



## Road Safety First

### Your Phone can wait, Life Cannot

DIPK-10589/25  
Dated: 03-02-2026





Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K  
in collaboration with TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF J&K

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@informationprjk Information & PR, J&K

## Opioids Top Drug Use In J&K As Over 13 Lakh Adults Affected: Govt Data

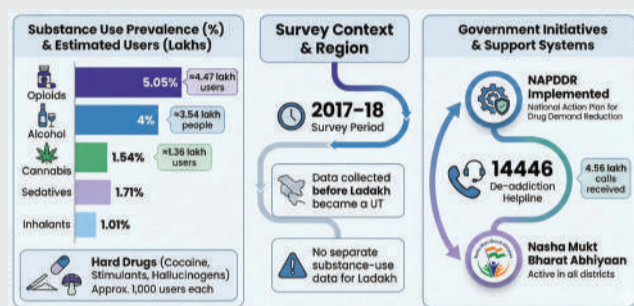
KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Over 13 lakh adults in Jammu and Kashmir are estimated to be using addictive substances, with opioids emerging as the most commonly consumed drugs, according to figures tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Data from the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India,

conducted between December 2017 and October 2018, shows that among people aged 18 to 75 years in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir region, opioid use stands at 5.05 percent, affecting around 4.47 lakh individuals.

Alcohol use was reported by 4 percent of the population, translating to about 3.54 lakh users, while cannabis consumption was recorded at 1.54 percent, affecting nearly 1.36 lakh people. Sedatives



accounted for 1.71 percent or around 1.51 lakh users, and

inhalant use was reported at 1.01 percent, involving about

89,000 individuals. Cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants and hallucinogens were each reported by roughly 1,000 people.

The Ministry clarified that separate data for Ladakh is not available as the survey was conducted before October 31, 2019, when Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory.

The government acknowledged growing concerns over substance use | [More on P6](#)

## Lowest Drug Seizures Recorded In J&K In 2025: MHA

Agencies

Ministry of Home Affairs on Tuesday informed the Parliament that seizure of narcotic substances in Jammu and Kashmir has declined sharply over the past five years, particularly in opium-based drugs. The data, compiled by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) from reports submitted by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, covers the period from 2020 to 2025, with figures for 2025 available up to November. In 2021, Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

## Noisy Scenes, Walkout In J&K Assembly

BJP Demands NLU For Jammu; NC, PDP Raise Harassment Concerns



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday witnessed noisy scenes, protests and a walkout as opposition BJP members demanded

the establishment of a National Law University in Jammu, while legislators from the National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party raised concerns over alleged harassment of Kashmiris | [More on P6](#)



People light candles and offer prayers at Baba Mazaar graveyard in Zadibal, Srinagar on Shab-e-Barat. KO Photo By Abid Bhat.

## Nearly 10,000 Posts Vacant In J&K Health Dept

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's public healthcare system is facing a severe staffing crisis, with nearly 10,000 positions lying vacant across its medical colleges and health institutions, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

In a written reply to the question raised by MLA Budgam Aga Muntazir Mehdi, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo said thousands of posts are lying vacant in the department, and the government is working to fill all vacancies.

According to the reply, Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla has 431 vacant posts out of a sanctioned strength of 1,304, with only 873 positions currently filled. Similarly, GMC Anantnag is functioning with 424 vacancies out of 1,098 sanctioned posts, while GMC Rajouri is facing a shortage of 125 faculty members.

The situation | [More on P6](#)

## CM To Move Bills On Ease Of Doing Business

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will on Wednesday introduce two bills in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, aimed at decriminalising certain offences to promote ease of living and doing business, and eliminating discrimination against persons | [More on P6](#)

**NO CENTRAL FUNDS HAD BEEN RELEASED FOR FLOOD RESTORATION** works during the current financial year. He said funds had been provided under the State Disaster Response Fund and the UT Capex Budget, and additional assistance would be released after submission of detailed proposals.

## Centre Halts 3 Kashmir Rail Projects Amid Objections

CM Welcomes Rail Project Halt, Seeks More Vande Bharat Coaches

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Centre has put three proposed railway projects in Kashmir on hold following objections from locals and elected representatives over large-scale land acquisition and its impact on apple orchards.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday that while a railway



line already operates between Srinagar and Baramulla, there was a demand to set up three

more railway lines in the Valley. "Later, the Jammu and Kashmir government and Members of Parliament raised concerns that these lines must not be set up as these would have impacted apple orchards significantly. Now, the government has decided to put these proposed projects on hold," he said.

The decision comes amid protests by | [More on P6](#)

## J&K Okays SCARD Bank Liquidation; Staff Uncertain

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said it has approved the liquidation of the J&K State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank.

In a written reply to the Assembly, minister-in-charge for cooperatives Javed Ahmed Dar said the decision was taken by council of ministers on December 3, 2025. He was responding to a question by PDP MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi.

"As of now, the department has not formulated any proposal for the rehabilitation, absorption or provision of compensation to the employees working in the J&K SCARD Bank," Dar said.

However, he assured that the interests of employees will be safeguarded in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, and the rules framed thereunder, subject to future policy decisions or | [More on P6](#)

## LG, CM Greet People On Shab-e-Barat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday extended greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Barat.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor conveyed his best wishes to all, saying the sacred night offers devotees an opportunity to seek divine forgiveness, blessings, and wisdom.

He said Shab-e-Barat encourages reflection, inner growth, and a deeper bond with the almighty, | [More on P6](#)

## Teachers Must Prepare Students For AI Disruptions: LG

Says Future Belongs to Innovative and Creative Minds

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday stressed the need for forward-thinking teachers who can prepare students to face future uncertainties, including disruptions caused by Artificial Intelligence, climate change and rapid technological shifts.

He was speaking at the



Inspirational Teachers Award ceremony organised by Amar Ujala Group at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir Startups Submit Bold Growth Plan Ahead of Budget

Ahead of the 2026-27 budget, the government has received a roadmap to boost the region's startup ecosystem.

Faisal Kawoosa

Srinagar: As Jammu & Kashmir gears up for its next budget session, the government has already received a detailed blueprint aimed at turning the region's startup ecosystem into a growth engine.

The document, submitted by Srinagar-based investment group Kashmir Angel Network,



draws on insights from 19 local startup founders. It lays out clear recommendations to

tackle the structural hurdles that have long slowed innovation in the valley.

The report notes that the ecosystem has reached a critical point. "It is no longer a collection of ideas but a growing group of revenue-generating businesses poised for expansion," it states.

Most startups surveyed have moved beyond ideation, operating in early or mid-commercial stages. They generate revenue but struggle with working capital. Half are entirely bootstrapped, while mid-stage companies face acute funding shortages. KAN calls this the "Valley of Death," where startups have | [More on P6](#)

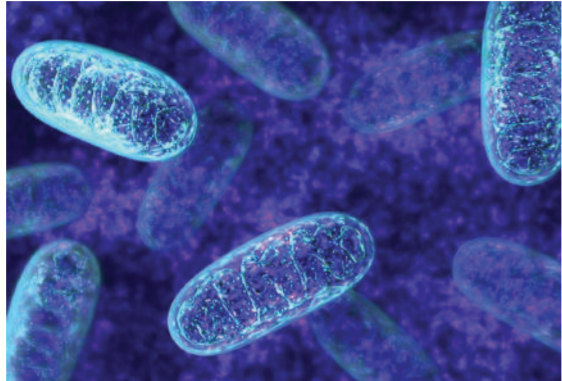


To place an advertisement  
**CALL +91-194 2502327**  
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# Study Finds Natural Molecule That Reduces Stress

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have found that a naturally occurring molecule in the body plays a stress-reducing role, a discovery which they said could lead to new drugs and treatment for metabolic disorders and ageing. Researchers from The University of Queensland looked at microRNAs, which bind to genes and prevent them from being over-activated. The study published in the journal Nature Communications investigated damage to mitochondria -- the energy powerhouse of a cell that makes muscles function, neurons to fire, among other processes in the body. "MicroRNAs have many different functions, but this is the first time it has been shown that they regulate mitochondrial stress pathways and prevent the spread of stress signals throughout the body," said author Steven Zuryon, a



molecular geneticist at the University of Queensland. "Damage to the mitochondria accrues over time and is closely associated with metabolic disorders and diseases of ageing including neurodegeneration, cancer and diabetes, as well as ageing itself," Zuryon said. The study looked at a specific microRNA, called 'miR-71', in Caenorhabditis elegans worm models or C. elegans. Zuryon said the microRNAs lower chronic stress in the body and protect cells. "Our research implies that we could design highly specific

and deliverable microRNAs that target these same genes in humans, thereby reducing the intensity and spread of damaging chronic stress signals." "We're not necessarily aiming to develop an anti-ageing drug, but an understanding of the deep underlying mechanisms of these processes may one day lead to this outcome," he said. The authors said these findings open the possibility that metabolic disorders could be "ameliorated" by limiting the overactivation of mitochondrial stress responses through targeted small RNAs".

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I, Farooq Ahmad Shah, S/o Late Abdul Gani Shah, R/o Ussan Khoie, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, Kashmir, hereby give public notice that I intend to get the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 021304000389 of the PDD Department, standing in the name of my late father Abdul Gani Shah, transferred in my favour, being his legal heir. My father expired in the year 2000. If any person has any objection regarding the said transfer, he/she may submit the same before the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Deponent Farooq Ahmad Shah fko

E-mail: cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in Phone No. 0194-2506484-85 (Sgr) 0191-2572889 (Jmu)  
 Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Commissioner Food & Drug Administration Drugs & Food Control Organization, J&K Civil Secretariat, J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar**  
**FOOD ALERT/ STOP USE NOTICE**

Whereas, a sample of food article "Aasnaa Jaggery Powder" was lifted by the Food Safety Officer (HQ), District Rajouri from the premises of M/S Be Sure Sainik Canteen Main Highway Bathuni, District Rajouri for analysis under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; and  
 Whereas, the Notified Food Analyst for the UT of J&K, National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, where the said sample was analyzed, has declared it as 'Unsafe', the report whereof is as under:-

