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# Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

## Scholarship Name 1 The Cadence Scholarship Program 2025-26

Description: The Cadence Scholarship Program 2025-26 provides financial assistance to Indian nationals pursuing undergraduate and professional courses in select regions (Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, or Hyderabad). Eligibility: Must be an Indian national residing and studying in one of the eligible regions. For undergraduate courses, applicants should have passed Class 12 with a minimum overall score of 60% (current Class 12 students may apply based on previous records). Must come from a lower-income group. Preference will be given to STEM students, female students, and eligible specially-abled or transgender candidates.

- Prizes & Rewards: Financial support for covering key educational expenses.
- Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short URL: [www.b4s.in/observer/TCSP5](https://www.b4s.in/observer/TCSP5)
- QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scholarship-2025-261742806712.png>

[cloudfront.net/static/images/scholarship-2025-261742806712.png](https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scholarship-2025-261742806712.png)

## Scholarship Name 2 The Doon School Scholarship Examination (DSSE) 2025

Description: The Doon School Scholarship Examination (DSSE) is an annual entrance exam conducted by the Doon School, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The scholarship exam is open to male students entering Class 7 or 8, whose families may find it difficult to pay the school fees. Eligibility: This is open to Indian male students. Applicants must be between 11 to 13 years old as of 30th September 2025. Students must be promoted to Class 7 or 8 in the upcoming academic year.

- Prizes & Rewards: An opportunity to pursue studies at the Doon School with financial assistance in the form of scholarship.
- Last Date to Apply: 15-04-2025
- Application mode: Online and offline via email at [admissions@doonschool.com](mailto:admissions@doonschool.com)
- Short URL: [www.b4s.in/](https://www.b4s.in/)



observer/DSSE2

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scholarship-2025-261742806712.png>

## Scholarship Name 3 Flipkart Foundation Scholarship 2024-25

Description: Flipkart Group is committed to strengthening the retail sector including the Kirana Stores which form a significant part. As part of our endeavour, the

Flipkart Foundation is supporting a scholarship for children of Kirana Store Owners to make them future-ready. This scholarship is dedicated to empowering children of Kirana Store Owners enrolled in professional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) undergraduate programs. Eligibility: Applicants must be currently studying in the 1st year of professional undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) courses at government colleges in India. One parent must be a Kirana Store Owner (KSO). Applicants must have scored at least 60% in their Class 12 exams. The annual family income should not exceed INR 5 lakh from all sources.

- Prizes & Rewards: Fixed scholarship of INR 50,000
- Last Date to Apply: 16-04-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short URL: [www.b4s.in/observer/FLIP1](https://www.b4s.in/observer/FLIP1)

QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scholarship-2024-251741170736.png>

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.. PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Adyaan Ashfaq s/o Ashfaq Ahmad Yatoo R/o Goushugh Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 06/01/2019 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if anybody having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) HAJRA to (New name) HAJRA BEGUM. In future I will be known as (New name) HAJRA BEGUM. if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media Line Ads

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my Sons 1- MUNAZIR MEHDI 2- MUNTAZAR MEHDI the residential address is entered as BUDGAM while actual Address is MEHDI COLONY KHANPORA ROAD BUDGAM. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

ALTAF HUSSAIN BHAT F/o 1- MUNAZIR MEHDI 2- MUNTAZAR MEHDI R/o MEHDI COLONY KHANPORA ROAD BUDGAM CELL. 8899782650

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir.aa  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BARAMULLA**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
TWO COVER SYSTEM  
NIT No128/12765-74/2024-25/RnB/Bla Dated 18.03.2025 (E-tendering)  
(Fresh to NIT No: 124/11910-19/2024-25/RnB/Bla Dated 27.02.2025)

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023:-

| S. No | Name of Work  | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc. | Earnest money (Rs. In Lacs) | Time of completion | Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid) | Class of Contractor |
|-------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1.    | Construction of Multi-Purpose Sports Hall GDCW Baramulla. | 266.50                  | Rs 5500/-       | 5.33                        | 365 days           | 11.03.2025                                       | AAY                 |

Major Head of Account = PM USHA (Hr. Education)  
Position of AAA = Accorded (Order No: 16/GDCW/2024 dated: 28.06.2024)  
Position of funds = Available  
Project Authority = Principal Govt. Degree College for Women Baramulla

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice   | 18.03.2025   |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents   | From 19.03.2025 to 09.04.2025, 4.00 P.M  |
| 3. | Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting  | 26.03.2025 From 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. |
| 4. | Bid submission Start Date  | 27.03.2025 From 10.00 A.M .  |
| 5. | Bid Submission End Date  | 09.04.2025 upto 4.00 P.M   |
| 6. | The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Advertised Amount as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. | As per time specified in SBD.  |
| 7. | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)  | 10.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla .  |
| 8. | Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)  | To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed   |

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per above schedule.  
Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT/SBD carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.  
1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Challan/e-challan/Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla.  
(The Date of Treasury Challan/Demand Draft must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).  
The bidder who chooses the option of Demand draft shall upload the copy of DD for Rs. 5500/- In addition to this the bidder shall submit the demand draft through Registered post/courier latest by 11.04.2025 to Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. The department shall not be responsible for any delay in submission of DD due to any reasons.  
1.2 At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Advertised Amount, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.  
1.3 Un Balanced Bid:- In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced the bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within a week's time, before issuance of contract allotment as mentioned below otherwise works shall be put to fresh tenders at the risk & cost of the tenderer & the successful CDR shall be forfeited. The additional performance security will be released after virtual completion of the contract:-

| S.No | %age of unbalance bid                   | Additional Performance security |
|------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1.   | upto and including 15% below            | Nil                             |
| 2.   | >15% below upto and including 20% below | 5% of contract value            |
| 3.   | >20% below upto and including 25% below | 10% of contract value           |
| 4.   | >25% below upto and including 30% below | 15% of contract value           |
| 5.   | >30% below                              | 20% of contract value           |

2. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Advertised Amount as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) circle Baramulla within 15 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.  
3. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.  
4. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla . The date for same shall be intimated separately.  
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.  
6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-  
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter of intent.  
c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.  
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
7.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.  
7.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.  
7.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.  
7.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.  
7.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid. Documents which has/have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.  
8. All bidders shall upload Enlistment Registration Card Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer.

No: -12765-74  
DIPK-13498/24 Dated: 29.03.2025

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Baramulla

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC  
**THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**  
CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR  
ATTENTION PLEASE  
I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th,12th) under Roll No. 238442, 204438 Session Annual 2002, -Annual 2003 . Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School records against my name as ANYAT HUSSAIN WANI instead of ANAYAT HUSSAIN WANI.  
Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.  
This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:  
Name: ANAYAT HUSSAIN WANI,  
Fathers Name: MOHD JAFFER WANI,  
Mothers Name: JALLA  
Date of Birth: 01-04-1984, Residence: LAKHRIPORA BUDGAM.  
CELL: 9149551442

Public Notice  
This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my daughter bearing No 685821194981 the name is entered as DAFIYA JAN while her actual name is ABEERA MANZOOR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
ABEERA MANZOOR  
F/O MANZOOR AHMAD MUGLOO  
R/o KULBUGH BUDGAM CELL. 9149998643

**IN THE COURT OF LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE IST CLASS (TEHSILDAR), ARNIA PROCLAMATION**

Whereas the application of the applicant namely Gurdas Chand S/o Late Sh. Thoru Ram R/o village Allah Tehsil Arnia Distt. Jammu, has filed the application in Tehsildar Office Arnia, for seeking Legal Heir Certificate of his deceased brother namely Devi Dass S/o Late Sh. Thoru Ram R/o village Allah Tehsil Arnia Distt. Jammu, who was the account holder with the J&K Bank B/o Arnia, vide Account No. 1209040100002852, and who expired on 04-01-2025. The details of the legal heirs of the deceased Devi Dass are as under:-

| S.No. | Name         | Relationship with deceased |
|-------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1.    | Gurdas Chand | Brother                    |
| 2.    | Kishor Kumar | Nephew                     |
| 3.    | Deepak Kumar | Nephew                     |

Now by the way of this proclamation general public/interested person/are hereby informed that if any person/s who has/have any objection/s with regard the subjected matter shall file objection/s in the Tehsildar, Arnia on or before 07 days, failing which an appropriate order shall be passed given under my hand and seal of this court today the 17th day of March 2025.  
Sd/-  
Executive Magistrate Ist Class  
Arnia  
fko

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,  
**Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir**  
MESSAGE FOR FARMERS

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch No of pesticide product in their fields, which has been declared as Misbranded by the Agriculture Chemist Department of Agriculture Lalmandi Srinagar.  
The details of Misbranded Pesticide product is as under:-

| S.No | Name of the Product | Active Ingredient                     | Batch No   | Date of Manufacture | Date of expiry | Manufactured/Marketed by     |
|------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1    | SA Rainbow          | Chlorpyrifos 50% & Cypermethrin 5% EC | SARNB24044 | 15.11.2024          | 14.11.2026     | Saraswati Agro Life Sciences |

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch No:SARNB24044 proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

DIPK-13540/24  
dated: 29-03-2025

Sd/-  
Deputy Director Law Enforcement  
Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR**  
Near Mill Slop Nowshera Srinagar-190011  
Email: [srinagardic@gmail.com](mailto:srinagardic@gmail.com) / [gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in](mailto:gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in) Tel. No: 0194-2427478

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

M/s M.Z Enterprises, IE BANK Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No. 01/03/06322/PMT/Tiny dated 28.04.2003 for the activity of "Gates, grills, roof trusses, angle iron posts, flood gates, panel boards with additional line viz., fabrication of M.S pipes, steel bridges, steel flumes for water crossing and manufacture of wooden furniture by hand tools with small surface planner (without installation of bandsaw/ sawing mill) and repairing/ servicing/ assembling of electric transformers, voltage stabilizers, water pumps, D.G sets and manufacture of steel furniture and fabrication of sign boards and R.D. plates and pre-fabricated huts and rolling shutters and aluminum doors/ windows/ partitions and chain-link fencing", as partnership concern of Mr. Mir Mushtaq Ahmad S/o Ali Mohammad R/o Nowshera Srinagar and Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o Baghat Shora Srinagar, with its location at Industrial Estate, Baghi Ali Mardan Khan (BAMK), Srinagar.

Now, the partners of the unit intend to change the constitution of the said unit by way of retirement of one of the existing partners namely Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and subsequent induction of new partner namely Mr. Mir Mubashir S/o Mir Mushtaq Ahmad R/o Nowshera Srinagar.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above proposed change of constitution in favour of the unit, shall report to the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained

DIPK-13511/24  
dated: 29-03-2025

General Manager  
District Industries Centre Srinagar

## J&K Statehood Certain, But No Timeline: Shah

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Statehood in Jammu and Kashmir will be restored as promised before, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said, without giving any timeline.

Shah said at the "Times Now Summit 2025" Friday night that assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir peacefully last year.

"We have given the assurance that statehood will be restored. From the very beginning, we have said that statehood would be given. But it can't be disclosed when it will be given at a public forum," he said when asked about the timeline for restoration of statehood.

When Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union territories in 2019, Shah had said in Parliament that statehood of Jammu and Kashmir would be restored at an appropriate time.

"This was the first election in Kashmir after 40 years in which there was no re-polling in any place. Not a single tear gas or bullet was fired. Sixty per cent people exercised their franchise, this is a huge change," he said.



### 'BJP Will Be In Power For At Least 30 Years'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has exuded confidence the BJP will remain in power at the Centre for at least 30 years due to its consistent performance. In a democracy, he said, the victory of any party depends on its hard work and if it toils day in and day out and "if you live not for yourself but for the country, victory will be yours".

"When I was the national president of the BJP, I had said the BJP will remain in power for the next 30 years. Only 10 years have gone now," he said at the

Times Now Summit 2025 Friday night. The senior BJP leader said when a party performs well, it gets the trust of the public and the confidence to win. "But those who do not perform do not have this confidence," he said. Asked about the Uniform Civil Code, the home minister said all BJP-ruled states will introduce the UCC one-by-one as it is one of the key agendas of the BJP since it was formed. The home minister said since its inception, the BJP's resolve has been to introduce the UCC in the country. | More on P11



Eid Vibes Take Over Srinagar's Streets as Shoppers Flock to Markets. KO Photo | Faisal Khan

### CRACKDOWN ON CONTRABAND Navayuga Tunnel Gets High-Tech Scanners

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday installed an advanced surveillance system at the Navayuga Tunnel Qazigund in south Kashmir's Kulgam district to enhance security and detect concealed contraband, illegal weapons, and other illicit materials in vehicles.

A Jammu and Kashmir Police spokesperson said the newly introduced technology includes wall radar and thermal screening systems, aimed at strengthening monitoring along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. The system enables real-time detection of smuggling. | More on P11

### KATHUA ENCOUNTER

## 4 Slain Cops Laid To Rest With Full Honours

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The last rites of four police personnel, killed in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, were performed with full honours at their native places with participating officers vowing to eliminate terrorism from the region.

Head constable Jagbir Singh of Mattu-Khour in

Jammu's Akhnour and selection grade constables -- Tariq Ahmad of Chamba-Panthal in Reasi, Balwinder Singh Chib of Kana Chak, and Jaswant Singh of Londi Morh in Kathua were killed in the two-day gunfight in the remote Safiyan forest area on Thursday.

Two Pakistani terrorists were also killed in the operation. While the bodies of three | More on P11

### More Steps Needed To Improve Security In J&K: CM

Shifting of army personnel from Jammu to Ladakh to counter Chinese incursions allowed terrorists to exploit the situation, Chief Minister Omar | More on P11

### School Timings Revised From April 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Saturday ordered a change in school timing for the Kashmir division with effect from April-01.

DSEK in an order said that the schools within Srinagar municipal limits shall have a school time of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in all government and private schools.

It also said that the educational institutes outside municipal limits of Srinagar and other areas of Kashmir province shall have a timing of 09:30 am to 03:30 pm.

"The order and instructions shall be adhered to strictly by all the | More on P11

### 'OBJECTIONABLE SLOGANS' FIR Filed Over Al-Quds Rally In Budgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A case was registered on Friday against the organisers and participants of a procession in Budgam district for allegedly creating a law-and-order situation by raising what police called 'objectionable slogans'.

The case has been lodged against the organisers and participants of a Youm-al-Quds procession in Sonpah village, Beerwah, in the central Kashmir district, a police spokesperson said.

Youm-al-Quds or Quds Day, officially known as International Quds Day, is an annual | More on P11

ALL BJP-RULED STATES will introduce the UCC one-by-one as it is one of the key agendas of the BJP since it was formed."

