteps this principle, making it an uneven playing field where only the lender benefits at the expense of the borrower.

3. Societal Impact: Excessive reliance on interest can lead to economic instability, leading to issues such as inflation and financial crises. Islamic finance seeks to promote economic resilience through ethical investments that contribute positively to society.

#### The Case for Shariah-Compliant Investments

1. Historical Performance: Historically, Shariah-compliant investments, including mutual funds and ETFs, have performed well in the long term. In many instances, they have yielded higher returns than traditional fixed deposits, particularly when considering the principles of risk-sharing and ethical investment strategies.

Read the full article on our website: <https://kashmirobserver.net>  
Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)

Disclaimer: This article is for information only and doesn't offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products. If you decide to act on the information here, you do so at your own risk



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

#### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: [editpage.ko@gmail.com](mailto:editpage.ko@gmail.com)

## Emphasizing Healthy Eating in Ramazan

As Ramazan approaches, Muslims around the world prepare for a month of fasting, reflection, and spiritual growth. While fasting is an essential aspect of Ramazan, it's equally important to focus on healthy eating habits during this period.

The pre-dawn meal (suhour) and the post-sunset meal (iftar) are crucial in providing the necessary nutrients and energy for the day. However,

it's common to see people indulging in fried foods, sugary drinks, and other unhealthy options during iftar gatherings.

This not only negates the spiritual benefits of fasting but also poses serious health risks. Dehydration, digestive issues, and an increased risk of chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease are just a few concerns.

Therefore, I urge the community to prioritize healthy eating during

Ramazan. Here are a few simple tips:

- Incorporate hydrating foods like watermelon, cucumbers, and celery into your iftar meals.
- Opt for whole, unprocessed foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins.
- Limit sugary drinks and fried foods.
- Drink plenty of water throughout the night.

By adopting these habits, we can ensure a healthier and more spiritually rewarding Ramazan.

I hope this message resonates with your readers and inspires them to make healthier choices during this blessed month.

Mahoor Sajjad  
Srinagar

# Haput

## The Beast in a Witness Box

Mushtaq Hurra

The public prosecutor repeatedly persuaded the judge to issue the death penalty to the bear for mauling an innocent man. "Your Honour! The bear is guilty of mangling people; he is a beast, a deadly brute, a fiendish monster who inflicts pain upon weak creatures. Capital punishment is the least punishment he deserves," exclaimed the prosecuting attorney.

The dejected bear stood up from the witness box and said, "My Lord, I should be allowed to plead my case because none of the homo sapiens came forward in my defense. So, I may be accepted as my own counsel."

"Permission granted," stated the judge. The despondent bear took an unusual pause, as if he had forgotten everything. His throat appeared clogged, and he cleared it in a state of urgency to speak. "Your ho-o-o-nour!" he fumbled and stuttered badly, as if he was apprehensive and skeptical about the system of justice prevalent in the court of law. The judge understood his trepidation and concerned state of mind and intervened instantly. "I assure you absolute justice; you are not proven guilty yet, so speak without fear or apprehension."

The assurance from the chief jurist somewhat calmed and solaced the bear. He opened his mouth as if a volcano of emotions burst into a monologue. With a trembling voice, he exclaimed:

"My Lord, I am often mocked, taunted, and ridiculed as 'Haput' by the so-called Ashrafal Makhlooqat. But today, I want to unveil the masquerader who rips up hapless creatures relentlessly. Let's all know who the real beast is. I have been handcuffed and subjected to judicial trials for my attempt to extinguish the fire of my belly. But the fact of the matter is that the viceroy of God has forced me to retreat from my abode in search of food. His unnecessary and unwarranted attempts to satiate his ego have deprived me of my sustenance. Poaching and fowling have reduced my prey opportunities awfully. Green-gold is vanishing



into thin air due to his rapacity, as if some Moorish sorcerer has cursed it with intense spells of black magic.

I have the courage to come down from the mountains, but weaker creatures are falling prey to inanition and starvation. Forage and fodder for animals have been exhausted due to his callousness and greed. Creations of God are perishing from the planet due to his insensitivity and avarice. He mutilates thousands in a jiffy. Yet, he is Ashrafal Makhlooqat, and I am Haput.

Spilling human blood has become the trade of man. Brutal wars and battles have

reddened the soil, with millions of innocent souls falling prey to his egotism and ambitious instincts. Carnage and genocide have become the norm of the day on the planet. Man butchers his own brethren to avenge an insult or add a few bucks to his bank account. There are thousands of instances of his brutal and barbaric character. Millions have succumbed to his egomania and conceit. Arms of destruction and demolition stand piled up to decimate life from the planet. Lust, libido, and ambition are the blinkers that obstruct his vision, preventing him from seeing beyond the animalistic and



**THE ASSURANCE FROM THE CHIEF JURIST SOMEWHAT CALMED AND SOLACED THE BEAR.** He opened his mouth as if a volcano of emotions burst into a monologue. With a trembling voice, he exclaimed

materialistic perspective. Murders, massacres, and assassination attempts have tarnished his heavenly appellations. Yet, man is Ashrafal Makhlooqat, and I am Haput.

I am guilty of having sharp and pointed canines, but the toothless viceroy of God is tearing human flesh under his jaws. The disguised wolf is roaming with an open mouth, ready to devour anything that comes his way. He is plundering and looting the creations of God through deceptive and cheap means. The cunning man resorts to trickery and deceit to accumulate extra wealth and money. Food adulteration and contamination are gradually affecting the health of common people, but the honourable man is least bothered about it. Cyanides, pesticide residues, urea, brick dust, and sawdust are added to different food items to earn extra money. His mind is a nest of intrigue and treachery. Dozens of cancers and deadly ailments are caused by these foul practices. And man is Ashrafal Makhlooqat, and I am Haput.

Jhelum, Dal, Wular, Mansbal, and high-altitude perennial lakes are choked and gagged. Man takes pride in filling the bellies of these water bodies with poisonous trash and garbage. Gigantic mountains of polythene and plastic have assumed dangerous proportions. The quality of air and water has deteriorated badly. Jungles and the dozens of animal species living there are facing the pangs of unnecessary human intervention. Many plant and animal species are either endangered or have gone extinct. The kill-

ing of innocent animals continues to be his chief hobby, and a cheap source of amusement. And man is Ashrafal Makhlooqat, and I am Haput.

Molestation bids and forced rapes have exterminated the chastity and sanctity of Binti-Hawa. She is being subjected to inferior and stepmotherly treatment. Predecessors of man used to bury her alive, but Ashrafal Makhlooqat has taken the attack to her conception. He eliminates Binti-Hawa in her mother's womb. Thousands of daughters of Hawa have fallen victim to his libido and so-called masculinity. Masculine hegemony and brutality have become the fate of Binti-Hawa. He barter her modesty and purity to gratify his carnal desires. And man is Ashrafal Makhlooqat, and I am Haput.

Ah! The visionary angels had raised their voices at the right time. I endorse their concerns and skepticism about the creation of Adam AS. I am reminded of Surah Al-Baqarah of the Holy Quran, verse 30: "And when your Lord said to the angels, 'I am going to place in the earth a Khalifah (Vicegerent),' they said: 'What! Will You place in it someone who causes mischief and bloodshed? We glorify Thy praise and extol Thy sanctity.' Allah responded, 'Indeed, I know that which you know not.'"

The crown of creations has proven the apprehensions of the angels true. Our own land of Sufis, saints, and sages has lost its glorious legacy of values and ethos. Misadventures of man send shivers down my spine. I am, at times, ashamed of being his subordinate. His wicked and mean character has certainly disappointed his Lord Who created man in the best composition. Your Honour! Let you decide my fate based on the facts. Give your verdict on merit. Who shall be sent to the gallows? Who is the real Haput? I or the man?

The judge put his pen under his teeth and was drowned in an ocean of introspection and self-analysis.