Name of the Food Article	Manufacturer/Marketer	Batch No / Date of Manufacture/ Expiry/ Net Content	Report No. & Date	Opinion of the Food Analyst	Reasons of failure
Aasnaa Jaggery Powder	M/s The Unati Co-operative Marketing-cum-Processing Society Ltd. (U) 5 Km Talwara Milestone, near Mukerian Hydrel Power House No-1, G.T. Road, Talwara, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab - 144216  Marketed By: Punjab Agro Unati Gramen Marketing Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. 2A, Sector 28-A, Chandigarh - 160028	B No.: UJP2509L Date of Manufacture: September 2025, Expiry Date: August 2026 Net Weight: 500 g	JK-656/DEC/25/781, Dated:03.12.2025	Unsafe	The Sample shows water presence of Tartrazine which is not permitted in the said product and presence of Sulphites content above the maximum prescribed limit.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this notice, it is hereby notified for information of the general public to discontinue usage of the food product, Aasnaa Jaggery Powder Batch No.: UJP2509L, Net Weight: 500 g, Date of Manufacture: September 2025 and expiry Date: August 2026. Further, the stakeholders who are in possession of any stock of the food product detailed above shall not only inform the concerned Designated Officer(s) about the stock position but also stop the sale of the said product from the market forthwith. The food alert is being issued as a abundant caution and shall in no case prevent FBOs from having the said food product reanalyzed from any FSSAI notified RFLs after following due procedure as laid down under the FSS Act 2006.  
 (Smita Sethi), JKAS Commissioner Food & Drugs Administration, J&K  
 No: FADA-Leg/2/2022-05 (CC-10584)  
 DIP No:DIPK-10566/25 dated: 03-02-2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as SAHIL ISMAIL, whereas my correct name is SUHAIL ISMAIEL. I intend to apply for correction of the same in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8362 7085 7486, from SAHIL ISMAIL to SUHAIL ISMAIEL. If any person has any objection with regard to this correction, he/she may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Name: Suhail Ismaiel fko  
 S/o: Mohammad Ismaiel  
 R/o: Rathsun, Beerwah, Budgam, J&K - 193401

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 My Name in my Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as Arbia Bano W/O Abdul Majeed Bhat. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the General Manager Ranbir Government Press Jammu, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Arbeena Bano  
 W/O Abdul Majeed Bhat  
 R/O Chatrasoo Budroo Sallar Anantnag  
 JNA7780878931

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is information of general public that I have applied for the Date of Birth Certificate namely Iqra Jan, Date of Birth is 05-04-2004 at Home. If anybody having any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Tehsil-dar Office Srigufwara /Block Development Officer Srigufwara, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Iqra Jan  
 D/O Abdul Rashid Wagay  
 R/O Sirhama Srigufwara Anantnag  
 JNA7780878931

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is information of general public that I have applied for the Date of Birth Certificate namely Muskaan Bilal, Date of Birth is 04-04-2006 at Home. If anybody having any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Tehsil-dar Office Srigufwara /Block Development Officer Srigufwara, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Muskaan Bilal  
 D/O Bilal Ahmad Ganie  
 R/O Sirhama Srigufwara Anantnag  
 JNA7780878931

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is information for the general public that in School records the name of my daughter is entered as HAFSAH while her actual name is HAFSAH WANI. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact PRINCIPAL DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
 AIDAL JAHANGHEER  
 F/o HAFSAH WANI CLASS 8TH  
 R/o LAKHRIPORA BUDGAM  
 CELL. 9419500663 mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my son bearing No 487684397280 the name is entered as MOHAMMAD IRFAN BHAT while his actual name is IRFAN FAYAZ. 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.  
 FAYAZ AHMAD BHAT  
 F/O IRFAN FAYAZ  
 R/O SHOLIPORA BUDGAM mcb

**The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education**  
**New Campus Bemina Srinagar**  
 I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 108007056 Session: Annual Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/parent against my Mother's Name as Tabasum Amin Instead of Tabasum Amin Makhdoomi Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and 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-Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.  
**Name: Muhammad Zaid Makhdoomi**  
 Father's name: Murtaza Hussain Makhdoomi  
 Mother's Name: Tabasum Amin Makhdoomi  
**DOB: 17-09-2008**  
**Residence: Tujar Sharief**  
**Mobile no: 8803345345** x

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I want to change the name in the Electricity Connection bearing Consumer ID- 0206050001995 from Consumer name Syeed Hafizullah S/o Syed Mohammad R/o Syed Mohalla Chattabugh Sub-Division Narbal to Syed Mohd Shafi S/o Syed Hafizullah R/o Syed Mohalla Chattabugh NAR-0090/63-KVA, Sub-Division Narbal. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. Sub-Division Narbal, Distt Budgam within Seven days from the date of Publication of this Notice, after which no objection will be entertained.  
 Syed Mohd Shafi  
 S/o Syed Hafizullah  
 R/o Syed Mohalla Chattabugh NAR-0090/63-KVA x

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I, Nayeem Bashir War, S/o Bashir Ahmad, R/o Ogmuna, Kawathama, Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I have applied for the issuance of a Pesticides Licence under the name and style "War Pesticides, Ogmuna, Kawathama, Baramulla." If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Plant Protection Office, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Sd/- Nayeem Bashir War S/o Bashir Ahmad R/o Ogmuna, Kawathama, fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I, Mehak Mansoor, D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone, R/o Faqirpora, Tangmarg, Baramulla, intend to apply for the grant of a Fertilizer Licence under the name and style Aces Fertilizers Store, situated at Tulka Batpora, Kunzer, Baramulla. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Mehak Mansoor fko  
 D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone  
 R/o Faqirpora, Tangmarg, Baramulla

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I intend to apply for a Pesticides Licence under the name and style "Pales Pesticides Store", situated at Tuska Batpora, Kunzer, District Baramulla. If any person has any objection in this regard, the same may be submitted in writing to the Office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Kaman Mansoor  
 S/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone  
 R/o Farazpora, Tangmarg fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I intend to apply for the grant of a Pesticides Licence under the name and style "Aces Pesticides Center", situated at Farazpora, Tangmarg, District Baramulla. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Mehak Mansoor  
 D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone  
 R/o Farazpora, Tangmarg, Baramulla fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)  
 Phone:-01933-295302 E-mail:-techrbput786@gmail.com  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.**  
**TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 03 /02 /2026  
 E-NIT No: 138 /EEP/RNB/of 2025-26/10796-806

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Call No:
1	Wahibugh Bridge	110.46	2600/	2% of ADV cost	45 working days	AAV	UT Capex Budget (Bridges Sector 2025-26)	237-SE/PS of 2025-26 Dt. 10-01-2025 And T.S No. F/ER&B/SK/TS/292 of 2025-26 Dt. 29-01-2026	let call

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03 - 02-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	03-02-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	03 -02-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	17 - 02-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18 - 02 -2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security(PS)	Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan (Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
- The date and time of opening of 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 bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) 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 DLP.

Head Draftsman DIPK-10578/25 dated: 03-02-2026  
 Technical Officer  
 Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I, Farooq Ahmad Khan, hereby inform the general public that in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9004 6749 1974, my name has been wrongly recorded as Kiran Deep. Now, I intend to get my name corrected from Kiran Deep to Farooq Ahmad Khan in the concerned records. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same at the concerned Aadhaar Enrolment / Correction Centre within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.  
 sd Sd/- Farooq Ahmad Khan

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Rozia Akhter while my correct name is Rozia Kouser . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Rozia Kouser  
 W/o Tanveer Ahmad Chichi fko  
 R/o Check Mirzapur Ramnagri Shopian

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is to inform general public that my name in Aadhaar Card has been incorrectly recorded as SAHIL ISMAIL while as my actual name is SUHAIL ISMAIEL. Now I Want to apply for the correction of same in aadhaar card bearing aadhaar no 8362 7085 7486 from old name SAHIL ISMAIL to new name SUHAIL ISMAIEL. Any person who has any objections or concerns regarding these changes is requested to raise them within 07 days from the date of this notice.  
**Name- Suhail Ismaiel**  
**S/O- Mohammad Ismaiel**  
**R/O- Rathsun Beerwah Budgam J&K 193401** fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Parveez Ahmad Sheikh Koul while my correct name is Parvaiz Ahmad . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..  
 Parvaiz Ahmad  
 S/o Gh Mohd Sheikhoul fko  
 R/o Mashwara Tehsil. Keller District Shopian

**Over 50% Posts Vacant at SKIMS**

Total posts 4,093, filled 1,993, vacant 2,100; patients, attendants suffer, urge LG to address staff, infrastructure shortages

Observer News Service

Srinagar: More than half of the sanctioned posts at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Kashmir's premier tertiary care hospital, are lying vacant, exposing deep cracks in the region's healthcare system and triggering widespread public concern.

According to details obtained by KNO, there are 4,093 sanctioned posts for SKIMS, of which only 1,993 are filled, while 2,100 remain vacant. Among 237 sanctioned faculty positions, 164 are filled, and 130 are vacant. Similarly, out of 237 gazetted sanctioned posts, 32 are filled, and 205 are vacant.

Among 3,562 sanctioned non-gazetted posts, 1,393 are filled, and 1,765 are vacant. Additionally, 404 outsourced posts are in position.

SKIMS, which caters not only to Kashmir but also to parts of Jammu, is considered the backbone of advanced medical care in the valley. However, the massive staff shortage, including doctors, nurses,

paramedics, technicians, and support staff, has raised serious questions about the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of healthcare delivery at the institute.

"This is the biggest hospital of J&K, and if it is functioning with such shortages, one can only imagine the situation in district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, and primary health centres," said a senior doctor who wished not to be named.

Patients and attendants complained that staff shortages are leading to long waiting periods, delays in diagnostic procedures, and difficulties in accessing specialised care. They urged the government to fill all positions immediately so that patients do not suffer at any cost.

They said that people have high hopes associated with SKIMS, as over the past few decades, it has emerged as J&K's main and most trustworthy hospital. However, if staff shortages continue, it will not be able to perform as effectively as before, they added.



A young boy lights candles on Shab-e-Baraat at Zadihal, Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

**Div Com Reviews Progress on Traffic Streamlining**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of continued efforts to streamline traffic movement in Srinagar city, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee on Traffic Management System for Srinagar City.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Vice Chairpersons of LCMA and SDA, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, SSP Traffic, Joint Commissioner SMC, and senior officers from R&B and SSSL.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed the SSSL to prepare DPR for the development of a rotary at Exchange Junction. SSSL was also directed to start traffic on the trail basis over a realigned takeoff corridor towards the airport flyover.

He also reviewed the induction and management of one-way traffic on various routes and stressed effective implementation for smoother traffic flow.

Regarding development of parking at several locations, he instructed Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to develop surface parking facilities

**In view of the proposed installation of traffic lights at Bemina and Nowgam Flyovers, the concerned agency was instructed to take up the work on priority. However, the meeting decided to explore the feasibility of constructing a rotary at Sanat Nagar Flyover to streamline the Traffic System,**

at the Children's Hospital and JVC, while the Vice Chairperson LCMA was directed to develop parking facilities at Chattabal.

To augment parking space at Janghir Chowk, he directed Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to relocate the kiosks.

The Divisional Commissioner

also directed that work on e-bus charging stations at Batamloo be commenced from February 15.

It was informed that Zoonimar charging station shall be functional by February 15.

Regarding the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), the meeting was informed that all 800 traffic cameras are functioning smoothly. In view of the proposed installation of traffic lights at Bemina and Nowgam Flyovers, the concerned agency was instructed to take up the work on priority. However, the meeting decided to explore the feasibility of constructing a rotary at Sanat Nagar Flyover to streamline the Traffic System.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed SMC to install 'No Honking Zone' signage at identified locations across the city. He also instructed the concerned authorities to close vulnerable median crossings along the road stretch from Pantha Chowk to Shaleng to enhance road safety.

Also, the Div Com directed the SSP Traffic to intensify action against illegal parking and ensure generation of challans using SSSL traffic cameras.