## SHARP SIGHT EYE HOSPITALS

May this Eid bring joy, health, and prosperity to you and your loved ones.  
May your vision be as bright as your celebrations!

Aao Accha Dekhein

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**Dr. Syed Yasir Mustafa**  
MBBS, MS, FVRS  
Speciality: Vitreo-Retina

**Dr. Sumera Majeed Zargar**  
MBBS, MS, Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismology  
Speciality: Cataract & Paediatric Ophthalmology

**Dr. Karthikeya R**  
MBBS, MD, DNB, FICO (UK), MRCSEd  
Speciality: Cataract, Vitreo-Retina, Uvea & ROP

**Dr. Kinsuk**  
MBBS, MD, MRCSEd, Trained in Anterior Segment Surgery  
Speciality: Cataract & Refractive-Lasik Surgery

**Dr. Sadaf Niaz Shah**  
MBBS, DO  
Speciality: Cataract

**Dr. Birjees Hakak**  
MBBS, MS Ophthalmology, Fellowship in Glaucoma  
Speciality: Cataract, Glaucoma & Anterior Segment

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## NEWS

## What To Know About Earthquakes Like The One That Hit Myanmar

Agencies

Naypyidaw : Early Friday, a major 7.7 magnitude earthquake that originated near Mandalay, Myanmar, shook the Earth as far as Bangkok, about 800 miles (1,300 kilometres) away.

Two hard-hit cities in Myanmar suffered extensive damage, with images from the capital, Naypyidaw, showing rescue crews pulling victims from the rubble of collapsed buildings. Authorities in Bangkok said deaths had occurred at three construction sites, including a high-rise that collapsed.

Experts say the earthquake, which occurred along the Sagaing Fault, was close to the Earth's surface, generating intense seismic forces.

Preliminary estimates by the US Geological Survey show that nearly 800,000 people in Myanmar may have been within the zone of the most violent shaking and that death tolls exceeding 1,000 people, and perhaps much higher, are probable.

What are earthquakes and why do they happen in certain parts of the world?

The Earth's crust is broken up into several pieces called tectonic plates, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. This formation is "mostly stable, but along the edges they are moving," Columbia University geophysicist Michael Steckler said.

Pressure builds up when sliding plates get stuck, increasing "very slowly for decades or for hundreds of years, and then

all of a sudden the rock plates will jump," triggering shaking that causes an earthquake, Steckler said.

Earthquakes typically occur along edges of tectonic plates. But their impacts may be felt in a broader region.

Earthquakes that occur in the ocean don't always attract attention, but those that occur close to where people live can cause deaths and injuries, most often from collapsed buildings.

What do scientists know about earthquakes in advance?

Scientists have a good idea of where earthquakes are likely to occur, "but we can't predict when they'll occur," USGS seismologist Will Yeck said.

However, after the initial big earthquake, researchers are able to project that other smaller earthquakes nearby, called aftershocks, are likely.

Aftershocks are triggered "because of changes to stress in the Earth from the main shock," Yeck said.

Given the magnitude of the quake in Myanmar, "you will probably see aftershocks for the next several months," Steckler said.

What should you do if you're in a building when earthquake shaking begins?

In regions of the world with known active fault lines, including California and Japan, building codes are often designed to withstand earthquakes. But that's not true everywhere.

"If you feel shaking, the guidance depends on where you are in the world," Yeck said.

## Turkish Police Detain Ekrem Imamoglu's Lawyer As State Crackdown Expands

Agencies

Ankara: Turkish authorities have detained the lawyer defending jailed Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, President Tayyip Erdogan's biggest political rival.

the 2023 presidential election on the day he was formally arrested, demanded the immediate release of his lawyer.

"As if the coup on democracy wasn't enough, they can't stand the victims of this coup defending



Ekrem Imamoglu, a member of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), was jailed on Sunday on corruption charges. His detention the week before sparked mass anti-government protests, the largest in Turkey in a decade.

CHP MP Turan Taskin Ozer posted on X that Mehmet Pehlivan, Imamoglu's lawyer, was detained on Friday "for fabricated reasons."

Imamoglu, who was nominated by the CHP as its candidate for

themselves," Imamoglu said on X. In response to the mass protests against Imamoglu's arrest, Turkish authorities have detained over 1,000 people, including at least 10 journalists.

Joakim Medin, a journalist for Swedish news service Dagens ETC, was detained in Turkey on Friday.

"I demand that the Swedish government act directly and sharply" to secure the release of Medin, said his editor at ETC, Andreas Gustavsson.

## BOMBER SQUADRON

US have sent at least 5 B-2 bombers to Diego Garcia



## Diego Garcia Buildup: Is America Preparing to Attack Iran?

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Time is ticking on a major war in Middle East. The chess pieces are being put in place. The U.S. military has deployed operational B-2 Spirit long-range nuclear stealth bombers at Diego Garcia, signalling potential strikes against Iran.

Historically cautious, America's approach to Iran seems to be changing under President Trump, especially after its failure to force Islamic Republic into submission. Tehran's refusal to abandon its nuclear advancements and recent direct and indirect attacks on Israel following Gaza war have fuelled new American adventurism.

The strategic deployment at the U.S. base in the Indian Ocean archipelago of Diego Garcia, indicates preparations for significant military action. Nearly every significant U.S. military engage-

ment in the Middle East dating back to Operation Desert Storm in 1991 began with bomber sorties launched from Diego Garcia.

These moves by the Trump administration also come on the heels of numerous statements, some intentional, some leaked by senior Trump officials—including the president himself. Responding to media reports of impending US strikes, a top Iran official said on Friday that if the United States follows through with military threats against Iran, U.S. allies and American military bases in the region will become targets.

"If they threaten Islamic Iran, then, like powder kegs, America's allies in the region and U.S. bases will be made unsafe," said parliament speaker Baqar Qalibaf. He added that negotiating under pressure and threats would equate to surrendering to the other party's demands, "which would be a prelude to war, which

no nation would accept."

Tensions between US and Iran reached a boiling point this month after Trump sent a formal letter to Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Sayyed Khamenei, delivering a clear and decisive ultimatum: Iran has two months to accept a new nuclear deal or face severe consequences. This unprecedented move by the Trump administration signals a potential turning point in US-Iran relations.

According to officials familiar with the letter, Trump warned that if the Iranian government does not agree to the terms by the deadline, the US would take decisive measures and this could include, coordinating military strikes with Israel, or even launching unilateral military action. However Supreme Leader has roundly rejected the Trump ultimatum saying the US was not seeking negotiations with Iran but rather imposing demands on it.

## Miscarriages In Gaza Surge By 300 % Due To Israel's Aid Blockade

Agencies

Gaza City: Miscarriages among pregnant women in the Gaza Strip have surged by 300 percent due to Israel's blockade of humanitarian aid shipments, according to figures from the Palestinian Health Ministry reported by Al-Akhbar.

The rate of miscarriages soared after Tel Aviv ordered the closure of the Kerem Shalom crossing earlier this month, cutting off the flow of essential medications, including heparin injections critical for women with blood clotting disorders.

Without medicine or sanitary supplies, the situation for

pregnant women in Gaza is "catastrophic," according to Dr. Suha al-Masri, a Gaza obstetrician who says hospitals struggle to offer only "primitive solutions."

"Due to the shortage of medication resulting from the blockade, we find that many of them are silently losing their fetuses or living the remainder of their pregnancies under the constant threat of losing the baby at any moment," Masri told Al-Akhbar.

"We are not only losing mothers and fetuses, we are losing a future that was meant to be born," she added.

"I felt like a part of me had died. My son wasn't just a victim of my health condition; he was

also a victim of the siege. The occupation killed my fetus, not with missiles, but by withholding my medication," said Nisreen Ayyad, 29, a resident of Gaza City who recently had a miscarriage.

"Whenever I hear about an imminent bombing, I put my hand on my stomach and tell it: Hold on. Don't be afraid: Mom is with you. But I'm the one who's killed before I see him," Ruba Masoud, 28, told Al-Akhbar.

According to figures released by the Gaza Health Ministry, at least 950 infants under one year of age have been killed since the start of the US-Israeli genocide in Gaza.

## Nearly 20 Killed As Nigerian Forces Attack Quds Day Demonstration In Abuja

Agencies

Abuja: Dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters have been killed and wounded as security forces opened fire on an International Quds Day demonstration in Nigeria's capital city.

According to reports, at least 19 demonstrators were killed and dozens more wounded in Abuja on Friday.

Video footage of the scenes shows armed forces securing the perimeter as protestors flee for cover while bullet shots are heard. The footage also shows soldiers dragging the lifeless body of a civilian on the street and dumping it into a pickup while beating two other protestors and forcing them to get into another truck.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) had expressed concern over attacks against protestors after it was revealed that Nigerian authorities

day demonstration to "prevent a breach of the peace" by the pro-Palestinian protesters, according to a leaked internal letter seen by the IHRC.

In the leaked communique, Nigerian authorities had warned that though the pro-Palestinian demonstrations were peaceful, the protestors had the potential to seek justice by attacking US and Israeli interests in the country. Therefore, their demos must be stopped.

This method has been used by Nigeria's pro-Israel officials in recent years to prompt the forces to stage a violent crackdown on the demonstrators.

At least one person was killed, and many more were injured after police opened fire on the Quds Day demo in Abuja in 2023.

In 2014, Nigerian security forces killed 34 demonstrators after opening fire on a rally in Zaria.

The annual Quds Day demonstration is held worldwide by



were making preparations in this regard as a pretext for an attack.

The Office of the National Security Adviser had stressed the necessity to stop the al-Quds

pro-Palestinian protesters on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan to show solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

## Hindu Man Hounded For Visiting Mosque, BJYM leader Demands 'Purification' Ceremony



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A Hindu shopkeeper's spontaneous participation in prayers at a local mosque here has ignited a controversy, with right-wing groups demanding a formal "purification" ceremony.

Sunil Rajani, a shopkeeper in the mixed-community Mamoo Bhanja area, joined his Muslim neighbours for prayers on Thursday evening, a video of which went viral.

Monu Agarwal, a local leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), told mediaper-

sons that Rajani's actions were considered "sacrilegious" and demanded a public apology.

Furthermore, Agarwal insisted that Rajani undergo a "shuddhi karan" (purification ceremony) at a temple.

Rajani, confronted by some Hindu right-wing members after leaving the mosque, claimed it was an "impulse" and attempted immediate "self-purification" by sprinkling Gangajal.

Cotton left inside patient's abdomen during surgery, Meerut doctor booked'

No formal complaint has been lodged regarding the matter.

## NEWS MAKERS

## US Judge Halts Deportation Of Turkish Student At Tufts

BOSTON: A federal judge in Massachusetts on Friday temporarily barred the deportation of a Turkish doctoral student at Tufts University, who voiced support for Palestinians in Israel's war in Gaza and was detained by US immigration officials this week.

Rumaysa Ozturk, 30, was taken into custody by US immigration authorities near her Massachusetts home on Tuesday, according to a video showing the arrest by masked federal agents. US officials revoked her visa.

The US Department of Homeland Security has accused Ozturk, without providing evidence, of "engaging in activities in support of Hamas," a group which the US government categorizes as a "foreign terrorist organization."

Oncu Keceli, a spokesperson for Turkey's foreign ministry, said efforts to secure Ozturk's release con-

tinued, adding consular and legal support was being provided by Turkish diplomatic missions in the US.

"Our Houston Consul General visited our citizen in the center where she is being held in Louisiana on March 28. Our citizen's requests and demands have been forwarded to local authorities and her lawyer," Keceli said in a post on X.

Ozturk's arrest came a year after she co-authored an opinion piece in Tufts' student newspaper criticizing the university's response to calls by students to divest from companies with ties to Israel and to "acknowledge the Palestinian genocide."

A lawyer soon after sued to secure her release, and on Friday, the American Civil Liberties Union joined her legal defense team, filing a revised lawsuit saying her detention violates her rights to free speech and due process.

## Columbia President Quits Amid Trump's Crackdown On Pro-Palestinian Activism

Columbia University's interim president stepped down on Friday, marking the second leadership departure, after the Donald Trump administration's crackdown on pro-Palestinian student activities prompted her to agree with sweeping policy changes at the Ivy League school.

Katrina Armstrong resigned effective immediately, and journalist Claire Shipman, the school's board chair, has been appointed as the new interim president.

Armstrong had taken over the role from the university's former president, Minouche Shafiq, who stepped down in August.

Armstrong's resignation came just a week after the institution conceded to a series of demands from the Trump administration to open talks to regain access to \$400 million in frozen research funding, which



had been withheld over allegations of anti-Semitism on campus.

Trump's joint task force to combat anti-Semitism welcomed Armstrong's resignation, calling it "an important step toward advancing negotiations as set forth in the pre-conditional understanding reached last Friday" in a statement.

The Trump administration has repeatedly accused the university's leadership of not doing enough to address "anti-Semitism" during students' mass campus protests against the Israeli regime forces' genocidal war against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The Trump administration has warned at least 60 other academic institutions that they could face penalties over ongoing probes into "anti-Semitism on college campuses."

Columbia University is currently facing multiple federal investigations, and it has become a primary focus of Trump's immigration crackdown targeting pro-Palestinian student activists.

One such individual, former Columbia graduate student and green card holder Mahmoud Khalil, is currently being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

## Former Nepal King Gyanendra fined by Kathmandu civic body for vandalism

Former King Gyanendra Shah was on Saturday issued a letter demanding fine by Kathmandu's civic body following the damage caused to public property and environment during the pro-monarchy protests in parts of the Nepalese capital a day before.

Parts of Kathmandu on Friday witnessed a tense situation after pro-monarchy protesters pelted stones, attacked the office of a political party, set fire to vehicles and looted shops in the Tinkune-Baneshwor area of Kathmandu.

Two persons, including a TV cameraman, were killed and 110 others injured in the clashes between the security personnel and the pro-monarchy protesters. As the protest was organised on the call of Gyanendra Shah, Kathmandu Metropolitan City's (KMC) mayor Balendra Shah sent a letter to his residence at Nirmala Niwas at Maharjunj on the outskirts of Kathmandu asking him to pay Nepali Rupees 7,93,000 as compensation against the damage.

## 128 Faculty, 268 Consultant Posts Vacant At SKIMS, DHS

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Mar 29: A total of 388 positions remain vacant at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura, including 128 faculty posts, highlighting the pressing staffing shortages in the region's healthcare sector.

According to official data, the sanctioned faculty strength at SKIMS Soura is 293, of which only 165 positions are currently filled, leaving 128 posts unoccupied. Additionally, out of 16 sanctioned medical officer positions, only two are occupied, while 14 remain vacant. The paramedical workforce also faces shortages, with 246 out of 776 sanctioned positions lying vacant.

