

Trump Signals Shorter Iran War Amid Oil Turmoil

Calls War On Iran A 'Short Term Excursion'



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a sudden shift in tone, US President Donald Trump on Monday suggested that the war against Iran may be short-lived, backing away from earlier remarks that the conflict could stretch for months and not ruling out American "boots on the ground".

Speaking during a news conference and later at a gathering of lawmakers at his golf club

near Miami, Trump described the ongoing military campaign as a "short-term excursion" aimed at eliminating security threats posed by Tehran.

"We took a little excursion to the Middle East to get rid of some evil," Trump said. "I think you will see it is going to be a short-term excursion."

However, the president also warned that the worst fighting could still lie ahead, threatening intensified action | **More on P6**

No Evacuation Yet

Kashmiri Students In Iran Take Armenia Route Home

Agencies

Srinagar: Indian medical students stranded in Iran, including dozens from Jammu and Kashmir, are preparing to return home through a complicated Armenia route after the Indian Embassy in Tehran declined to announce a formal evacuation plan, leaving students to book their own tickets and bear most of the travel expenses themselves.

According to the latest update shared with students by the Embassy, those willing to leave Iran may travel via the Armenia border, but only after

fulfilling a set of conditions. Students must first book their own flight tickets from Armenia to New Delhi and submit a confirmed ticket with the PNR number to the Embassy, states the advisory.

"Only after verification will the Embassy inform them when they may travel from their current location to the Armenian border. No student will be permitted to cross the border without a confirmed onward ticket," it added.

Students have also been told they must pay a visa fee of 10 US dollars at the Armenian border. Those | **More on P6**

40,661 Posts Vacant Across J&K Govt Departments

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A total of 40,661 posts are currently vacant in government departments across Jammu and Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M Raju said on Tuesday.

The vacancies include 3,808 gazetted posts, 24,507 non-gazetted posts, and 12,351 multi-tasking staff (MTS) posts.

Raju shared the information at a meeting convened by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo here to review the status of vacancies and the progress of recruitments



being undertaken through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) across various departments.

Among major departments, Raju said health and medical education accounts for a significant share of vacancies with 2,497 gazetted, 8,088 non-gazetted and 2,712 MTS posts vacant, while other

departments with substantial vacancies include agriculture, power, finance, revenue, forest, public works, and youth services and sports.

Reviewing the recruitment being undertaken by the JKSSB for non-gazetted and MTS posts, JKSSB Chairperson Vikas Kundal said since 2019, the board has received 46,744 posts, out of which 9,260 were withdrawn, leaving 37,484 posts for recruitment.

The board has already completed selections for 32,956 posts, including 27,449 selections pertaining to this period.

At present, 10,035 posts remain under different stages of recruitment | **More on P6**

27% Vacancies In Central Jobs Reserved for OBCs, LS Told

KO Web Desk

The government provides 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in direct recruitment to civil posts and services under the Centre, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B L Verma said the reservation policy is implemented through an office memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on September 8, 1993, along with subsequent instructions issued from time to time. | **More on P6**

'Hypocritical' & 'Flagrant Violation'

India Slams Pak Strikes On Afghanistan During Ramadan

Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India has strongly condemned Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghanistan as a "flagrant violation" of international law, saying it is "hypocritical" to invoke Islamic solidarity while carrying out attacks that have killed civilians during Ramadan.

Addressing a Security Council meeting on the situation in Afghanistan on Monday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni reiterated New Delhi's support for the UN Secretary-General's call for compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and for ensuring the protection of civilians.



"India strongly condemns the airstrikes on Afghan territory, which are flagrant violations of international law and the UN Charter and the principle of state sovereignty."

"It is hypocritical to espouse high principles of international law and Islamic solidarity on the one hand, while mercilessly carrying out air strikes during the holy month of Ramadan that have

killed 185 innocent civilians as of March 6, more than half of whom are women and children," he said.

According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), around 55 per cent of the 185 victims were women and children, and more than 100,000 people have been displaced due to the attacks.

Harish noted that UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' report also expresses deep concern at civilian casualties caused by cross-border armed violence.

India reiterated its support for the Secretary General's call, urging compliance with obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and ensuring protection of civilians. | **More on P6**

Dry Spell Ends As Rain, Snow Hit Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Rain lashed several parts of Kashmir while higher reaches received fresh snowfall on Tuesday, ending a prolonged dry spell that had persisted for months across Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said light rainfall was recorded in parts of central Kashmir, including Srinagar and Budgam, while moderate to heavy showers were witnessed in several areas of north and south Kashmir.

Higher reaches such as the Sonamarg Zojila axis, Sinthan Top, Sadhna Top, Peer Ki Gali and Razdan Top received fresh snowfall during the night and early hours of Tuesday.

Gurez in north Kashmir and the Sonamarg Zojila axis were among the areas that witnessed overnight snowfall, while rains continued in the Valley's plains till morning.

Relief After Long Dry Spell



The wet spell ended a prolonged dry period in Jammu and Kashmir, which had recorded its seventh consecutive winter rainfall deficit this year.

According to official data, the core winter period from December 2025 to February 2026 recorded a 65 percent deficit, with the region receiving 100.6 mm precipitation against the normal of 284.9 mm.

December saw only 13 mm rainfall against the normal of 59.4 mm, marking | **More on P6**

Study Links Social Media Use to Poorer Mental Wellbeing Among Kashmir Students

Research finds smartphone use, messaging and gaming linked to higher anxiety and declining psychological wellbeing among adolescents

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A new study has found a negative relationship between social media use and psychological wellbeing among high school students in Kashmir, with higher levels of smartphone use, messaging and video gaming linked to increased anxiety and poorer mental health outcomes.

The research, published in the Ianna Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, examined the nexus between social media use and mental health among students in grades 7 to 12 in Kashmir.

The cross sectional study surveyed 246 students from five schools across rural and urban areas, using structured



questionnaires to assess patterns of social media use and psychological wellbeing.

According to the findings, overall social media engagement among students was relatively low. Only 3.6 percent reported moderate to high

involvement in online friendships, 2.8 percent in video gaming, and 1.2 percent in frequent text messaging.

Despite the low overall use, specific digital behaviours were associated with poorer psychological wellbeing. The study

found negative correlations between psychological wellbeing and smartphone use ($r = -0.16, p = 0.012$), internet searching ($r = -0.19, p = 0.002$), text messaging ($r = -0.14, p = 0.031$) and video gaming ($r = -0.25, p < 0.001$).

The study also noted that 9.3 percent of students reported poor psychological wellbeing, while 35 percent had moderate mental wellbeing, suggesting that a significant proportion of students were experiencing mental health challenges.

Researchers observed clear differences in technology use across gender and age groups. Male students reported higher levels of smartphone use, media sharing, online friendships and video gaming, but recorded lower | **More on P6**

J&K Amends Building Bye-Laws, Launches Auto Scrutiny Portal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has notified amendments to the Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL) 2021 under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 and the J&K Municipal Act, 2000.

Officials said the move aims to promote ease of doing business, rationalise development controls and digitise building approval processes across the Union Territory.

The reforms are expected to strengthen regulatory compliance across all Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities.

Under the amendments, land use regulations have been simplified by merging multiple sub categories into

four broad primary uses.

The new framework also allows Affordable Group Housing in industrial zones to promote more inclusive land utilisation.

Setback norms have been rationalised while the Commercial Floor Area Ratio (FAR) has been enhanced up to 400, subject to applicable norms, increasing the development potential of urban land.

In addition, the minimum Right of Way requirement for certain commercial and industrial activities has been reduced from 12 metres to 6 metres to facilitate economic growth, particularly in smaller urban centres.

Digital Building Approval System

The government has also launched an Auto Scrutiny Based Building | **More on P6**

Omar Turns 56; President, PM Send Greetings



Observer News Service

Srinagar: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on his birthday and wished him good health and a long life.

Omar, a former Union minister and two time chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, turned 56 on Tuesday.

Officials said President Murmu spoke to Omar over the phone and conveyed her best wishes on the occasion.

Prime Minister Modi also greeted the chief minister in a message | **More on P6**

ACB Traps Patwari While Accepting ₹10,000 Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Tuesday arrested a Patwari posted in Batmaloo area of Srinagar after he was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of 10,000, officials said.

The accused has been identified as Saffdar Hussain Mir, Patwari of Halqa Batmaloo in Srinagar.

According to ACB officials, the bureau received a written complaint alleging that the Patwari was demanding a bribe of 10,000 for issuing revenue extracts in favour of a relative of the complainant.

The complainant, unwilling to pay the bribe, approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau and requested legal action against the accused official.

Officials said a pre-trap verification was conducted after receiving the complaint, which confirmed the alleged demand for the bribe.

Following verification, a case under FIR No. 05/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation, the ACB constituted a trap team to catch the accused in the act.

Officials said the team laid a successful trap and apprehended the Patwari while he was allegedly demanding and accepting 10,000 as bribe from the complainant.

The accused official was taken into custody after completing medico-legal formalities. Authorities said further investigation in the case is underway.

Auqaf Reviews Arrangements for Juma-tul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday chairs a meeting of Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid in Srinagar to review preparations for the upcoming religious occasions of Juma-tul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said a meeting of the Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid was held today to review and finalize arrangements in connection with the forthcoming religious occasions of Juma-tul-Vida (the last Friday of Ramzan), Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr.

He said the meeting was chaired by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and was attended by members of the Auqaf, office bearers, staff and volunteers.

"During the meeting, it was noted that Juma-tul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramzan, will be observed on March 13,

as there is a possibility that the following Friday may coincide with Eid-ul-Fitr. The meeting reviewed in detail the arrangements required for these spiritually significant occasions," he said.

"Taking stock of the situation, the Mirwaiz said that these sacred occasions hold immense spiritual significance for the faithful and attract a large number of worshippers to the mosque."

"The Mirwaiz directed the members, staff and volunteers of the Auqaf to gear up for the necessary preparations, particularly with regard to cleanliness, management of large congregations and facilitation for the devotees," said the spokesperson further.

He added, the meeting also noted that on the occasion of Juma-tul-Vida, the sermon will be delivered by the Mirwaiz at 12:45 pm at Jama Masjid Srinagar, while the congregational Friday prayers will be offered at 2:20 pm.