**Shab-e-Barat Observance Prevented at Jama Masjid**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid informed on Tuesday that shortly after Asr prayers, the Auqaf authorities were directed by the police to close the gates of Jama Masjid Srinagar as permission to observe Shab-e-Barat has been denied by the authorities at the mosque. The Auqaf was asked to ensure that the premises remain closed for the night despite prior preparations for the sacred observance.

Auqaf expressed deep regret that once again con-

gregational prayers on an important religious occasion could not be held at Jama Masjid and that Mirwaiz has been placed under house arrest.

In this context, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, in a post on X, said: "As mosques across the region light up in devotion on this sacred night, Jama Masjid Srinagar stays shut under watch. Yet another closure, and I remain detained at home. Shab-e-Barat joins a long list since 2019 when prayers at the Valley's largest mosque have been stopped by force.

**Man Files Complaint with Police Alleging Assault at SMHS**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A man has filed a complaint with the police alleging assault, coercion, and humiliation by security personnel at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar, seeking a formal inquiry into the incident and action against those involved.

According to the complaint submitted at Police Station Karan Nagar, the incident allegedly occurred late at night inside the hospital premises when the complainant was present in the corridor during a heavy rush of patients. He alleged that he was ques-

tioned by security guards over recording a video and was forcibly restrained despite denying the allegation.

The complainant has alleged that he was taken into a room by security staff, where multiple personnel were present, and subjected to physical assault. He further claimed that his cap was forcibly removed, his mobile phone seized and checked without consent, and that he was pushed onto a bed and beaten.

The complaint also states that he was allegedly forced to sign documents and pressured to apologize despite asserting his innocence. He further al-

leged that his mother, who is a patient, intervened during the incident but was ignored, and that he was beaten to the extent that he felt suffocated.

The complainant claimed to have medical reports indicating injuries to his arm and said his mother suffered severe distress and pain following the incident. He has sought review of CCTV footage from the hospital areas where the incident allegedly took place, verification of call records, and an impartial inquiry into the conduct of the security personnel. KNT

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I want to apply for a Pesticide License under the name War Fertilizers and Pesticides Situated at Ussan Bangil Kawarhama Tangmarg Baramulla. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may submit it to the Plant Protection Officer, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.  
Ghulam Rasool war  
S/o Ghulam Mohammad war  
R/o Ussan Bangil Kawarhama Tangmarg Baramulla jvd

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I want to apply for a Fertilizer and Seed License under the name War Fertilizers and Pesticides Situated at Ussan Bangil Kawarhama Tangmarg Baramulla. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may submit it to the Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.  
Ghulam Rasool war  
S/o Ghulam Mohammad war  
R/o Ussan Bangil Kawarhama Tangmarg Baramulla jvd

**از نیابت یومی**  
معاونت مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست لکھ کر RBA سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کارروائی ہے اس بارے میں ہناری ملحقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے میاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی میر زوری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنڈیڈ ہیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے  
ریاض احمد نیاز ولد علی محمد نیاز زمینداری 146 سال  
حاترہ بیگم زود چریش احمد گھریلو کام 42 سال  
رفیق ریاض بیہر ڈرائیور 26 سال  
خورشید احمد بیہر زمینداری 23 سال  
وسیم احمد بیہر -- 21 سال  
بال احمد بیہر زیر تعلیم 20 سال  
سائل احمد بیہر -- 15 سال  
سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیڈ ہے ہوا آمدنی 8,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزید یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ عدالت شہر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے معزز یا معززات عدالت حد کو دفتر ہی وقت کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے میاں کو کوئی معزز یا معززات قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
ناجیب تحصیلدار FKO

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I have applied for the renewal of my fertilizer licence. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Bashir Ahmad Rather  
S/O Ali Mohammad Rather  
R/O Bongam Kawarhama Baramulla fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Syed Aijaz Ahmad, S/o Syed Ali Mohammad, R/o Shuch Palpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my son is holder of Aadhaar Card No. 2657 2433 0198. Due to an inadvertent error, his name has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar card as BURHAN UL ASFIA. The correct name is SYED BURHAN UL ASFIA.  
I intend to get the said name corrected in the records of the concerned authority. If anyone has any objection in this regard, the same may be submitted to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.  
Syed Aijaz Ahmad S/o Syed Ali Mohammad  
R/o Shuch Palpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla fko

All praises to Allah, the Most Merciful and the Most Generous.

**Ramzan Appeal 2026~**  
Ration Kits for Needy Families

Feeding a fasting family is among the most beloved deeds in the sight of Allah.

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,  
As the blessed month of Ramazan 2026 approaches, Idara Falahi Aam Waqf humbly appeals for the distribution of Ramazaan Ration Kits for poor and deserving families.

Distributing Approximately **300 Ration Kits**  
Approximate cost of one kit: ₹2,400/-  
Each kit provides essential food items for entire family.

**Contribute Generously:**  
J&K BANK ACCOUNT  
NO: 1112040102856261  
J&K BANK Branch Alamgari Bazar  
IFSC: JAKA0ALMGRI

**Idara Falahi Aam Waqf**  
Alamgari Bazaar, Srinagar

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## Hidden Health Gaps

Health research in Kashmir keeps producing numbers that should change lives. Surveys arrive with clear findings and wide participation. They map health challenges in homes, villages, and towns. People everywhere see these figures and the pressing words attached to them. But everyday health on the ground stays far from the promise of the data.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) shows that an overwhelming number of children under five in Jammu and Kashmir are anaemic. Nearly 73 percent of children (6-59 months) have low haemoglobin levels. Many have moderate or severe anaemia, which affects strength, growth, and learning ability. These rates have climbed sharply since the previous round.

Women's health creates its own alarm. Around 66 percent of women aged 15-49 face anaemia of varying severity. This rate rose from 49 percent in an earlier survey to the current level. Such widespread anaemia harms women's energy, immunity, and pregnancy outcomes.

Surveys also detail chronic diseases. New data show that only about a third of adults in the Union Territory have normal blood pressure. Hypertension and diabetes appear across age groups and signal growing risks of heart disease and kidney problems. Nearly 8.7 percent of women and 8 percent of men aged over 15 have high blood sugar levels.

Mental health surveys reveal another layer of emergency. A 2015 representative study found that 45 percent of adults struggle with depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress symptoms. Around 41 percent have probable depression and 26 percent show anxiety symptoms in a large random sample across ten districts. A more recent rural study finds that 11.3 percent of adults have diagnosable psychiatric conditions, with women showing higher prevalence than men. Only a small fraction seek treatment.

These reports share several common threads. They show health measures at precise levels across ages, genders, and communities. They highlight real and serious issues. The data are clear enough to guide planning at village, block, and district levels. They tell health leaders where to focus screening, prevention, medicines, and staff.

The problem starts after the surveys end. Governments, planners, and administrators often file the findings away. Health budgets and personnel choices repeat old patterns. Rural areas still have few specialists and long travel distances to reach a clinic. Anaemia continues in communities with little follow-through on nutrition and iron programs. Mental health care remains too limited to match the levels seen in research.

People in Kashmir see health workers, clinics, and campaigns, but the wider picture of progress remains hard to find. Surveys create understanding. They tell what exists and whom it affects. They should lead to action that revitalises care and reaches every home.

If the real work of turning numbers into real help stays incomplete, surveys will remain interesting reports rather than tools of change.

The real question is simple: when all our health data shows where we stand, who will ensure that each number becomes a life touched by better care?

### CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Gold Price Drop

How global markets and Budget 2026 shaped gold prices across India.

Irshad Mushtaq

Gold prices rose sharply across the world for months. Fears about inflation, wars, and weak currencies made people look at safe options. Gold has always been seen as a reliable place to keep money. Investors rushed in, demand increased quickly, and prices went up.

Big funds and professional traders joined the rally. Many borrowed money to increase their bets in international futures markets. When prices move mostly in one direction and borrowing is high, even a small change can cause big losses.

The change came sooner than expected. Interest rates in major economies stayed higher longer, the US dollar became stronger, and bonds and bank deposits looked more attractive. Gold, which does not give interest, lost some appeal. Investors started taking profits and reducing their positions. Futures markets made the fall faster. Margin calls and automatic sell orders forced more sales, and prices dropped quickly.

India felt this strongly because the country imports most of its gold. MCX futures moved quickly, and the Budget 2026 added extra caution. Traders worried about taxes, customs duties, and inflation hints. Exchange increased margin requirements, forcing some traders to close positions. That added more selling pressure.

Gold prices are set through a chain of steps. Global prices influence MCX, the India Bullion and Jewellers Association sets benchmarks, and wholesalers adjust rates before retailers update prices. Local gold rates reflect this chain of events, rather than arbitrary decisions.

The lesson is simple: gold works best as part of a mix alongside bank savings, mutual funds, or other assets. Avoid buying in a rush at peaks or selling in panic during sudden dips. Understanding how global, national, and local markets connect helps make smarter choices and keeps gold a reliable part of long-term planning.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

# Kashmir's Tech Moment

With legacy industries holding strong, Jammu and Kashmir now stands ready to harness technology for fresh growth, talent retention, and global appeal.

Faisal Kawoosa

People across Jammu & Kashmir eagerly await the upcoming budget, hoping it delivers targeted support to every industrial sector.

Legacy businesses face long-standing challenges they believe this financial plan can finally resolve, while innovative startups aim to redefine the area's social and economic fabric.

The digital ecosystem, encompassing IT, communications, electronics, and related fields, still trails far behind in expansion within the union territory.

Every other state and union territory in India boasts a clear strategy for digital advancement, which they chase with determination to claim a share of tomorrow's prosperity.

Pioneers such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and the National Capital Region already delve into advanced fields like semiconductors and artificial intelligence. Established industrial powerhouses like Gujarat have carved out their positions in India's digital landscape too. States once viewed as less developed, including Assam, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh, have identified compelling ways to join digital ventures that extend beyond national borders into international arenas.

These regions have all taken proactive steps to prioritize this area, building supportive policies that label digital pursuits as key emerging drivers of their gross state domestic product.

Jammu & Kashmir, however, operates without any dedicated emphasis on digital growth in its existing guidelines.

The union territory celebrates its traditional strengths in tourism, handicrafts, and horticulture, but expanding the economic base demands equal consideration.

Several new fields could integrate into the mix after careful evaluation of local strengths, strengthening the overall framework against future shifts.

The digital arena stands out here because of its distinct benefits that align perfectly with the region's realities.

Digital enterprises thrive on minimal physical assets, a model that suits Jammu & Kashmir's history of limited industrial progress.

Past efforts to build a robust private sector have yielded modest results, leaving most initiatives starting from scratch without existing foundations to ease capital demands.

Many promising ideas falter under high startup costs in such an environment. Investor interest has surged lately, though major players remain cautious about committing fully.

Digital setups change this dynamic entirely, with basic operations requiring no more than 1.5 lakh rupees in initial outlay.