A senior official revealed that 13 of the 128 faculty positions have been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JK-PSC), while 115 are pending approval for revival or concurrence. Similarly, all 14 vacant medical officer positions at SKIMS have been referred to JK-PSC, whereas of the 246 vacant paramedical posts, 21 have been sent to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), with the remaining 225 under consideration.

The crisis extends to the Directorate of Health Services in both Jammu and Kashmir. In the hospitals under the Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ), 11 senior consultant positions and 131 consultant positions remain unfilled. In Kashmir, 42 consultant positions are vacant in district hospitals, with an additional 84 vacancies in sub-district hospitals. DHSJ is also short of 337 medical officers, while 254 posts of medical officers remain

### Plantation Drive Held At SKIMS

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leaders and MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq and MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, in collaboration with Director SKIMS Dr. Ashraf Ganie, HODs, senior doctors, and faculty, today kick started a plantation drive at SKIMS Soura.

This initiative is aimed to transform the campus into a lush green oasis and promote sustainability. During the event, the duo emphasized the importance of planting trees for a healthier environment and the well-being of the public. "Trees provide clean air, food, and shelter, while also playing a crucial role in combating climate change and preserving biodiversity," they said.

unfilled in the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK).

The dental healthcare sector is also severely affected, with 67 dental surgeon positions vacant in DHSJ and 26 in DHSK. Additionally, 997 paramedical staff positions remain unfilled in district and sub-district hospitals, as well as primary health centres under DHSJ, while DHSK faces a shortage of 1,447 paramedics.

Addressing the issue in the Legislative Assembly, Health Minister Sakina Itoo stated that 365 medical officers were appointed in November 2024 under the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Services, and these doctors have been assigned to remote and underserved areas to enhance medical care at the grassroots level.



KO Photo Faisal Khan

## Muted Eid Sales Leave City Traders Struggling

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The usual festive rush ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr is missing from the markets of Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley, leaving traders grappling with sluggish sales and looming losses.

With Eid-ul-Fitr expected to be celebrated on either Monday or Tuesday, depending on the moon sighting, the bustling shopping scenes that typically mark the festive season are noticeably absent this year.

Markets in and around Lal Chowk—the commercial hub of Srinagar—are witnessing significantly reduced footfall, with local traders attributing the downturn to a rise in online shopping and growing financial constraints among consumers due to increasing prices.

"Sales are down by nearly 70 percent compared to previous Eid seasons," said Suhail Shah, Vice President of the Lal Chowk Traders Association. "The market outlook is worse than on regular days."

All sectors are impacted, but garment dealers have been hit the hardest. Even bakeries and confectioneries, which usually do well, are experiencing slow sales

Shops that traditionally see a surge in customers ahead of Eid—such as those dealing in bakeries, confectioneries, ready-made garments, and crockery—are also feeling the pinch.

"All sectors are impacted, but garment dealers have been hit the hardest. Even bakeries and

confectioneries, which usually do well, are experiencing slow sales," Shah added. "Online shopping has contributed to the slump, but the major issue is the reduced purchasing power of people."

Traders recall that in previous years, long queues formed outside popular bakery shops in the city. This time, however, those very shops are seeing a decline in sales. "Compared to last year, our sales have dipped significantly. The usual excitement for Eid shopping is just not there," said a bakery shop owner in Lal Chowk.

Shah further noted that despite the ongoing economic distress, business activity continues primarily due to the salaried class. "It is their spending that is keeping the market alive, but otherwise, businesses are suffering," he remarked.

Meanwhile, authorities have deployed additional traffic police personnel across the city and other district headquarters to manage congestion, as reports of traffic snarls have emerged from various parts of the valley.

## Legal Metrology Enforcement Seizes Underweight Cooking Oil Stock

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Acting on complaints regarding the sale of underweight cooking oil in Srinagar, the Legal Metrology Enforcement Srinagar conducted extensive inspections across the city.

During an inspection in Batmaloo, the department's enforcement unit detected significant discrepancies in the net weight of pre-packaged edible oil containers.

A case was registered against a leading manufacturer and packer of edible oil after standard weighing

equipment confirmed a shortage exceeding the permissible error limit prescribed under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules.

As a result, the department seized the available stock and notified the concerned wholesaler in Batmaloo. Legal proceedings under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 are underway against all responsible parties.

It is pertinent to mention that the quantity was measured in presence of the consumers which gathered at the location and the actions of the department were appreciated by them.

The consumers were apprised

about their rights regarding the accuracy of the quantity contained in the packages and their responsibility in checking the same by using the certified weights and measurement which must be available with every trader.

The demonstrations were held for them regarding the difference between Gross Weight and the Net Weight and how the quantity or the weight of the items can be checked by using the verified weighing scale or Measure for such purpose and for any complaints they were requested to contact the nearest Legal Metrology Office.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 1800180701
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar-Leh - (Closed)

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
29 Ramazan  
1446

**PRAYERS**

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR   | 4: 56 |
| ZUHR   | 12:36 |
| ASR    | 5: 03 |
| Magrib | 6:53  |
| ISHA   | 8: 13 |

### This Day In History

- 240 BC- 1st recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet.
- 1603 - Battle at Mellifont: English army under Lord Mountjoy beats Irish
- 1796 - Carl Friedrich Gauss, German mathematician, discovers the construction of the heptadecagon
- 1814 - Napoleonic Wars: Sixth Coalition forces march into Paris after defeating Napoleon.
- 1842 - Ether used as an anaesthetic for 1st time by Dr Crawford Long (Ga)
- 1856 - Russia signs Peace of Paris, ending the Crimean War
- 1885 - The Battle for Kushka triggers the Pandjeh Incident which nearly gives rise to war between the British Empire and Russian Empire.
- 1919 - Gandhi announces resistance against Rowlatt Act
- 1925 - Stalin supports rights of non-Serbian Yugoslavians
- 1941 - German counter offensive in North-Africa
- 1945 - USSR invades Austria
- 1945 - World War II: a defecting German pilot delivers a Messerschmitt Me 262A-1 to Americans.
- 1950 - Phototransistor invention announced, Murray Hill, NJ
- 1953 - Albert Einstein announces revised unified field theory
- 1959 - Dalai Lama flees China and is granted political asylum in India
- 1961 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 169,600' (51,690 m).
- 1965 - Vietnam War: A car bomb explodes in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, killing 22 and wounding 183 others.
- 1968 - General Ludvik Svoboda elected president of Czechoslovakia
- 1970 - USSR wins its 8th straight world hockey championship
- 1972 - North Vietnamese troops enter South Vietnam
- 1976 - Israel kills 6 Palestinians protesting land confiscation

From KO Archives

## Ansari Faces Expulsion From Congress

Observer News Service

New Delhi- Influential Shia leader and lone Congress minister in Farooq Abdullah government Moulvi Iftikhar Ansari, appears certain to face expulsion from the party in case he refuses to quit as a minister.

Taking exception to Farooq Abdullah's overtures with the BJP, the Congress leadership feels that "it is right time" to ask Iftikhar to resign and work for "revitalising the party" in the state, highly placed sources said here tonight. In case Ansari refuses, the party will be left with no other alternative but to expel him, the sources added.

Incidentally, senior Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Syed had a long meeting with the newly appointed party president Sonia Gandhi, late last night. Mufti's meeting with Sonia assumes significance in the background of wavering approach of former Congress chief Sita Ram Kesri with regard to party affairs in Kashmir, making it virtually defunct.

The party leaders are sore that no action was taken against Ansari even as he openly campaigned against the Congress candidates in just concluded Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir. "Time has come now to show the Moulvi his right place" a senior AICC leader told this reporter.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 March, 1998)

**OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI**  
Subject: Application of Noor-Ud-Din Khan R/o Sheikh Pora Tehsil Kreeri for the Issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/their favor.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection, a report of Patwari halqa concerned has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Sheikhpora of Tehsil Kreeri and belongs to the \_\_\_\_\_ community, having an annual income of Rs. 54000/-.

The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

| S.No | Name of the Member | Family Relationship with the Applicant | Age | Occupation | Annual Income |
|------|--------------------|--|-----|------------|---------------|
| 01   | Noor-Ud-Din        | Father                                 | 55  | Farmer     |               |
| 02   | Haneefa Begum      | Mother                                 | 52  | Housewife  | N/A           |
| 03   | Rayfa Akhter       | Sister                                 | 32  | Research   | N/A           |
| 04   | Khushneeda         | Sister                                 | 25  | Scholar    | N/A           |
| 05   | Ameer Din          | Brother                                | 20  | Student    | N/A           |
| 06   | Shumaila Noor      | Self                                   | 18  | Student    | N/A           |

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the public. If any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS BARAMULLA**  
Issuance of Delay orders for registration of Birth / Death by the Registrar Birth and Deaths

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for the information of the General public that one applicant namely MST MADHU W/O. SARWAN SINGH R/O. Khatrai Khurd Amritsar Punjab has applied for the issuance of Death Certificate in favour of his Husband namely SARWAN SINGH S/O. Sukhwinder Singh Who got expired on .28.08.2023 at GMC Hospital Baramulla Vide OPD Ticket No. 229768 . if anybody having any objection or claim in this regarding the issuance of these birth Certificate they submit their objection in writing to the office of the undersigned within (07) seven days for the date of publication of this notice. after the expiry of the stipulated period. No objection shall be entertained and the necessary process for issuance of the Death Certificate will be completed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE MEGISTRATE  
1ST CLASS BARAMULLA

fk0

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that I want to make a correction in the Aadhar Card of my daughter Aadhar Card bearing No. 279503334588. The correction pertains to her name, and I intend to update her name as Anam Javeed instead of Shabroze Javeed, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

INF

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan**  
Sub.. Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

**Public Notice**  
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hashim Ali Yatoo s/o Hilal Ahmad Yatoo R/o Kanloo Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 14/05/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

FKO SD  
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, J&K, JAMMU**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Subject: -Automated Testing Station (ATS).**

In continuation to this office Public Notice published in leading newspapers on 24.01.2024, the Motor Vehicle Department, J&K invites applications from eligible entities to establish Automated Testing Stations (ATSs) anywhere in UT of J&K in the light of MORTH Notification No. G.S.R. 652 (E) dated 23.09.2021 and amendments thereof available on <https://morth.nic.in>. The main points of ATS Scheme are as under:

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Eligibility                              | The Owner or Operator shall be the State Government or any Company or Association or Body of Individuals or Individual or Special Purpose Vehicle. |
| 2. | Fee/EMD                                  | Processing Fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Non-Refundable) EMD/Bank Guarantee of Rs. 5.00 lacs.   |
| 3. | Land/Infrastructure/ Equipments/Hardware | Strictly as per G.S.R. 652 (E) and amendments thereof.   |
| 4. | License Period                           | 10 years and renewable after that.   |

**Note: Those who have already applied need not to apply again.**

(Arun Kishore Kotwal), JKAS  
Additional Transport Commissioner J&K,  
Jammu

NO. TCJK-Gen/357/2023/07/8919-21  
DIPK-13530/24 DATED: 29-03-2025

# The Forgotten Heirs of Kashmir

How Domestic Violence Silently Strips Children of Their Inheritance

In the deep shadows of domestic violence, another injustice often goes unnoticed in Kashmir — one that impacts not just women, but their children: the quiet erasure of a child's right to inheritance and maintenance when a mother leaves an abusive home.

While society insists on preserving family honour and reconciliation at all costs, we are raising a generation of children who are dispossessed — emotionally, legally, and financially — because our systems are not designed to safeguard their futures.

Faakhirah Irfan

## Ayaan's Story — And the Silence That Followed

Take the case of Ayaan (name changed), an 11-year-old boy from Srinagar. When his mother fled their home to escape physical and emotional abuse, she left behind more than a broken marriage. She unknowingly left behind her children's rightful share of their father's property.

At the mediation centre, where her case was diverted instead of going to court, the pressure to "settle amicably" was immense. Without legal counsel and fearing social stigma, she signed a mutual separation. No mention was made of maintenance for the children, no agreement was reached about inheritance rights, and no steps were taken to secure residence or education support for Ayaan or his younger sister.

Shortly after, her husband transferred family property to his brother, effectively disinheriting his own children.

## Mediation Centres: Peacekeeping or Burying Rights?

Mediation centres in Kashmir, though set up with good intentions, often fall short of justice when it comes to domestic violence cases. Reconciliation is prioritised over responsibility. Women are told to "adjust," and children's futures are reduced to afterthoughts.

Crucially, these centres:

- Do not verify whether maintenance and property rights are being addressed.
- Lack protocols to protect the child's inheritance or financial security.
- Often operate without trained legal professionals or trauma-informed counsellors.
- Pressure survivors into settlements that favour abusers and overlook long-term needs.

## The Cultural Trap: Honour vs Justice

In Kashmiri culture, izzat (honour) remains a powerful force. But this honour is unevenly distributed — it demands silence from women and compliance from children, while allowing men to escape accountability. When a woman leaves a violent home, she is expected to walk away quietly, often without any financial security, dignity, or legal protection.

The same cultural conditioning that tells women to "adjust" also denies their children access to proper



ty — even though Islamic law grants them fixed shares in their father's estate.

## What the Law Says — and Where We Fail

Legally, children and women have multiple protections:

- Section 125 CrPC mandates that fathers pay maintenance for children.
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 offers residence, protection, and financial relief.
- Muslim Personal Law (Shariat Application Act, 1937) clearly outlines inheritance rights for children — both sons and daughters.

But when these legal tools are not used — either due to lack of awareness or systemic neglect — the result is what we see in cases like Ayaan's: children left with no home, no inheritance, and no legal recourse.

## A Call for Structural Change

To move forward, we must reimagine our mediation and legal systems. Some immediate reforms that can be implemented:

1. Mandatory Legal Representation: No woman should go through mediation without a lawyer, especially when children's rights are involved.
2. Child-Centric Agreements: Settlements must address maintenance, inheritance, and residence of children as non-negotiable elements.
3. Inheritance Safeguards: Property transfers made post-separation should be reviewed to prevent

unlawful disinheritance.

4. Stronger Court Oversight: Courts must play a proactive role in ensuring that children's inheritance and financial rights are upheld, even in out-of-court settlements.

5. Training for Mediators: Cultural sensitivity must be balanced with legal knowledge. Mediators must be trained to identify coercion and trauma.

## The Future They Deserve

The right to a safe home, financial stability, and a fair share in inheritance should not be lost when a mother walks away from abuse. We must stop asking survivors to pay the price for their freedom with their children's futures.