*The author is a teacher and a columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com*

## Obituary

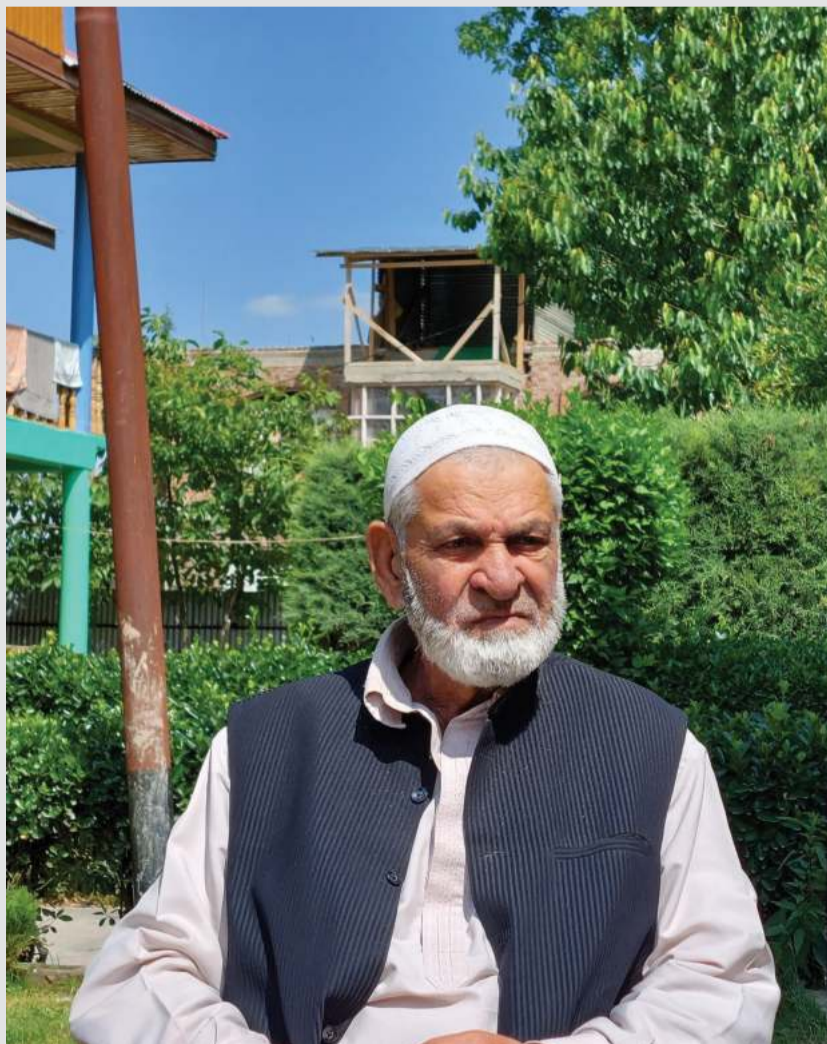
# Fondly, Forever

Saleem Rashid Shah

Bashir Ahmad Shah might have been a paramedic by profession but through his dedication to serve his people, he was a character one only comes across in legends and folktales. Destiny shapes such individuals but once in generations. In him the people of Rohama Rafiabad not just lost a dedicated paramedic but also a father figure.

I remember a dreadful yet amusing episode when a severe toothache kept me riling with pain all night and Bashir Ahmad Shah (Mama as we called him) decided to take me to a dentist he knew in the newly opened Sub-District Hospital of Baramulla the next morning. As we reached the dental section of the hospital, the employees there got up and greeted with respect and reverence a former colleague of theirs. Known for his sharp wit and a scathing sense of humor, Mama sat beside me as I lay on that peculiar dentist's chair, its recline unusually long, awaiting my dental examination. The drill buzzed in my mouth as the doctor cleaned the cavities to be filled with the new Zinc Oxide filling. I was shrieking with pain and I heard Mama whispering in my ears the words I will never forget: 'Eat more toffees'. Ten years later, the Zinc Oxide filling is still buried in my teeth but Mama is no more.

Bashir Ahmad Shah joined the department of Health in 1970's as a 'Khidmadgar' but his father, Peer Saif Ud Din Shah, had entirely different notions of his only son. For him he was a pampered dreamer, someone who was well cared for but hadn't yet settled on a clear path in life. On his first posting in tehsil Handwara, Mama had barely stayed for a week and had come home in protest about the job being too hectic and difficult.



At his uncle Abdul Ahad Shah's insistence, he reluctantly returned to work.

He took him to Handwara and placed him under the guidance of a trusted doctor.



**THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CARRY COUNTLESS STORIES ABOUT THIS remarkable man. His life and service touched many, nearly all of whom gathered for a final glimpse of him before he embarked on his eternal journey**

What began as a profession he initially disliked soon became his true calling, one he would grow to love passionately for the rest of his life.

The decade of 90's was the one marred with strife and terror in Kashmir and in our village of Rohama (in Rafiabad) the only healthcare provider was Bashir Ahmad Shah. To the people, he was nothing less than a doctor. In an era when stepping outside after dark was unthinkable, Mama fearlessly tended to his patients, unwavering in his commitment. He had a unique habit of sleeping in the room closest to the main entrance in order to ensure that he would immediately hear if someone knocked at night. It was a time of such fear that even opening the gates felt daunting, let alone venturing out to care for the sick and injured.

His family would often worry for him and at times scold him for putting his life in danger but he wouldn't listen. When asked if he ever feared going out with patients at night amid such strife and turmoil he would laughingly reply that 'the nerve that carries the emotion of fear to one's

mind didn't exist in me.' At times in order to sneak out of his home at night without waking up his family he would escape through a window and come back through the same, so that the family wouldn't know in the morning what had transpired in the night. A dedicated public servant whose commitment went far beyond the confines of a 10-to-4 workday would be an apt description of him.

Reacting to a condolence post, a facebook user and a respected teacher of Rohama, Mr Gulzar Ahmad Bhat wrote: 'Bashir Sahab was a noble soul who rendered unforgettable service in almost every household of Rohama. I remember a day in 1986 when I had a shooting pain and was crying for relief, my father took me to his home at around 2am in the morning. In a few knocks on his gate, Bashir Sahab opened the door, examined me and gave me an injection. I felt relieved in a few minutes. In Bashir we lost an apostle of humanity whose vacuum would take generations to fill.'

Thousands of people carry countless stories about this remarkable man. His life and service touched many, nearly all of whom gathered for a final glimpse of him before he embarked on his eternal journey. Austrian psychologist Viktor Frankl, in his book Man's Search for Meaning, writes that a person who has a strong 'Why' to live can endure almost any 'How'. For Mama, that 'Why' was his unwavering commitment to selflessly serve his people, even in the most challenging times, a purpose for which he endured every hardship with courage.

He departed quietly on the sacred Friday of the holy month of Ramazan, at 2 PM on March 7, 2025.

*Saleem Rashid Shah, a book critic and researcher, is the nephew of the departed*

## Study Raises Possibility Of Country Without Butterflies

ANI

A study has been released, which for the first time tallies butterfly data from more than 76,000 surveys across the continental United States.

The results: between 2000 and 2020, total butterfly abundance fell by 22 per cent across the 554 species counted. That means that for every five individual butterflies within the contiguous US in the

the 342 species with enough data.

Abundance is a term that threatens to become ironic. Butterfly populations dropped an average of 1.3% annually across the country, except for the Pacific Northwest. But even that encouraging result came with a caveat.

Further scrutiny of the apparent 10% increase in overall abundance in the Pacific Northwest over the 20-year study period was credited largely to the Cali-



year 2000, there were only four in 2020.

"Action must be taken," said Elise Zipkin, a Red Cedar Distinguished Professor of quantitative ecology at Michigan State University and a co-author of the paper.

"To lose 22 percent of butterflies across the continental U.S. in just two decades is distressing and shows a clear need for broad-scale conservation interventions," Elise added.

In this paper, Zipkin and Had-dad were among a working group of scientists with the USGS Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis who aggregated decades of butterfly data from 35 monitor programs, including records of over 12.6 million butterflies.

Using data integration approaches, the team examined how butterfly abundances changed regionally and individually for

fornia tortoiseshell butterfly, which was enjoying a population boom not expected to be sustained.

"This is the definitive study of butterflies in the U.S.," said Collin Edwards, the study's lead author. "For those who were not already aware of insect declines, this should be a wake-up call. We urgently need both local and national-scale conservation efforts to support butterflies and other insects. We have never had as clear and compelling a picture of butterfly declines as we do now."

Edwards had been a postdoctoral research associate at Washington State University, Vancouver, and now works at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The results reveal that 13 times as many species declined as increased with 107 species losing more than half their populations.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name and DOB in her Aadhar Card has been wrongly mentioned as Mohsin . Date of Birth (DOB), 10.09.2015 instead of Saniya Parvez .DOB, 10.09.2013. Now I am applying for its Correction as per School and Date of Birth (DOB) Certificate 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.