Smart approaches, such as sourcing refurbished equipment or adopting flexible seating arrangements,



The 2026-27 budget presents an ideal moment to craft a comprehensive strategy that establishes the groundwork for widespread technological adoption. Leaders should outline a clear path forward, turning the union territory into a hub for digital excellence. Other areas have surged ahead from similar starting points, and decisive action now will help close that distance while establishing Jammu & Kashmir as a prime spot for global tech investments.

drive those expenses even lower.

The region also enjoys a wealth of capable young people ready to fuel digital progress.

More than 80 percent of tech-driven companies rely on skills that prove straightforward to develop. Student numbers at colleges and universities have held steady above 200,000 annually, according to the Ministry of Education's All India Survey on Higher Education.

This pool, though smaller than national averages, provides ample foundation for a vibrant services industry powered by technology.

These individuals can step into roles after brief training programs lasting one to two months, tailored to specific demands.

Improved stability in the area has brought dependable internet access, erasing memories of past disruptions. Occasional outages occur in isolated spots, but they last briefly and stay confined outside major urban centers.

Businesses now operate with greater assurance, and partners feel secure engaging with tech-based ventures from the union territory.

This shift builds trust and opens doors to broader collaborations.

Younger residents, especially those from Generation Z and later cohorts, grow up immersed in connected

worlds and seek careers in dynamic, forward-looking fields where technology leads the way.

Many dedicate time to mastering areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, internet of things, and cybersecurity through online courses and certifications to boost their prospects.

Without local opportunities to apply these abilities, they often relocate to other Indian cities or abroad for work.

A flourishing digital environment would keep this vital group contributing right at home, channeling their drive into local development.

Startups in the region encounter limits from a compact local market that curbs expansion potential. They launch with promise but struggle to scale without wider reach.

Digital ventures break these barriers by tapping into worldwide audiences, creating diverse options that attract investors seeking reliable paths to growth and longevity.

Traditional industries in tourism, handicrafts, agriculture, and horticulture await meaningful upgrades that only technology can deliver.

Building a strong digital foundation enables these integrations, sparking fresh ideas and modern perspectives that elevate their impact.

Examples worldwide show how

merging innovation with established practices unlocks greater value, a step the region has yet to fully embrace beyond basic online presences.

These strengths position the digital field as a central pillar for emerging opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir, generating structured job paths for young people pursuing stable careers.

The 2026-27 budget presents an ideal moment to craft a comprehensive strategy that establishes the groundwork for widespread technological adoption.

Leaders should outline a clear path forward, turning the union territory into a hub for digital excellence.

Other areas have surged ahead from similar starting points, and decisive action now will help close that distance while establishing Jammu & Kashmir as a prime spot for global tech investments.

Faisal Kawoosa is the chief analyst and co-founder of Techarc, and a leading voice on India's technology industry. He advises businesses and policymakers on emerging trends, and serves on the jury of the GLOMO Awards at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

### Letter to Editor

## Kashmir Needs Fairness Before Anything Else

Justice in Kashmir grows from intent and daily action. That spirit of democracy lives in villages, towns, and habitations where people share the same hopes and the same rights. A constituency, then, stands as a shared trust between citizens and those who govern.

Development finds real meaning when roads, drinking water, electricity, schools, and welfare reach every corner in a fair and balanced way.

People often talk about a feeling that development expenditure, especially discretionary funds, moves more generously toward selected areas while others wait.

This feeling matters because governance stands on fairness.

Visibility and political convenience never replace equal care. That is why every village matters and every citizen carries the same weight. In public life, clarity keeps this balance honest and real.

Centrally sponsored schemes such as MGNREGA, PMAY G, PMGSY, and similar initiatives come from Union

Government funds and move through established systems. These programmes serve as entitlements of the people. Work carried out during any political tenure rests on transparent records. Correct credit builds confidence and keeps public life honest.

Daily hardship tells a harder story. Electricity and water bills still arrive in the names of people who passed away decades ago. In some cases, successors passed away too and no property exists in their name.

Administrative delay sits at the center of this problem.

Widows, orphaned children, and destitute households feel the strain most. Many live in one room with minimal use and survive on limited assistance meant for widows and destitutes.

Bills arrive anyway, pushing families into painful choices among food, medicines, and basic needs. Electricity and water serve as necessities of life. Billing systems work best when they stay humane, consumption based, and

sensitive to status.

Waivers, subsidies, and lifeline provisions in deserving cases protect honour. That's why welfare fairness needs care.

Influence often moves ahead of need in the allotment of BPL and AAY ration cards. Benefits linked to food security, scholarships, marriage assistance, and housing then slip away from the poorest.

Regular verification, Aadhaar-linked ration cards, reassessment, reallocation, and coordination among departments help bring fairness back.

Farmer credit raises another concern. Kisan Credit Cards aim to support agricultural activity during a farmer's lifetime. Many farmers invested effort and resources yet faced adverse outcomes. Loan recovery after a borrower's death places families under pressure when improvement never arrived.

Verification based relaxation or waiver for small outstanding amounts fits the welfare spirit of the scheme. Nominee documentation and life insur-

ance at disbursal strengthen borrower protection and accountability.

Coordination among power, water, food, revenue, and banking authorities improves assessment of household conditions.

Digital platforms that allow people to track welfare applications cut dependence on intermediaries and lift confidence. Grievance platforms such as JK Samadhan work best with time bound action and real outcomes.

Fair development in Kashmir grows through transparency.

Public access to constituency wise fund allocation and use builds trust. Digital dashboards, disclosures, audits, and online proposals invite people into planning.

Transparency strengthens credibility and public trust.

Sincerely,

Malik Hyder Ali  
malikhyderali92@gmail.com

# What True Waiting for Imam Mehdi Really Means

On 15th Sha'ban, the birth anniversary of Imam Mehdi (AS) forces a hard question: does our waiting show ethical living and real readiness?

Dabirah Hassan

As children, we hear about an Imam who lives in occultation, unseen but alive in history. We grow up believing that one day he will return.

When his name is mentioned, our heads bow almost on their own. And when his title is spoken, we say a prayer for his quick return, hoping the words keep the connection alive.

This becomes a habit we carry through life. The years pass, but the waiting stays the same.

Twenty-five years have gone by since my childhood, and the waiting continues. Only God knows when it will end, when the Imam will appear, and when hearts tired by injustice, confusion, and loss will finally see him.

The present period is known as the period of occultation. During it, we see ourselves as the waiters of Imam-e-Zaman (AS). This idea, however, needs a clear understanding from the start.

The hope for a saviour does not belong to Shia thought alone. Many divine religions and spiritual traditions carry the belief that a redeemer will appear at the end of history.

Islam reflects this shared hope as well.

Scholars from both Shia and Sunni traditions have written in detail about the Mahdi, his return, and the social and historical setting around his reappearance.

These discussions show that waiting goes beyond sectarian labels. It speaks to a wider human and religious longing for justice, renewal, and moral order.

The deeper question sits somewhere else. What does occultation really mean, and what does it ask of those who say they are waiting?

Reappearance is more than a future event that will change history. It is a moment that asks for awareness and makes history seem to halt and wait.

In this sense, occultation holds meaning and purpose. It marks a long phase of intellectual, moral, and practical preparation. It works like a school, training people to carry justice with awareness and discipline, rather than through emotion or impulse.

The idea of occultation never meant that waiting should become passive or stuck in routine. Waiting was meant to stay active and alive.

It was meant to mold and change the one who waits. It invites people to understand what reappearance asks of them and to turn belief into action.

A waiting that brings no growth or readiness loses its meaning and turns into delay presented as devotion.

The Imam looks for people who live their prayers, rather than those who only repeat words. Phrases like "O Allah, hasten the relief" gain meaning when they grow out of personal and social commitment.

What matters are people who have made sacrifice part of daily life.

Saying "my soul is sacrificed for you" holds meaning when a person's whole life is driven by that promise.

True waiting lives beyond supplication. It shows itself in character, ethical discipline, awareness, and the choice to give up comfort in the pursuit of truth.

History offers painful lessons in this regard.

The people of Kufa once wrote countless letters inviting Imam Hussain (AS), declaring loyalty and readiness. When the moment of trial came, many of them faltered. Fear, comfort, and the pull of safety outweighed their conviction.

This failure in history leads us to a basic question. It asks whether we have the moral strength to stand with the Imam if he were to appear, along with the desire for his arrival.

Beyond ceremonies or emotional displays, the Imam looks for people ready for deep inner change, and the story of Hurr offers a clear example.

He recognised the truth at the final moment and changed the direction of his entire life. People like him rise above habit, social pressure, and fear.

As truth becomes clear, they leave falsehood behind and give themselves fully to what is right.

This readiness grows through conscious self-change and consistent inner work. Over time, it takes form through daily choices and constant action.

This is what true waiting looks like. It drives people, builds character, and prepares the ground for reappearance.

But over time, a common misunderstanding has settled into our religious thinking. Many of us assume that the Imam only needs preach-



ers, clerics, or people closely tied to religious spaces. This view misses the larger picture.

The Imam needs a whole society. He needs doctors who treat patients with honesty, teachers who teach with purpose, engineers who build with care, journalists who speak truth with courage, workers who labour with self-respect, and sanitation workers who see their service as a moral act.

The Imam needs people from every field who treat their work as a form of worship and a stand against injustice.

Alongside this sits another false idea.

Some imagine that the Imam will rely only on old methods, untouched by the realities of the present world. But history tells a different story.

The Imam will work with the tools, knowledge, and systems of his time. This brings us to a difficult but necessary question.

If the Imam were to appear today, would we have capable professionals guided by ethical awareness? Or have we raised people with degrees but little skill, responsibility, or moral clarity?

Our education systems often fall short in shaping people driven by service. They tend to produce indi-

viduals focused on titles, income, and personal success.

Many institutions stand strong in appearance, but their deeper spirit feels missing. Buildings rise and systems expand, but a clear sense of purpose fades.

As a result, society begins to measure success by what people collect, rather than by what they give back.

Within the Muslim community, this contradiction becomes even more visible.

Enormous amounts of money are spent in the name of religion, often on practices that yield no lasting social benefit. Charity and offerings frequently circulate within closed religious circles, enriching individuals rather than uplifting communities.

I do not oppose spending on religious occasions. What demands scrutiny is the ethical use of resources.

If spiritual reward is the objective, then investing in education, healthcare, employment, and social welfare holds far greater moral weight.

Economic and educational foundations build the strength of any community. The real measure lies in how many stable economic systems create dignified work for young people, and how many schools and

colleges truly build awareness, critical thinking, and real skills.

Youth often face the blame for moral decline, while society avoids looking at its own gaps. Deviation grows within an environment driven by limited opportunity, weak guidance, and a lack of understanding.

Religious authority often approaches young people through judgment instead of care, and through rulings instead of practical support.

When society, family, and institutions fail to listen, young individuals drift further into isolation.

Substance abuse then spreads as a response to lives stripped of meaning, purpose, and belonging.

Lectures alone rarely prepare a generation to become true awaiters. A society grows when words connect with real systems and daily practice.

Practical institutions, spaces for rehabilitation, meaningful work, and ethical education all matter.

When a person goes astray, Islam points toward repentance and guidance that bring the person back into the community.