Children like Ayaan are not collateral damage — they are citizens with rights. If our society and institutions fail to protect those rights, we are not just failing women — we are failing the very foundation of our future.

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

*The author is an India-based legal professional and expert facilitator on workplace rights and harassment laws across South Asia, Europe and the United States. She specializes in human rights, women's rights and alternative dispute resolution, holding degrees from the University of Kashmir and O.P. Jindal Global Law School. She is the legal head at Serein*



Take the case of Ayaan (name changed), an 11-year-old boy from Srinagar. When his mother fled their home to escape physical and emotional abuse, she left behind more than a broken marriage. She unknowingly left behind her children's rightful share of their father's property

The world's major growth engines are about to run in reverse. The policies and uncertainties of US President Donald Trump's second administration have hit a sluggish global economy with a transformational exogenous shock. Risks are especially worrisome in both the United States and China, which have collectively accounted for a little more than 40% of cumulative global GDP growth since 2010.

America is now the problem, not the solution. Long the anchor of the rules-based international order, the US has turned protectionist, posing major risks to an already fragile global trade cycle. At the same time, Trump's MAGA ("Make America Great Again") movement has driven a powerful wedge between the US and Europe and divided North America, with Canada's very independence in Trump's crosshairs. The central role of the US in sustaining post-World War II geostrategic stability has been shattered.

The US will be unable to put the genie back in the bottle. Trump's shocking actions have eroded the trust that has underpinned America's global leadership, and the damage will be evident long after Trump has left the scene. Having once abdicated its moral authority as the anchor of the free world, who is to say it can't happen again?

This breakdown in trust will cast a long and lasting shadow over economic performance, not least in the US itself, where it is affecting business decision-making, especially the costly long-term commitments associated with hiring and capital spending. Businesses need to scale their future operations relative to confident expectations of future growth trajectories — now an increasingly uncertain proposition. Asset values and consumer confidence, too, have been shaken. Uncertainty, the enemy of decision-making, is likely to freeze the most dynamic segments of the US economy.

For China, state-directed policy guidance might temper the initial blow of a Trump policy shock. But the pressures of Trump's tariff escalation will undermine China's export-led growth model, which is especially problematic for economic growth, given the lingering weakness of China's domestic demand.

The country's long-promised consumer-led rebalancing of the economy remains more of a slogan than an actual shift in the sources of Chinese growth — especially with a deficient social safety net that continues to encourage fear-driven precautionary saving. China's just-announced 30-point action plan to boost household demand draws much-needed attention to the seemingly chronic plight of the Chinese consumer. But it offers only modest support to an inadequate social safety net.

The Trump shock is likely not only to exacerbate the Sino-American conflict but also to weaken both countries' growth prospects significantly.

# A World Turned Inside Out

Stephen S. Roach



The US will be unable to put the genie back in the bottle. Trump's shocking actions have eroded the trust that has underpinned America's global leadership, and the damage will be evident long after Trump has left the scene

Don't count on other economies filling this void. Eventually, India might be able to take up some of the slack. But its relatively small share of world GDP — currently 8.5% (in purchasing-power-parity terms), compared to 34% for China and the US combined — means that that day is in the distant future. The same is true of Europe. While the European Union's 14% share of world GDP is nearly double that of India, Europe remains saddled with anemic growth, compounded by mounting trade pressures associated with an escalating global tariff war.

If the apparent breakdown of the transatlantic

alliance has a silver lining, it is that the incentives for strategic cohesion should have an outside impact on European defense spending. But that will also take time. Meanwhile, Europe will equally be exposed to the adverse effects on business and consumer expectations and decision-making, comparable to those afflicting the US.

What does all this mean for global economic prospects in the coming years? The current baseline expectation of around 3.3% world GDP growth for 2025-26, as per recent forecasts by the International Monetary Fund, is far too sanguine. While there may be some front-loading of growth mo-

mentum in the early part of this year — exemplified by accelerated shipments of Chinese exports ahead of Trump's tariff hikes — I suspect that the downside risks will progressively build.

That points to a fractional reduction of forecasts for global economic growth for 2025, with the slowdown becoming considerably more pronounced in 2026 and after. That could easily push an increasingly fragile world economy down to the 2.5% growth threshold, typically associated with outright global recession.

Nor is this likely to be a standard shortfall of global growth. To the extent that the tariff war is aimed at promoting friendshoring and strengthening supply-chain resilience, the global economy's supply side is likely to come under significant strain. A new layer of adjustment costs is being imposed on a once-globalized world. Reshoring to higher-cost local producers not only takes considerable time but also erodes the efficiencies of production, assembly, and delivery that have underpinned worldwide disinflation over the past three decades.

Nearly five years ago, in the depths of the COVID-19 shock, I warned that the onset of stagflation was only "a broken supply chain away." Subsequent experience and research have borne that out, confirming that the supply-chain disruptions during the pandemic and its immediate aftermath generated significant upward pressure on prices.

A global trade conflict implies a similar dynamic. The higher costs associated with Trump's coming "reciprocal" escalation of multilateral tariffs, which are due to be announced on April 2, are especially problematic. In the face of a likely shortfall of economic growth, the added cost and price pressures are likely to tip the scales toward a global stagflation.

The Trump shock, in short, is the functional equivalent of a full-blown crisis. It is likely to have a lasting impact on the US and Chinese economies, and the contagion is almost certain to spread throughout the world through cross-border trade and capital flows. Perhaps most importantly, this is a geostrategic crisis, reflecting a reversal of America's global leadership role. In the space of little more than two months, Trump has turned the world inside out. If my assessment of this shock is anywhere close to the mark, concerns over the global economic forecast seem almost trivial.

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

*The article was originally published by Project Syndicate*

# The Essence Of A Happy Home

Malik Daniyal

Four walls and a roof over your head can't be the only way we define the word "home." Home is more than four walls. The poet Robert Frost had said, "Home is the place that, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."

Generally, "home" means a secure and cheerful place where we live with our family. It is a place where you are loved, respected, heard, and cared for. Apparently, it looks like a house covered with four walls and topped with a roof. A building may have a yard, but on the inside, it is much more than wood, bricks, and décor. Most importantly, it is the place where we start to grow up.

Home is the place where you feel in control and properly oriented in space and time. It is a predictable and secure place. In short, home is the primary connection between you and the rest of the world. But now the question arises: is it practical nowadays? Are people really blessed with their families? The answer for this question will be a big NO from the majority of the people with a few exceptions. With this, another question arises, "What are we doing to make the home a happier one?" I don't think much effort is being directed towards an answer to this question.

I believe unless we address this budding issue of making a HAPPIER Home, we can't eradicate other nuisances arising out in our society. The people who make up our society are brought up and fostered in their own homes first; let aside the part played by schooling and other externalities. The kind of atmosphere they are getting there and the things they observe are a reflection of what our futuristic society is going to be. Will it be the one based on love, honesty, integrity, sincerity, and compassion, or vice versa? This is the importance of a happier home as it lays the foundation of our society, and for creating a happier home, the major role is played by the



**THE WAY WE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT OUR HOUSE HAS A LARGE IMPACT ON WHETHER WE WILL HAVE A HAPPIER HOME OR NOT.** Most of the current housing designs ignore what psychologists and scientists believe and what science has proven to be best for our emotional comfort and happiness

marriage of the two persons, their mutual understanding, and how they cope with their differences of opinion.

## The Psychological POV

The way we design and construct our house has a large impact on whether we will have a happier home or not. Most of the current housing designs ignore what psychologists and scientists believe and what science has proven to be best for our emotional comfort and happiness.

Dr. Toby Israel, a design psychologist and author of *Some Place Like Home: Using Design Psychology to Create Ideal Places*, believes that every person has a distinctive "environmental autobiography"—our historical place. Although often subconscious, our associations and sensations with physical places are reworked, replicated, or rejected throughout our lifetime, she says. Other psychologists believe that only having luxurious and big houses doesn't mean that you are going

to have a happy life, but what matters is that there must be a bond of mutual love and respect among the family members.

My personal opinion is that there should be a discussion on a daily basis in every family so that every member, including the children, can express their feelings. This will help foster a bond of love and affection. Moreover, in most cases, women are being overlooked while making important family decisions, and this kind of treatment is not worthwhile for

the whole family.

Research has also been carried out on self-silencing, which is most common among women. Jack's (1991) foundational work on the theory of self-silencing was mostly associated with clinically depressed women. Based on her experience with these women she conceptualized Self-Silencing as a relational strategy where women were to maintain intimate relationships, 'silence certain feelings, thoughts and actions.

Women who scored high on their self-silencing scale tend to evaluate themselves based on the perceptions of others. Women's Self-Silencing or act of inhibiting in a relationship can be because of three kinds of fear.

The fear of annihilation, where one's security and that of the children are matters of concern, often leads women, especially those who are financially dependent, to choose silence as the best option over divorce or suicide.

Women who consider themselves detestable or meritless also prefer to keep quiet.

When women are timid or scared of expressing their feelings and emotions, they keep them inside as they feel the fear of rejection from others.

The act of self-silencing comes from the motivation of maintaining relationships and connections with others, since these are at the core of women's self-concept.

## Husband-wife relationship for a happier home

When you're working to make your home a happier and better place, you must try to maintain a positive and tolerant atmosphere. For example, if your home is chaotic and leaves you feeling fidgety and anxious, it'll be a difficult task to create a conducive environment where everyone will be in the right frame of mind for performing different activities.

For maintaining a good environment, a major role is played by the husband-wife because this is the relationship that largely defines the whole atmosphere of

the home.

So what are the things that will strengthen the bond between the two? One is prioritizing the emotional bond, as most psychologists say that people are likely to succeed in their self-improvement goals if they surround themselves with things that will satisfy them emotionally and bring in a positive mental attitude. Contrary to their expectations, they should try to put away the things that bring them emotional dissatisfaction, like the ones that remind them of their past difficulties or tragedies.

In order to bring peace, love, and prosperity into married life, both the husband and wife should take care of each other's sentiments. Both of them should be solicitous, empathetic, and understanding toward each other. They shouldn't complain over little things. Life isn't always a bed of roses, so rather than fighting over inconsequential things, both of them should hold each other's hands and deal with the problems mutually.

Moreover, the husband has an obligation towards his wife to provide her with the proper love, care, and support that she requires. He should provide her with every succour she needs. He should think of the sacrifice that she gave of coming with him, leaving all her comfort. It is his duty to make her feel safe and to take care of her feelings and emotions so that she does not get a sense of insecurity. The marriage between the two isn't a contract or a mere physical relationship; it's about understanding each other, sharing feelings and thoughts, standing by each other, and giving hope at times when they need it most. The husband and the wife should be like the clothing of each other as clothes are the closest thing which protects us from heat and cold, in the similar way should be their relation to cover each other's imperfections.

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# Religious OCD — It Exists!

Sumayah Yaseen

Most people are familiar with the term 'OCD' (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder), and use the word to describe individuals who are tidy or organised. However, few are aware of the detrimental impact it can have on well-being, especially when intersecting with religious practices, as it did with mine. OCD is a common mental illness which affects people from all walks of life around the world.

Those who receive a diagnosis usually suffer debilitating symptoms ranging from intrusive thoughts to compulsive rituals, health anxiety and repetitive actions.

## How does OCD affect religious acts?

I was diagnosed with OCD at the age of twelve and suffered daily with intrusive thoughts. As I began performing salah regularly, it became almost impossible to maintain the minimum requirements for Islamic obligations. My struggle with fasting started soon after I was diagnosed, although I didn't know that my mental health was the main factor. Fasting worsened my anxiety which in turn triggered my OCD and increased my compulsive rituals. I would furiously scrub my hands with soap, sobbing until they were red and raw.

The symptoms weren't limited to cleaning impulsively; I would sit for hours ruminating on pointless things and exaggerating scenarios in my head. My anger, anxiety and OCD became uncontrollable, and by the time Maghrib arrived, I could not sit with my family and eat. I felt it was better to stay alone in my room where my symptoms would only affect me until I calmed down.

Praying was similarly challenging as the rituals drained my energy. I was so weakened by hunger and compulsive behaviours that I just couldn't pray. Moreover, the khushu (focus) I once had during salah had vanished, reducing the

awaited conversations with my Lord to mere obligations. Many of us strive to complete our five daily prayers on time every day, however, it can become difficult when dealing with worldly commitments. It is even harder to manage praying while suffering from symptoms of OCD. Although OCD becomes a diagnosed mental disorder when it becomes overwhelming, you can still experience intrusive thoughts and impulsivity without the label.

How often do we question a missed rakah, or let our subconscious wander? These distractions can make one doubt the validity of their prayer and induce a need to start the prayer from the beginning.

Wudhu is a necessary act that precedes salah; however, it becomes an exhausting task when paired with illness. Intrusive thoughts hinder the completion of wudhu, allowing people to doubt their actions, leading them to believe their ablution has been broken or wasn't performed correctly.

My intrusive thoughts appeared in the form of an alter ego, a harsh voice in the back of my head feeding me the worst negative affirmations. It told me I wasn't going to Jannah and that Allah didn't love me anymore. Sometimes I was able to quieten it for a while and hear my own voice assure me that I was worthy, at other times it became an engorged darkness which suffocated me and told me that there was no hope and that there never would be.

My mind would convince me I wasn't 'clean' enough to stand before Allah. I firmly believed that my prayer wouldn't count if I had missed a spot, and the years I spent being scolded for not being able to perform wudhu correctly by my Islamic school teachers didn't help either. I also thought that I would be severely punished if I chose to ignore the 'missed' areas.

Having Contamination OCD can come with sensory issues, such as feeling like the skin on one arm doesn't 'match' the other. For example, I would wash my right arm, then my

left, only to feel the right one wasn't as clean, leading me to wash my right arm again. This became a cycle, causing me to miss my prayers, or stop making wudhu and praying salah altogether. This brought further distress, anxiety, and an unshakeable feeling of guilt and resentment. I started resenting mandatory acts, only to feel guilty for doing so.

As my disorder spun out of control, it became harder to retain the energy to fast and perform other duties in Ramadan. I felt the blessed month was not so blessed for me, and my guilt and resentment were exacerbated by a lack of understanding from other Muslims. As these thoughts, which can also be called waswas, worsened — my iman felt weakened, heightening negative feelings and convincing me I was a bad Muslim.

When it comes to mental health help from religious professionals, it's sad to say that there isn't much. Scholars are qualified to provide religious and spiritual advice, however, when it comes to religious, spiritual and mental health advice combined, they're suddenly at a loss. This is a recurring dilemma within the Muslim community, a problem which doesn't have a concrete solution, although this is improving gradually.