Parvez Ahmad Mir  
F/O. Saniya Parvez  
R/O :- Tulwari Tehsil :- Langate  
Distt : Kupwara .Pin Code 193302 .

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no; 8564-2399-2640 as Hajra Begum while my correct name is Habla Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Habla Begum  
W/o Mohd Sultan Magray  
R/o Wahdatpora Tehsil Baramulla

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In DOB Records of my Son namely HASEEB ARSHAD, his parentage is wrongly mentioned as Arshid Abdullah Dar instead of ARSHAD ABDULLAH DAR, now correction required. If anybody has any objection, may contact concerned office within a period of (07) seven days from publication of this notice. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

inf

# Indian-Made Gene Therapy For Blood Cancer Shows 73% Response Rate In Clinical Trials

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: An indigenously developed gene therapy for specific blood cancers has shown a 73 per cent response rate among patients in India, according to results of clinical trials published in The Lancet Haematology journal.

Known as 'CAR T-cell therapy', the treatment involves modifying genes in one's T-cells -- a type of immune cells -- to help fight cancer. The study looked at patients with leukaemia, which occurs in bone marrow, and lymphoma, which affects the lymphatic system.

Researchers, including those from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, said in low and middle-income countries, patients in whom 'B-cell' tumours continue to grow following a period of remission (relapse), or do not respond to treatment (refractory), suffer from poor outcomes due to an absence of effective therapies.

A type of white blood cell, B-cells are crucial to one's immune system as they produce antibodies to fight infections.

"The clinical trials of India's first gene therapy for cancer offer hopes of another chance to live among these patients, that there is one more drug that doctors can try," lead author Rahul Purwar, professor at IIT-Bombay and founder of ImmunoACT, told PTL.

"ImmunoACT, or Immuno-Adoptive Cell Therapy Private Limited, is a gene-modified cell therapy company, a spinoff of IIT Bombay.

"CAR T-cells, just like normal T-cells, persist in the body for a long time. These cells help



to prevent a relapse," first author Dr Hasmukh Jain, professor of medical oncology, Tata Memorial Hospital, said.

The CAR T-cell therapy is also a cost-effective alternative to that available in the developed world, Purwar added.

"We developed it over a period of 11 years, starting with drug design and lab work, which was then translated into animal studies, before progressing to clinical trials," he said.

The injection 'talicabtagene autoleucl' is now approved in India, "available for USD 30,000," which is "less than one-tenth of the price of other approved CD19 CAR T-cell therapy products marketed worldwide", according to the research article.

In a linked commentary article, authors from the University of Pennsylvania in the

US -- not involved in the study -- wrote that the approved CAR T-cell products cost USD 3,73,000 to 4,75,000, and clinical care and possible relocation expenses bring the total treatment cost to over USD 1 million.

"Therefore, access to CAR T-cell therapy is an important limitation to the success of this approach in not only high-income countries but particularly in low-income and middle-income countries," the research paper said.

In phase-1 of the India trials, talicabtagene autoleucl was injected into the veins of 14 patients aged 18 years or older having relapsed or refractory B-cell lymphoma. In phase-2 trials, the drug was given to 50 patients aged 15 years and older with relapsed or refractory B-cell leukaemia or B-cell lymphoma.

The typical age of the overall study group was 44 years. Of the 64 patients, 49 were men and 15 women.

While phase-1 trials assess a new drug's safety in 20-100 volunteers, along with how the drug is absorbed and metabolised in the body, phase-2 trials involve 100-300 participants for the testing of the new drug's effectiveness.

"Among the 51 patients analysed, "the overall response rate was 73 per cent," according to the paper.

There were two treatment-related deaths, and the most common toxicities were neutropenia (unusually low count of neutrophils), which affected 55 of 57 patients, followed by thrombocytopenia (a low platelet count), which affected 37 of them, the team said.

**“ We developed it over a period of 11 years, starting with drug design and lab work, which was then translated into animal studies, before progressing to clinical trials**

Anaemia was found to affect 35 patients.

"Talicabtagene autoleucl had a manageable safety profile and induced durable responses in patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell malignancies," according to the research article.

"This therapy addresses an important unmet need for patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell malignancies in India," it said.

Jain said, the findings "give us an opportunity to test the therapy in the earlier settings and in combination with other immunotherapies".

These trials are now underway at the Tata Memorial Centre, he added.

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY BUDGAM

Email:dlsabudgam2020@gmail.com

Phone:-01951255647

### INTERACTION/INTERVIEW NOTICE

**Subject: Selection of Chief, Deputy & Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels.**

This is in continuation of Interaction/Interview notification bearing No.: DLSA/BDM/2025/404-411 dated: 11-03-2024 issued by this office earlier. As directed by J&K Legal Services Authority vide Communication No. SLSA/LS/96/2022/53-55, dated: 14-03-2025, that the timeline of events for Legal Aid Defense Counsel Positions has been modified in view of the participation of large no. of applicants. Therefore, Interaction/Interview at District Budgam for the said post/posts shall be conducted on 20th & 22nd of March 2025. The Interaction/Interview of the candidates who have applied for the posts Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel (01 No.), Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsels (02 Nos.) and Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels (05 Nos.), shall be conducted on the dates given against their names in the enclosed Annexure A.

Chairman Distri Legal services Authority  
Pr District Session Judge Budgam

No.: DLSA/BDM/2025/433-440  
DIPK-13109/24 Date: 17-03-2024

S.No.	Names of the candidates	Post Applied For	Date of Interview
1.	Latief Ahmad Khan	Chief LADC	20-03-2025
2.	Shahrooq Bhat	Chief LADC	20-03-2025
3.	Nazeer Ahmad Wagay	Deputy LADC	20-03-2025
4.	Javaid Ahmad Mir	Deputy LADC	20-03-2025
5.	Sadaf Shabir	Deputy LADC	20-03-2025
6.	Zahoor Ahmad Malik	Deputy LADC	20-03-2025
7.	Malik Mohammad Saleem	Deputy LADC	20-03-2025
8.	Abdul Rouf Parray	Deputy LADC	20-03-2025
9.	Nahida Mushtaq	Assistant LADC	20-03-2025
10.	Nazeer Ahmad Wagay	Assistant LADC	20-03-2025
11.	Saiqa Jan	Assistant LADC	20-03-2025
12.	Anam Naqashbandi	Assistant LADC	20-03-2025
13.	Mujtaba Hussain Parray	Assistant LADC	20-03-2025
14.	Anayat Ali	Assistant LADC	20-03-2025
15.	Mohammad Sameullah Bhat	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
16.	Sadaf Shabir	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
17.	Shafat Hussain Mirq	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
18.	Zahoor Ahmad Malik	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
19.	Aamir Ahmad Bhat	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
20.	Yaweer Ali Mir	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
21.	Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
22.	Fozia Shafi	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
23.	Shahistah Gani	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
24.	Mir Naira Nissar	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
25.	Asif Habib	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
26.	Malik Mohammad Saleem	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
27.	Suhail Ahmad Mir	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025
28.	Parvaiz Ahmad Najar	Assistant LADC	22-03-2025

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

### E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:-

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR25-42	01.04.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14630/F1, 20434/F1, 14634/F2, 14634/R1, 14633/F2, 14633/R1, 14630/R1, 14634/F1, 14633/F1 & 14730/R1.
EAFZR-SLR25-43	02.04.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14505/F1, 14616/F1, 19614/F1, 12242/F1, 14730/F1, 14028/F2, 14028/R1, 14028/F1 & 14730/F2.
EAFZR-PACKING30	02.04.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for packing of two wheelers and other parcel packages at FZR & PTKC.
EAFZR-SLR25-44	03.04.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14650/F1, 22424/F1, 14674/F1, 19108/F1, 14604/F1, 14618/F1, 20986/F1, 22402/F1, 22942/F1 & 22432/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 822/2025

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## CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

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### (ADMISSIONS - 2025)

#### CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR ANNOUNCES ADMISSION TO UNDER-GRADUATE (UG) PROGRAMMES

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to various Under-graduate programmes through Common University Entrance Test CUET (UG) - 2025 to be conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA).The eligibility/paper code(s) and other details for admission to UG programmes are available on university website: [www.cukashmir.ac.in](http://www.cukashmir.ac.in). The University is offering admission to the below mentioned UG programmes:-

S.No	Name of the programme	S.No	Name of the programme
01	B.Sc.Hons/Hons. with research in following subjects: (a) Biotechnology (b) Zoology (c) Physics (d) Mathematics	02	B.A LLB (Hons)
03	B.A (Hons) English	04	BBA (Hons)
05	B.Voc (Tourism & Hospitality Management)		