The story of Hurr remains a powerful example. He found acceptance without questioning, care without judgment, and honour through a sincere return.



**THE IMAM MEASURES DEVOTION BY THE KIND OF PEOPLE FAITH BRINGS FORTH. Rituals matter through the lives they craft. Prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage build responsibility, courage, competence, and justice. This leads to a clear call. Move beyond words and prepare through action. Grow intellectually, morally, and practically for the cause the Imam represents. Such preparation gives waiting its meaning and holds the promise of reappearance.**

The Imam measures devotion by the kind of people faith brings forth. Rituals matter through the lives they craft. Prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage build responsibility, courage, competence, and justice.

This leads to a clear call. Move beyond words and prepare through action. Grow intellectually, morally, and practically for the cause the Imam represents.

Such preparation gives waiting its meaning and holds the promise of reappearance.

— The author works as Multimedia Lead at Kashmir Observer.

## Men Living With Abuse

Domestic violence reaches beyond gender, and many men in Kashmir live with it in silence.

Mehak Safder

As a law student in Kashmir, I have spent years understanding how legal systems protect people from harm.

Along the way, one stark truth has stood out: Domestic violence affects men too, even though their stories rarely make it into public debates.

Society often raises boys with the idea of endurance, and emotional control. This mindset frames how people see abuse inside homes.

Many assume that violence at home affects women alone. Men who experience harm often carry their pain silently, driven by fear of shame and social judgment.

Silence then grows heavier with time.

Picture a home where harm shows up through harsh words, emotional pressure, control, or physical force. Imagine carrying that pain while feeling unsure about being heard or believed.

Men learn early to hide emotional struggle, so many continue living with distress behind closed doors.

This experience appears across households, cutting across age and background. Many men remain trapped in unhealthy relationships or tense family spaces, waiting for understanding that rarely arrives.

Still, when people talk about domestic violence, women usually stand at the center of the conversation. Women face serious harm and deserve strong protection. At the same

time, this narrow image leaves men unseen.

Men who speak about abuse often face doubt or awkward silence. Shame then settles in, and isolation becomes part of daily life.

Abuse against men appears in many forms. Some experience physical violence. Others face constant criticism, emotional manipulation, financial control, threats, false legal cases, or distance from their children.

These experiences leave deep emotional marks. Anxiety grows silently, sadness stays, and confidence weakens. Thoughts of self-harm sometimes surface. This inner struggle affects work, relationships, and daily routines.

Recent data from Jammu and Kashmir shows a sharp rise in reported domestic violence cases. Official figures from late 2025 point to a 121 percent increase during 2024-25, with nearly 2,000 cases recorded through women's support centers. These figures mainly reflect women's experiences.

Mental health experts and social workers observe that many men face similar harm, though their cases remain hidden.

Multiple men account for a large share of suicide cases across India, often linked to marital stress, emotional abuse, and legal pressure. Strife, and situational twists have added strain inside many Kashmiri homes, pushing many men deeper into silence.

Stories from outside the region reflect similar realities.

In 2024, a man in Bengaluru died by



**MEN EXPERIENCE FEAR, HURT, AND EMOTIONAL WOUNDS IN THE SAME WAY OTHERS DO. Expectations of silence place an unfair burden on them. Domestic violence touches every part of life, and healing begins with recognition.**

suicide after prolonged marital stress, emotional pressure, and restricted access to his child. Psychologists in Kashmir describe comparable situations in local accounts. Research from Haryana shows that more than half of married men experienced some form of domestic abuse.

These findings suggest shared social

patterns that extend into the valley. Laws in Jammu and Kashmir play a vital role in protecting women from domestic violence. These protections carry immense value.

Expanding the conversation to include men strengthens the idea of justice. Recognition of male victims supports fairness rather than weakening existing safeguards.

Domestic violence centers on human suffering, beyond gender labels.

Progress calls for wider thinking. Support systems and counseling services can welcome everyone facing harm. Education can encourage empathy and awareness. Social spaces can grow safer when men feel free to speak without fear or ridicule.

Men experience fear, hurt, and emotional wounds in the same way others do. Expectations of silence place an unfair burden on them. Domestic violence touches every part of life, and healing begins with recognition.

Awareness creates the first step toward change. Abuse extends beyond visible injuries. Words, control, threats, and emotional pressure leave lasting scars. Many men carry these wounds silently. Families and friends hold the power to help by listening, showing care, and offering support without judgment.

Addressing domestic violence means seeing everyone who suffers behind closed doors, including men in Kashmir who carry pain alone.

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# Diplomacy Races Against War In US-Iran Standoff

Trans Asia News

Ankara: Turkey is scrambling to broker urgent diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran by the end of the week in a fresh attempt to defuse mounting military tensions in West Asia following a major American naval deployment around the Islamic Republic.

Turkish officials said Ankara is working to arrange a meeting between US special envoy Steve Witkoff and senior Iranian leaders, possibly as early as Friday. Neither Washington nor Tehran has officially confirmed participation, but regional diplomatic sources say behind-the-scenes coordination is intensifying amid fears that miscalculation could trigger a wider conflict.

The diplomatic push comes as the US military has surged the USS Abraham Lincoln and multiple guided-missile destroyers into the Middle East, heightening the spectre of confrontation. Yet it remains unclear whether President Donald Trump would ultimately authorise military action against Iran, a nation signalling readiness for both talks and total war. As Tehran shows no sign of yielding to the encroaching US armada, Trump has begun to soften his rhetoric.

"I'd like to see a deal negotiated," Trump said. "Right now, we're talking to Iran... if we could work something out, that'd be great. And if we can't, probably bad things would happen."

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth also downplayed speculation about regime change, much to the disappointment of monarchist lobbyists who have been calling for US-Israeli intervention, saying such a scenario was "not right now" under consideration.

An Arab diplomat familiar with the discussions said Turkey is also exploring the possibility of hosting a broader high-level meeting involving Arab and Muslim nations alongside US and Iranian representatives, underscoring Ankara's emerging role as a regional mediator.

According to official sources, other countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, are expected to participate in the foreign minister-level parleys likely to take place in Istanbul.

Pakistan on Tuesday said it has also been invited to participate in the talks aiming to reduce tension by arranging a deal between the two estranged nations.



"Pakistan has received the invitation for the upcoming talks between Iran and the United States," Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in response to a media query. Earlier rounds of diplomacy

between Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Rome and Oman failed to produce a final agreement after Israel launched air attacks on Iran in June last year, triggering a 12-day war that also saw

US airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran lays down terms for talks President Masoud Pezeshkian Tuesday publicly endorsed conditional engagement with

Washington. In a statement posted on social media, he said he instructed Araghchi to pursue negotiations if conducted in a "respectful and threat-free environment", emphasising that talks must align with Iran's

national interests and principles of dignity.

Tehran, however, continues to reject key US demands, including a halt to uranium enrichment and restrictions on its missile programme. Ali Bagheri, foreign policy chief of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reiterated that Iran would not negotiate over its enriched uranium stockpiles.

Meanwhile, tensions remain high on the ground. Iran confirmed ongoing military exercises by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway that carries roughly a fifth of global oil shipments. US Central Command warned Iran against interfering with commercial shipping or American naval assets in the area.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has warned that any US military action would ignite a regional war, while Iranian officials say the country is prepared for both diplomacy and confrontation.

With naval forces on alert and diplomatic channels tentatively reopening, Turkey's mediation effort could become a critical test of whether dialogue can outpace escalation in one of the world's most volatile regions.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## Opioids Top Drug

and associated mental health challenges in the region. To address the issue, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction, a centrally sponsored scheme that supports preventive education, awareness generation, treatment, rehabilitation and community-based interventions.

As part of these efforts, a toll-free de-addiction helpline, 14446, is operational across the country and has received over 4.56 lakh calls so far, providing counselling and referral services.

The Ministry also highlighted the ongoing Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, which has been extended to all districts nationwide. The campaign focuses on awareness building, early identification of substance dependence and strengthening treatment and rehabilitation services. Since its launch in August 2020, the Abhiyaan has reached over 25.87 crore people across India. In Ladakh alone, more than 63,000 people have been covered under the programme.

## Lowest Drug

recorded the highest seizure of opium-based drugs during the period at 19,405 kg. Cannabis-based drugs seized during the year stood at 1,617 kg, while no cocaine or synthetic drugs were reported.

In 2023, seizures of opium-based drugs in the Union Territory fell to 8,927 kg, while cannabis-based drugs seized were 1,379 kg. During the year, 1 kg of cocaine and 0.16 kg of synthetic drugs were also seized.

The downward trend continued in 2024, with seizures of opium-based drugs declining further to 3,676 kg and cannabis-based drugs to 1,540 kg. The seizure of synthetic drugs during the year stood at 3 kg, while no cocaine was reported.

In 2025, up to November, seizures dropped to 2,062 kg of opium-based drugs and 1,957 kg of cannabis-based drugs. No cocaine or synthetic drugs were seized in Jammu and Kashmir during the period, the data showed.

The government informed Parliament that while the NCB regularly conducts joint operations with Central and State agencies, no separate consolidated data is maintained on drug trafficking networks or modules busted through joint operations on a year-wise or State-wise basis.

On funding, the government said Jammu and Kashmir did not receive any financial assistance under the centrally sponsored scheme 'Assistance to States/UTs for Narcotic Control' during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The government said it has taken multiple steps to curb narcotics trafficking, especially across international borders, including empowering the Border Security Force and other border guarding forces under the NDPS Act to carry out search, seizure and arrest.

It said upgraded surveillance grids equipped with AI-based features, radars, electro-optic devices, night vision devices and motion detectors have been installed along border areas, with integration into command and control centres.

The government further said drone-based capabilities have been institutionalised for aerial surveillance and reconnaissance, while intelligence sharing and controlled delivery operations are being carried out with foreign countries.

India has signed bilateral agreements with 27 countries and memorandums of understanding with 19 countries to combat illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors, the government added.(KNO)

## Nearly 10,000 Posts

is particularly grim at GMC Udampur, where 668 posts are vacant out of a total sanctioned strength of 799, indicating that the institution is operating with a skeletal workforce. At GMC Handwara, the government acknowledged 37 vacant gazetted posts, in addition to hundreds of non-gazetted posts remaining unfilled.

In the Family Welfare Department, the minister said that out of 2,276 sanctioned posts, only 1,703 are in position, leaving 573 posts vacant.

The reply further revealed large-scale vacancies in the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK), where 388 gazetted posts and 2,797 non-gazetted posts are lying vacant, severely impacting primary and secondary healthcare services across the Valley.

Major tertiary care institutions are also affected. At GMC Jammu, the government reported 538 vacant gazetted posts and 904 non-gazetted posts, while GMC Srinagar is short of 434 gazetted and 174 non-gazetted staff.

At GMC Kathua, 288 posts remain vacant, including 84 gazetted and 204 non-gazetted positions.

Dental education is not immune either, with 57 posts vacant at Government Dental College, Jammu and 48 vacancies at Government Dental College, Srinagar.