## What is Waswas?

Waswas is an Arabic word meaning "whispers." Essentially, these are intrusive thoughts from the devil whispering into your subconscious. Waswas is referenced in the hadith as negative thoughts from Shaytan, and not from oneself.

There are two types of waswas, the first one comes from the nafs (the self) and the other from the Shaytan. It is the second type which becomes overwhelming and obsessive, leading to extreme disruption in life and interfering with duties. Waswas plays on an individual's fears, exaggerating them, making you believe they have occurred, or will, occur.

It took a long time for me to



distinguish my own voice between the 'bad' one, and there are still days, even months, where I'm unable to tell the difference. What worked for me, was learning to sit with my thoughts, and come back to them once things seemed a little clearer. When an intrusive or obsessive thought enters my mind, I let it be, I wait, and I continue. This action, along with prescribed medication from my doctor, made my disorder manageable. When I started medication things started to get better, and slowly I began working on my spiritual relationship with Allah again.

## The Qur'an and Hadith on OCD

Although the Qur'an itself does not explicitly mention OCD, there are many verses which touch on the struggles associated with it. Waswas is clearly written in Surah An-Nas.

Allah says, 'Say, (O Prophet) "I seek refuge in the Lord of humankind, the God of humankind, from the evil of the lurking whisperer—

said, 'Yes.' He said, 'That's a clear sign of faith.'" (Muslim)

Furthermore, the Prophet has also expressed to us that if we suffer from intrusive thoughts without verbalising them, then we will not be held accountable and Allah will forgive us. He said, "Allah forgives my followers those (evil deeds) their souls may whisper or suggest to them as long as they do not act (on it) or speak." (Bukhari)

The beautiful structure of Islam assures us that our suffering will bring rewards beyond comprehension.

## Lack of Support from Scholars and Community

A wider problem within our community is the limited understanding Islamic scholars have of mental health itself. Unfortunately, when it comes to individuals struggling with depression or even schizophrenia, many professionals are unaware of the mind's ability to display a variety of emotions and coping mechanisms. You may hear talks of people in the community being 'possessed' or having 'jinn' living inside their bodies. This may be true in some cases, most of these are undiagnosed disorders and illnesses. It is often easier to believe in the paranormal than fathom the complexities of the mind.

Denial plays a significant part in preventing treatment as the older generation refuses to acknowledge the issue. There is also a stigma attached to mental health as it is often an obscure concept for the Muslim community — and as a result — considered taboo.

Generally, it is quite difficult to find scholarly advice for mental illnesses. However, I was lucky to have found a scholar, a local Imam whom my family knew, who made things easier for me — as I struggled with reassurance and needed it before I made a decision. The scholar helped in assessing my situation and providing a solution which goes to show that there are good scholars out there, it is only a matter of find-

ing one with good character and a deep sense of empathy instead of judgement.

It is a good idea to search for scholars in your local area. This way, you can request recommendations and consider which Imams' ideologies align with your concerns. Counselling and Psychology training are necessary for integrating both Islamic teachings and science to move communities forward. It is important to search for a trustworthy scholar who can offer support and is willing to understand your experiences.

Furthermore, when individuals confess to depression or intrusive thoughts — scholars often advise them to pray more, do more dhikr and make more du'a. The lack of psychological knowledge only causes increased suffering, doubt and isolation. The interpretation of Qur'anic texts and hadith often links mental health struggles to the weakness of faith, suggesting that low iman equals decreased acts of worship. However, this is not necessarily the case. We know that our Prophet struggled with feelings of emptiness and despair and in response, Allah sent Surah Ad-Duha to console him and remind him of His love and mercy.

Allah says, 'Your Lord has not taken leave of you, (O Muhammad), nor has He detested (you).' (Surah Ad-Duhaa 93:3)

Allah reminds Muhammad that he is not alone, neither are his emotions invalidated. We can take comfort in knowing Allah understands us better than anyone else, and His love for us is greater than any other.

## Accessing Help

It is important to look for the right support when struggling with mental illness and experiencing overwhelming symptoms. First and foremost, making an appointment with your GP and accessing medical help is vital to ensure you are getting the right treatment.

The article was originally published by Amaliyah

## Trump Optimistic About US-India Trade Talks, Calls Modi 'Smart Man'



Press Trust Of India

**NEW YORK/WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "very smart man" and his "great friend" while emphasising that tariff talks between the US and India would "work out very well".

The remarks assume significance as they came the same day Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri spoke with US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau to discuss bilateral trade, including the reduction of barriers to achieve a balanced trade relationship.

"Prime Minister Modi was here just recently and we have always been very good friends," the US president said in the White House on Friday.

The remarks came days before Trump's reciprocal tariffs on the United States' trade partners kick in on April 2.

"India is one of the highest tariffing nations in the world.... it's brutal, it's brutal. They're very smart. He (Modi) is a very smart man and a great friend of mine. We had very good talks. I think it's going to work out very well between India and our country," Trump said.

"And I want to say you have a great prime minister," he said. During their conversation, Misri and Landau "touched on the growing bilateral trade, defence and technology cooperation, and issues relating to mobility and migration", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi.

US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said the two officials discussed "ongoing efforts to reduce barriers to achieve a fair and balanced bilateral trade relationship" and strengthen collaboration in defence and technology.

US Assistant Trade Representative Brendan Lynch is currently in India and holding talks with his Indian interlocutors on firming up a bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

Prime Minister Modi visited Washington DC in February and held bilateral discussions with Trump. The visit came less than a month after Trump was sworn in as US President for a second term. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US last month, both sides announced plans to negotiate a mutually beneficial, multi-sector BTA.

In the past, Trump called India a "tariff king" and a "big abuser".

## India's Solar PV Module Manufacturing Capacity To Reach 125 GW By 2030: Joshi



Press Trust Of India

**NAVSARI:** India's solar PV module manufacturing capacity will increase to 125 gigawatt (GW) by 2030 from the current 80 GW, and its installed solar cell manufacturing capacity will soon touch 40 GW from 25 GW at present, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said in Gujarat's Navsari district on Saturday.

In 2014, solar PV module manufacturing was nearly absent in the country, he said after inaugurating a state-of-the-art 5.4 GW solar cell manufacturing facility of Waaree Energies Limited at Degan here.

"Today, companies like Waaree are producing 80 GW solar PV modules. By 2030, our total solar PV manufacturing capacity will be 125 GW. Similarly, solar cell manufacturing was nil in 2014. But today we are manufacturing 25 GW, and very soon we will reach a target of 40 GW. We are moving ahead with the thinking of integrated solar, right

from polysilicon to module, to be manufactured in India," he said.

India has emerged as the world's third largest producer of renewable energy, and will achieve the target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 from 220 GW currently, the Union minister added.

He said the target of 500 GW would be achieved because "if Prime Minister Narendra Modi is there then it is possible".

The world's largest bid for green ammonia was brought out by India, and 50 per cent export order has been booked for electrolyser and green hydrogen manufacturing, Joshi pointed out.

"We're the third largest producer of renewable energy. Ten years ago, we were nowhere on the map of renewable energy. A lot has been achieved under the leadership of PM Modi. India is back to basics in harnessing the power of nature and has emerged as not just a participant but the leader in global renewable energy," he said.

## RBI Allows Banks To Hike ATM Charges To ₹23/Withdrawal Beyond Free Monthly Usage From May 1

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India on Friday permitted banks to increase charges on ATM cash withdrawals beyond the mandatory free monthly usage by Rs 2 to Rs 23 per transaction from May 1.

Customers are eligible for five free transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions) every month from their own bank Automated Teller Machines (ATMs).

They are also eligible for free transactions (inclusive of financial and non-financial transactions) from other bank ATMs -- three transactions in metro centres and five in non-metro centres.

"Beyond the free transactions, a customer may be charged a maximum fee of Rs 23 per transaction. This shall be effective from May 1, 2025," the RBI said in a circular.

Currently, banks are allowed to charge Rs 21 per transaction, after a customer exhausts the free transaction limit.

The RBI further said the instructions shall also apply, mutatis mutandis, to transactions done at cash recycler machines (other than for cash deposit transactions).

The Reserve Bank of India



(RBI) had, from time to time, issued various instructions on the number of free ATM transactions and maximum charges that can be levied on a customer beyond the mandatory free transactions. Instructions have also been issued by the RBI on interchange fee structure for ATM transactions.

The circular also said the ATM interchange fee will be as decided by the ATM network.

The current interchange fee per transaction is Rs 17 for financial transactions and Rs 6 for non-financial transactions in all centres.

Commenting on the proposed charges, Shikhar Agarwal, Chairman, BLS E-Services, the RBI's decision to increase ATM interchange fees underscores the growing cost of cash transactions

in India.

"While this hike may burden frequent ATM users, it presents a significant opportunity for Business Correspondents (BCs) and digital-first players. With ATM withdrawals becoming costlier, customers -- especially in rural and semi-urban areas -- will increasingly turn to MicroATMs and BC networks, which remain fee-free for transactions," he said.

The RBI's circular is applicable to all commercial banks, including RRBs, cooperative banks, authorised ATM network operators, card payment network operators, and white label ATM operators.

There were 1,30,902 on-site ATMs and cash recycler machines (CRMs) and 85,804 off-site at end-January 2025.

**BEYOND THE FREE TRANSACTIONS, A CUSTOMER MAY BE CHARGED a maximum fee of Rs 23 per transaction. This shall be effective from May 1, 2025"**

## Govt To Notify Rs 23K Cr Electronics Manufacturing Scheme In Three Weeks: Vaishnav

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government is likely to notify Rs 22,919 crore electronics manufacturing scheme within three weeks, Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Friday.

The Union Cabinet has approved the country's first-ever electronics components manufacturing scheme, focusing on indigenous manufacturing of passive or non-semiconductor components.

"The scheme will be notified within three weeks," Vaishnav told reporters.

The minister said that the scheme is expected to attract investment of Rs 59,350 crore, resulting in the production of electronic components worth over Rs 4.5 lakh crore and generate additional direct employment of 91,600 persons and many indirect jobs during its tenure.

The scheme is spread over a period of six years with three incentive components -- employment, capital requirement and turnover of the companies.

"The companies which will achieve a threshold on employment will be getting incentives. There are certain items where a lot of capex is required and the turnover is not much. There we will provide capital support and of course, there will be a turnover-based incentive," Vaishnav said.



Through the scheme, the government is looking to have a change in the mindset of companies to export-led growth to become a major supplier of many of the electronic components, he noted.

Vaishnav said the electronics manufacturing sector has grown 5 times in the last 10 years to Rs 10 lakh crore, providing employment to about 25 lakh people.

Exports have grown six times in the last 10 years to Rs 2.5 lakh crore and are expected to double in the next 4 years, the minister said.

"The Prime Minister's vision is to deepen value addition, and supply chain, have more design capabilities and make sure that a large number of passive components which go into electronic goods are manufactured in India," Vaishnav said. The government has already covered active components like semiconductors under the India Semiconductor Mission.

"Now, this component manufacturing scheme, which is being done for the first time in our country, will be covering passive components," the minister said.

The scheme will cover components like display module sub-assembly, electro-mechanicals for electronic applications, multi-layer printed circuit board (PCB), enclosures for mobile, IT hardware products and related devices, and lithium-ion cells for digital applications.

According to electronics component makers body Elcina, non-semiconductor components production in India was around USD 13 billion in 2022, which is projected to reach around USD 20.7 billion by 2026 and around USD 37 billion by 2030 if the business continues as usual, thereby leading a deficit of USD 248 billion in the segment over the next six years. The deficit is met through imports.

## 'Office Supply Down 1% Across Top 7 Cities In Jan-Mar Despite Rise In Demand'

New supply of office space declined 1 per cent in the January-March period to 99 lakh sq ft across seven major cities despite high demand, according to Colliers India.

The new supply of office space stood at 100 lakh (10 million) sq ft in the year-ago period.

As per the data, the new supply in Bengaluru declined 16 per cent in January-March to 37 lakh sq ft from 44 lakh sq ft in the year-ago period.

Chennai saw a decline of 33 per cent to 2 lakh sq ft from 3 lakh sq ft.

Delhi-NCR saw a more than five-fold jump in new supply to 27 lakh sq ft from 5 lakh sq ft.

Hyderabad witnessed a 88 per cent decline in new supply to 3 lakh sq ft from 26 lakh sq ft.

In Kolkata, new office supply dipped 50 per cent to 1 lakh sq ft from 2 lakh sq ft.

New supply of office space in Mumbai declined 60 per cent to 4 lakh sq ft from 10 lakh sq ft.

In Pune, the new supply of office space jumped 2.5 times to 25 lakh sq ft in January-March this year from 10 lakh sq ft in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

During the first quarter of the 2025 calendar year, Colliers data showed that the gross leasing of office space rose 15 per cent to 159 lakh sq ft across these seven cities from 138 lakh sq ft in the year-ago period. (PTI)

## China, Bangladesh Sign Nine Agreements After Key Meeting Between Xi, Yunus

China and Bangladesh on Friday signed nine agreements after Muhammad Yunus' meeting with President Xi Jinping during which the Bangladesh Chief Adviser highlighted student protests that led to regime change in Dhaka and urged Beijing to play a "greater role" in establishing peace and stability.

Additionally, Bangladesh secured a commitment of USD 2.1 billion in investments, loans and grants from the Chinese government and its companies, Bangladesh's official news agency BSS reported.

Bangladesh welcomed Chinese companies to participate in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMP), according to a joint statement issued after the meeting between Yunus and Xi.

The previous Hasina government wanted India to do the Teesta river basin project.

Bangladesh welcomed Chinese companies to also participate in the Mongla Port Facilities Modernisation and Expansion Project, the joint statement said.

After his talks with Xi, the two countries signed nine agreements enhancing economic and technical cooperation between the two governments and cooperation in the areas of development, translation and publication of classical literary work, exchange and cooperation on cultural heritage, news exchange and media, and health sector, state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) said. (PTI)

## Infra Sectors Growth Slips To 5-Month Low Of 2.9% In Feb

The output of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a five-month low of 2.9 per cent in February, as against 7.1 per cent growth registered a year ago, according to official data released on Friday.

On a monthly basis, the production growth of the core sectors was lower than the 5.1 per cent expansion recorded in January. The previous low level of growth at 2.4 per cent was recorded in September 2024. In February, production of crude oil and natural gas recorded a negative growth.

The production growth of coal, refinery products, steel and electricity moderated to 1.7 per cent, 0.8 per cent, 5.6 per cent, and 2.8 per cent, respectively, against 11.6 per cent, 2.6 per cent, 9.4 per cent and 7.6 per cent in February last year. However, fertiliser and cement output rose to 10.2 per cent and 10.5 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

The growth of core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 4.4 per cent during April-February this fiscal. It was 7.8 per cent in the same period last fiscal.