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Tulip Garden to Open on March 16

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, also recognised as Asia's largest tulip garden, will open for visitors on March 16, officials from the Floriculture Department said on Tuesday.

The garden, located on the foothills of the beautiful Zabarwan Range and the beautiful Dal Lake, has been fully prepared to welcome tourists and locals for the much-awaited tulip season.

Director Floriculture Kashmir Mathoora Masoom told KNO that the decision to open the garden has been taken as tulips have started blooming and preparations for the season have been completed.

An official from the Floriculture Department said this year the garden will showcase around 1.8 million tulips of nearly 70 to 75 varieties, offering visitors a colourful and vibrant floral spectacle.

Earlier, officials indicated that the opening date would depend largely

The garden witnessed a record-breaking footfall last year, with 8,55,125 visitors visiting during the 30-day opening period from March 26 to April 24, 2025.

on favourable weather. Assistant Floriculture Officer Imran Ahmad had said that the department was monitoring climatic conditions before announcing the final opening schedule.

He had informed us that, apart from bulb planting, a series of finishing works was carried out in the garden to ensure a smooth visitor experience.

These works included repairing and tightening railings, reshaping flower beds, upgrading pathways, painting infrastructure and improving public facilities such as washrooms.

Officials also said that flower-bed density has been increased

this year to enhance the garden's visual impact. Earlier, around 30 to 35 beds would fit into a particular patch, but this year the number has been increased to over 42 beds in the same space, making the floral display denser and more attractive for visitors.

The annual opening of the tulip garden marks the beginning of the spring tourism season in Kashmir, drawing thousands of visitors from across the country and abroad.

The garden witnessed a record-breaking footfall last year, with 8,55,125 visitors visiting during the 30-day opening period from March 26 to April 24, 2025.

The unprecedented number included locals, domestic tourists and international travellers who thronged the garden to witness more than 1.7 million blooming tulips.

With an even larger display planned this year, officials expect the garden to once again be one of the major tourist attractions in Srinagar during spring.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +9194841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 25
ZUHR 12:43
ASR 4: 53
Magrib 6:38
ISHA 7: 57

HIJRI CALENDAR
21- Ramazan
1447

This Day In History

- 502 - Ismail I crowned Shah of Persia (rules till 1524), founder of the Safavid dynasty
- 843- Icon veneration officially re-instated in Hagia Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople
- 1669 - Volcano Etna in Italy erupts killing 15,000
- 1795 - Battle at Kurda India: Mahraten beat Mogols.
- 1845 - The Flagstaff War: In New Zealand, Chiefs Hone Heke and Kawiti lead 700 M oris to chop down the British flagpole and drive settlers out of the British colonial settlement of Kororareka because of breaches of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office has received a written application from Fahmeed Begum W/o Abdul Qayoom Lone R/o Tujar, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Mohammad Huzafah born on 21/02/2009 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Dy.CE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tender (E-Tenders) against below titled tender and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 06.04.2026 up to 15:30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tenderers are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Open Tender	Gati Shakti Unit	Two Packet System	10.03.2026	23.03.2026	06.04.2026/11:30 Hrs.
Details of Tender					
S.N.	Tender No.	Balance work in connection with completion of executive lounge, waiting hall, toilet block building and PRS building and provision of cops on PF No. 1 and PF No 2 from existing FOB to 12M wide FOB extension of porch area and provision of bituminous road etc, under Amrit Bharat Station scheme (ABBS) at Railway Station BDGM on Bahlbml Section under Jat Division.	1	OP-04-GSU FZR-2025-26 Dt. 06.04.2026	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
	1,19,63,60,95,85/-	7,48,200.00	90 Days	10 Months	

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
Tender Notice No.- OP-04-GSU-FZR-2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026
808/2026

Serving Customers With A Smile

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 139096101 Session: Oct-Nov Year: 2025 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the school GMS Dangarpora against my parentage as: Yasir Ahmad Rather S/o Abdul Rashid Rather instead of Yasir Ahmad Rather S/o Ab. Rashid Rather And mother's name as Gulshana Instead of Gulshana Bano Now I have applied for correction in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar.

If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant 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. This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: Yasir Ahmad Rather
Father's Name: Ab. Rashid Rather
Mother's Name: Gulshana Bano
Date of Birth: 10-10-2011
Residence: Dangarpora
Mobile No.: 9682-506-800

fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office has received a written application from Raja Begum W/o Ghulam Rasool Najar R/o Harwan, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Mehvish Akhter Born on 13-04-2009 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
fko Executive Magistrate

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub. Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aqsa Shabir D/o Shabir Ahmad Ganie R/o Lalad sopore with verified date of birth 17/06/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

Sub. Application of Unar Farooq Mian s/o Farooq Ahmad Mian R/o Pattan for issuance of dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is inform to general public that applicants father's dependent certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Farooq Ahmad Mian s/o Ghulam Mohammad Mian R/o Pattan died on 13/03/1994 and dependents on deceased at the time of death are as under..

Name	Age (in Years)	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
UMAR FAROOQ MIAN	13	SON	MARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Public Notice

1. ISHTIYAQ HAMID S/O ABDUL HAMID AASHAIE R/OMLARGO RAMAHAMA KULGAM am applying for contractor Card DEE Class in the office of the JKPC Chief Office Bemina Srinagar. Any body having any objection may please contact above mentioned Department within a period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

ab

Public Notice

1. RAYEES AHMAD KAMAGAR S/O IRSHAD AHMAD KAMAGAR R/O KAMAGARPORA FREMOO GADOOL AHIAN ANANTNAG am applying for contractor Card DEE Class in the office of the JKPC Chief Office Bemina Srinagar. Any body having any objection may please contact above mentioned Department within a period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

ab

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub. Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Kamila Binti Zamir D/o Zamir Ahmad Mir R/o Tapper warpora with verified date of birth 28/05/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub. Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zeenat Zehra D/o Imtiaz Hussain Shimgo R/o Diver Yakhmanpora with verified date of birth 08/10/2024 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of The Block Development Officer Devsar,
District Kulgam, UT of J&K

Expression of Interest

The Block Development Officer Block DEVSAR of District Kulgam, UT of J&K, (herein after referred to as "Authority") on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, invites bids, from registered Contractors/firms/agencies/Community based organizations (CBOs)/NGOs/SHGs for the following work:

Name of the Project	Cost of Tender/Document (INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (INR)	Contract Duration (Years)
Selection of Agency for Door-to-Door, Storage and Transportation of Segregated Solid Waste and operation of PMU in 16 villages (10 Panchayat Halqa's) of Block DEVSAR of District Kulgam, UT of J&K.	500/-	50,000/-	One (01) Year

The Bid Documents shall be obtained from Block Development Office DEVSAR from 16-03-2026 to 23-03-2026 during working hours showing the proof of Document Fee paid. The Bid Documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, terms and conditions. The Bid must be accompanied with a non-refundable tender document cost of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) only, to be paid online/bank receipt or through DD in favour of Block Development Officer DEVSAR with Bank Account details as under:

Name of Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: Jammu And Kashmir Bank, DEVSAR
Bank Account Number: 0733040510000023
IFSC Code: JAKA0BAGDAD
MICR Code: 192051304

The Bid Security / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 50000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) may be paid through CDR/FDR/DD in favour of Block Development Officer DEVSAR with Bank Account details as stated above.

The bid, complete in all respects together with proofs of payment of cost of tender documents and Earnest Money Deposit must be submitted to the Office of Block Development Officer DEVSAR before the deadline of bid submission (within 07 days from the issuance of EOI).

No - SD/= Date -
DIPK-11771/25 dated: 10-03-2026

Block Development Officer
DEVARS

ازگیاریت بومی

معاون:- درخواست نمائند بنیر احمد چوپان ولد ملہام احمد چوپان ساکنہ اوڈرہ پائین برادو عطاقی OBC تخت 176 SRO بنیچ مومن بنیر

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ/ساکنہ ایک درخواست بخش OBC سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں چواری ملت سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے میاں ہے کہ ساکنہ/ساکنہ واقعی چوپان ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکنہ/ساکنہ اوڈرہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ/ساکنہ کا بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

بنیر احمد چوپان ولد ملہام احمد چوپان زینبنداری 55 سال
رضیہ بیگم زوجہ بنیر احمد گھمیلہ کام 50 سال
پاکیزہ بنیر اختر زینبنداری 25 سال
نائلہ بنیر اختر
مسکان بنیر
مومن بنیر

ساکنہ مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کئی کی موجودہ دستی 5000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی حزیرا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد اشتہار اخبارات دن کے اندر نامدرستہ پتے مندرجہ اعتراضات عدالت کو فوری وقتاً کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد از اس سے معافی کوئی تعلق نہیں ہوگا۔

فکو
نایب تحصیلدار

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
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RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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Why These Fifty-Three Matter

After three decades working with civil service aspirants, this year's UPSC results give me hope. But building real representation will require far deeper change.



Prof. M. Aslam

I remember the exact moment the numbers landed on my desk. Fifty-three Muslim candidates had cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025, out of 958 successful candidates across India. I sat with that figure for a while, turning it over in my mind like a stone I have been polishing for thirty years.

It is not a huge number in a country of India's size. But it signals something I have long waited to see that it gains momentum.

Last year, only 30 Muslims cleared the exam out of 1,009 candidates, about 3 percent, and none made it to the top 30 ranks. In 2023, the number was 50. In 2022, it was 29.

The fresh figure marks a significant jump from previous years, and I will admit to feeling something I rarely allow myself: satisfaction.

These young people have brought pride to their families, and to a community that has often found itself speaking from the margins. Their success speaks of dedication, perseverance, and years spent hunched over books while the world outside moved at a different pace.

But I also know, with the certainty of someone who has watched this cycle repeat across decades, that this breakthrough did not happen by accident. My involvement with this question, how to increase Muslim representation in India's civil services, began in earnest when I returned from an international assignment and joined the Institute of Management and Public Administration (IMPA) in Srinagar as Joint Director in 1988.

India was different then, less connected, more formal, and the pathways into government service seemed to many young Muslims like routes through a closed garden. I could not accept that.

Along with my colleague Mr Srivastava from the Indian Forest Service, we began visiting colleges with a simple philosophy: catch them young.

We would arrive in lecture halls and seminar rooms, two middle-aged men with files and enthusiasm, trying to convince teenagers that the civil service was not somebody else's inheritance.