In the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu (DHSJ), the government disclosed 1,489 vacancies, in addition to 116 other posts lying unfilled. Meanwhile, GMC Doda is facing shortages across multiple categories, with vacancies reported as 336 posts under different heads.

## Noisy Scenes

outside the Union Territory.

The trouble began soon after the House assembled when BJP MLA Surjit Singh Slathia raised the issue of protests by Jammu University students seeking an NLU for the Jammu region. He said the BJP was not opposed to setting up a law university in Kashmir but insisted that Jammu deserved equal treatment.

"We are not against an NLU in Kashmir, but the aspirations of students in Jammu must also be fulfilled," Slathia said.

As BJP members raised slogans and displayed placards demanding an NLU for Jammu, Congress MLA Nizam-ud-Din Bhat objected, saying that displaying placards violated the decorum of the House, as decided by the Business Advisory Committee.

Amid the uproar, NC MLA Mubarak Gul and PDP MLA Wahid-ur-Rehman Para attempted to raise the issue of alleged harassment of Kashmiri students and traders in different parts of the country. Para moved an adjournment motion to discuss what he described as rising incidents of hate crimes against Kashmiris.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejected the adjournment motion and allowed Question Hour to continue, repeatedly urging members to maintain order. He said the issue could be taken up through appropriate procedures without disrupting House business.

The Speaker informed the House that the J&K government had taken up the matter of harassment of Kashmiris with various state governments and thanked the Uttarakhanda Chief Minister for prompt action in a recent incident.

During Question Hour, BJP MLAs Rajiv Jasrotia and Pawan Gupta walked out of the House, alleging discrimination against the Jammu region in the allocation of flood relief funds.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary rejected the allegations and said no central funds had been released for flood restoration works during the current financial year. He said funds had been provided under the State Disaster Response Fund and the UT Capex Budget, and additional assistance would be released after submission of detailed proposals.

Not satisfied with the reply, BJP members accused the government of misleading the House. Choudhary accused the BJP of politicising the issue and said the government did not discriminate between Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, NC legislators staged a dharna outside the Assembly complex, demanding restoration of statehood and an end to alleged harassment of Kashmiris outside the Union Territory. NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq said the promise of restoring statehood must be fulfilled and appealed to the Centre to ensure the safety of Kashmiris living outside J&K.

## CM To Move Bills

affected by leprosy.

According to the list of business circulated by the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister will move a bill to amend select enactments of the Union Territory to decriminalise and rationalise offences. The proposed legislation seeks to strengthen trust based governance and improve the overall business and living environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

The second bill to be introduced by the Chief Minister aims to amend existing laws to remove discrimination and denial of equal treatment to persons affected by leprosy. The proposed legislation seeks to address practices that promote segregation and discrimination against such persons.

The bill also aims to enable the Union Territory to fulfil its positive obligations through affirmative action to ensure dignity, equality and social inclusion for leprosy affected persons.

Both bills are scheduled to be introduced during Wednesday's Assembly proceedings.

## Centre Halts 3

apple growers and residents in Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag districts, who have been expressing concern that the proposed railway projects would affect agricultural and horticultural land, damage orchards, and lead to displacement of families.

Several protest demonstrations were held over the past months, with locals demanding rerouting of the projects, fair compensation, and consultation before any land acquisition.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday welcomed the Railway Ministry's decision to put three proposed railway projects in the Union Territory on hold, saying the routes had no local demand and threatened productive land. He, however, urged the Centre to increase the frequency and number of coaches of Vande Bharat trains operating between Katra and Srinagar.

Earlier, National Conference MLA from Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani informed the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had announced that three railway projects proposed to connect Srinagar with Pahalgam and Shopian had been put on hold.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, Omar said there was no specific public demand for the proposed routes, as the areas were already well connected by roads and highways.

"The routes that were proposed were passing through productive orchards and tourist areas, particularly towards Pahalgam. Elected representatives and local residents met me and said this railway line would not benefit them and would instead cause losses," he said.

Omar said he conveyed these concerns to the Centre after consultations with local MLAs and residents, and discussed the issue with the railway minister on multiple occasions, urging him to personally assess the matter.

"I told him that if the intention was to take the railway via Pahalgam to Ladakh or to connect Rajouri and Poonch through Shopian, then it could be considered. But if the railway line merely touches these areas without serving real demand, it will only result in the acquisition of valuable land," he said.

The chief minister said the Railway Ministry understood the public sentiment and examined the issue thoroughly before deciding to halt the projects.

Responding to queries on the operation of Vande Bharat Express trains connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country despite recent heavy snowfall, Omar said the rail link was a welcome step but flagged serious capacity constraints.

"The situation is that people are not able to get tickets. When Vande Bharat was announced, people believed that during flight cancellations or highway closures, they could simply board the train. But now tickets have to be booked three to four months in advance," he said.

Questioning the practicality of advance bookings, he added, "How am I supposed to know what the condition of the road will be four months from now?"

While congratulating the Railways for the successful operation of the service, Omar made two specific demands. "First, the frequency of Vande Bharat trains should be increased. Second, the length of the train should be extended," he said.

He pointed out that the current train has only eight coaches, while longer versions with up to 20 coaches are operating elsewhere. "At least increase it from eight to twelve coaches," he added.

## J&K Okays SCARD

instructions of the government.

Dar further said that measures have been initiated to safeguard the interests of depositors and borrowers of the SCARD Bank.

"The issues affecting the bank have been examined in detail by the department in consultation with NABARD, and a structured, closely monitored and legally compliant course of action has been advised to ensure an orderly and transparent process," he said.

As part of these measures, a special Know Your Customer (KYC) verification exercise covering all depositors and loanees across branches, including the head office and regional offices, has been completed to verify the authenticity of accounts and protect the interests of genuine depositors.

The minister said that the council of ministers has approved the proposal relating to the bank with specific directions to safeguard depositor interests.

"A phased and legally compliant course of action, in line with the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, has been formulated to ensure minimal inconvenience to depositors".

The department is presently awaiting the requisite prior sanction from NABARD to proceed further, he said.

## LG, CM Greet

while also reminding people to lead lives rooted in truth, humility, and kindness.

The Lieutenant Governor prayed that the holy occasion brings peace, prosperity, and happiness to everyone.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Barat, a revered night marked by prayers, repentance, and seeking the mercy and blessings of Almighty Allah.

In his message, the Chief Minister underscored the deep spiritual significance of Shab-e-Barat, describing it as a night of self-reflection and devotion when believers seek forgiveness and divine guidance.

He called upon people to imbibe the true spirit of the occasion and offer prayers for peace, harmony, and the welfare of all humanity.

The Chief Minister also prayed for peace, prosperity and overall progress for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Teachers Must

At the event, 101 teachers from various schools across Jammu were honoured for their contributions to education.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor praised the teaching community for shaping character and nurturing talent, saying teachers play a crucial role in equipping young minds to navigate an unpredictable world.

"I believe teachers and their craft form the backbone of a society and the soul of the nation," he said.

He observed that inspirational teachers move beyond rote learning and ignite curiosity among students. He said effective teaching transforms classrooms into spaces where science becomes engaging, history turns into meaningful narratives and learning encourages exploration rather than memorisation.

The Lieutenant Governor said there was a need for more teachers who could turn students from passive listeners into active thinkers. He described classrooms as spaces where futures are shaped through inquiry, questioning and critical thinking.

"To build a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy, learners must be

transformed from passive consumers of information into sharp analysts who can question, examine and apply knowledge," he said.

He also urged teachers to promote collaboration in classrooms, noting that teamwork would be essential in the world of tomorrow. He said classrooms should function as hubs of collective learning where research, writing and innovation are pursued together.

The Lieutenant Governor advised educators to think beyond rigid curricula, stating that while curriculum provides direction, creativity and curiosity prepare students for real life challenges. He said learning should be closely linked with life so that curiosity continues beyond textbooks.

Referring to the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence, he said teaching in the AI era was not about mechanical delivery of content but about nurturing creativity and innovation. "Humanity's greatest asset in the future will be innovative and creative thinking," he added.

Among those present at the ceremony were Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu Prof Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu Prof K S Chandrasekar, Commissioner Secretary School Education Department Ram Niwas Sharma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas, and senior officials of the Amar Ujala Group, besides teachers, students and families of the award recipients.

## Kashmir Startups

product-market fit but lack the capacity to scale.

Sector-wise, digital services and education each make up 25 percent of startups, while hospitality, tourism, agriculture, and emerging sectors like drones and 3D printing make up the rest.

The report identifies three key barriers to growth. First is access to capital. Founders want risk-tolerant, founder-friendly funding rather than traditional bank loans.

Second is regulatory friction. Seventy-five percent of founders cite the lack of single-window clearance as a major hurdle. Only 37 percent say they are fully aware of existing government schemes. Approval timelines stretch from six to twelve months, which founders describe as "an existential threat."

Third is talent. Startups struggle to hire skilled technical staff and lack high-quality mentorship from entrepreneurs experienced in scaling businesses.

To tackle these challenges, the report proposes targeted, founder-focused interventions. These include a single digital platform for registrations, compliance, and scheme applications, alongside a mandatory 30-day service-level agreement for government approvals and fund disbursement.

It also recommends subsidies for operational costs, including co-working space, electricity, internet, statutory compliance, and patent filings. The government should reserve 2-3 percent of procurement for local startups to guarantee market access.

The blueprint calls for a ₹50 crore dedicated fund for digital and technology startups, to be evaluated by domain experts and seasoned entrepreneurs. "Early-stage risk capital, mentorship, and market access must be treated as public goods for innovation-led growth in the region," it says.

KAN emphasizes that these interventions would prevent viable startups from failing, create high-value jobs, retain talent, and modernise the economy toward digital and service sectors.

The document urges the government to prioritize quality over quantity, focusing on sector-specific strategies with measurable outcomes rather than grant-heavy, compliance-driven programs.

"The Kashmir startup ecosystem has reached a stage where strategic interventions can create high-value jobs, retain talent, and drive growth," the report concludes, inviting structured collaboration between founders and policymakers.

# Fresh Snowfall in J&K Higher Reaches, Rain Lashes Plains

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Fresh snowfall was reported in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday, while several areas in the plains received rainfall, even as temperatures showed a marginal improvement across Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

As per details obtained by KNO, light snowfall occurred in the middle and upper reaches, including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, Tangmarg, Pahalgam, Gurez, Sadhna Pass, Dubjan-Herpora, Peer Ki Gali and the Daksum-Sinthan top areas. Meanwhile, parts of the Kashmir plains witnessed rainfall during the afternoon.

According to the Meteorological Department, a weak western disturbance is currently affecting



the region, leading to generally cloudy conditions with intermittent rain and snow at many places.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.8 degrees Celsius, while the ski resort of

Gulmarg registered minus 5.3 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.4 de-

grees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature of 9 degrees Celsius, Katra 8.1 degrees, Batote 4.1 degrees, Banihal 1.5 degrees and Baderwah 0.8 degrees Celsius.