### Activity Schedule for CUET (UG)-2025:

Online Submission of Application Form	01 March 2025 to 22 March 2025 (up to 11.50 PM)
Last date of successful transaction of fee through Credit/Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI	23 March 2025 (up to 11.50 PM)
Correction in Particulars	24 March 2025 to 26 March 2025 (up to 11.50 PM)
Announcement of the City of Examination	To be announced later on the website
Downloading Admit cards from NTA website	To be announced later on the website
Date of Examination	From 08 May 2025 to 01 June 2025 (tentative)
Display of Recorded Responses and Provisional Answer Keys	To be announced later on the website
Website(s)	<a href="https://cuet.nta.nic.in/">https://cuet.nta.nic.in/</a>
Declaration of Result on the NTA website	To be announced later on the website

**Note:** The Candidates are advised to select the course/s of their choice and corresponding course codes/s and test paper code/s carefully before submitting the application form. The University shall not be responsible for any error made by the candidates/s at the time of form submission. In case, any candidate faces difficulty in applying for CUET (UG)-2025, he/she may contact 011-40759000/011-or e-mail at [cuet-ug@nta.ac.in](mailto:cuet-ug@nta.ac.in). The candidates are also advised to visit the NTA website(s) <https://nta.ac.in> and <https://cuet.nta.nic.in/> regularly for the latest update regarding the exam. Further, for any assistance at University level, please call at 9469147277 - 7889593153 Office hours (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

No:CUKmr/DOA/Admission.UG-10/2025/070  
Dated: 03.03.2025

S/d Director I/C  
Directorate of Admissions



## Net Direct Tax Kitty Rises 13% To Rs 21.26 Lakh Crore Till Mar 16

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Net direct tax collection grew 13.13 per cent to over Rs 21.26 lakh crore so far this fiscal aided by higher advance tax mop up, government data showed on Monday. During the year, the government collected Rs 10.44 lakh crore from four instalments of advance tax against Rs 9.11 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, registering a growth of 14.62 per cent.

The last instalment of the advance tax payment was due on March 15, 2025, for the current financial year. Advance tax collection under the corporate tax category rose by higher advance tax mop up, government data showed on Monday. During the year, the government collected Rs 10.44 lakh crore from four instalments of advance tax against Rs 9.11 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, registering a growth of 14.62 per cent.



March 15 of the financial year. As per the data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), mop up from net non-corporate taxes, which include mainly personal income tax, grew 17 per cent year-on-year to about Rs 11.01 lakh crore.

Refunds worth more than Rs 4.60 lakh crore were issued during the period as against Rs 3.47 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Individual whose estimated tax liability is likely to be over Rs 10,000 (after considering tax deducted and collected at source — TDS and TCS) is required to pay advance tax that year, as per Section 208 of the Income-Tax Act. This includes salaried taxpayers.

Advance tax is to be paid before the end of the financial year on the income that one would have earned that year.

Advance tax is paid in four instalments — June 15, September 15, December 15, and

cent to Rs 53,095 crore so far this fiscal.

Refunds worth more than Rs 4.60 lakh crore were issued during the period as against Rs 3.47 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Gross direct tax mop up till March 16 grew 16.15 per cent to more than Rs 25.86 lakh crore.

In the revised estimates (RE) for the current fiscal, the government has pegged income tax collections at Rs 12.57 lakh crore, up from the budget estimate of Rs 11.87 lakh crore.

## Govt Mulls Returning Unused Highway Land to Owners

Press Trust of India

The government is contemplating amending the National Highways Act to provide for the return of an acquired land parcel for high-ways development to the original owner in case it remains unused for five years, a senior highways ministry official said on Monday.

The official further said that in case land acquired under the National Highways Act has not been used, there is no provision to denotify it under the current law. "The amendment in the National Highways Act for denotifying the land will



now go to the Cabinet and Parliament," he added.

The official said that the changes in the NH Act are aimed at making land acquisition faster for National Highways construction and way-

side amenities development.

According to him, the provision is necessary to meet present and future requirements of the development of highways infrastructure in the country.



THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ACT for denotifying the land will now go to the Cabinet and Parliament

## Wholesale Price Inflation Inches Up To 2.38% In Feb

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Wholesale price inflation marginally rose to 2.38 per cent in February due to expensive manufactured food items like vegetables oil and beverages, government data released on Monday showed.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 2.31 per cent in January. It was 0.2 per cent in February 2024.

The marginal increase in WPI was witnessed after three consecutive months of decline. The month-over-month change in WPI for the month of February stood at 0.06 per cent as compared to January.

Positive rate of inflation in February, 2025 is primarily due to the increase in prices of manufacture of food products, food articles, other manufac-

turing, non-food articles and manufacture of textiles, etc, according to the statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

As per the data, inflation in manufactured food products rose to 11.06 per cent, vegetable oil rose by 33.59 per cent, while beverages increased marginally to 1.66 per cent during the month.

Overall, the manufactured products index increased by 0.42 per cent in February.

However, prices of vegetables cooled with potato prices dropping to 27.54 per cent from 74.28 per cent during the month. Besides, prices of milk moderated at 1.58 per cent from 5.40 per cent in the previous month.

Fruits and onion prices were still ruling high with 20

per cent and 48.05 per cent inflation respectively.

The fuel and power category witnessed a deflation of 0.71 per cent in February, against a deflation of 2.78 per cent in the previous month.

Retail inflation data released on Wednesday showed that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation eased to a 7-month low of 3.61 per cent in February on easing prices of food items.

According to ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal, the downward pressure on the headline print on account of the dip in food inflation was offset by the narrowing deflation in the fuel and power segment, and an uptick in the core (non-food manufacturing) WPI inflation to a 24-month high of 1.3 per cent.

## Tata Motors, Maruti Suzuki To Hike Vehicle Prices

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India and Tata Motors on Monday announced plans to increase vehicle prices from April, the second time in this year, in order to partially offset the impact of rising input costs.

Maruti Suzuki said it plans to hike prices of its entire model range by up to 4 per cent from next month.

Tata Motors said it will increase the price of its commercial vehicle range by up to 2 per cent from next month.

In light of rising input costs and operational expenses, the company has planned to increase the prices of its cars from April, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing.

The price increase is expected to be up to 4 per cent and will vary depending on the model, it added.



While the company continuously strives to optimise costs and minimise the impact on its customers, some portion of the increased cost may need to be passed on to the market, the country's largest carmaker stated.

Maruti Suzuki currently sells various models ranging from the entry-level Alto K-10 to multiple-purpose vehicle Invicto in the domestic market, with price ranging from Rs 4.23 lakh and Rs 29.22 lakh respectively (ex-showroom Delhi).

In January this year, the company announced to hike prices by up to Rs 32,500 across various models from February 1. Maruti Suzuki India shares ended 0.24 per cent up at Rs 11,536.10 apiece on BSE.

A Honda Cars India spokesperson said that the automaker is also looking to increase vehicle prices from next month.

Tata Motors said it will increase prices of its commercial vehicle range by up to 2 per cent from April in order to partially offset the impact of rising input costs.

The prices of the company's commercial vehicle range will increase by up to 2 per cent from April 1, 2025, the Mumbai-based auto major said in a regulatory filing.

The price increase is to offset the rise in input costs, and will vary as per individual model and variant, it added.

## Gold, Silver Rally Rs 1,300 To Hit Record Levels In Delhi Amid Strong Global Cues

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Gold and silver prices hit fresh record levels on Monday, rallying Rs 1,300 each, tracking strong trends in the global markets amid uncertainty over US tariffs, trade tensions and growing expectations of monetary policy easing by the Federal Reserve.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity, extending gains for the fourth day in a row, rallying Rs 1,300 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 90,750 per 10 grams.

It had closed at Rs 89,450 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity zoomed Rs 1,300 to establish a lifetime high of Rs 90,350 per 10 grams from Thursday's closing level of Rs 89,050 per 10 grams.

According to HDFC Securities' Senior Analyst, Commodities, Saumil Gandhi, several factors have contributed to the record-breaking rally in precious metals, including buying by central banks and global economic instability.

Further, the demand for safe haven assets increased due to the trade and economic policies of US President Donald Trump, which in turn increased economic uncertainty worldwide, Gandhi said.

So far this year, the yellow metal prices had climbed Rs 11,360, or 14.31 per cent, to Rs 90,750 from Rs 79,390 per 10 grams on January 1.