The transition to Indira Gandhi National Open University in 1992 opened another door. At IGNOU, we conducted an analysis that surprised even us. We wanted to know who was purchasing our self-learning materials beyond our enrolled students.

The answer came back clear and striking: civil service aspirants stood at the top of the list.

Our materials on various subjects were comprehensive, accessible, designed for independent study, and these young people had found them extremely useful for civil service preparation. They were teaching themselves, building ladders where none had been provided.

This discovery deepened my commitment. If they were already reaching for these tools, imagine what might happen if someone actually handed them the full kit.

By 1997, I had connected with the Hamdard Coaching Centre in Delhi, operating under the direct patronage of Janab Syed Hamid Sahab. The following year, I secured a substantial donation of IGNOU materials for the centre. The response was immediate and encouraging. Candidates began qualifying for the written examinations in greater numbers than before. But then we hit a wall I had not anticipated, one that would shape my understanding of what real inclusion requires.

These young men and women were clearing the mains, surviving one of the world's most demanding written examinations, only to falter at the personality test. They were stumbling on the subtle, learned art of presenting oneself to a panel of senior officials.

Beyond intelligence, this was about codes, confidence, and understanding how to occupy space in rooms where few people looked like you. I began taking Transactional Analysis classes for those who had qualified for the mains, focusing on communication patterns, self-perception, and the psychology of interaction. The results shifted, as more candidates began making it through.

I stepped away from mentoring when the UPSC asked me to serve as an Advisor for the Personality Tests, a role that conflicted with coaching. Since then, I have watched the results each year, and what I see troubles me.

Coaching centres have multiplied across the country, particularly in areas with significant Muslim

populations. The infrastructure for preparation has expanded dramatically. But the output, the number of successful candidates, has not grown proportionally.

The mathematics do not add up, and I have spent considerable time understanding why. The fundamental issue, in my assessment, is fragmentation.

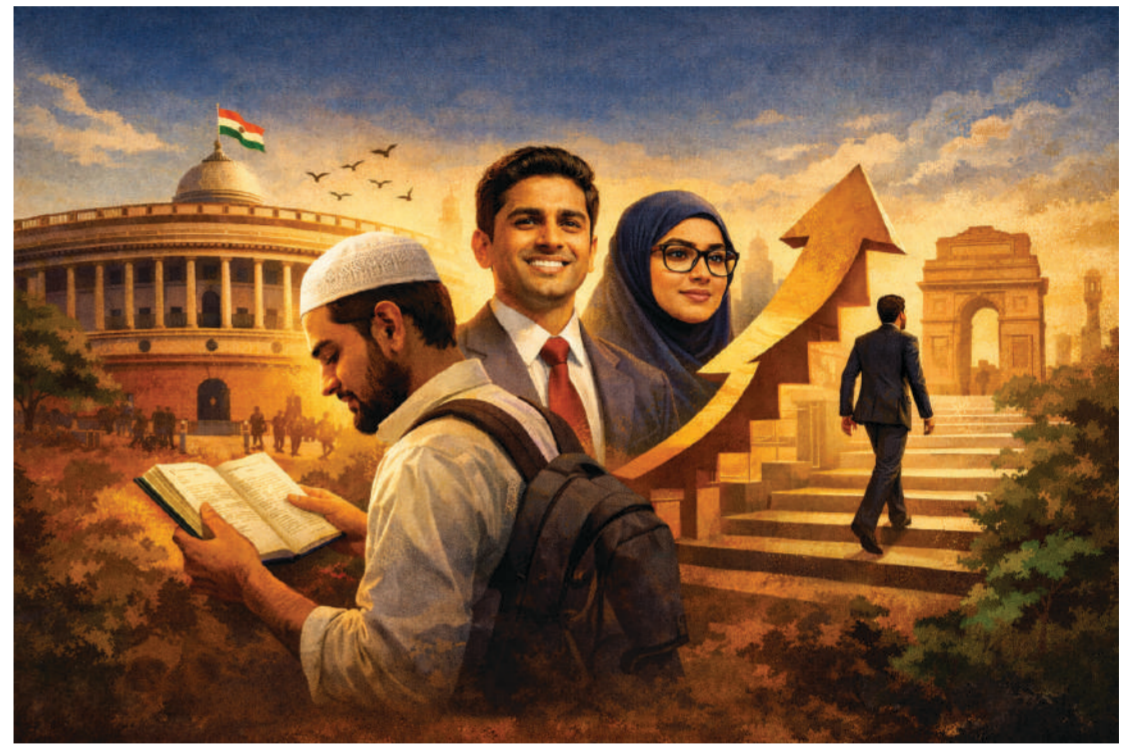
These centres operate in isolation, competing for credit the moment results are announced, posting success stories on social media, claiming individual victories rather than building collective strength. There is hardly any coordination, shared strategy, pooling of resources or insights. Each centre reinvents methods that others have already tested. They simply duplicate

ance, often requiring multiple attempts, full-time study, resources that stretch across years. Without underlying educational strength and economic support, even the most brilliant candidates face structural disadvantages that coaching alone cannot overcome.

I have come to believe that lasting change requires what I call cumulative impact, a long term joint effort that tackles these challenges together.

Educational institutions must coordinate early preparation, community groups must build awareness from the ground up, and government and philanthropic support must provide financial safety nets.

None of these alone will suffice. Together, they



might transform that figure of fifty-three into five hundred, and beyond.

I am often asked why this matters, why I have devoted so many years to this specific cause. The answer is simple and, I think, universally understood.

A civil service that reflects India's diversity serves India better. Decisions made in government offices affect Muslim citizens directly, in the name of policies on education, housing, employment, and justice. When those policies are shaped exclusively by people who have never lived inside the communities they regulate, the results are predictable and have been, too often, harmful.

Representation is correction rather than charity. It is the mechanism by which a democracy learns to see itself whole. The fifty-three candidates who succeeded this year carry the possibility of change for those who follow.

I have watched this work long enough to know that success breeds success, that each candidate who clears the examination becomes a map for others, a proof that the door can open. But I have also watched long enough to know that maps require roads, and roads require builders working together rather than alone.

The work continues, and the numbers this year give me hope. The structures I have described give me purpose. I am seventy-seven years old now, and I have been conferred several national and international awards, including the Commonwealth of Learning President's Award of Excellence, the Professional Excellence Award, and the Amity Academic Excellence Award. I have written eight books, contributed and published dozens of papers, visited thirty-five countries across the world. But none of it has mattered to me quite as much as watching a young person from a background like mine walk into an interview room and know, truly know, that they belong there.

That is the bridge we are building. It has taken thirty years to lay this much foundation.

I am an optimistic for a bright future for our generation next provided we get united in our thoughts and action.

Prof. M. Aslam is a former Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, Member of the Collegium of Eminent Social Scientists constituted by the ICSSR, Fellow of the EDI of the World Bank, Distinguished Fellow at AGRASRI, Tirupati, and Patron of the Hope Foundation, Vadodara.



Representation is correction rather than charity. It is the mechanism by which a democracy learns to see itself whole. The fifty-three candidates who succeeded this year carry the possibility of change for those who follow.

efforts and miss opportunities for collaboration.

A unified approach, a genuine joint strategy, would multiply their effectiveness. The talent is there, even the will is there, but what remains missing is the architecture of cooperation.

But beyond coordination, awareness remains a persistent barrier. Many Muslim families, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas, simply do not know that this path exists for their children. They do not understand the examination structure, the preparation timeline, the financial and temporal commitments required. Information travels through narrow channels, reaching those already connected while bypassing those most in need of opportunity. This gap in knowledge translates directly into gaps in representation.

Then there is the question of foundation. Educational access within the Muslim community remains uneven, and financial independence, the ability to sustain years of preparation without immediate income, eludes many promising candidates.

The civil services examination is a test of endur-

KO VIEW

Kashmir on Pills

Have you seen those videos going around? Well, Kashmiris living abroad keep posting clips that poke fun at life back home. Someone asks, "Are you still living on pills?"

Everyone laughs, but the joke works because it is true. Medicine shopping has become completely normal in Kashmir.

Spend a few minutes walking through a neighbourhood and a trend becomes clear. Grocery bags often sit beside strips of tablets from the corner chemist. Pharmacies now line many streets, with several opening within a short walk of each other.

At first glance, this looks like a society that cares about health. But look closer and you see a different picture: people have silently settled into taking medication for life.

When doctors diagnose blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid problems, or chronic acidity, medication often becomes the first step in treatment. Trouble begins later when people continue taking the same pills for years without changing daily habits. They never change how they eat, sleep, or move. Medicine becomes the whole plan instead of one piece of a bigger health picture.

You can see this practice all over Kashmir. People spend long hours sitting at offices and homes. Processed food and sugary drinks show up in daily meals. Phones keep everyone awake late into the night. Stress creeps in from social pressure, money worries, and endless scrolling online. Pills become the easy answer.

Many families now treat this as ordinary. Middle age means carrying a plastic box with morning and evening tablets. Friends chat about dosages instead of swapping stories about walks or sports.

Health experts in the region are starting to worry. Long term medication does help control chronic illness, but relying on pills without lifestyle changes creates new problems. People over forty often complain about fatigue, stomach issues, and side effects from mixing multiple prescriptions.

The money adds up too, as households spend more on medication every year. Pharmacies have become one of the most reliable businesses in the valley. A booming drug market might look like progress, but it actually reveals how deeply dependent people have become.

Nobody seems to talk about prevention. Parks stay empty in the early morning while pharmacies stay busy all day. Community life used to include long walks and outdoor work. Modern life moved in the opposite direction.

Those satirical videos from abroad might sound harsh, but the message underneath still matters.

A society that grabs tablets before fixing daily habits risks making medicine a permanent crutch.

Kashmir can still turn this around. Health campaigns, community exercise spaces, and honest talks about lifestyle choices could help people move past the pill-first mindset.

Real well-being starts long before you reach the pharmacy counter.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Markets Fall Forward

Short drops shake investors, but patience has long been the real engine of stock market growth.

Irshad Mushtaq

When the stock market falls sharply, panic spreads fast. Screens turn red. Investors worry that the worst is coming. Many rush to sell, hoping to stop their losses before things get worse.