The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which measures overall industrial growth.

Aditi Nayal, Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA Limited said, "The core sector growth moderated to a five-month low of 2.9 per cent in February 2025 from 5.1 per cent in January 2025, although this was partly on account of the leap year-related high base. (PTI)



## Delhi Airport: International Passengers To Pay Higher UDF; Rate Unchanged For Domestic Flyers

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Flying out of the Delhi airport will become expensive for international passengers from April 16, with regulator AERA approving higher and variable user development fees for economy and business class travellers.

Taking into consideration that 80 per cent of the traffic at the airport is domestic, AERA has decided to leave the User Development Fee (UDF) for domestic passengers unchanged at Rs 129 for the fourth control period.

Currently, the UDF is uniform for both domestic and international passengers. The domestic UDF for embarking passengers is Rs 129 and for disembarking passengers is Rs 56.

Besides, the landing charges will be different for wide-body and narrow-body planes on both domestic and international segments.

With the revision, the UDF for embarking economy class international passengers will jump 404 per cent and in the case of business class passengers, the increase will be 528 per cent.

Under the revised tariff regime, international passengers flying economy class from the airport will have to pay a UDF of Rs 650 and for those landing here, the rate will be Rs 275.

In the case of international business class passengers, the UDF will be Rs 810 for embarking and Rs 345 for disembarking passengers, respectively, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) said in a release on Friday.

## Elon Musk Sells X To His Own xAI For USD 33 Billion In All-Stock Deal

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON:** Elon Musk has sold social media site X to his own xAI artificial intelligence company in a USD 33 billion all-stock deal, the billionaire announced on Friday.

Both companies are privately held, which means they are not required to disclose their finances to the public. Musk said in a post on X that the move will "unlock immense potential by blending xAI's advanced AI capability and expertise with X's massive reach."

He said the deal values xAI at USD 80 billion and X at USD 33 billion. Musk, who serves as CEO of Tesla and SpaceX as well as an advisor to President Donald Trump, bought the site then called Twitter for \$44 billion in 2022, gutted its staff and changed its policies on hate speech, misinformation and user

The watchdog said that airport operator DIAL had proposed a 730 per cent increase in prevailing airport charges.

"However, after conducting a thorough analysis and applying prudence checks to each regulatory building block, AERA has determined a significantly lower increase of 140 per cent over the existing airport charges.

"This adjustment will enable the airport operator to meet essential capital expenditure requirements, maintain operational efficiency and ensure service quality in line with the standards outlined in the State Support Agreement (SSA) and the Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA)," it said.

Explaining the rationale behind having a differential rate of UDF for the international economy and business class passengers, AERA said it aligns with the 'user pays' principle and reflects the enhanced passenger experience and expanded facilities available and used by international travellers.

"The landing and parking charges for the airlines have also been rationalised and kept at reasonable levels, considering competitive airport charges at similar airports.

"This ensures that airline operations are not unduly burdened and that operational efficiency is maintained," it said.

The landing charge for wide-body aircraft will be Rs 564 and Rs 785 for domestic and international segments, respectively.

For narrow-body planes, the rate will be Rs 347 for domestic and Rs 570 for international flights, as per AERA.



verification and renamed it X.

He launched xAI a year later.

"xAI and X's futures are intertwined. Today, we officially take the step to combine the data, models, compute, distribution and talent. This combination will unlock immense potential by blending xAI's advanced AI capability and expertise with X's massive reach."

"The combined company will deliver smarter, more meaningful experiences to billions of people while staying true to our core mission of seeking truth and advancing knowledge."

## AI Express Eyes 30 Mn Passengers Next Fiscal, More Partnerships

Seeking to consolidate its position in the high growth slow-cost segment, Air India Express aims to carry 30 million passengers in the next fiscal year, plans to have more virtual interline partnerships and offer only economy class seats in all its planes after cabin standardisation.

The Tata Group-owned airline, which currently has a fleet of 104 planes and over 485 daily flights, is focused on deepening its network and expects to add 15 more aircraft in the next financial year. These will include nine white-tail Boeing 737s.

Elaborating on the airline's strategy, its Managing Director Alok Singh on Friday said the airline has seen significant growth and has carried more than 20 million passengers this fiscal year. The count is projected to rise to 30 million in 2025-26.

The airline's overall weekly departures have increased 50 per cent to 2,727 in the 2025 summer schedule from 1,825 in the year-ago period. The number of destinations will be increased to 54.

The summer schedule of 2025 will be from March 29 to October 25 next year. While the number of routes has grown significantly, the number of stations has not grown as much. It is the broad strategy that let's look at depth before breadth, Singh said at a briefing.

Among other initiatives, Singh said the airline will look to have more virtual interline partnerships with foreign low-cost carriers and there are six such partnerships at present. (PTI)



Multi-Crore Chit Fund Scam:

## JKP Registers Case Against Actor Shreyas Talpade



KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir police have registered a fraud case against 15 individuals, including Bollywood actor Shreyas Talpade, for allegedly duping people out of crores under the guise of a chit fund scheme. According to reports, the accused were running a company named 'The Loni Urban Multistate Credit and Thrift Cooperative Society Limited,' which promised villagers lucrative returns on their investments. Agents of the company allegedly lured hundreds of people by assuring them that their money would double in a short span. However, after collecting crores from unsuspecting villagers, the company reportedly shut down operations and fled the district. The fraudulent scheme had been operational in Mahoba for the past ten years before coming under legal scrutiny. Authorities have registered a case at the Srinagar police station, and an investigation is underway to uncover the full extent of the scam. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the probe. This is not the first time Shreyas Talpade has been accused of fraud. Last month, an FIR was registered against him and actor Alok Nath in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly duping investors of over Rs. 9 crores. Alok Nath and Shreyas Talpade, along with five members of a credit cooperative society, were booked in a fraud case at Gomti Nagar Police Station in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Previously,

they, along with 11 others, were implicated in a similar case in Sonapat, Haryana, connected to a multi-level marketing fraud. The controversy centers around a cooperative society that had been soliciting investments for six years, assuring high returns. Reports suggest that Alok Nath and Shreyas Talpade had promoted the investment schemes of the society, lending credibility to the fraudulent operation. Meanwhile, Talpade's team has issued an official statement in the light of him being named in a multi-crore chit fund scam.

They have rubbished the reports of the actor being named in the scam, and have termed the actor's involvement in fraud or misconduct as completely false and baseless. The actor's team said in the statement, "It is deeply unfortunate that in today's world, a person's hard-earned reputation appears to be vulnerable to undue tarnishment by unfounded rumours. Recent reports alleging Mr. Shreyas Talpade's involvement in fraud or misconduct are completely false, baseless and devoid of any merit whatsoever. As a public figure, Mr. Talpade, like many other celebrities, is frequently invited to various corporate and annual events, which he attends as and when possible."

The team said that beyond such appearances, the actor has no association whatsoever with the company in question. "Needless to say, Mr. Talpade has no nexus whatsoever with any fraudulent or unlawful acts as are being alleged and/or circulated. We urge everyone to verify facts before spreading misinformation and request that Mr. Talpade's name be kept away from these baseless rumors. Mr. Talpade is a law-abiding citizen who remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, honesty and professionalism in all of his endeavours," he added.

## Mughal Road Closure Continues To Trouble Pir Panchal Residents

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The prolonged closure of the historic Mughal Road has left residents on both sides struggling with travel difficulties, impacting daily life, businesses, and education.

The key road, which links Kashmir's Shopian district with the Pir Panchal region in Jammu, remains shut due to heavy snow accumulation from winter, forcing people to take longer, more cumbersome routes. Residents of Shopian, Hirpora, Dubjan, Pir-Ki-Gali, Buffliaz, Thanamadi, and surrounding areas have voiced their frustration, urging authorities to reopen the road at the earliest.

Beyond the economic and logistical setbacks, the closure has disrupted families, as many

people from Shopian have marital ties in Poonch and Rajouri and are unable to visit their relatives. The situation has also posed a challenge for students from Kashmir enrolled at Baba Ghulam Shah University in Rajouri, who were hoping to travel home or back for Eid.

Despite being granted national highway status in 2016 and later being handed over to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), work on the long-awaited tunnel to make Mughal Road an all-weather route has yet to materialize.

Authorities have assured that snow clearance is in its final stages, and a decision on reopening the road will be made soon. Meanwhile, residents continue to await relief, urging immediate action from the concerned authorities.

## Inauguration Of Sonamarg Tunnel Enhances Year-Round Access



Observer News Service

**SONAMARG:** The scenic hill station of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has witnessed a significant surge in tourist footfall in the first two months of 2025. From January 1 to March 10, a total of 1,33,854 tourists visited the snow-laden valley, marking a positive trend in the region's tourism sector.

Official data reveals that January alone recorded 55,934 visitors, including 1,114 foreign and an equal number of domestic tourists. February saw a steady increase, with 57,186 arrivals, among them 2,019 foreign travellers and 1,565 locals. The first ten days of March added another 20,734 visitors to the tally.

In comparison, Sonamarg welcomed nearly eight lakh tourists throughout 2024. The strong early numbers indicate a promising start to the new year, especially during the traditionally challenging winter months when heavy snowfall previously

made the area inaccessible. The primary catalyst for this increase is the recently inaugurated Sonamarg Tunnel, which has enabled uninterrupted access to the region. Earlier, heavy snow would cut off the valley for months, but the tunnel has now facilitated year-round tourism, benefiting hoteliers, travel operators, and local businesses.

Tourism stakeholders view this surge as a promising sign for winter tourism across Kashmir. With ongoing infrastructure development, experts anticipate sustained growth in the region's tourism economy in the coming years.

Sonamarg Development Authority CEO Gh Mohd Bhat highlighted the immense tourism potential of the region. "Sonamarg, with its breathtaking snow-covered mountains, has always been a sought-after destination. The opening of the Sonamarg Tunnel has significantly boosted visitor numbers, benefiting both locals and the hospitality sector," he said.



**A BAKER PREPARES FRESHLY** baked delicacies ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, ensuring a festive treat for celebrations.

KO PHOTO, FAISAL KHAN

## KATHUA ENCOUNTER

## Dy CM Slams 'Cross-Border Conspiracies'

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday condemned the "conspiracies hatched from across the border," stating that they are responsible for "killing our children." He urged Pakistan to abandon its support for terrorism, emphasizing that violence has achieved nothing over the past three decades.

Choudhary made these remarks while speaking to reporters after attending the wreath-laying ceremony of Head Constable Jagbir Singh at Police Headquarters in Jammu's Gulshan Ground. The solemn event was led by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and attended by senior officials, including the Director General of Police, Inspector General of Police (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti, and officers from the civil administration, police, Army, and CRPF.

Singh, along with three other policemen, lost their lives in an intense two-day encounter with militants in the Safiyun forest area of Kathua district. The operation, which is still ongoing, has resulted in the killing of two terrorists believed to be affiliated with



Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families, Choudhary reaffirmed the government's resolve against terrorism. "Neither the Centre nor the J&K government wants our children to be martyred, but Pakistan's continued meddling has led to their deaths. For over 30 years, they have pursued this path and achieved nothing," he said.

He further stressed that the very country sponsoring terrorism in J&K has suffered immense damage itself. "We

hope better sense prevails, and this proxy war is brought to an end. They should realize that neither Jammu and Kashmir nor India will ever weaken because of terrorism," he remarked.

Paying tribute to the fallen officers, Choudhary said their sacrifice has cast a pall of grief over the entire region. He also highlighted the unity among communities, stating, "Our brotherhood remains unshaken—one of the slain officers was a Muslim, and three were Hindus. No amount of divisive efforts can break our bond."

**NEITHER THE CENTRE NOR THE J&K GOVERNMENT WANTS OUR CHILDREN TO BE MARTYRED,** but Pakistan's continued meddling has led to their deaths. For over 30 years, they have pursued this path and achieved nothing"

Central University Kashmir 90.8 FM Goes On Air

## Syed Ata Hasnain Inaugurates Varsity's Community Radio Station

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) achieved a milestone with Chancellor, Lt. Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain, inaugurating the Community Radio Station, Radio CUKashmir 90.8 FM, under the Department of Communication and Journalism (DCJ) at Tulumulla campus here on Saturday.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Shahid Rasool, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Deans of Schools, Finance Officer, Heads and Coordinators of the departments, faculty members, administrative staff, scholars and students.

In the first broadcast on the CUKashmir 90.8 FM beamed across the district, Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain, described the Community Radio as a transformative medium that not only supplements and promotes education among masses, but also plays a pivotal and critical role in combating the social evils, challenges and malpractices like drug abuse, corruption, rampant suicides and raises awareness about the natural disasters. "Community Radio is a medium which reaches to the unreached," Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain remarked. Hailing the CUKashmir for launching the Community Radio, he said



the forum should be used to promote the sustainable development goals as envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in order to achieve the dream of the Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain, further added that the Community Radio can be extremely helpful in disseminating information about the disaster management. "Kashmir being a seismic zone and flood prone as gauged from the devastating 2005 earthquake and 2014 floods, the Community Radio should prepare awareness programmes about the disaster management and inform the people about the ways and means to protect the lives and property during the adverse situations," he added.

In his broadcast, Vice Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said, the inauguration of Radio CUKashmir 90.8 FM marks the beginning of a new era in community-driven broadcasting at CUKashmir. "As the radio waves of CUKashmir begin to

resonate across the region, they carry with them the promise of empowerment, education, awareness, and meaningful engagement for all," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said. He asked the DCJ to focus on disseminating information about various initiatives launched by the Government of India including the Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat and issues pertaining to climate change and environmental degradation. "The awareness programmes broadcast through the channel should further improve the quality of life of the people across the district," he added. Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said the university is committed to provide zero-carbon campus to its students and is making strenuous efforts for the same. Calling communication as the foundation of progress in the contemporary era, he further added that it connects people, drives change, and empowers societies, making it an indispensable tool for personal, professional, and global development.

## LMD Jammu Fines E-Commerce Firm For Misleading Packaging

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Legal Metrology Enforcement Unit Jammu has imposed a penalty of ₹1.80 lakh on a West Bengal-based e-commerce platform for supplying a customer with less than the declared quantity of a cosmetic healthcare product.