The Met department said partly cloudy weather is expected to prevail till the evening of February 6. Light snowfall may occur at isolated higher reaches on February 7, while generally dry weather is forecast for February 8. Light rain or snow at a few places is likely on February 9 and 10.

Advising caution, officials asked travellers and transporters to check road and highway conditions before undertaking journeys. People living in snow-bound higher reaches were also cautioned against venturing into avalanche-prone areas.

## CM Lays Jan Vishwas Ordinance Before Assembly

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday laid a copy of the Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Ordinance, 2025 on the table of the state assembly for discussion.

The ordinance proposes amendments to certain laws. It also seeks to decriminalise a range of minor offences and rationalisation across several sectors.

## Tarigami Flags 'Disempowerment' of J&K Assembly

**JAMMU:** Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and MLA M Y Tarigami on Tuesday expressed concern over what he termed the "disempowerment" of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, claiming that, despite receiving a public mandate, elected representatives were finding it difficult to exercise authority.

During a discussion on the lieutenant governor's address in the Assembly on Tuesday, Tarigami acknowledged that while the speech appreciated the public mandate resulting from the assembly elections held after seven years, the reality on the ground indicated that the House was not sufficiently empowered.

"I read today's address of the lieutenant governor, and while I could not bring it with me, I do have last year's address. Even today's address is extremely important in context. Last year, when the governor delivered the customary address, two things were specifically mentioned: first, appreciation of the public mandate received in the assembly elections; and second, that these elections were held after seven years," he said.

Expressing concern, he said, "I only wish to submit this — wherever the Honourable LG may be, perhaps he should hear this — that ministers repeatedly say today that they are disempowered, but what pains me even more is how disempowered this entire House feels."

The CPI(M) leader mentioned that the perception of officers not listening to elected representatives spanned across party lines and was privately acknowledged by members from both the ruling and opposition sides.

"If this situation continues, then what is the meaning of a Union Territory? This is not an issue of one party. I have repeatedly urged the chief minister to convene an all-party meeting to discuss why, despite a historic mandate, the Assembly is being weakened, and the region is not being empowered," Tarigami said.

He also raised concerns about ecological vulnerability in Jammu and Kashmir and called for greater attention to environmental protection, describing the region's ecosystem as "extremely fragile."

"I request the chief minister to bring a separate climate budget on the pattern of some states," he said.

Tarigami addressed the pressing issue of unemployment, noting that both the government and opposition discuss youth-related matters, but questioned the effectiveness of measures taken for job creation. He highlighted that the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir is among the highest compared to other states and Union Territories, and called for the government to prioritise job creation. (Observer News Service)

## Wangchuk Detained for Instigating People: Centre to SC



Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre and the Union Territory administration of Ladakh on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained for instigating people in a sensitive border area adjacent to Pakistan and China.

Justifying Wangchuk's detention under the National Security Act (NSA), Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P B Varale that all procedural safeguards were followed before invoking the law.

"This court is dealing with a person who is instigating people in a border area where regional sensitivity is involved," Mehta told the bench.

He contended that Wangchuk has been given fair treatment and that all provisions of the NSA were scrupulously complied with.

The arguments remained inconclusive and the matter has been listed for further hearing on Wednesday.

On Monday, the Centre had submitted that Wangchuk attempted to instigate Gen Z protests similar to those seen in Nepal and Bangladesh. Mehta also said Wangchuk had referred to Arab Spring type agitations, which had resulted in the overthrow of governments in several Arab countries.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Gitanjali Angmo, challenging Wang-

chuk's detention under the stringent NSA.

The NSA empowers the Centre and state governments to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner prejudicial to the defence of India. The maximum detention period under the law is 12 months, subject to earlier revocation.

On January 29, Wangchuk, who is currently lodged in Jodhpur Central Jail, denied allegations that he had made statements calling for the overthrow of the government. He maintained that he has a democratic right to criticise policies and protest peacefully.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the police relied on selective videos and borrowed material to mislead the detaining authority.

Angmo has alleged that Wangchuk's detention is illegal and amounts to an arbitrary exercise of power, violating his fundamental rights.

Wangchuk was detained on September 26 last year, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and around 90 injured. The government has accused him of inciting the violence.

The plea stated that it was "preposterous" to target Wangchuk after more than three decades of recognition at the state, national and international levels for his work in education, innovation, and environmental conservation.

Angmo said the violence that occurred in Leh on September 24 last year could not be attributed to Wangchuk in any manner, adding that he had condemned the violence through his social media handles and termed it the saddest day of his life.

## J&K Mulls Single-Window Online Platform for Tourism Licences

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said it is considering introducing a single-window, online system for registration and renewal of tourism-related establishments and for obtaining mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from multiple departments.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardesi, the Tourism Department, as reported by KNO said that stakeholders in the tourism sector including hoteliers, houseboat owners, shikarawallas, travel operators and allied service providers are required to obtain registration or renewal of licences under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act.

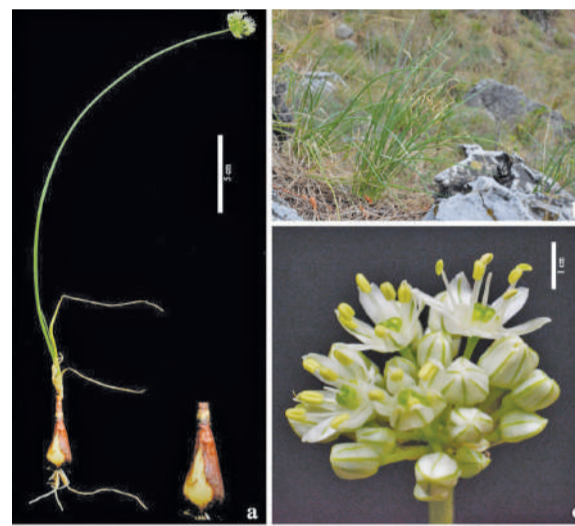
It said that NOCs from

departments such as the Pollution Control Board, Fire and Emergency Services and Building Permission Issuing Authority are mandatory for hotels, guest houses and houseboats.

"Registration and renewal are presently being done online through the Tourism Department portal (<http://www.tourismjk.in>). Integration of the said portal with the Government's Single Window System, including linkage with line departments for issuance of NOCs in a time-bound manner, is under consideration of the Administrative Department," the reply states.

However, the department clarified that no assessment has been made regarding financial losses suffered by tourism stakeholders during the year 2025.

## Jammu University Researchers Discover New Plant Species



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** A research team from the Department of Botany, University of Jammu, has discovered a new species of onion (*Allium*) from the Trikuta Hills of Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir, marking a major milestone in Himalayan floristic research. The discovery was led by Dr. Sunit Singh, Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Jammu, Dr. Sajjan Thakur, Herbarium Curator, and Udhay Sharma, PhD scholar under the guidance of Prof. Namrata Sharma, and the Head, Department of Botany.

The species was recorded during intensive floristic surveys in the Trikuta Hill ranges, an area known for high biodiversity but limited botanical exploration. Detailed morphological investigations, supported by molecular analysis, con-

firmed the plant as a species new to science. The study involved repeated field visits, collection of live specimens, seeds, and silica-dried material, followed by careful laboratory examination. The species was minutely reviewed by Dr. Anant, one of India's most renowned plant taxonomists, who re-examined diagnostic characters and validated the taxonomic conclusions. A comprehensive diagnostic key for *Allium* species of the Western Himalaya was also prepared as part of the study. Named *Allium jammuense* the species gives Jammu its first plant taxon bearing the region's name. The findings were published in the international journal *New Zealand Journal of Botany* (Wiley) after rigorous peer review, bringing international recognition to Jammu's floral wealth.

## Fake Certificates Used For SKIMS MBBS Course, 2 Booked



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Economic Offences Wing Kashmir of the Crime Branch has booked two individuals for allegedly securing admission to the MBBS course at SKIMS Soura by using forged disability and economically weaker section certificates, officials said on Tuesday.

In a statement, a spokesperson said the Economic Offences Wing Kashmir registered a formal case following information received from a credible source.

According to the statement, a resident of Ajas in Bandipora allegedly managed admission to the MBBS Course 2023 by submitting fake "Person with Disability" and "Economically Weaker Section" certificates, despite not being physically or mentally disabled.

Acting on the information, the Economic Offences Wing initiated a preliminary verification into the matter. During the verification, it emerged that the beneficiary, in connivance with another individual from Asham in Sumbal area of Bandipora, procured a forged PWD certificate.

The statement said the accused allegedly used the forged document to secure selection for admission to the MBBS programme at SKIMS Soura.

The acts committed by the accused prima facie disclose commission of cognisable offences punishable under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, a case has been registered at Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar, and further investigation is underway.

## 50 Mobile Veterinary Units Operational in J&K: GoI

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India on Monday informed the Parliament that 50 Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) have been made operational in Jammu and Kashmir since 2021-22 under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme.

In a written reply to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, according to KNO said, "The MVUs have benefitted 31,919 farmers and provided treatment to 61,296 animals."

"These MVUs are aimed at delivering veterinary care at the doorstep of farmers, particularly in far-flung and remote areas of the Union Territory."

The Ministry said that

the operation of MVUs is supported through a centralised call centre with toll-free number 1962, where veterinary doctors and executives assist farmers and coordinate services.

It added that monitoring of the scheme is carried out through review meetings, state visits, National Level Monitors and third-party evaluations, assessing parameters such as fund utilisation, number of farmers benefited and animals treated.

The Ministry, however, clarified that there is no current proposal to increase the number of MVUs and that integration of MVUs with other livestock development initiatives is yet to be planned, as the scheme is relatively new in several states and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir.

## Mir Calls for United Political Push for J&K Statehood

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Congress Legislature Party leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Tuesday pitched for united efforts cutting across party lines for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to convene an all-party meeting to build consensus and approach the Centre on the issue.

Participating in the discussion on the lieutenant governor's address in the Assembly on Tuesday, Mir said that there was a need to take all political parties, including the opposition BJP, on board to persuade New Delhi to restore statehood to the Union Territory.

"I appreciate what (CPI(M) Tarigami) said. Efforts were being made over the last six months to request Farooq Abdullah sahib or Omar sahib to convene an all-party meeting, including the BJP, on this issue. We need to build consensus and approach Delhi to ensure restoration of statehood," Mir, who is the AICC general secretary, said.

Mir reiterated that the August 5, 2019, decision to abrogate Article 370 and bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories was taken unilaterally without consulting the people or their representatives.

"There was immense suffering and hardship. The state was bifurcated and downgraded without consultation with the people or their elected representatives. As a result, people lost their aspirations and expectations," he said.

He said that democratic processes in Jammu and Kashmir were revived under various pressures, including the Supreme Court's direction to hold Assembly elections before September 2024.

"Had the Supreme Court not ruled that elections must be held and a government formed, perhaps none



of us would be sitting in this House today," Mir said.

Referring to assurances by the Centre, Mir said that commitments were made that delimitation would be carried out, elections held and statehood restored thereafter, which encouraged people to participate in large numbers in the 2024 Assembly elections.

"The elections witnessed the highest participation in Jammu and Kashmir's electoral history, as people believed that the first battle would be to reclaim the powers taken away from them," he said.