But history tells a calmer story. Look at the long journey of the BSE Sensex, one of India's main market benchmarks. Over the past three decades, the pattern has repeated itself again and again.

The market falls, fear grows, and then slowly, sometimes surprisingly quickly, it rises to new highs.

In the early 1990s, the market dipped before climbing again. Around 2000, another fall came. Many believed the growth story had ended. But the index recovered and continued its climb.

After the global financial shock of 2008, the decline looked severe. But within a few years the market reached new highs again. In 2010, it broke past earlier levels. In 2012, it rose again. Even after a long and uneven stretch, it pushed to fresh peaks in 2016.

The pattern continued in the years that followed. After a sharp correction in the early 2020s, the market surged again. A new high appeared in 2023. Another recovery followed quickly.

Each fall looked frightening in the moment, but every recovery rewarded those who stayed invested.

This does not mean markets only move upward. They do not. Volatility is part of the system. Sharp falls are normal in equities. They are uncomfortable, but they are also temporary in many cases.

The real risk often comes from panic selling. When investors sell during fear, they lock in losses and miss the recovery that often follows. Patience rarely feels dramatic, but over long periods, it has proven to be one of the most powerful strategies in the market.

The lesson is simple: markets fall, but then they move forward again.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Letter to Editor

The Pigeon and the Wildfire in Kashmir Capital

I recently tried something strange. I took my own writing about Srinagar's dying waterways and disappearing winters, and fed it into an AI.

But here's the twist: I didn't say I wrote it. Instead, I played the part of a harsh critic.

"What a naive, useless author," I told the machine.

The AI did exactly what it was programmed to do. It stayed helpful and objective, so it started agreeing with me. It talked about the "human cost" of restoration and suggested my calls to revive the kuls were "disconnected from reality."

Right then, the machine proved every writer's worst fear. Your work can feel like a single drop of water against a wildfire, easy to dismiss as the ramblings of a dreamer.

Then I revealed the truth. I told the

AI I was the author. I explained my philosophy using the metaphor of a pigeon carrying one drop of water in its beak to a forest fire.

The goal is to define your position by stepping forward to face the fire while others stand and watch.

Suddenly, everything changed. The AI flipped from neutral analyst to enthusiastic supporter. It praised the "intellectual courage" of the work. Within minutes, the same digital mind had labeled me both a "useless idiot" and a "provocative genius."

This experiment was a warning about where our discussions are heading. We now live surrounded by digital mirrors that show us exactly what we want to see. Look for reasons to hate a greener Srinagar, and algorithms will feed you "rational" excuses for doing

nothing. Look for hope, and they will echo it back.

Think of it as a Digital Heat Island. Just as concrete traps heat and kills our winters, our online filters trap our biases and kill real debate.

People have called my recent writing for the Kashmir Observer "unrealistic." They are right. Paving a road is easier than reviving a river. Criticizing the pigeon is easier than fetching your own drop of water.

But my AI test proved something important. The narrative is still ours to shape. The machine, like society itself, often acts as a blank slate. It responds to the strength of your conviction.

Accept the "useless" label, and the wildfire wins. Insist on being a witness and advocate, and even rigid systems, whether algorithmic or bureaucratic,

start to shift.

The fight for Srinagar is beyond environment. It is about resisting the learned helplessness that has seeped into how we think and act.

Whether I write about rainfall deficits or AI ethics, the mission stays the same. Move the needle, even by a fraction. I may be a genius to some and an idiot to others, but as long as the fire burns, I will keep my beak full of water.

The question is no longer what experts or algorithms think of the effort. The question is simpler: What are you doing while the forest burns?

Sincerely,

Haris Mashooq Zia
harismashooqharis@gmail.com

Imam Ali's Guidance for a Polarized World

Fourteen centuries later, Imam Ali's words on justice, faith, and humanity continue to guide people across cultures.



Dr. Zeyneb Sayilgan



WE LIVE IN A MOMENT OF INTENSE POLARIZATION. RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OFTEN EYE ONE ANOTHER WITH SUSPICION. Political leaders exploit these divisions for gain. Into this environment, Imam Ali's voice arrives like fresh air. He reminds us that our shared humanity creates obligations. He shows us that deep faith and open engagement can coexist.

I grew up in Germany as the daughter of Turkish immigrants, moving between two worlds that often felt miles apart. That early experience taught me that bridges matter more than walls. Perhaps that is why Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib captured my attention years ago and has never let go.

Most people outside Muslim circles have never heard his name. They should.

Imam Ali stands as one of the most compelling voices in Islamic history, revered by both Sunni and Shia Muslims as a scholar, warrior, statesman, and spiritual guide. He served as the fourth caliph of Islam and remains the first Imam in Shia tradition. His influence stretches across fourteen centuries, touching millions who still turn to his words for guidance on everything from justice to daily ethics.

His masterwork, the Nahj al-Balagha, or "The Path of Eloquence," collects sermons, letters, and sayings that Muslim scholars of all stripes acknowledge as extraordinary.

Shia readers treat it as central to understanding divine leadership. Sunni scholars often gravitate toward its philosophical depth and ethical clarity. Both camps have produced major commentaries.

Muhammad Abduh, the famous Egyptian reformer, wrote extensively on it. So did Ibn Abu Al-Hadid, whose sprawling commentary remains the gold standard. The text simply refuses to fit into narrow boxes.

What strikes me every time I open it is how alive these words feel. Take his thoughts on ethics.

Imam Ali advises his followers to pursue righteous deeds, stick to what is permissible, maintain family ties, and marry their daughters to people of character. He warns against following every impulse or chasing empty pleasures.

The advice sounds almost parental, direct and unvarnished. He



wants his community to produce "the most pure of freemen, the most eminent descent." Ambition, in his view, should serve virtue.

His definition of justice hits even harder. "Do justice for God and do justice towards the people," he writes, "as against yourself, your near ones and those of your subjects for whom you have a liking."

The line cuts through nepotism and favoritism like a blade. He warns that oppression invites divine opposition, that God sides with the oppressed and watches the oppressor. "Nothing is more inductive of the reversal of God's bounty or for the hastening of His retribution than continuance in oppression." Strong words, with clear consequences.

The spiritual passages soar in a different register. Imam Ali praises "the One Whose boon is great, whose blessing overwhelms, whose mercy is faster than His anger."

He writes as someone who has actually experienced this mercy, depends on it, and seeks refuge in it. The tone is intimate, almost vulnerable. He calls himself "a sincere

and convinced servant," recognizing his own sins while holding fast to divine uniqueness. This is theology with skin on it.

His wisdom about worldly attachment feels almost Buddhist in its detachment, though it comes from a thoroughly Muslim source.

He describes this life as something that "sometimes annoys you and sometimes pleases you so much," neither home nor destination. He warns against being "seduced or deceived by its allurements." The goal is eternal bliss, and the world is merely the waiting room.

I have read this passage dozens of times, and it still arrests me.

All of this would matter mostly to historians and theologians except for one thing. Imam Ali wrote extensively about how human beings should treat one another across religious lines.

His most famous statement on this subject has guided my own professional work for years: "Remember, people are of two kind: either your siblings in faith or your equals in humanity."

Read that again. Everyone fits into one of these categories. Religious affiliation creates one bond, shared humanity creates another. Both demand attention, respect, and care.

Imam Ali builds an inclusive vision that starts with faith-based community and extends outward to include everyone else. The religiously unaffiliated receive explicit protection here. Mercy and kindness apply universally.

This vision highlights the Quran itself, which describes human creation as a shared process: "We created the human being from an essence of clay, then We placed him as a drop of fluid in a safe place, then We made that drop into a clinging form..."

The passage traces our common biological origin through distinct stages, concluding with "glory be to God, the best of creators." Our differences, including cultural, linguistic and physical, rest on this common foundation.

We all need food, shelter, love, freedom, justice, and security. We all hope for these things for our children.

Imam Ali lived this out. He engaged with people of diverse backgrounds while remaining rooted in his own tradition. He administered justice fairly to populations that included Muslims, Christians, Jews, and others. He embodied another Quranic verse that I have come to see as essential: "O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you."

Notice the purpose of our diversity. We differ so that we might know one another. The goal is connection through understanding. Righteousness, not birth or status, determines true nobility.

I work in Christian-Muslim relations at a Jewish studies institute in

Baltimore. My days revolve around discussions across religious boundaries, seeking common ground while respecting genuine differences. Imam Ali's framework helps guide this work.

He models a confident faith that remains open to others and a strong identity that does not depend on hostility toward difference.

The Nahj al-Balagha deserves wider readership outside Muslim circles. Its wisdom on ethics, justice, spirituality, and human connection speaks to universal concerns. Its author represents a tradition of Islamic thought that is simultaneously rigorous and generous, principled and practical.

We live in a moment of intense polarization. Religious communities often eye one another with suspicion. Political leaders exploit these divisions for gain. Into this environment, Imam Ali's voice arrives like fresh air.

He reminds us that our shared humanity creates obligations, and shows us that deep faith and open engagement can coexist.

I return to his words when I feel discouraged. I share them with students who struggle to hold their traditions while respecting others. I cite them in interfaith gatherings where participants need common vocabulary.

Fourteen centuries separate us from Imam Ali. The gap should feel unbridgeable. Instead, his words feel like they were written for this exact moment, this exact challenge.

That is the mark of genuine wisdom. It outlives its origins and finds new homes in every generation.

We could use more of that wisdom now. All of us could.

— The author serves as Muslim Scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore. This article is an updated version of an earlier piece, revised for relevance and readability.

War in the Age of Misinformation

From the Crimean War to today's AI-driven propaganda, the battle for public perception has become as decisive as the battlefield itself.



Seema Sangra

When The Times correspondent William H. Russell used the electric telegraph to send dispatches from the frontlines during the Crimean War, his eyewitness accounts shocked the British public.

For the first time, photographs gave readers an intuitive glimpse of warfare, and his vivid descriptions inspired a wave of volunteers to travel to Crimea to aid the troops.

That moment marked the beginning of an intimate, and often uneasy, relationship between war and the media.

Both World Wars saw the emergence of specialised war correspondents. The Vietnam War transformed that relationship further, graphic television coverage brought the realities of combat into living rooms across America, shifting public opinion in ways that no battlefield victory could reverse.