On Friday, the bullion markets were closed on the occasion of Holi festival.



Silver prices also surged Rs 1,300 to hit a fresh all-time high level of Rs 1,02,500 per kg. The white metal had concluded at Rs 1,01,200 per kg on Thursday.

Meanwhile, gold futures for April delivery inched up Rs 13 to Rs 88,004 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange. On Friday, the yellow metal had hit a record peak of Rs 88,310 per 10 grams on the commodities bourse.

In the international markets, spot gold appreciated USD 14.48 to USD 2,998.90 per ounce. It had breached the psychological mark of USD 3,000 an ounce on Friday.

On similar lines, Comex gold futures were trading higher at USD 3,007 per ounce. On Friday, it had hit a record high of USD 3,017.10 per ounce.

Further, the demand for safe haven assets increased due to the trade and economic policies of further US Fed interest rate cuts strengthen, fuelled by cooling inflation," Chintan Mehta, Chief Executive Officer at Abans Financial Services Ltd, said.

Mehta further said, geopolitical risks have strengthened bullion prices after the US confirmed it would continue strikes against Yemen's Houthis until they cease attacks on Red Sea shipping, escalating tensions in the region.

## Sensex Bounces Back 341 Pts On Gains In Banking Shares, Global Rally

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark BSE Sensex rebounded by 341 points on Monday, snapping its five-day losing streak following buying in banking stocks and a sharp rally in global shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 341.04 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 74,169.95 as 19 of its constituents ended in the green and 11 in the red. In intra-day trade, the benchmark jumped 547.44 points or 0.74 per cent to 74,376.35. The NSE Nifty rose by 111.55 points or 0.50 per cent to 22,508.75.

From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Adani Ports, ICICI Bank, Zomato and UltraTech Cement were among the biggest gainers.

However, ITC, Nestle, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

Shares of IndusInd Bank jumped 5.30 per cent in intra-day trade after the Reserve Bank on Saturday assured customers that the firm remains 'well-capitalised', even as it directed the bank's board to complete remedial action relating to an estimated Rs 2,100 crore accounting discrepancy within this month.

The stock finally ended at Rs 676.95, up 0.72 per cent. "Markets started the week on

a positive note, gaining half a per cent as the consolidation phase continued. Strong global cues, along with buying interest in select heavyweights, particularly from the banking and financial sectors, led to a firm start, followed by a range-bound session," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.77 per cent, while smallcap index dipped 0.02 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, healthcare surged 1.12 per cent, commodities (0.92 per cent), metal (0.91 per cent), financial services (0.83 per cent), auto (0.80 per cent) and bankex (0.71 per cent).

Telecommunication, realty and FMCG were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong traded in the positive territory. Stock markets in Europe were trading in the green. US markets ended sharply higher on Friday.

"Despite a small hiccup, markets quickly gained ground to trade in positive territory as optimism across global markets aided recovery in local indices. However, with a lot of uncertainty surrounding the impact of US tariff policies on key economies, including India, investors would be watchful of the global events before taking any call," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

## Examining impact of US tariff on steel, aluminium: Govt tells Lok Sabha

The government is examining the impact of 25 per cent tariff imposed by the US on steel and aluminium imports, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

As per Proclamations issued by the president of the US dated February 10, 2025, the US government has imposed the import duty with effect from March 12, 2025, he said in a written reply.

No proclamation has been issued on pharma, automobile and semiconductor sectors so far, he said.

"As informed by Department of Commerce, the impact of the above proclamations on India is being carefully examined and evaluated," he said.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said out of 40 recommendations, India received 'Compliant' or 'Largely Compliant' rating in 37 recommendations by global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

It received Partially Compliant rating in 3 recommendations and none was rated as Non-compliant, he said. (PTI)

## Sebi Resolves Over 5,600 Complaints Through Scores Platform In Dec 2024

Capital markets regulator Sebi has disposed of 5,636 complaints in December last year through its complaint redressal system SCORES platform.

According to Sebi data, the complaints pending as of November 30, 2024, stood at 5,826.

During December, the regulator received 5,193 fresh complaints, bringing the total applications to 11,019.

Of these, 5,383 complaints remained unresolved as of December 31, 2024, the regulator said in a public notice on Tuesday.

The markets watchdog also highlighted that the average resolution time taken by entities to submit Action Taken Reports (ATRs) to investors in December was eight days. For complaints escalated to the first-level review, the average resolution time was five days, showcasing the efficacy of the updated system.

Under the upgraded SCORES 2.0 framework, complaints are automatically forwarded to the concerned entity, which is given 21 days to submit an ATR to the investor. (PTI)

## Govt Says 11 Airports Identified For Operations Under Public Private Partnership

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Monday said 11 airports, including six small airports, have been identified for operations under the public-private partnership.

As per National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), 25 airports operated by the state-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been earmarked for leasing over the 2022 to 2025 period.

The airports are Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Trichy, Indore, Raipur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Surat, Ranchi, Jodhpur, Chennai, Vijayawada, Vadodara, Bhopal, Tirupati, Hubli, Imphal, Agartala, Udaipur, Dehradun and Rajahmundry.

"Eleven airports consisting of select five (5) airports viz. Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Trichy, clubbed/paired with six (6) smaller airports have been identified for their operation, management and development under Public Private Partnership (PPP)," Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Monday. (PTI)

## RBI Permits Settlement Of Trade Transactions With Maldives In Local Currencies

Reserve Bank on Monday said India's bilateral trade transactions with Maldives may also be settled in INR and/or MVR in addition to the ACU mechanism.

Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is a payment arrangement whereby the participants settle payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a net multilateral basis.

The participants include central banks and the monetary authorities of Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between RBI and Maldives Monetary Authority in November 2024 for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies -- Indian Rupee (INR) and Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) for bilateral transactions.

"In the wake of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), it has been decided that India's bilateral trade transactions with Maldives may also be settled in INR and/or MVR in addition to the ACU mechanism, as hitherto," the RBI said in a circular. (PTI)

## Rs 8.47 Crore Gold Seized At Mumbai Airport; 3 Staffers Among 5 Held

The Mumbai Customs has seized more than 10 kg of gold valued at Rs 8.47 crore in four operations at the international airport here and arrested five people, including three private airport staff members, officials said on Monday.

The seizures were made between March 13 and 15 and some of the accused had concealed the precious metal in their clothes and undergarments, they said.

Giving details, a Customs official said a private staffer at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport was intercepted and six oval-shaped capsules having 2.8 kg of 24-karat gold dust in wax form, valued at Rs 2.27 crore, were found concealed in the pockets of his pants. The person was arrested under the Customs Act, the official said. In the second seizure, another private staffer working in the international departures area was intercepted.

In the third operation, another private staffer at the airport was apprehended and two pouches containing 1.6 kg of 24-karat gold dust in wax form valued at Rs 1.31 crore concealed in his undergarments were recovered. After further investigation, the staffer and two other persons were arrested, the official said. (PTI)

## Video Of Police

NC legislator. Showkat Ahmad Bajad, his brother Riyaz Ahmad Bajad, and Mukhtar Ahmad went missing on February 13 while on their way to attend a function at the house of a relative in Ashmuji. However, the trio -- who were working as labourers -- never reached their destination.

Showkat Ahmad Bajad's body was retrieved from Vaishov nullah in Kulgam district on Sunday while that of his brother was recovered from the same spot a few days ago.

As the assembly proceedings commenced on Monday, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) members, led by Wahid Para, said the deaths of the two tribal men have caused panic among the people and demanded an impartial investigation to bring perpetrators to justice.

Despite Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather's request to allow the Question Hour to proceed, PDP members continued to raise the issue from their seats.

Members of the ruling National Conference also joined in and called for a high-level inquiry into the deaths.

NC member Peerzada Feroze Ahmed pointed towards the "rising" cases of people going missing, which he said has caused panic among the people.

The members said similar incidents had been reported from Kathua.

Some NC members entered the Well of the House, seeking a probe into the deaths and the alleged mistreatment of a woman by the local police, triggering a ruckus.

The Speaker intervened and acknowledged the reports of misconduct involving a woman. He also reassured that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was present in the House, would address the issue and ensure appropriate action.

"The chief minister is sitting here. He has heard your issue. He will look into it. He will ensure action", the Speaker said.

Speaking to reporters outside the assembly, Para expressed concerns over the deaths, saying, "Such incidents have created insecurity among the people. We are not accusing anyone, but there is a critical need for an impartial probe as one community feels targeted."