While acknowledging the efforts made by the Chief Minister, Mir said that visible and tangible steps towards restoration of statehood were needed.

"In such matters, there may have been shortcomings in coordination and mutual understanding," he added.

Mir said that people across Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their political affiliations, feel aggrieved as the powers that should have been vested with the elected government and legislators are still lacking.

He also referred to the chief minister's statements about administrative challenges and said that such developments affected public perception and governance at various levels.

Mir noted that despite constraints, the government had taken steps towards employment generation, noting that around 7,000 people were provided jobs in 2025 and recruitment for 30,000 to 32,000 additional posts was underway.

## Rail Project Pause Eases Pressure on Kashmir's Agrarian Economy: Mehbooba

**SRINAGAR:** Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said the decision to put the proposed Pahalgalam and Shopian railway lines on hold had brought much-needed relief to Kashmir's agrarian economy.

Reacting to the development, Mehbooba Mufti said the proposed railway projects had raised serious concerns as they threatened to damage scarce fertile land and push a large number of rural families into uncertainty. She maintained that agriculture and horticulture form the backbone of Kashmir's economy and any project that endangers these livelihoods cannot be justified in the name of development.

The former Chief Minister said development that uproots farmers and destabilises rural communities does not amount to progress. She stressed that infrastructure expansion must be sensitive to the social and economic realities of the region, particularly in areas dependent on farming and orchards.

According to KNT, Mehbooba Mufti also underlined the need for transparency in planning future projects. She said any such proposals must be reviewed openly, with farmers and local communities taken on board before decisions are finalised. Protecting Kashmir's economy and social fabric, she said, should remain central to all development policies. (Observer News Service)

## Sakina Backs NLU Setup in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Health and Education Minister, Sakina Itoo Tuesday said that the proposed National Law University (NLU) shall be established in Kashmir to avoid the operational challenges faced by other regional institutions like the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Medical College in Jammu.

Speaking to the reporters, the minister according to KNO said, "The proposed NLU shall be established in any district of Kashmir region because here in the Valley, thousands of students from Jammu region are pursuing their studies in different fields and nobody has raised any objection to it."

She said that "If the NLU is established in Jammu, BJP may force to cancel the Law university with the same reason they did in SMVD."

"It is unfortunate that the opposition (BJP) instead of seeking more medical colleges for the Union Territory, they opposed functioning of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Institute of Medical Excellence just because Muslim students were studying there," Minister Itoo said.

She said that National Law University (NLU) is the right of students of Jammu and Kashmir. "The functioning of the university shall not face any disruption or exploitation."

Besides, the minister told reporters that "In the first legislative assembly, we passed a resolution to restore Article-370. We forwarded the resolution to those who snatched it from us. Restoring statehood and the special status will always remain the demand of our party."

Pertinently, on Monday, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma said that the plea raised by the students for establishing a separate NLU in summer capital Jammu was fully justified. LoP had said that his party will fight for the students who had demanded for this institute.

Reacting to the statement of LoP Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister (CM) Surinder Kumar Choudhary a day before accused the BJP and the LoP of creating uproar over the demand for a NLU instead of focusing on broader governance issues. (Observer News Service)

# India-US Trade Deal a 'Big Decision': PM Modi

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI-** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the India-US trade deal is a "big decision" that will benefit everyone in the country, and asserted that his government always works in favour of the nation.

The prime minister made these remarks at the meeting of the NDA Parliamentary Party, coalition MPs present at the meeting said.

NDA coalition members congratulated Modi for the trade deals with the EU and the US, saying it would strengthen Indian manufacturers, exporters and entrepreneurs.

The prime minister said the India-US trade deal is a "big decision" and will benefit everyone in the country, an MP who attended the meeting said.

India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from a total 50 per cent.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there is excitement about the deal in the entire country.

"There is excitement among

the MPs that nine trade deals have been concluded under the leadership of the PM. The trade deals have been signed with a total of 39 countries. This is historic. All these 39 countries are developed countries... This is historic. There has been a very good atmosphere in the country," he said after the meeting.

Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora said, "PM Modi explained to all the MPs that the government works in favour of India, be it a trade deal or budget".

"The credit for the trade deal between India and America and India and India-Europe goes to PM Modi. This has happened because of his determination. The trade deal will give benefits to small-scale businessmen," he asserted.

Shrikant Shinde, leader of the Shiv Sena and a key NDA partner, said "During the meeting, NDA leaders welcomed the major breakthrough following the productive conversation between Prime Minister Modi ji and US President Donald Trump, which led to the announcement of reduced tariffs on Made in India products."

Modi wrote on 'X': "Attended the NDA Parliamentary Party



meet, where we discussed a wide range of issues".

At the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, the members also welcomed new BJP President Nitin Nabin and congratulated him on the election to the top party post.

The prime minister told NDA leaders that the coalition has been winning various elections due to its people-friendly policies and hard work, Rijiju said.

Modi also told NDA MPs that they should not be complacent with their win in various polls, including local bodies, but continue with the good work.

Rijiju said the prime minister gave broad guidelines for the

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs to carry forward their parliamentary and welfare work.

"The prime minister said the NDA is winning one after another elections due to its good work. He said elections can't be won without being on the ground and do good work for the welfare of the people," Rijiju said.

JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy said the NDA meeting reflected the collective commitment to strengthening India's economic partnerships and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

MPs belonging to the BJP, TDP, JD(U), LJP (R), Shiv Sena, JD(S)

and other constituents of the NDA attended the meeting.

LJP(RV) leader and Union Minister Chirag Paswan said the NDA meeting also discussed the general budget, which has been widely appreciated by a large section of the country's population.

"PM Modi ensures constant dialogue with all NDA allies so that there is no lack of communication of any government, and it is their important responsibility to take the government's policies and decisions to every village and district," Paswan said.

BJP member Aparajita Sarangi said the prime minister pro-

vided extensive guidance and direction on key issues.

"He asked us to actively participate in Parliament, both in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. He also spoke about the role of Standing Committees and urged everyone to give their 100 per cent. He spoke about the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and discussed the Budget in detail, motivating all of us," Sarangi said.

**Endless opportunities: Shah**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has called the India-US trade deal "historic", saying it will elevate the strategic partnership between the two countries and pave the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth.

In a series of posts on 'X', Shah said the deal opens "the gateway to endless opportunities for our youth, entrepreneurs, and techies".

"A big day for India-US relations as the trade deal has been locked with a significantly reduced tariff of 18 per cent, paving the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth," he said.

Congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump for the

"historic deal", Shah said it will "elevate our strategic partnership and greatly benefit both nations and their people. Business between India and US set to flourish further".

He said the trade deal will give new strength to India's MSMEs and boost the global competitiveness of small industries, asserting that the initiative will directly benefit the country's small entrepreneurs.

India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from a total 50 per cent.

"IndiaUSTradeDeal will give new strength to India's MSMEs. This will boost the Global Competitiveness of small industries, increase employment, secure a place in new supply chains, and enhance investment and Credit Flow.

"Gratitude to Modi ji for this initiative that directly benefits the country's small entrepreneurs," Shah said.

"Harnessing new force to India's roaring software and services sectors, the #IndiaUSTradeDeal pivots the nation to a new boom," he added.

## Tech Jobs in India to Cross 1.5 Crore: Minister

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI-** The government is in discussions with mobile phone makers, IT firms and other electronics manufacturing companies for the next version of the production linked incentive scheme before getting approval from the Cabinet, Union Electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

In an interview with PTI, the minister said that the new budget reforms, including the Rs 40,000-crore component scheme and AI data centre tax holiday, will propel employment generation across the electronics, AI, and GCC sectors significantly past the current level of over one crore jobs.

Asked about the government's plan for the mobile production linked incentive



(PLI) scheme, which is going to end in March, and which the FY27 budget did not explicitly address, the minister assured that the government is constantly in talks with manufacturers, and "as and when things get finalised, we will take it to the cabinet and get the things approved".

"We keep moving as we go. For example, in the case of semiconductors, there was a lot of work which was already done for the budget. Same in the case of mobile and IT hardware, and all the

manufacturers, we are constantly in talks with them. As and when things get finalised, we will take it to the cabinet and get the things approved," the minister said.

Vaishnaw said that the Union Budget 2026-27 has set a roadmap for the government vision for the "Viksit Bharat 2047" that entails an economy which is resilient, atmanirbhar (self-reliant), and supports robust employment-led growth across sectors.

He said that the electronics component manufacturing scheme has already approved 46 units and that "many more are in the pipeline".

The Ministry of Electronics and IT has approved a total of 46 applications till January, entailing a total investment of Rs 54,567 crore and promising to gener-

ate direct employment for about 51,000 people.

The number of applications has touched nearly 260, far exceeding the original expectations, Vaishnaw noted.

Measures such as the five-year income tax exemption for foreign suppliers of capital equipment in bonded zones are significant reforms that will help grow the electronics manufacturing industry in a very big way in India, he said.

In the annual budget for the next financial year, the government has proposed raising safe harbour limits to Rs 2,000 crore and unified IT taxes, a move that the industry says will lower compliance burdens and litigation risks for software exporters and GCCs (global capability centres).

## Comedian Rajpal Yadav Directed to Surrender in Cheque Bounce Cases

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI-** The Delhi High Court has directed actor Rajpal Yadav to surrender before jail authorities by February 4 in connection with his conviction in cheque bounce cases. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma observed that Yadav's conduct deserved to be deprecated as he repeatedly breached his undertakings to the court to repay the amount to the complainant M/s Murali Projects Pvt Ltd.

The judge noted that Yadav was required to make payment of Rs 1.35 crore in each of the seven cases against him, and directed that the amount already deposited with the Registrar General of the high court be released in favour of



the complainant.

In October 2025, two demand drafts (DDs) of Rs 75 lakh were deposited with the Registrar General and an amount of Rs 9 crore remained payable, the court noted in the order.

"Despite repeatedly giving assurances and seeking indulgence of this court, the petitioner no. 1 has failed to comply with the orders passed

from time to time... This Court finds no justification to continue the indulgence granted to the petitioner no. 1 earlier, especially in the case as the present one, where the petitioner no. 1 himself has admitted the liability and undertaken to repay the amount," said the court in order passed on February 2.

"In the interest of justice, the petitioner no. 1 is directed to surrender before the concerned Jail Superintendent by 04.02.2026, 4:00 PM, to serve the sentence awarded to him by the learned trial court. This limited indulgence is granted at the request of the learned senior counsel for the petitioner, who submits that the petitioner no. 1 is presently engaged in some professional

work at Mumbai," the court ordered.

The counsel for the actor said he had neither been able to comply with the orders of the court nor with the settlement arrived at between the parties.

He "fairly conceded" that Yadav was granted several opportunities and "considerable leniency" was shown on multiple occasions when time was sought to deposit the settlement amount, the court recorded.

The court's order came on revision petitions by Yadav and his wife challenging a 2019 decision of a sessions court, which upheld their conviction by a magisterial court here in the cheque-bounce cases in April 2018.

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