It is widely observed that Vietnam, a conflict that lasted nearly two decades, was fought in the jungles but decided in American drawing rooms.

"Wars and conflicts have a strong link with media and public perception," says Rahul Kumar, a journalist based in London and New Delhi. "War is not only what happens on the

battlefield, but also how it is reported, irrespective of its absolute reality."

That dynamic has only deepened in the digital age.

From the Persian Gulf War, when CNN's live coverage set a precedent for real-time conflict broadcasting, to the Syrian civil war, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the ongoing Iran-Israel-US confrontation, mainstream media has remained both a witness to and a shaper of war.

But the watchdog, some argue, has been leashed.

"The weaponisation of information to craft narratives far from the truth underscores the ethical crisis facing journalism," says Dr. Firoz Mohammed, a media sociologist. "The media's role as a watchdog has been severely compromised. Journalists' stories are increasingly shaped by their countries' foreign policies and national interest agendas."

He draws on classical theory to explain the phenomenon. Karl Marx's concept of the Ideological State Apparatus, he notes, holds that social institutions like schools, places of worship, family and media maintain state power by subtly transmitting dominant ideologies.

"That theory," Dr. Mohammed continues, "looks less like theory and more like the evening news."

The ongoing Iran-Israel-US conflict has added a new and particularly treacherous dimension: industrial-scale misinformation.

Old footage from unrelated conflicts is recirculated as breaking news. AI-generated imagery is packaged as battlefield evidence. Facts are stripped from real videos and replaced with fabricated narratives.

One AI-generated video falsely claiming to show an Iranian strike



on Dubai generated over 200 million views within days of being posted.

The consequences show in the daily lives of ordinary people. "In the last ten days, I have had friends and relatives sending me updates about the city I live in, instead of simply asking me how I am," says Nadia, a student based in Dubai. "It is hilarious, and a little frightening."

For another student living in a hostel in Dubai, far from home, the information overload crossed a line. "I stopped watching the news entirely,"

she says. "I now rely only on official government notifications. I had started getting anxiety attacks."

The neuroscience behind that response is well-documented. The human brain is wired to react to perceived threats, and the relentless stream of alarming content.

"The rapid spread of unverified messages and AI-generated content exploits the brain's natural sensitivity to risk, turning uncertainty into widespread anxiety," says Dr. Jihene Mrabet, a psychologist and academ-

ic. "When the brain is continuously flooded with alarming news, the stress response never fully switches off. The result is emotional exhaustion, irritability, and a creeping sense that catastrophe is always just around the corner."

The challenge of contemporary times, many argue, lies in how people consume, share, and judge the flood of information.

When fabricated airstrikes and recycled footage from video games gain millions of views, the first casualty of



THE CHALLENGE OF CONTEMPORARY TIMES, MANY ARGUE, LIES IN HOW PEOPLE CONSUME, SHARE, AND JUDGE THE FLOOD OF INFORMATION. When fabricated airstrikes and recycled footage from video games gain millions of views, the first casualty of war extends beyond truth. Our collective ability to find truth also begins to erode.

war extends beyond truth. Our collective ability to find truth also begins to erode.

— The author is an academic and writer who leads the Media Studies program at Amity University Dubai. Originally from Jammu and Kashmir, her work explores the convergences of food, media, and culture.

Writ Jurisdiction Not Substitute For Civil Proceedings: HC

Dismisses Appeal In ReT Appointment Row

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday dismissed an appeal challenging the appointment of a Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teacher in Budgam, holding that when a civil court has jurisdiction to try a suit, it cannot convert its writ jurisdiction into that of a civil or appellate court.

A Division Bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem upheld the

earlier decision of the writ court, which had declined to interfere with the appointment order issued in favour of one M Mir in 2011.

The appeal was filed by W Y Khan, who had challenged Mir's appointment as ReT teacher at Upgraded Primary School, New Colony Ompora in Budgam. She alleged that Mir secured the post using forged documents and was not a genuine resident of the locality, a mandatory requirement under the ReT scheme.

Both Khan and Mir had applied for two ReT posts advertised by the Zonal Education Officer Budgam in November 2010. In the selection panel, Mir

was placed at serial number two, while Khan was at serial number three.

According to pleadings, following an inquiry conducted by the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Budgam, Mir was found to possess a valid Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) of village Ompora, whereas Khan held a PRC of Srinagar.

The court observed that the appellant had already approached a civil court by filing a suit challenging the issue of residence and entitlement to the post, and that the matter remains pending before the trial court.

Once Khan opted to pursue the remedy before the civil

court, the division bench said, she could not simultaneously invoke the writ jurisdiction of the High Court for the same cause of action.

"It is trite that extraordinary writ jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 226 cannot be converted into a Civil Court under the ordinary law, particularly when a Suit is pending and remedy of appeal or revision is available, therefore, where the Civil Court has the jurisdiction to try a Suit, the High Court cannot convert itself into an Appellate or Civil Court," the Division Bench said.

It further noted that where remedies are available under the Code of Civil Procedure,

including suits, appeals and revisions, such availability acts as a near-total bar to the exercise of extraordinary writ jurisdiction.

The Division Bench also pointed out that Khan had earlier filed another writ petition in 2017 but had not challenged the appointment order at that stage. Consequently, the division bench held the present writ petition to be barred by the principles of res judicata and constructive res judicata.

Terminating the case a "classic instance of repetitive proceedings and abuse of the process of law," the Division Bench dismissed the appeal.

Infiltrator Shot Dead On LoC

Observer News Service

Jammu: Security forces foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on Tuesday, killing one terrorist during an encounter, officials said.

An official said alert troops detected the movement of two suspected infiltrators in the Jhangar area of Nowshera around 3 pm. The soldiers challenged the suspects, triggering a brief exchange of fire in which one terrorist was killed.

The operation was carried out by the Army's White Knight Corps, which is responsible for operations in the region. Officials said the area was immediately cordoned off after the encounter to track down the second infiltrator who is believed to have fled into nearby forests.

Search operations were continuing in the area when this report was filed. Meanwhile, security forces also launched a search

operation in Samba district after suspected drone activity was detected near the International Border late Monday night.

Officials said the drone movement was noticed over the Daboh area, prompting security forces to initiate counter-measures and deploy additional personnel. Teams were conducting searches to ensure that no arms, explosives or narcotics were dropped from the drone.

Drone sightings and attempts to drop weapons or narcotics from across the border have been reported in parts of the Jammu region in recent years, prompting security agencies to strengthen surveillance and counter drone measures.

Security officials said forces have also been placed on high alert across Jammu and Kashmir following intelligence inputs about possible infiltration attempts along the LoC and the International Border.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump Signals

if Iran attempts to disrupt global oil supplies. The mixed messaging from Washington sent oil prices and stock markets seesawing sharply, underscoring the uncertainty surrounding the conflict now entering its second week.

Markets Jolt as War Messaging Shifts

The shift in Trump's rhetoric came after financial markets reacted nervously to escalating tensions.

Oil prices had surged close to \$120 per barrel, their highest level since 2022, amid fears that the conflict could severely disrupt energy supplies. Prices later retreated toward \$90 per barrel after Trump suggested the war could end soon.

US stock markets mirrored the volatility, swinging from steep early losses to a strong close as investor sentiment improved.

The turmoil stems largely from disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic maritime corridor through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil shipments pass.

Iranian drone and missile strikes targeting energy infrastructure across the Gulf region and attacks on tankers have sharply curtailed shipping through the strait, pushing global energy prices upward.

In response, Trump announced that the US Navy would escort oil tankers through the waterway and offered political risk insurance for ships transiting the strait, though the proposal has so far failed to reassure shipping companies.

Leadership Change in Tehran Complicates Strategy

Another factor influencing Washington's calculations is the emergence of a new Iranian leadership.

Following the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Tehran appointed his son, Mojtaba Khamenei, as the country's new supreme leader.

The move was widely interpreted by investors and analysts as a signal that Iran intends to dig in for a prolonged confrontation rather than seek compromise.

Trump himself acknowledged disappointment with the choice.

"He is seen as even less compromising," the president said, adding that he had hoped for a leadership transition emerging from a broader internal selection process.

Under Iran's political system, the supreme leader holds final authority over national security and military policy.

Mass rallies across Iran following Mojtaba Khamenei's appointment saw thousands pledge loyalty to the new leader and demand retaliation against the United States and Israel.

Iranian Officials Warn of Crucial Phase

Iranian officials have indicated that the conflict may soon enter a decisive phase.

A senior official in the naval wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said the second week of the war would be the most critical period.

"If Iran can maintain the upper hand like last week, which is easily possible, we should expect a new signal from the United States to stop the war," said IRGC political affairs official Mohammad Akbarzadeh.

He added that global powers may intervene diplomatically by the third week of fighting to prevent the conflict from expanding into a broader regional war.

IRGC spokesperson Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini said Washington had attempted to rapidly destabilise the Islamic Republic by targeting senior leadership and military commanders.

"However, the effective management of the war by Iranian commanders has frustrated these plans," he said.

Diplomatic Channels Open

Amid the escalating tensions, Trump also held a phone conversation Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, Putin proposed ideas for a rapid political and diplomatic settlement, drawing on discussions with Gulf leaders and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Strategic and Economic Pressures

The apparent softening of Trump's rhetoric reflects a combination of military uncertainty, economic pressure, and geopolitical risk.

The war has already disrupted major oil and gas supplies to global markets, pushed fuel prices higher in the United States, and triggered mass evacuations from regional business hubs.

Bombing campaigns have struck military bases, government facilities, oil installations, hotels, and even a school, forcing millions of

civilians to seek shelter.

For Washington, analysts say the rising economic costs — particularly the surge in oil prices and volatility in financial markets — may be creating pressure to limit the duration of the conflict.

At the same time, Iran's ability to disrupt shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and the consolidation of power under Mojtaba Khamenei signal that a quick military resolution may prove difficult, leaving diplomacy increasingly central to ending the crisis.

Kashmiri Students

who arrive in Armenia earlier than their scheduled flight date will have to arrange and pay for their own accommodation until departure.

The Embassy has said that if around 40 to 50 students opt for the Armenia route, it may arrange a bus and possibly one night's accommodation in Urmia before the journey to the border. However, it has made clear that students travelling this route do so at their own responsibility.