A group of protesters had blocked the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Kulgam district on Sunday night, demanding that the police initiate an investigation into the case and take action against those whom the kin of the deceased suspect to be responsible for the deaths.

On February 13, three Gujjar youths from Devsar had gone missing after leaving Ashmuji in Kulgam to attend a function. They were identified as Riyaz Ahmad, Showkat, and Mukhtar Ahmad Awan, all residents of Kulgam.

## Police Orders

a post on X. It said the DIG South Kashmir Range (SKR) would enquire into the incident that happened on Sunday and submit a report within 10 days.

Meanwhile, DIG (South Kashmir) Javid Iqbal Matoo met the protesters blocking the national highway in Qazigund. "If anyone acted wrongly, they will be held accountable. A mother who lost her son has the right to protest," he stated, adding that an investigation into the deaths was ongoing.

Earlier, PDP leader Iltija Mufti criticised the officer's behaviour and demanded a probe.

"Shocking & unbecoming for a policeman to kick a woman only because she was peacefully protesting against the mysterious deaths in Devsar Kulgam. It is this high handed behaviour from officers expected to uphold law that creates a trust deficit alienating people even

further," Mufti posted on X.

NC MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi also condemned the police action. "The visuals of officers kicking mourning women are disgraceful. These deaths must be transparently investigated, and those responsible for both the tragedy and the police excess must be held accountable."

Protests broke out in the district on Sunday after the body of a youth, who was among three persons missing since last month, was recovered from a water body.

Three days earlier, his brother's body was recovered from the same stream. Meanwhile, a search operation is underway for the third missing person.

## 24x7 Power For

commissioning by 2027. In addition, new projects such as 390 MW Kirthai-I, 258 MW Dulhasti-II, 800 MW Bursar, 1,856 MW Sawalkote, 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II, 89 MW Ujh, and 930 MW Kirthai-II are also planned for completion within the next 10 years, he said.

To meet growing demand, he said, efforts are being made to create a balanced energy mix, including hydro, thermal, and renewable sources of energy, through creation of own generating stations and entering into Power Purchase Agreements with outside generators.

He said a resource adequacy plan has been formulated with the help of central government, taking into consideration future load projections and peak demand for the next 10 years.

To create adequate transmission infrastructure for the evacuation of power from upcoming projects, enhance peak load handling capacity, and support growing demand, the transmission system is being improved, Abdullah said.

Under the plan, he said, the department aims to add around 2,406 MVA (at 220 & 132 kV levels) through setting up of new grid substations and the augmentation of existing grid substations in Jammu region.

Similarly, in the Kashmir region, around 2,500 MVA capacity is targeted to be added at both voltage levels. Additionally, several existing grid stations will be renovated and modernised in a phased manner, he said.

The chief minister said J&K has significant potential for solar energy, and the installation of solar rooftops is being encouraged through the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

He said as metering progresses and reaches a larger number of consumers, the government expects significant improvements in power supply, with no power cuts in low-loss areas.

"Such improvements are already evident on feeders where 100 per cent smart metering has been completed -- 45 in Kashmir and 50 in Jammu," he said.

On the coal block in Odisha, he said JKSPDC and NTPC signed the joint venture agreement on June 15, 2015 for exploration, development and operation of the jointly allocated coal mining block.

However, NTPC Limited on November 22, 2018 surrendered its share in the coal block citing reasons like envisaged delay in environmental clearance, non-accessibility to the site along with hostile local environment in nearby areas and the same was accepted by the concerned ministry.

In June, 2019, the J&K government requested the coal ministry for allotment of alternative coal block, in place of Kudanali-Laburi in favour of the NTPC-JKSPDC joint venture company in light of the challenges anticipated in its development, Abdullah said.

However, he said, the request was declined by the ministry of coal citing the reason that

there was no provision under MMDR Act, 1957 to allocate an alternate coal block in lieu of a cancelled coal block.

In another written reply to a starred question by NC legislator Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, the chief minister said a MoU (memorandum of understanding) was signed between JKSPDC and NHPCC on January 3, 2021 for the execution of 1,856 MW Sawalkote HEP, 258 MW Dulhasti Stage-II and 240 MW Uri-I stage-II by NHPCC in built, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) mode for a period of 40 years.

As per the MoU, the J&K government is entitled to receive 12 per cent free power, one per cent Local Area Development Fund (LADF), first right of refusal for purchase of 50 per cent of power generated at price determined by the regulator.

## 'NHPCC Withholding

respond to the repeated requests to furnish details for working out the present cost of hydroelectric projects which it intends to take over.

In 2011, NC-Congress government had formed a cabinet sub-committee to look into various issues arising from the terms and conditions of entrustment of hydroelectric projects to NHPCC.

The CSC had recommended taking over Salal, Dulhasti, Uri-I and other hydroelectric projects transferred to NHPCC through a Memorandum of Understanding it signed with the J&K government in July 2000.

The J&K government informed the House that State Power Development Corporation (SPDC) sought requisite details from NHPCC to enable it to work out the present cost of these projects.

In response to these letters, NHPCC sought a copy of the report of the cabinet sub-committee, which was furnished to it June 26, 2012 with a request to furnish these details.

"NHPCC neither responded to the repeated requests so far nor did it appear to do so to take the recommendations of the cabinet sub-committee to their logical conclusion," the government disclosed. (KNO)

## Assembly Passes

uphold decorum in the House. The revised legislative calendar, appended to the BAC report, was also unanimously approved.

## SM Influencer

zero tolerance, and such actions at religious places will not be allowed," the officer added.

The incident has sparked political backlash, with both BJP and PDP leaders condemning the act. Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma called for strict action, while BJP MLAs Baldev Sharma, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Vikram Randhawa, and Devinder Kumar Manyal emphasized the need for tighter security to prevent such violations in the future.

PDP leader Waheed Ur Rehman Para also criticized the incident, stating that Vaishno Devi is a sacred pilgrimage site, not a tourist destination. PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan echoed similar sentiments, urging authorities to take action against the hotel as well.

PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan also expressed his anger and called for action against the accused.

"Mata Vaishno Devi, a revered pilgrimage site, is not a party destination. This Bollywood joker Orry and friends drinking there is a direct insult to Hindu faith. I urge Jammu and Kashmir government Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Police to take action against the hotel for this disgrace," Bhan said in a post on his Facebook page.

## When Will Vande

extending beyond winter? The harsh cold lasts only for 40 days, but why should Kashmiri passengers suffer inconvenience for the remaining 10 months?" he asked.

He also took a dig at the government's priorities, stating that the railway expansion should be based on public demand rather than forced infrastructure projects.

He accused the government of forcing land surveys and seizing orchards under the guise of railway expansion in Kashmir.

"There is no demand for townships, no demand for railway lines in certain areas, yet land is being taken," Ruhullah stated.

He argued that farmers and fruit growers—who form the backbone of Kashmir's economy—are being systematically pushed out.

"Where there is genuine demand—like the Rajouri-Poonch railway line—there is no progress. Where there is a demand for the Sopore-Kupwara railway line, no work is being done. I fail to understand this approach," he said.

## Ruling Alliance

are typically employed by the opposition to scrutinize the government.

It is a tool used primarily by the opposition to scrutinize and hold the government accountable, particularly during budget discussions. It allows members to propose a reduction in the amount of a demand for grants, either symbolically or substantially, signaling dissatisfaction with government policies or decisions.

## HC Quashes

against the impugned order of detention." "Thus, his valuable constitutional right available under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India stands infringed," the court said.

Besides this, the court said, there has been total non-application of mind on the part of detaining authority in passing the order of detention dated 10 July 2024.

"The subjective satisfaction arrived at by the detaining authority, in these circumstances, has become a casualty," the court said and quashed the detention order.

In his plea, Ronga had contended that the allegations in the grounds of detention against him with regard to his association with APHC(M) group is "absolutely baseless". Ronga said that he was an elected Municipal Councillor and thereafter he has also served as a Government Advocate from 1987 to 1989. Thus, Ronga said, "he is a peace loving and law abiding citizen who has never committed any offence, much less an offence against the State."

Meanwhile, the court also quashed the detention order under PSA passed by deputy commissioner Baramulla on 21 July 2023 against Tanveer Ahmad Khan.

"On perusal of the detention record produced by learned counsel for the respondents (authorities), the ground projected regarding vagueness of the averments made in the grounds of detention, appears to be forceful," the court said while quashing the detention order.