The action followed a written complaint received by the Controller, alleging that the pre-packaged commodity delivered through the platform contained only 50% of the declared net quantity. A subsequent inquiry and quantity measurement test confirmed this discrepancy, which constituted a serious violation of consumer rights and contravened key provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

Upon receiving a notice from the department, the defaulting firm refunded the entire amount to the aggrieved customer. In response, the company admitted its violation and applied for departmental compounding—a legal remedy under the Act. The case was subsequently compounded, and a penalty of ₹1,80,000 was imposed, with the firm assuring immediate compliance with packaging regulations and net quantity corrections.

In an official statement, Controller Legal Metrology J&K Anuradha Gupta reaffirmed the department's commitment to consumer protection and fair-trade practices, especially within the rapidly growing e-commerce sector.

She emphasized that the department would continue its rigorous inspections and enforcement actions to en-

**The action followed a written complaint received by the Controller, alleging that the pre-packaged commodity delivered through the platform contained only 50% of the declared net quantity.**

sure compliance with regulatory norms. The Controller also stressed the importance of verifiable product information and accurate net content declarations, particularly for pre-packaged commodities sold online, to safeguard consumers from deception and misleading sales practices.

According to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, manufacturers, packers, importers, suppliers, and sellers are legally obligated to ensure consumers receive the precise quantity they purchase. E-commerce platforms must also provide clear and accurate online information, including details of the manufacturer/packer/importer, country of origin (for imported products), generic name of the commodity, Maximum Retail Price (MRP), net quantity, Unit Sale Price (USP), and customer care details (name, address, contact number, and email of a person or office). These declarations are crucial in preventing fraud and ensuring transparency in online transactions.

The Legal Metrology Department has urged consumers to remain vigilant while making purchases and to report any discrepancies or grievances to the Legal Metrology Department, J&K, for redressal.

## J&amp;K Waqf Employees Get 20% Salary Hike

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board on Saturday announced a salary hike for its employees, including Imams and Khateeb.

According to an order, a hike of 20 per cent on last drawn pay has been announced for Imams for five-time prayers and Friday Khateeb in Jammu and Kashmir.

The order has been issued after the approval by the Chairperson Waqf Board.

Chairperson Waqf board, Dr. Daraksha Andrabi, in a press conference, stated that the board has implemented a revised pay structure benefiting employees across various categories. Skilled employees will now receive Rs 18,000 per month, semi-skilled Rs 6,000, and unskilled Rs 15,000.

Regular employees working in the shrine space and central office will get a 20% hike on their basic pay. Pensioners

and family pensioners will also receive a 20% increase, while teaching faculty at P.B. Halima College have been granted a 15% raise.

Teaching faculty of P.B. Halima College will receive a 15% hike, while Imam-o-Khateeb, Naib-e-Imam, and Mauzins have been awarded a 20% increase. Administrators appointed in different dargahs will receive an additional Rs 2,000 as a monthly allowance.

Calling it a "historic decision," Dr. Andrabi said waqf board employees had been underpaid for 20 years, with some earning as little as Rs 4,000-5,000 per month. She expressed hope that the salary revision would help employees provide better education for their children and improve their standard of living.

"This is a step towards rectifying past injustices. Now, our employees can celebrate Eid with dignity and a sense of financial security," she said.

## Release Pending Wages, Salaries Before Eid: Tarigami

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The government must release all pending wages of daily wagers, Anganwadi workers, and contingent-paid employees, and contractor bills before Eid-ul-Fitr, said CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami on Saturday.

In a statement issued, Tarigami said the delay in releasing payments, including pensions, gratuities, salaries, and other dues, has caused severe financial distress to employees and workers across various sectors. "For over six months, government

employees, including daily wagers, temporary staff, Anganwadi workers, Aya workers, coxswains, and contingent-paid employees, have been struggling due to non-payment of their wages," he said.

With Eid-ul-Fitr approaching, Tarigami said it is crucial that these payments are cleared so that employees and workers can celebrate the festival with dignity and without financial hardship.

He also urged the government to immediately clear pending bills for contractors who have completed their work but are yet to receive their rightful payments.

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR STARTUP OF ZEJAH TRAVELS

It is hereby notified that a new business, "Zejah Travels," has commenced operations in Awantipora. The business is located at Awantipora Main Market, nearby University Road.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION

Abid Rashid Malla, son of Abdul Rashid Malla, resident of Jawbera, Awantipora, hereby gives public notice of his intention to operate the said business.

## OBJECTIONS, IF ANY

If any person has any objection regarding the startup of this business, they may contact the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained thereafter.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Abid Rashid Malla  
S/o Abdul Rashid Malla  
R/o Jawbera, Awantipora

# IPL 2025: Confused CSK Pitted Against Clueless Rajasthan Royals

Press Trust of India

**GUWAHATI:** Shaken by the sound thrashing that Royal Challengers Bengaluru handed them, a confused Chennai Super Kings might feel more "at home" against an equally clueless Rajasthan Royals on an expected slow turner in their next IPL game here on Sunday.

Losing by 50 runs at 'Fortress Chepauk' would have seemed like a wishful thinking for an opposition side till date but RCB's 'class of 2025' under an ever-improving skipper Rajat Patidar has exposed some chinks in the CSK armoury and match against Royals couldn't have come at a better time for Ruturaj Gaikwad's men.

CSK coach Stephen Fleming looked livid about Chepauk conditions where normally the CSK template is to play games where they either defend 165 to 170 if batting first or chase 155 to 160



by restricting opposition. The kind of batting line-up that they have with MS Dhoni now becoming a designated 'tail-ender' at No. 9 due to Impact Substitution has worked well. But the moment it became a chase of 175 plus, the same

line-up didn't have enough firepower and one world class bowler (Josh Hazlewood) and another seasoned veteran (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) were good enough to stop the home team on their tracks. Dhoni's 30 off 16 balls only has value for nostalgia

merchants as the former India captain is doing disservice to his team by coming in to bat when all is seemingly lost.

In this backdrop, playing Royals on a surface which is "more Chepauk-ish than typical Barsapara Stadium track full of runs"

might just help them get a win against a side that also doesn't boast of a great bowling attack.

Also Riyan Parag is too raw as a skipper and to put it mildly seems completely out of place for a high stakes assignment like leading a billion dollar franchise.

But just like Moeen Ali and Varun Chakravarthy exploited the conditions to fullest during other night for KKR, Ashwin and Jadeja might just use their experience to good effect against the likes of Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag, Shubham Dubey, Nitish Rana and Dhruv Jurel.

It is an intriguing situation where Royals don't have one big overseas batting heavyweight like Jos Buttler and their Indian bowling assortment comprising Tushar Deshpande and Sandeep Sharma also doesn't inspire confidence.

In a nutshell, CSK is slightly ahead in a battle of two weak teams.

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

## Short TAKES

### DC Eye 2nd Win As KL Rahul Returns Against Wounded SRH

**F**resh from their morale-boosting win over LSG and bolstered by the return of India wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, Delhi Capitals will look to build on the momentum when they take on formidable Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Sunday.

After a thunderous start to their campaign, SRH lost to Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets on Thursday as the defeat showed that their explosive batting line-up can be reined in. Going out of their den, the pressure will be on skipper Pat Cummins to inspire a turnaround.

Delhi, on the other hand, will be strengthened by the return of Rahul, who missed the season opener against LSG due to the birth of his first child.

A key architect of India's Champions Trophy triumph in Dubai earlier this month, Rahul was picked by Delhi Capitals for Rs 14 crore. Despite his experience, he chose not to lead the side, entrusting the responsibility on Axar Patel. Match starts: 3.30pm.

### AIFF Draft Constitution To Include 5 Players In Executive Committee

**T**he draft constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has proposed several radical changes, including the provision for inclusion of at least five former national players in the 14-member Executive Committee and removal of the office bearers through a no-confidence motion.

The draft constitution, prepared by retired Justice I. Nageswara Rao has been submitted to the Supreme Court. An SC bench comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Jyotsna Jaisankar on March 25 commenced final hearing on pleas related to the finalisation of the AIFF Constitution.

The matter is likely to be taken up by the bench for further arguments and final disposal on April 2.

The draft constitution says that the current elected members of the Executive Committee (after polls in September 2022), "shall stay in power and serve their permitted full term(s) of four years, subsequent to which fresh elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in this amended Constitution."

### Tamim Iqbal Discharged After Heart Attack, Thanks Fans For Prayers

**F**ormer Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal expressed his gratitude on Facebook after being discharged from the hospital following a heart attack on Monday.

The 36-year-old who retired from international cricket in January 2025, continues to play domestic cricket. He was leading Mohammedan Sporting Club in a Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League match against Shinepukur Cricket Club when he experienced discomfort immediately after the toss.

He was taken to a local hospital for initial treatment, but later collapsed and was rushed for an angioplasty surgery on Monday. Tamim was discharged on Friday, four days after the incident, and thanked everyone who stood by him during the difficult time.

"By all your prayers, I am at home now," said Tamim in a message posted in Bangla on his Facebook page.

"In these four days, I have discovered my surroundings as I found a new life. All that realisation has only love and gratitude. I have got your love throughout my career. But now I have felt it even more intensely. I am really overwhelmed."

### Brazil Sack Coach Dorival After Humiliating Loss To Argentina

**B**razil have sacked head coach Dorival Jr, the country's football confederation (CBF) said on Friday, after the five-times world champions were thrashed 4-1 away to fierce rivals Argentina in a humiliating qualifying loss in Buenos Aires. The 62-year-old was appointed in January 2024 after the team spent a year under two caretaker coaches as the Brazilian FA were unable to lure Italian Carlo Ancelotti from Real Madrid.

Dorival was handed the job after his success with Flamengo in 2022 where he won the Copa Libertadores and Brazilian Cup, a trophy he lifted again the next year with Sao Paulo.

However, he never seemed to get to grips with the national team job and failed to earn the trust of Brazil's demanding fans after winning only seven of his 16 games in charge.

## New Zealand Beats Pakistan By 73 Runs In The 1st One Day International



Agencies

**NAPIER:** Mark Chapman scored 132 and Daryl Mitchell 76 in a 199-run partnership as New Zealand made 344-9 and went on to beat Pakistan by 73 runs Saturday in the first one-day international.

Chapman posted his third one-day international century and rebuilt the innings with Mitchell after New Zealand had been three wickets down in the 13th over, struggling against bounce and swing from the Pakistan fast bowlers.

Muhammad Abbas, the first Pakistan-born player to play for New Zealand, made 50 from 24 balls — the fastest half century by a player on debut in one-day internationals. Babar Azam led Pakistan's run chase with 78 from 83 balls but when he was out Pakistan slumped, losing seven wickets for 22 runs.

For much of its innings Pakistan was ahead of New Zealand, 64-0 after 10 overs where

New Zealand had been 34-2. Usman Khan and Abdullah Shafique put on 83 for the first wicket, Babar and Mohammad Rizwan added 76 for the third wicket then Babar and Salman Ali Agha contributed a further 85 for the fourth wicket. Pakistan was 249-3 in the 39th over and still well on target.

New Zealand captain Michael Bracewell was forced to bring back his strike bowlers Will O'Rourke and Jacob Duffy. O'Rourke offered a short ball to Babar which he hooked to Mitchell on the boundary at backward square.

Duffy then ran out Tayyab Tahir (1) and bowled Irfan Khan first ball as Pakistan slumped to 253-6 in the 40th over. Pakistan's hopes faded as wickets dwindled and the run-rate rose. Pakistan was 271-9 when Salman was out for 58 from 48 balls.

"We started the second innings with good intent and we got the things you need for a big chase," Rizwan said. "But

at the end the pressure was very big because as you get near to the end, the pressure becomes more."

Pakistan won the toss, bowled and was on top early through the efforts of its four seam bowlers, Naseem Shah, Akif Javed, Mohammad Ali and Haris Rauf. Akif and Ali were making their ODI debuts.

There were patches of grass on the pitch at McLean Park and the ball moved more than is usual at the venue where the average first-innings score in ODIs is 244. Naseem Shah and Akif Javed used the conditions superbly.

New Zealand slumped to 34-3 in the 13th over, bringing Chapman and Mitchell together. Runs were hard to come by at first but after bowling his seamers through the first 25 overs, Rizwan was forced to go to his fifth bowler. The New Zealanders cashed in.

The second match in the three-match ODI series is next Wednesday in Hamilton. (AP)

## 1-1 Draw Dents Real Kashmir's I-League Title Hopes

Press Trust of India

**MARGAO:** Real Kashmir FC's I-League title hopes took a severe blow as they dropped points, drawing 1-1 against Dempo SC here on Saturday.

Dempo led 1-0 at the end of the first half.

Kpehi Jean-Charles Didier Brossou (43rd minute) gave Dempo SC the lead, but Real Kashmir's Kamal Issah (52nd) equalised soon after the restart, as the two sides shared points.

Real Kashmir's title hopes are not yet over, mathematically at least. However, their aspirations took a severe dent as they now find themselves two points behind leaders Churchill Brothers, who have one match in hand.

The Snow Leopards have 36 points from 21 matches. Dempo, meanwhile, are on 26 points from 21 games.

Dempo's backline found themselves on high alert at Fatorda, scrambling, repositioning, and doing everything they could, to keep the Snow Leopards at bay.

Real Kashmir came agonisingly close, only to be denied by a desper-

ate last-ditch tackle or a misplaced final touch, time and again.

Sangramjit Roy Chowdhury stood tall, frustrating the Real Kashmir attackers. It seemed inevitable that the visitors would break the deadlock. However, Dempo found their moment in the 43rd minute.

With defenders scrambling to close him down, Dempo captain Lukman Adefemi Abegunrin kept his composure and cut the ball back with precision to Didier Brossou, who was waiting at the edge of the box.

The Ivorian produced a right-footed drag shot that skimmed low across the turf as the ball nestled into the net.

Real Kashmir roared back into the game just six minutes after the restart.

Goalkeeper Sangramjit Roy Chowdhury had been Dempo's wall in the first half. But the custodian produced a rather heavy touch and a stumble, as he attempted to dribble past two pressing Real Kashmir forwards in the 52nd minute.

Kamal Issah seized the opportunity and curled the ball into the top right corner to restore parity.



## All India Players Who Competed In Last 3 ICC Events, Deserve Respect: Rohit

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Rohit Sharma says the Indian team has endured cricket's vicissitudes in the last nine months but it waged a collective battle to achieve success and every member of the side that competed in the last three ICC tournaments deserves "respect".

In their last three ICC limited-overs tournaments, India have lost only one out of 24 matches, with the defeat coming against Australia in the 2023 ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad.

The India team recently won the ICC Champions Trophy and the T20 World Cup in Barbados last year.

In between India lost a rare home Test series against New Zealand and away in Australia. Reflecting on his remarkable tenure as India captain, Rohit said: "Look at what this team has achieved in this big three tournaments. After playing the tournament like that and getting defeated only once and that too in a final (2023 ODI World Cup)."