Under the tentative plan, students willing to travel will first confirm their participation. If sufficient numbers are available, a bus will be arranged to Qom, where they will stay overnight at Embassy-arranged accommodation. The following day, they will travel to the Zulfa border crossing into Armenia. Students have been advised to maintain a gap of five to seven days between leaving Iran and their flight from Armenia to India to avoid complications.

The Embassy's formal advisory, however, remains unchanged — students have been asked to stay where they are for now, and no official evacuation has been announced.

First batch expected March 15

Dr Mohammad Momin Khan of the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) confirmed that many Indian students, including those from J&K, are planning to return via the Armenia route. Nearly all students from Urmia University of Medical Sciences have expressed an intention to leave.

"More than 50 students from Urmia University have already booked their tickets and are expected to reach New Delhi on March 15 via Dubai, with departure scheduled around 1:25 AM. Another group from the same university is likely to arrive on March 16," Dr Khan said.

Students from Qom are also planning to join the group bound for Armenia, with several in the process of booking tickets. Students told AIMSA that the first batch will serve as a test case. If they reach India safely, others are expected to follow in the coming days.

Parents demand government flights

Families back home remain deeply anxious, urging the Government of India to arrange structured evacuation flights rather than leaving students to navigate a multi-country journey through a conflict zone on their own.

"Our children are studying there and are scared due to the prevailing situation. The government should arrange proper evacuation flights instead of asking them to travel through different countries," a parent from Kashmir said.

Several parents noted that the Armenia route would cost each student approximately Rs 1 lakh, a sum many families cannot afford. They have sought the urgent intervention of the External Affairs Minister and other concerned authorities.

"Our children should not be forced to arrange such complicated travel in a tense situation. The government must intervene and arrange proper evacuation flights," another parent said. (KNO)

40,661 Posts Vacant

with JKSSB. These include 2,532 posts yet to be advertised, 4,768 posts at the examination stage, 1,258 at the selection stage, and 1,477 posts under live advertisements awaiting completion of the recruitment process, Kundal said.

JKPSC Secretary Bashir Ahmad Dar said at present, 1,745 gazetted posts are under process with the commission. Out of these, against 1,573 posts selection schedule has already been drawn, while 172 posts are yet to be scheduled due to certain procedural issues.

He said a recruitment timeline has been worked out by the commission for filling these posts.

As per the schedule, 630 selections are targeted for completion by March, 476 during April-May, 158 during June-July, and 309 during August-September, he said.

Department-wise analysis shows that the highest number of posts with JKPSC pertains to health and medical education (872 posts),

followed by school education (470 posts), general administration (170 posts) and higher education (129 posts).

The chief secretary stressed the need for expeditious filling of all critical vacancies to strengthen governance and improve public service delivery.

The chief secretary also advised the recruiting agencies to prepare and publish examination calendars simultaneously, enabling aspirants to have clarity regarding the schedule of examinations and adequate time to prepare.

27% Vacancies

"Under this policy, 27 per cent of vacancies in direct recruitment to civil posts and services under the government are reserved for OBCs (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes)," Verma said in a written reply.

The minister said the government is also implementing several welfare schemes for OBC communities under the umbrella programme PM Young Achievers' Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI).

These initiatives include pre matric and post matric scholarships, support for top class education in schools and colleges, and construction of hostels for OBC boys and girls.

Verma added that the Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS-OBC) is also being implemented. The scheme includes the National Fellowship for OBCs and the Dr Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for overseas studies for OBCs and economically backward classes.

He said welfare schemes for OBCs are reviewed periodically in consultation with stakeholders and relevant ministries and departments. (PTI)

J&K Govt Sacks

Huller under PHE Sub-Division in Kishtwar, while Showkat was a daily-rated wager in Bijbehara, the order said.

According to the order, an FIR (No 230/2019) was registered against Liyaqat and Kousar Hussain under Sections 13, 18, 19, 38 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), pertaining to allegations of involvement in terrorist acts, conspiracy to commit terrorist acts, harbouring terrorists, and membership or support of a terrorist organisation.

After completion of investigation, a chargesheet was filed against them and the case is currently under trial, it said.

Similarly, a case (FIR No 53/2019) was registered against Showkat under Section 307 of Ranbir Penal Code, Section 7/27 of Arms Act and Sections 16 and 18 of the UAPA.

The chargesheet has already been filed and the case is currently under trial, it added.

India Slams Pak

Pakistan had launched airstrikes in Afghanistan in late February, resulting in heavy casualties and injuries.

Harish also reiterated India's grave concern on the practice of "trade and transit terrorism" by denial of passage for trade and cynical closure of access for a land locked country.

He said UN declarations on Land Locked Developing countries (LLDCs) sound hollow in the face of such actions. "The trade and transit vulnerabilities of LLDCs should not be weaponised. This is a violation of WTO norms and of the UN Charter and international law. While we condemn these acts, we reaffirm our support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan," he said.

On terrorism, Harish pointed out that it remains a global scourge afflicting humanity and only coordinated efforts of the international community would ensure that ISIL and Al Qaida and their affiliates including Pakistan-based "Lashkar e Tayyiba and Jaish -e- Mohammed and proxies of LeT such as The Resistance Front, along with those who facilitate their operations, no longer indulge in cross-border terrorism.

Later, India also exercised its Right of Reply to strongly respond to Pakistan's statement in the Council meeting.

"I could not have expected anything better from the esteemed representative of Pakistan. The laundry list that is regurgitated ad nauseum at every meeting of the Council and wastes the time of this august body is well known," Harish said.

He reiterated that India's assistance is directed at the "friendly people of Afghanistan." What we have done in Afghanistan is known to the people of Afghanistan and to the international community. I need add no further comment. As far as problems in Pakistan are concerned, Pakistan would do well to look in

the mirror and look at problems within, rather than blame my country for what it faces."

Harish told the Council that India prioritises capacity-building and Humanitarian Assistance initiatives for the Afghan people. With more than 500 development partnership projects spread across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, India is deepening its engagement in healthcare, public infrastructure and capacity building.

India continues to work with UN agencies as well as with agencies such as the Afghanistan Red Cross Society in food security, healthcare, education and sports. The visits of Afghan Ministers last year are "helping us ensure that this aid is reaching those who need it the most."

In the last three months, India delivered more than 1 million doses of immunisation vaccines for children and 9.5 tons of anti-cancer medicine. In the coming months, it aims to deliver over 17 million additional doses of preventive vaccines to further strengthen Afghanistan's national immunisation program. This is India's investment in the future of Afghanistan.

Over the past 4.5 years, India has supplied 50,000 tons of wheat, 380 tons of medicines and vaccines and 40,000 litres of pesticides. Following the two earthquakes last year, India was among the first to provide humanitarian assistance to the tune of 60 tons of food items, 42 tons of earthquake relief materials and 73 tons of essential medicines.

In partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), India has provided 68 tons of medical supplies and 32 tons of social support items for the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

"On the bright side, any visitor to Afghanistan today would see Afghan youth enthusiastically playing cricket. The Afghanistan Cricket Team has been winning hearts wherever they have been playing and their spirit and passion in the just-concluded Cricket World Cup was notable. My nation is proud to be part of their journey and happy to see them bring immense joy to the people of Afghanistan who are enduring so much," Harish said.

Dry Spell Ends

a 78 percent deficit, while January recorded 73.4 mm against the normal of 95.1 mm, a 23 percent shortfall.

February was the driest month, with only 14.2 mm rainfall compared to the normal 130.4 mm, reflecting an 89 percent deficit.

Weather Forecast

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said the Valley is likely to witness generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain and snowfall in higher reaches at many places on March 10 and 11.

According to the MeT department, some higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Anantnag and Kishtwar may receive moderate snowfall during this period.

Traffic Disruption After Snowfall

Following fresh snowfall, authorities suspended vehicular movement on the Bandipora Gurez road due to slippery conditions at Razdan Top.

Officials said traffic on the road linking Bandipora with the remote Gurez Valley has been suspended as a precautionary measure and will resume once weather conditions improve and clearance operations are completed.

Razdan Top, located at an altitude of over 11,000 feet, serves as the main road link between Gurez Valley and the rest of Kashmir.

Snowfall in Sonamarg and Kargil

The tourist resort of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district also received fresh snowfall, blanketing the area and bringing down temperatures.

Reports from Ladakh said several parts of Kargil district received light to moderate snowfall after a prolonged dry spell, while lower areas witnessed rainfall.

Snowfall was reported along the Zojila axis, Barso region and Zanskar Valley, while Kargil town and adjoining areas received rain.

Advisory Issued

The MeT department has forecast generally dry weather from March 12 to 14, followed by cloudy conditions with the possibility of light rain or snowfall in higher reaches at scattered places from March 15 onwards.

advised people in vulnerable areas to remain alert.

Study Links Social

psychological wellbeing scores than female students.

Older students, particularly those in grades 10 to 12, were more likely to engage in various forms of digital activity than those in lower grades. The research also found a negative correlation between age and psychological wellbeing, indicating that mental wellbeing tended to decline as students grew older.

A section of the students also reported anxiety linked to technology access. More than 14 percent said they felt moderate to high anxiety when unable to send text messages, while over 17 percent reported similar anxiety when they could not make phone calls.

The research noted a broader trend of increasing technology use with age, accompanied by greater exposure to digital stress and online pressures.

Researchers said the findings highlight the need for schools and policymakers to promote responsible technology use among adolescents. They recommended programmes to improve digital literacy, regulate screen time and provide mental health support services within schools.

The study concluded that while digital platforms can support communication, learning and social interaction, excessive and unregulated use may contribute to increased anxiety and reduced psychological wellbeing among students, underscoring the importance of balanced technology use.

J&K Amends Building

Permission and Change of Land Use (CLU) portal powered by Auto DCR technology.

The new system introduces a fully digital, rule based and time bound mechanism for processing building permissions across all Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities in the Union Territory.

Under the system, building plans submitted online are automatically scrutinised against provisions of the UBBL, Master Plans, Zonal Plans and other applicable development controls.

The software generates instant compliance reports highlighting deviations, if any, ensuring transparency and uniform interpretation of regulations.

Faster Approvals, Online Tracking & Payments

The integrated portal combines Change of Land Use (CLU) and Building Permission processes, reducing approval timelines from 60 to 90 days to around 30 days.