## NIA Rejects

was based on "vague averments" and lacked legal merit.

"Mere status as a Parliamentarian does not exempt him from judicial custody. The law is clear that legislators have no statutory right to participate in House proceedings while under lawful detention," the agency stated.

At the time of filing his nomination for the Lok Sabha elections, charges had already been framed against Rashid by a special court, and the trial was ongoing, the NIA said. It contended that his election victory did not change the

legal standing of his detention and could not be used as grounds for bail.

Labeling Rashid as "highly influential" with the potential to influence witnesses in Jammu and Kashmir, the NIA cited Section 43D(5) of UAPA, which restricts bail if there are reasonable grounds to believe the accusations are prima facie true.

The agency further noted that the summons issued by the President of India for Rashid to attend Parliament were routine communications sent to all MPs and did not create an exclusive privilege for him.

Rashid's counsel urged the high court to allow him custody parole, similar to a prior two-day reprieve. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to a designated place.

Rashid, who defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is currently lodged in Tihar Jail. He was arrested by the NIA in 2019 in a terror funding case, with allegations of financing separatist and militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

His name emerged during the interrogation of businessman and co-accused Zahoor Watali, leading to his chargesheeting in October 2019. In March 2022, a special NIA court framed charges against him under multiple sections of the IPC, including criminal conspiracy, waging war against the government, sedition, and various UAPA offences.

The Delhi High Court had earlier sought the NIA's response on Rashid's appeal, with the order on his regular bail plea scheduled for March 19.

## JKSSB, JKPSO Fill

this period, the commission advertised 3,296 vacancies—2,185 in 2023 and 1,111 in 2024—across multiple categories.

Meanwhile, JKSSB recruited 9,351 candidates in the same period, significantly outpacing JKPSO. The selections included 4,773 from OM, 895 from SC, 823 from ST, 281 from OSC, 343 from RBA, 1,161 from PSP, 764 from EWS, and 311 from ALC/IB.

JKSSB appointed 3,695 candidates in 2023, while 5,656 recruitments were made in 2024, reflecting a sharp increase. The board advertised over 5,000 vacancies—329 in 2023 and 4,671 in 2024.

Despite the surge in hiring, a substantial number of advertised positions remain vacant, pointing to possible administrative or procedural delays.

The Jammu and Kashmir government informed the Legislative Assembly that no paper leak incidents have been reported in the Union Territory over the past two years.

The government, in response to a query raised by MLA Dr. Rameshwar Singh, stated that while no such cases have surfaced recently, certain irregularities were detected in 2022 during recruitment exams conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

The exams, held for the posts of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department), Junior Engineer (Civil) in the Jal Shakti Department, and Sub-Inspector in the Home Department, took place on March 6, March 20, and March 27, 2022. "The concerned agency responsible for these irregularities has since been blacklisted," the government said.

Furthermore, the government clarified that no similar incidents have been reported in the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) examinations to date.

It is pertinent to mention that the issue of examination integrity has been a major concern in Jammu and Kashmir, with previous instances of irregularities sparking widespread criticism.(inputs from agencies)



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## From Boos To Cheers: Hardik Pandya's '360 Degree Turnaround'

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** From incessant boos to frenzied adulation -- star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has seen it all in the last few months, during which his life underwent a '360 degree turnaround' and keeping him afloat in the turmoil was his determination to never leave the battlefield.

As he gears up for his second IPL season as Mumbai Indians captain, Pandya can expect a markedly warmer reception at the Wankhede after playing crucial roles in India's T20 World Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy triumphs.

The backlash he faced in IPL 2024 was triggered by the team's decision to hand him the leadership role, replacing Mumbai's very own Rohit Sharma, who led the franchise to five trophies.

"For me, it has always been about never leaving the battlefield. There have been phases in my career where my focus wasn't

necessarily on winning but on surviving and holding my ground," Pandya told Jio-Hotstar ahead of the IPL, starting March 22.

"I realised that no matter what was happening around me, cricket would always be my greatest ally...I kept pushing through, and when all the hard work finally paid off, it was beyond anything I could have scripted.

"The six-month phase where we won the World Cup, and then the kind of love and support I received upon returning -- it was a complete 360-degree turnaround for me," he added.

The 31-year-old said he never wavered from the belief that if he remained persistent, he would come out stronger.

"I didn't know exactly when that would happen, but as they say, destiny had its plan, and in my case, everything changed within two and a half months," he said.

Pandya played a pivotal role with the new ball along side Mohammed Shami in India's victorious Champions Trophy cam-

paign recently in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah. He was also a part of India's T20 World Cup-winning squad in the Americas last year.

The 2024 IPL season was challenging for him as MI finished at the bottom of the points table. But Pandya said MI have put together a well-balanced squad and is optimistic about the team's chances this year.

"Having played in the IPL for almost 11 years now, each season brings new energy and fresh positivity. The 2024 season was undoubtedly challenging for us as a group, but it also provided invaluable lessons," Pandya said.



## Pay Cut For Players After Pakistan Suffers Huge Loss In CT



Agencies

**A**s hosts, Mohammad Rizwan-led Pakistan endured a nightmarish Champions Trophy 2025, finishing bottom of Group A with just one point courtesy of a washout against Bangladesh.

It was a massive setback for Pakistan as they faced an early exit in the first ICC event they hosted after nearly three decades.

Adding to their woes, the Pakistan Cricket Board has reportedly suffered an 85 per cent loss after spending Rs 869 crore (approximately \$58 million) for hosting the Champions Trophy.

Pakistan had spent Rs 869 crore to upgrade their three Champions Trophy venues in Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi apart from investing around Rs 347 crores on tournament preparations. The cost of upgradation of the stadiums turned out to be 50 percent more than the budget estimates.

PCB is said to have received Rs 50.3 crores (\$6 million) as the hosting fee. The earnings were negligible as far as ticket sales and sponsorships

were concerned, adding to the PCB's already poor financial position.

The staggering loss has forced the governing body to adopt belt-tightening measures and devise a strategy to wade through this difficult phase.

According to reports, the PCB has decided to lower the match fees for the national T20 championship by 90 percent and cut salaries of the reserve players by 87.5 percent.

Moreover, the arrangement of five-star hotels for the players has been withdrawn, and they will be housed in budget hotels.

"The PCB has recently reduced match fees from Rs 40,000 to Rs 10,000 without any official announcement... however, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi intervened, rejecting the decision and directing the board's domestic cricket department to reassess the matter," said a report in Pakistan daily Dawn.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 was held in a 'hybrid model' after India refused to travel to Pakistan citing security concerns.

Pakistan played only one

game at home, against New Zealand at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore, which they lost by 60 runs. Then they travelled to Dubai to face India, and lost the match by six wickets. Their final group game, against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi, was abandoned due to rain.

In fact, rain has played quite a part in the tournament, with as many as three games in Pakistan abandoned due to wet conditions.

Corbin Bosch Served Legal Notice By PCB

South African Corbin Bosch has been served a legal notice by the Pakistan Cricket Board "alleging breach of the all-rounder's contractual obligations" to the board, it said on Sunday.

The 30-year-old Bosch was picked by Peshawar Zalmi in the Diamond category during the 10th edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League Player Draft, held in Lahore on January 13.

However, Indian Premier League (IPL) side Mumbai Indians had also signed him as a replacement for his injured compatriot Lizaad Williams.

## BCCI Banning Brook In IPL Not Harsh: Moeen Ali

Press Trust of India

**LONDON:** Former England all-rounder Moeen Ali believes the BCCI banning Harry Brook for two years for his last-minute withdrawal from the IPL was "not harsh".

It is the second straight time Brook has pulled out of the top franchise-based league after being bought at the auction.

"It's not (harsh) though, I kinda agree with it," Moeen said on the Beard Before Cricket podcast, when asked whether a two-year ban would be harsh.

"A lot of people do that (withdrawing). People have done it in the past, and then they come back in and end up getting a better financial package or whatever it is. It kinda messes up a lot of things as well at the same time," the all-rounder said.

England batter Brook was facing a two-year ban from the IPL since pulling out of his contract with Delhi Capitals ahead of the tournament beginning March 22.

"It's messed his team (Delhi Capitals) up, him pulling out. Any team that loses Harry Brook is messed up a bit, and they've got to now rejig everything and stuff like that.