"But imagine if we had won that as well to go undefeated in three ICC tournaments is

crazy, never heard of but I will take this, 23 wins in 24 games is unheard of. It looks very nice from the outside but the team has gone through a lot of ups and downs.

"We had some really tough times as well but that is when you got to celebrate. If you do things like this you got to celebrate. I feel all the people who played these three tournaments, they deserve respect," Rohit said in a video posted by Mumbai Indians on their 'X' page.

Interestingly, Rohit's interview has come on the day when BCCI top brass was due to set the future roadmap for the side but somehow the meeting has been postponed.

"It's for any sportsman who are going through something and there is a low, they want to fight back, bounce back and try and make it whatever is front of you into a high."

"And thereafter we had a little bit of low where we lost a home series and we didn't play well in Australia and then came the Champions Trophy. These nine months are perfect example of how life is, it is always going to



be up and down."

Rohit said the journey to the glory and the change in mindset started in 2022 after India crashed out in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"But thereafter we made a lot of things clear with the players that this is what we expect from

you and this how we want you to play. So there was lot of clarity, a lot of conversations with the players to perform."

"There needs to be a freedom amongst the group so that they go out and play without any fear. There were few lows, a few series that we lost but we never

panicked and we never went away from our thought process."

"When you are building a squad the first thing that you need to put in front of you is what does the team want? Where did we lack in the previous series, previous tournaments? Why did we not get

the results?"

### Sportsman Needs To Have Grit And Determination

Reflecting on a forgettable 2024 IPL, where Mumbai Indians finished last, Rohit said every sportsman needs to have determination to bounce back. He said he was focussed to end his career in the shortest format on a high, which he did after the T20 World Cup triumph.

India defeated South Africa by 7 runs in Barbados to win the trophy.

"...that is where as a sportsman you need to show a little bit of grit, determination to comeback from the low. It (2024 IPL) was a low for the team and I think we didn't play our best cricket also and there were so many things after IPL to look forward to."

"I knew there was a World Cup coming up and I had to shift my focus to the World Cup, knowing that this is going to be my last T20 World Cup. So I really wanted to make it count, and obviously I knew without the help of other players it is not going to be possible. So we just

got around as a group and there was a lot of collective performance from everyone throughout the tournament," Rohit said.

### Faced Many Ups & Downs In Career

"My career for 17-18 years has always been up and down, which has taught me so many things in life, and these nine months were no different," he said.

Talking about his journey with MI, the dashing opener said: "Obviously, since the time I started till now lot of things have changed because I used to bat middle-order then, now I am opening the batting. I was captain then (MI), now I am not the captain. There were a few teammates with whom I won championships, they are not there, they are in the coaching role now."

"So, the roles have changed, a lot of things have changed but the mindset has not changed. What I want to do for this team has not changed, just to go out there and win games and trophies, that is what MI is known for all these years."

## 113th EPFO Executive Committee meeting reviews progress in implementation of claim settlement through UPI, CITES 2.01 system upgrades and processing of applications for Pension on Higher Wages

Srinagar: The 113th meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF was held in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir on 28th March, 2025. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment and attended by Shri Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Central Provident Fund

Commissioner, EPFO. Other senior officers of Ministry of Labour & Employment and the EPFO as well as representatives of employers and employees were also present in the meeting. Among the key discussions were new initiatives to streamline EPFO's processes and enhance its delivery systems. Following agenda items were

placed before the committee for discussion:-  
Seamless PF claim settlement via UPI: The Executive Committee reviewed the progress of the digital initiative of EPFO to streamline claim settlements by immediate credit to bank account through the UPI platform. Development of API and system integration with SBI

and NPCI is being done by CDAC (technology partner) to ensure a smooth rollout in alignment with EPFO's IT modernization project, CITES 2.01. This initiative underscores EPFO's commitment to enhance ease of living for its members.  
Proposal to increase the auto claim limit to 5 lakhs The EC welcomed and appreciated the

proposal as it will immensely help in ease of living of EPF subscribers.  
IT Infrastructure and CITES 2.01 Implementation: EPFO highlighted completion of hardware upgrades and progress in Consolidation of decentralized databases. Modules for User Management, Centralized Payments, and Re-engineered ECR are undergoing rigorous testing,

ensuring seamless deployment in the coming months. Despite multiple challenges, EPFO assured stakeholders of its commitment to completion of the roll-out within the next two months.  
Processing of Pension on Higher Wages gains momentum: The EC appreciated the notable progress in the processing of PoHW cases, with total

application processed increased by 22.8% as compared to last month. Furthermore, 3,26,152 demand letters were issued which shows a substantial increase of 29.5% as compared to last month figures. These achievements highlight EPFO's commitment to completing the task as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

### CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

#### 'BJP Will Be In Power

"It will come. It was the decision of the Constituent Assembly (to introduce UCC). The Congress might have forgotten it but we have not. We said we would abrogate Article 370. We have done that. We said we would construct a Ram temple at Ayodhya. We have done that too. Now UCC remains. We will do that too," he said.  
Shah said the Uttarakhand government has already enacted the law for implementation of the UCC in the state.

"One by one, all the BJP-ruled state governments will introduce it. Gujarat has already set up a committee for it. It is an ongoing process. All states will bring it as per their convenience," he said.

Asked about the alleged discovery of a huge amount of cash at the Delhi residence of High Court judge Yashwant Varma, the home minister said the Chief Justice of India has taken cognisance of the issue and ordered an inquiry (through a committee of three high court judges).

"We are cooperating with it. We should wait for the outcome of the committee constituted by the chief justice," he said.

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a PIL seeking Delhi Police to register an FIR over the alleged discovery of burnt wads of cash from Justice Varma's residence.

Shah said, "When no FIR can be registered, how can a seizure be carried out? The FIR can only be registered with the Chief Justice of India's permission." Asked whether the RSS interferes in the functioning of the Modi government, the home minister said there has been no interference from the Sangh, the BJP's ideological fountainhead.

"The RSS has been preparing patriots for the last 100 years. I have learnt from the RSS how to keep patriotism at centre while keeping many dimensions together. There is no question of

interference," he said.

Asked about the prevailing internal security situation, Shah said as union home minister he got three problems as legacy issues: Naxal violence, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and insurgency in the Northeast.

"In last 10 years, 16,000 youths have surrendered in these three theatres. As the home minister of the country, it is my duty to bring peace in all these places. It is the priority of the prime minister and naturally it is my priority too. Because of the problems, development stopped in these places," he said.

Asked about the government's stand on the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, the home minister said he did not want to comment on it as it is subjudice.

"I am sure the Supreme Court will deliver an appropriate order on it. We will definitely obey the court order," he said.

The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, prohibits the conversion of any place of worship and aims to maintain the religious character of such places as it existed on August 15, 1947, with the exception of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case.

The Supreme Court is currently dealing with multiple petitions challenging the Act.

Asked why the government has not yet filed an affidavit in the court on the subject, Shah said, "We will certainly file an affidavit."

#### School Timings

concerned institutions. Any deviation in this regard shall be viewed seriously," DSEK said.

#### FIR Filed Over

event held on the last Friday of the Islamic holy month of Ramzan to express support for the liberation of Al-Aqsa mosque, the third holiest place of Islam in Jerusalem.

The police spokesperson said during the procession, a large crowd gathered

under the directions of the organisers and raised 'objectionable' slogans.

By sloganeering, the organisers allegedly tried to create a law-and-order situation and blocked the Sonpah-Beerwah road, thereby causing obstructions to the public, he added.

The spokesperson said police took cognisance of the incident and registered a case under sections 126(2) and 189(6) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Beerwah police station.

Further investigation is underway and necessary legal action will be taken against those involved, he said.

Police have urged citizens to maintain peace and refrain from activities that could disturb public order.

#### 4 Slain Cops

policemen were retrieved from the encounter site on Friday evening, Jagbir Singh's body was recovered early Saturday, officials said.

Amidst surcharged atmosphere and emotional scenes, thousands of people attended the last rites, raising slogans in praise of the slain policemen. Anti-Pakistan slogans were also chanted during the processions, they added.

Senior BJP leader and MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with former J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina, attended the funeral of Constable Ahmad, who is survived by his wife, four-year-old daughter, and elderly parents.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) (Udhampur-Reasi range) Rayees Mohammad Bhat joined the 'Nimaz-e-Jinazah' (prayer before burial) and led the wreath-laying ceremony.

"This saga of sacrifice has been going on for a very long time. We have lost many diamonds in this fight against terrorism and we are proud of the sacrifices," the officer said.

He said the fight against terrorism would continue till the Pakistan-sponsored menace is completely defeated.

"This is the message of our bravehearts and it is our responsibility to take

this fight to the conclusion," the DIG said.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma lauded the sacrifices of the policemen, saying that Pakistan was pushing terrorists into J&K to divert attention from its internal crises.

"The backbone of the terrorism is broken and it is taking its last breath. It will be uprooted soon," Sharma said.

Bodies of Chib and Jaswant Singh were also cremated with full honours, with mourners condemning Pakistan and hailing the bravery of the fallen policeman.

The villagers remembered the slain policemen as kind-hearted individuals, vowing that their sacrifices would not go in vain.

Jagbir Singh's body was brought to the police headquarters in Jammu, where former chief minister Omar Abdullah led the wreath-laying ceremony before it was handed over to his family. Singh, who had joined the police in 1997, is survived by his wife, daughter, and son.

J&K minister Satish Sharma, who attended Singh's funeral, expressed grief over the loss and called for a strong response against Pakistan.

"I want to urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat that the time has come when the enemy nation is strongly dealt with and given a befitting reply," he said.

He said the policemen fought bravely against the terrorists and eliminated two of them, thus frustrating their plan to cause more damage.

Congress leader, former minister Choudhary Lal Singh also attended the funeral of the policemen.

#### More Steps

Abdullah said on Saturday, asserting more steps were needed to improve the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah was talking to reporters after visiting the bereaved families

of four police personnel in Kathua, Reasi and Jammu districts. The cops were killed in a gunfight with infiltrating terrorists in the Safiyan forest of Kathua district on Thursday.

Two Pakistani terrorists, believed to be affiliated with the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad, were also killed in the encounter. A massive search operation is underway to track and neutralise other members of the group.

"Visited the families of our bravehearts -- Balvinder Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh and Jagbir Singh -- who laid down their lives in the line of duty during the Kathua encounter. Their sacrifice is etched in our hearts forever. We stand with their families in this hour of grief," according to a post on the X handle of the Chief Minister's Office.

Omar Abdullah on Saturday led the wreath laying ceremony of head constable Jagbir Singh, incharge of police post Safiyan, at police headquarters Gulshan Ground here.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, minister Satish Sharma, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and other senior civil, police, CRPF, BSF and Army officers also laid wreaths at the coffin containing the remains of the fallen policeman.

Talking to reporters after visiting the home of selection grade constable Tariq Ahmad, the chief minister said encounters and terror attacks were nothing new and had been happening in the Jammu region for the past three to four years.

"Even in Reasi district, there was an attack on a passenger bus (ferrying pilgrims last year). There were attacks in Jammu city. The reason behind this is that when the Chinese army made an incursion into Ladakh, we needed an army to counter them," Abdullah said.

"We could not remove the army from the valley and so the troops stationed in Jammu were sent to Ladakh, as a result of which there was a shortage somewhere. Now,

that shortage is being slowly overcome," he added.

Assuring that the compensation cases of the fallen policemen would be taken up by the home department when offices reopened after Eid next week, he said "we should try not to have such incidents".

"We have to control militancy in such a way that the martyrdom of people is stopped forever," Abdullah said.

He added such incidents had happened in the past as well and "I am of the opinion, although I do not have any intelligence reports, that it was a new group (of terrorists) who had crossed into this side".

The chief minister said it was good fortune that the terrorists were caught by the police.

"If they were not caught by the police, then I do not know what they would have done by moving deep inside. Our four brave police officers sacrificed their lives but I think that many innocent lives have been saved by their timely action," Abdullah said.

Asked if the situation in the valley had improved over the years and terrorists shifted their base to the Jammu region, Abdullah refused to give a direct answer and said he would be accused of indulging in politics at a time of grief.

"We have just left a house where there is mourning. I have been to four places today. I have to express my condolences to each family member. Obviously, we have to take some more steps to improve the (security) situation," the chief minister said.

#### Navayuga Tunnel

activities and potential threats. Senior officers from the police, army, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) assessed the system's operational effectiveness and expressed satisfaction with its performance. They emphasized its role in reinforcing security measures on the crucial highway.

# Dignified Farewell

## Transforming Kashmir's Final Rides

In Kashmir, it is a painful irony that the departed, who leave behind a lifetime of earnings, are often transported to their final resting place in load carriers — vehicles they would never have used for commuting while alive. This stark contrast raises a profound question: shouldn't every soul be granted a dignified farewell, just as they lived with dignity? It is time to ensure that the last journey of our loved ones reflects the respect and honor they deserve. Since launching a dedicated funeral service in Islamabad in 2014, Mother Helpage now invites you to donate generously to provide these services for Srinagar, Budgam, and Sonmulla.



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## Greets Entire Ummah Eid-ul-Fitr



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### J&K Waqf Employees Get 20% Salary Hike

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board on Saturday announced a salary hike for its employees, including Imams and Khateeb.

According to an order, a hike of 20 per cent on last drawn pay has been announced for Imams for five-time prayers and Friday Khateeb in Jammu and Kashmir.

The order has been issued after the approval by the

Chairperson Waqf Board.

Chairperson Waqf board, Dr. Daraksha Andrabi, in a press conference, stated that the board has implemented a revised pay structure benefiting employees across various categories. Skilled employees will now receive Rs 18,000 per month, semi-skilled Rs 6,000, and unskilled Rs 15,000.

Regular employees working in the shrine space and central office will get a 20% hike on their basic pay. Pensioners and family

pensioners will also receive a 20% increase, while teaching faculty at P.B. Halima College have been granted a 15% raise.

Teaching faculty of P.B. Halima College will receive a 15% hike, while Imam-o-Khadeeb, Naib-e-Imam, and Mauzins have been awarded a 20% increase. Administrators appointed in different dargahs will receive an additional Rs 2,000 as a monthly allowance.

Calling it a "historic

decision," Dr. Andrabi said waqf board employees had been underpaid for 20 years, with some earning as little as Rs 4,000-5,000 per month. She expressed hope that the salary revision would help employees provide better education for their children and improve their standard of living.

"This is a step towards rectifying past injustices. Now, our employees can celebrate Eid with dignity and a sense of financial security," she said.

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