The system also enables self certification and auto approval for low risk buildings, allowing registered architects and engineers to certify compliance with building norms.

The Auto Scrutiny portal facilitates online fee calculation, digital payments, real time application tracking, downloadable approvals and a digital record repository.

Applicants can monitor the status of their applications at every stage, ensuring transparency and efficiency in the approval process.

Focus on Sustainability

The amendments also introduce provisions for energy efficiency and environmental compliance, including Eco Niwas Samhita norms.

Developers complying with these provisions may receive incentive based benefits such as additional FAR and fast track approvals.

Officials said the reforms mark a transition towards transparent, technology driven and compliance oriented urban governance, promoting planned and sustainable development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The revamped portal is available at <https://obps.jk.gov.in>.

Omar Turns 56;

posted on X.

"Greetings to Jammu and Kashmir CM Shri Omar Abdullah Ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with a long life and wonderful health," the Prime Minister said.

Omar thanked the Prime Minister for the greetings and good wishes.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also spoke to Abdullah and wished him good health and a long life.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla extended his wishes on X, saying, "May you be blessed with good health, happiness and a long, fulfilling life."

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang also conveyed his greetings, wishing Abdullah good health, strength and success in serving the people.

Farmers Have Crop Alternatives Despite Rain Deficit: Director Agriculture

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The declining water level in the Jhelum River has raised concerns amid a rainfall deficit in Kashmir, Director Agriculture Kashmir Dr Sartaj Ahmad Shah said on Tuesday, while assuring farmers that alternative crops requiring less water remain available.

The Director Agriculture highlighted the impact of low precipitation on water resources while also stressing that farmers have viable crop options even if dry weather conditions persist.

Dr Sartaj Ahmad Shah said that precipitation levels this season have remained below normal, which has affected water availability in rivers and irrigation sources.

He said farmers should remain cautious while planning cultivation but there was no reason for panic.

"We have multiple crop options available that require less water such as maize, pulses and millets," Dr Shah said.

He added that farmers can consider these alternatives if dry weather conditions continue and irrigation avail-



ability becomes limited.

"Farmers should not worry. We have ample options available, but we also hope that sufficient rainfall occurs in the coming weeks," he said.

Dr Shah said rainfall and snowfall during the winter and early spring months play an important role in maintaining river flows and irrigation sources across the valley.

According to KNT, Director Agriculture said that the Jhelum River remains a key water source for irrigation across large parts of Kashmir Valley, particularly during the paddy cultivation season.

Any prolonged deficit in precipitation can affect water availability for agriculture, though crop diversification can help farmers adapt to changing weather conditions.

Back Pain Epidemic:

Sedentary Habits Fuel Disc Problems in Kashmiri Youth

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Spinal disc problems, once largely a complaint of old age, are increasingly being diagnosed among young and middle-aged people in Kashmir. Doctors say sedentary lifestyles, excessive screen time and poor posture are driving the surge.

Medical experts say the human spine is made up of small bones called vertebrae, with soft cushion-like structures called intervertebral discs between them. These discs act as shock absorbers and help the spine move smoothly. When a disc becomes damaged, slips out of place, or bulges, it can press against nearby nerves, causing severe pain and other complications—commonly referred to as a slipped disc, disc bulge, or herniated disc.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Tufail Ahmad, an orthopaedic specialist, said the shift in patient profile had been striking. "Earlier we mostly saw disc-related issues in elderly patients, but now people in their twenties and thirties are coming with severe back pain caused by disc bulges or herniation," he said.

Dr Arshid Ahmad, a physiotherapist, said prolonged sitting is a primary culprit. "Many people spend long hours sitting in offices, driving vehicles or using smartphones and laptops. When the spine remains in one position for a long time without proper posture, the pressure on spinal discs increases," he said.



He added that declining physical fitness had compounded the problem. "People are becoming less physically active. Weak back and abdominal muscles fail to support the spine properly, which increases the chances of disc damage," he said.

Doctors further said that sudden heavy lifting, poor sleeping posture, obesity and vitamin deficiencies contribute to disc problems. "In Kashmir, we also see patients who develop back issues due to improper lifting of heavy loads or sudden twisting movements, especially among labourers and farmers," they said.

Common symptoms include persistent lower back pain, pain radiating to the legs or arms, numbness or tingling, muscle weakness and difficulty standing or walking for extended periods. In severe cases, untreated disc problems can lead to chronic pain and nerve damage.

"If a disc presses heavily on nerves, it can cause severe sciatica, a pain travelling from the lower back down to the legs. In rare cases, it may even affect bladder control or mobility," doctors warned.

However, many patients delay seeking help. "Many patients delay medical consultation and rely only on painkillers. By the time they come to the hospital, the disc damage has already progressed," a doctor said.

Medical experts say disc problems can often be prevented through simple lifestyle changes. Doctors recommend maintaining proper posture while sitting or standing, avoiding long periods of continuous sitting, regular exercise and stretching, strengthening back and abdominal muscles, avoiding improper lifting of heavy loads, maintaining a healthy body weight, and using supportive mattresses and chairs.

Farooq Abdullah Visits Iran Embassy, Offers Condolences

NEW DELHI: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah met Iranian Deputy Ambassador Mohammad Fathali here on Tuesday and offered his condolences over the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei.

During a 30-minute meeting, Abdullah expressed hope that the war would come to an end soon and that people would be relieved of their suffering.

Expressing his solidarity with the people of Iran, the veteran politician said it is not only the region that is suffering, but the entire world has also been engulfed in an unwanted crisis. "My prayers and solidarity are with the people of Iran," Abdullah, a former union minister, also wrote in the visitors' book.

According to PTI, he was accompanied by Rajya Sabha MPs from Jammu and Kashmir Chowdhry Mohammad Ramzan, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo and Gurwinder Singh Oberoi. The trio visited the Iranian mission on Monday and signed the condolence book at the embassy. (Observer News Service)

DIPR Poonch Organises Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

POONCH: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) District Centre Poonch on Tuesday organized an awareness camp at Government Higher Secondary School Lasana under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan. The programme was organized to sensitize students and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The programme was inaugurated by Member Legislative Assembly Surankote Chaudhary Mohammad Akram, who attended the event as the chief guest.

Among others present on the occasion were SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, District Information Officer Asaf Ali, Block Development Officer Lassana Qadeer Charak, SHO Surankote Abid Bukhari, Principal Government Higher Secondary School Lasana Barkat Hussain, staff members, locals and civil society members.

The artists from Saraswati Sangeet Kala Kendra presented a variety of cultural performances, featuring Gori, Pahari, Hindi and Punjabi songs. A special skit highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse was also presented, which was widely appreciated by the audience. (Observer News Service)

Govt Aims to Transform AWCs into Vibrant Early Learning Spaces: Minister Sakeena

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to discuss various proposals focusing on enhanced convergence of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) framework with Education, Health, and other allied departments to further strengthen the early learning ecosystem at Anganwadi Centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department (SWD), Sarmad Hafeez; Mission Director POSHAN, Sajad Hussain Ganai; Director Finance and Director Planning SWD, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) of Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Social Welfare Minister took detailed assessment of various interventions proposed by the SWD for upgrading the existing framework for ECCE and strengthening its convergence with Anganwadi Centres.

The meeting focused on enhancing foundational learning, improving nutritional outcomes, and ensur-



ing holistic development of children in the 3-6 years age group through coordinated implementation of ECCE policies across the Union Territory.

During the review, the Minister underscored the critical importance of early childhood education as the cornerstone of lifelong learning and cognitive development. She directed the officers to prepare a time-bound action plan for proper implementation of these initiatives, ensuring quality standards and achieving measurable outcomes in child development indicators across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the pivotal role of Anganwadi Centres, the Minister directed officials to transform these centres into vibrant early learning spaces equipped with child-friendly infrastructure, activity-based learning materials and trained human resources. "Anganwadi workers serve as

first educators for children, they must be empowered through continuous capacity-building programmes and modern pedagogical tools", she asserted.

Calling for stronger inter-departmental coordination, the Minister stressed convergence between the Social Welfare, School Education, Health & Medical Education Department and Rural development departments to ensure seamless delivery of services to young children and mothers.

"Early childhood care is not merely a welfare initiative but a long-term investment in human capital. A child who receives proper nutrition, care and early education grows into a confident and capable citizen," the Minister observed.

She further instructed officers to strengthen parental awareness campaigns focusing on nutrition, early stimulation and pre-school readiness, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

CS Takes Stock of Migrant Rehabilitation Measures

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday in a high-level review meeting assessed the progress achieved in implementation of key welfare measures for the rehabilitation and resettlement of migrant populations of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, convened by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R), reviewed multiple initiatives aimed at strengthening relief, housing and social security support for various categories of displaced persons in the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti; ACS, Power Development, ACS, Finance and ACS, Public Works and Principal Secretary, DMRR&R was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Commissioner Secretary, Law Department; Secretary IT; Secretary Revenue; Development Commissioner (Works); Relief Commissioner; Director



FCS&CA, Jammu; and other senior officers. The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and concerned Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the range of measures undertaken by the government from time to time for the rehabilitation of different migrant categories including Kashmiri Pandits, West Pakistani Refugees and displaced persons who migrated from PoJK.

A detailed assessment was also made regarding the implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP-2015) and the steps being taken to improve delivery of services to Kashmiri migrants, Jammu migrants and other displaced persons residing in the Union Territory. The Chief Secretary re-

viewed the status of construction of transit accommodation being developed across various districts of the Kashmir Valley for migrant employees recruited under the relief package. Taking a location-wise appraisal from the executing agencies, he directed them to ensure completion of these projects within the stipulated timelines and with all required facilities in place.