"Forget him for a second, if you do

pull out, the rule is you get a ban, unless it's a family reason or injury. If it's injury, it's different. But I think if you just pull out, then it's... I kinda agree with it (the rules)." Moeen, who will play for Kolkata Knight Riders this season, said.

The 26-year-old Brook had earlier withdrawn from the 2024 edition of IPL following the death of his grandmother.

Any foreign player who miss the IPL after getting picked at the auction faces two-year ban from the league unless he is injured.

According to the new rules introduced by the IPL, Brook is not eligible to play in the event, or be part of the auction, until the 2027 edition.

"Any player who registers in the auction and after getting picked, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season, will get banned from participating in the tournament and player auction for 2 seasons," states the new rule.

Brook was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 6.25 crore in the mega auction in November. In the previous auction too, he was secured by Delhi for Rs 4 crore.

IPL will begin from March 22 with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders meeting Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Eden Gardens.



### Short TAKES

#### Glory Chasing Real Kashmir Face Bengaluru In I-League Today

Sitting third in the 2024-25 I-League standings and two points off the first place, Real Kashmir FC will aim to keep their momentum going when they take on Sporting Club Bengaluru on Tuesday. The game kicks off at 4:30 PM and will be played at Bengaluru Football Stadium in Karnataka. It can be watched on Sony Sports 2 and SSEN app and website.

Real Kashmir (18 games, 32 points) is chasing Churchill Brother FC (18 games, 34 points) and Inter Kashi FC (18 games, 34 points) for the 2024-25 I-League title with only a handful of games remaining. The Snow Leopards have been in sensational form. They are on a two-game win streak and have lost once in their last five games.

Meanwhile, SC Bengaluru is 11th in the 12 team table, taking 17 points from their 18 matchups. They are on a two-game losing skid and have won only once in their last five, while losing twice and drawing twice.

Real Kashmir play Churchill Brothers at home on April 4. However, of the remaining four games of the season, its their only home fixture and could well decide the 2024-25 I-League championship. (Observer News Service)

#### Patidar Will Lead RCB For A Long Time: Kohli

Indian superstar Virat Kohli has backed newly-appointed Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar to lead the side for a long time.

Kohli, who has been with RCB since IPL's inception in 2008, led the franchise for more than a decade and remains its face.

Patidar has succeeded Faf du Plessis as captain with the South African moving to Delhi Capitals this season.

"This guy is going to lead you for a long time. He is going to do a great job. He has got everything that is required (to succeed)," Kohli said in his address to RCB's loyal fans at the team's Unbox event here on Monday. RCB have never won the IPL but Kohli remains hopeful.

"It feels amazing to be back. The excitement and happiness is like every other season. I have been here for 18 years and absolutely love RCB. We have an amazing squad this time around. Lot of talent in the team. I am personally very excited about this season," Kohli added. This will be Kohli's first IPL after retiring from T20 Internationals.

#### Bangladesh To Tour Pakistan For White-Ball Series In May

The Bangladesh cricket team will tour Pakistan for a white-ball series in May, which will include three T20Is and as many ODIs.

The series will be held after the conclusion of the 10th edition of the Pakistan Super League scheduled to take place from April 11 to Super 18.

Originally, the series was part of the Future Tours Program but had to be postponed due to the busy schedules of both teams.

However, following recent discussions during the visit of Bangladesh Cricket Board Chairman, Farouq Ahmed, to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, both boards have agreed to go ahead with the series in May.

Bangladesh had previously toured Pakistan last year for a two-Test series, which they won comprehensively 2-0.

#### Jio Ends Free IPL Streaming In India

Reliance Jio, India's largest telecom firm by users, said on Monday certain tariff plans will continue to give subscribers free streaming access to IPL 2025 matches, among the country's most-watched sporting events.

The plan is applicable to users recharging their accounts with Rs 299 (\$3.44) or more and will enable them to watch matches on Reliance-Disney's newly merged JioHotstar streaming platform, the Reliance Group-owned firm said.

IPL, a money spinner and among the country's most-streamed content, is scheduled to be held between March 22 and May 25.

The move comes a month after Reuters reported that the Reliance-Disney JV will no longer offer completely free streaming for IPL cricket matches, as was the case in 2023 and 2024 in the old JioCinema platform, and will adopt a hybrid model where subscription kicks in after content consumption reaches a threshold.

## Bowling Worries At IPL: KKR, SRH, MI Have Most Balanced Attacks

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** In a tournament that has fans flocking to the grounds to see batters smash everything out of the park, bowlers have gradually established themselves as the cornerstone of success and the upcoming edition of IPL is going to be no different.

If one looks at the bowling units of various IPL outfits, defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders, five-time champions Mumbai Indians and last year's runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad have the most balanced line-ups.

With all-rounders rendered less useful due to the Impact Player Rule, most teams now look at playing five specialist bowlers. Some even have luxury of playing the sixth bowler if need be while defending a total.

So, what makes KKR special in terms of bowling?

In Harshit Rana, who has the uncanny ability of taking wickets with sheer pace and extra bounce, they have a potent Indian fast bowling option.

He would be supported by Varun Chakravarthy, who has been India's

T20 trump card in recent years.

Add to that mix Anrich Nortje's blistering pace and Sunil Narine's guile, and 16 overs will be sorted for the side on most days.

The uncapped Vaibhav Arora was impressive last year and there is Andre Russell too who can always chip in with an over or two. In all of KKR's seven home games at the Eden Gardens, this attack cane be expected to be lethal.

In addition, Ramandeep Singh, and vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer can chip in with an over or two as per the team's requirements.

In case Nortje doesn't fire, there is the six-foot left-armer Spencer Johnson. On tracks like the one in Chennai, Moeen Ali's off breaks could also be handy.

By the look of things, KKR does have the best bowling attack on paper.

Mumbai Indians have had a torrid last four years even. But they have managed to retain their bowling core. In skipper Hardik Pandya, they have a proper bowler who can win matches with a sharp spell of fast bowling.

But MI's campaign will also depend on how the attack performs till



Jasprit Bumrah joins them in April.

The momentum shifts very quickly in IPL but a fit-again Deepak Chahar could be a handful with his incisive swing bowling during Powerplay overs.

He will have support of Trent Boult, who can bring the ball back into the right-handers at the start of the innings.

Mitchell Santner has mastered in the Indian conditions although MI would have fancied better quality of Indian spinners compared to lucky

mascot for IPL teams Karn Sharma in their squad.

Once Bumrah comes in, the MI bowling will be too hot to handle.

For Sunrisers Hyderabad, the biggest challenge for bowlers is to counter the flatness of the Uppal track.

But in Pat Cummins and Mohammed Shami, they have two smart operators who can assert themselves if the batting unit piles on the big scores.

The third Indian pacer could be a weak link but Harshal Patel, despite

a higher economy rate, is a good death overs bowler.

While they have a wrist spinner in Adam Zampa, it would be difficult to include him in all conditions. In this scenario, Rahul Chahar and Abhishek Sharma's slow bowling would be handy.

Talking about multiple utility bowlers, Ashish Nehra's Gujarat Titans is also a fine unit with World's best T20 bowler Rashid Khan there to support Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, and Prasadh Krishna.

To support Rashid in slow bowling, Tamil Nadu captain R Sai Kishore and also Washington Sundar will have crucial roles to play.

For Rajasthan Royals, they have got a better spin attack with one among Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekana set to play. Riyan Parag's off-breaks are also handy.

But it's the pace department where Jofra Archer might need more support from Indian bowlers.

Sandeep Sharma is good in specific conditions and young Railways man Ashok Sharma, who recently clocked 146 kmph in U23 Irani Cup is man to watch out for.

Ditto for CSK where save Matheesha Pathirana and R Ashwin, others in bowling unit don't inspire much confidence.

Mukesh Chaudhary was good a few seasons back and Anshul Kamboj is not bad either but whether they can deliver consistently is the question.

Khaleel Ahmed has been playing for nearly 10 years but no team has had faith in him in death overs where he has been profligate save the one odd season for Delhi Capitals.

Lucknow Super Giants had punted on Mayank Yadav's pace but it is still not clear when India's fastest bowler will be available.

The batting has a lot of firepower but the overall bowling unit looks a bit short on experience.

For Delhi Capitals, 12 overs out of 20 are taken care of by skipper Axar Patel, Mitchell Starc and Kuldeep Yadav but inconsistency in T20 has been the Australian's bane.

However, T Natarajan and Muke-sh Kumar's variations will keep DC fans interested with two specialist death bowlers who can bowl those wide Yorkers which can make or break games.

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