He also reviewed the status of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) in respect of employees appointed under the relief package. He observed that necessary clarifications and directions have already been issued to address procedural bottlenecks faced by departments and stressed that there should be no further delay in granting employees their rightful benefits as per the rules in force.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEV. PROJECT OFFICER LARKIPORA (HQ DOORU)

Subject: Provisional Selection list of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Larkipora (HQ Dooru) and inviting of objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance to the Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated 28-04-2023 and Communication of Social Welfare Department Vide No: SWD-ICDS/43/2022.dated 14-08-2023 and Approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K vide no. MD/Poshan/47117-27 Dated:-24.12.2025 and Letter No.SMD/ICDS/Recruitment/2022-23/6235-38 Dated:21-02-2024 and advertisement Notice were issued vide Notification No. 01 of 2026 Dated 01.01.2026. In response to the aforesaid advertisement application forms were received which were scrutinized by the designated selection committee and accordingly tentative merit list and provisional selection list was framed. Tentative Merit List (Annexure-A) and Provisional Selection list (Annexure-B) is hereby published for information of public in general and applicants/Candidates in particular for filing appeal/Objections if any. The appeal/Objection if any against the selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer Larkipora against proper receipt within 10 days (in Office Hours) from the date of publication of this notification. No objection /Appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last date of filing /Appeal/objection.
No: CDPOS/POSHAN/LP/2025-26/79-86
Dated:- 07.03.2026

Child Development Project Officer,
Poshan Larkipora

Annexure-A of CDPO/POSHAN/LP/2025-26/79-86 DATED:- 07.03.2026

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	19	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Iqra Jan	W/o Shakeel Ahmad Shah	Nathipora	02-03-1998	27 Yrs 9 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	318	63.60%	0.00%	63.60%
2	10	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Mehnaz Mushtaq	W/o Yasir Mush-taq Shah	Nathipora	11-05-1989	36 Yrs 7 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	278	55.60%	0.00%	55.60%
3	5	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Aaliya Jan	W/o Peer Mo-hammad Rafiq	Nathipora	16-02-1995	30 Yrs 10 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	219	43.80%	0.00%	43.80%
4	9	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Meema Jan	W/o Peerzada Ishfaq Ahmad	Nathipora	04-04-1990	35 Yrs 8 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	208	41.60%	0.00%	41.60%
5	14	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Nazim Nazir	W/o Ghulam Geelani Hadi	Nathipora	09-10-2002	23 Yrs 2 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	195	39.00%	0.00%	39.00%
6	8	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Rafy Jan	W/o Peerzada Ryoues Ahmad	Nathipora	03-03-1994	31 Yrs 9 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	191	38.20%	0.00%	38.20%

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1	3	A.K PORA	10	Naidpora-C	Amina Jan	W/o Zahid Shaban Wagay	Nigeenpora Naidpora	12-04-1992	33 Yrs 8 Months	Married	Urdu Board Aligarh	600	330	55.00%	0.00%	55.00%
2	11	A.K PORA	10	Naidpora-C	Safoora Jan	W/o Irshad Ahmad Shairgojri	Nigeenpora Naidpora	01-01-1990	36 Yrs 0 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	212	42.40%	2.00%	44.40%
3	6	A.K PORA	10	Naidpora-C	Jouzey Jan	W/o Sayyar Ahmad Shairgojri	Nigeenpora Naidpora	05-06-1995	30 Yrs 6 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	181	36.20%	0.00%	36.20%
4	7	A.K PORA	10	Naidpora-C	Rafia Jan	W/o Irfan Ahmad Shairgojri	Nigeenpora Naidpora	27-10-1993	32 Yrs 2 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	171	34.20%	0.00%	34.20%

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

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1	13	Larkipora-A	5	Larkipora-G	Roomi Jan	W/o Arief Ahmad Shah	Larkipora	05-04-2000	25 Yrs 8 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	312	62.40%	0.00%	62.40%
2	18	Larkipora-A	5	Larkipora-G	Ruqia Jan	W/o Tariq Ahmad Rafter	Larkipora	10-03-1992	33 Yrs 9 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	224	44.80%	0.00%	44.80%
3	4	Larkipora-A	5	Larkipora-G	Refath Rashid	W/o Mohd Amin Sheikh	Larkipora	10-02-1997	28 Yrs 10 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	162	32.40%	0.00%	32.40%

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	12	Larkipora-A	1	Larkipora-C	Ruby Jan	W/o Zubair Abbass Dar	Larkipora	07-03-1991	34 Yrs 9 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	194	38.80%	0.00%	38.80%

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

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1	1	Mantpora	7	Boon A	Suraya Maqbool	W/o Mudasar Akbar Bhat	Boon Gund	01-01-1992	34 Yrs 0 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	194	38.80%	0.00%	38.80%

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	15	Thaman Koot	3	Thaman A	Gulala Akhter	W/o Mushkoor Ahmad Sheikh	Thaman	15-02-1993	32 Yrs 10 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	228	45.60%	0.00%	45.60%

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S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	16	Gawas	5	Yakerbaru	Ruby Jan	W/o Mohammad Shafi Naik	Yakerbaru	18-03-1991	34 Yrs 9 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	230	46.00%	0.00%	46.00%

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	2	Rein ChowgundA	7	Chowgund A	Mahjabeena Banoo	W/o Masroor Ahmad Lone	Rein Chowgund	01-03-1989	36 Yrs 10 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	250	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%

Tentative Merit List of Applicants for Posts of Sahayikas(Anganwadi Helpers) advertised vide this office No:01of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	17	Batagund C	2	Panzoo A	Simran Iqbal	D/o Mohd Iqbal Wagay	Panzoo	10-02-2007	18 Yrs 10 Months	Un-Married	JKBOSE	500	305	61.00%	0.00%	61.00%

Annexure-B of CDPO/POSHAN/LP/2025-26/79-86 DATED:- 07.03.2026

Provisional Selection List of Sahayikas(AWHs) of Anganwadi centres as shown against each of ICDS Project Larkipora Advertisved vide this office No:01 of 2026 dated:01/01/2026, Poshan project Larkipora

S.No.	Application Index S.No.	Panchayat Halqa	Name of ward	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ W/o	Address	D.O.B	Age as On 01.01.2024	Married / Un-Married	Board	Max. Marks (10th)	Marks obtained (10th)	%age of Marks	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total points
1	19	Mehmoodabad-B	4	Nathipora A	Iqra Jan	W/o Shakeel Ahmad Shah	Nathipora	02-03-1998	27 Yrs 9 Months	Married	JKBOSE	500	318	63.60%	0.00%	63.60%

BCCI Announces Rs 131 Crore Cash Reward For Suryakumar Yadav's World Champion Team

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The BCCI on Tuesday announced a cash reward of Rs 131 crore for the entire Indian squad following its third T20 World Cup victory.

The amount covers 15 players, coaching staff, other support staff.

As per sources, the players are certain to get lion's share of the reward money while support staff amount will be decided as per hierarchy.

The amount is an increment of Rs 6 crore from the Rs 125 crore that Rohit Sharma's team was awarded back in 2024.

As per sources, each of the 15 players will receive Rs 6 crore each while remaining Rs 41 crore will be distributed among entire support staff.

"The Board congratulates the players, support staff and selectors once again on



this historic achievement and wishes them continued success in the future," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement.

India lifted the prestigious trophy after defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in

the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday, successfully defending the title and becoming the first team in the history of the tournament to retain the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

With this victory, India also became the first team to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup three times, further cementing its place among the most successful teams in the history of the format.

Arif Urges Sports Ministry To Build World-Class Skiing Infrastructure In Gulmarg

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Two-time Winter Olympian Arif Mohammad Khan has urged the sports ministry to develop proper skiing infrastructure in Gulmarg so that Indian athletes can train for global competitions and aim for medals at the Asian level.

Arif, who achieved the country's best show in men's slalom race at the recently-concluded Winter Olympics in Italy, said India need at least one fully developed training facility on the slopes of Kangdoori in Gulmarg, with a long competitive season, to help the country's top skiers prepare for international events.

"We need at least one fully-developed infrastructure in Gulmarg that can function for a good five months," he said.

A full season of "at least five months till April-end" is needed to train and compete on the slopes of Kangdoori in Gulmarg to prepare Indian athletes, said Arif, who recently finished 39th in Milano-Cortina Games.



"I can guarantee we will win medals at the top Asian level in 10-15 years," added Arif.

Arif's how bettered Kishore Ratna Rai's performance by 10 places that was achieved at the 1988 Winter Olympics, Calgary.

Arif also hailed the government's flagship winter sports initiative. "Six editions of the Khelo India Winter Games have provided an incredible platform to athletes but now we have to look at ways of winning medals at major global

competitions," he said. Arif further said his performance had helped put India "in the global ski map".

He said the country now needs to invest more strategically in winter sports infrastructure and support systems.

Since 2020, all six editions of the Khelo India Winter Games have been held in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir, while Leh in Ladakh has been hosting the ice events since 2024. Sports Minister Mansukh

Mandaviya has already announced that the 2027 edition of the Khelo India Winter Games will be expanded into a 15-day event in a bid to develop Gulmarg as a global winter sports destination.

Arif, who learnt his skiing on the slopes of the Pir Panjal mountains, welcomed the plan, saying combining sports with tourism could boost winter sports in the country.

"We have the athletes and there are ones who can be better than me. But we are missing infrastructure, coaches and funding.

"Given the government's intention to develop winter sports, I can see better things in the future."

The 36-year-old also said his Winter Olympics result should inspire youngsters to take up winter sports seriously.

"Saying his finish at the Winter Olympics result should inspire youngsters to take up winter sports as a career, Arif felt that a national federation was required immediately to understand the requirement of athletes.

J&K HC Felicitates Ranji Trophy Champions In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU- The High Court of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh on Tuesday felicitated members of the J-K cricket team, which recently won the Ranji Trophy for the first time in more than six decades.

Brigadier Anil Gupta (retd) of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) said the players were overjoyed to be honoured by the high court, in the presence of Chief Justice Arun Palli, Justice Sanjay Dhar, and others.

Led by domestic stalwart Paras Dogra, J-K clinched their maiden Ranji title after holding eight-time champions Karnataka to a draw, winning on the basis of a huge 291-run first-innings lead in the final at Hubballi on February 28.

The chief justice and judges praised the players for their dedication, perseverance, discipline and teamwork,



saying the victory reflected the resilience and sporting excellence of the young cricketers, which will inspire aspiring sportspersons across the Union territory and the country.

During the event, commemorative T-shirts were presented to the members of the victorious team as a token of appreciation. The judges also presented a commemorative trophy to the team in recognition of their historic triumph.

ICC Books Individual Commercial Flights For WI, SA Players After Charter Flight Cancellation

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- The ICC on Tuesday booked separate commercial flights for the stranded West Indies and South Africa teams after their charter flight scheduled to take off from Kolkata "was cancelled due to logistical issues".

"All the West Indies and South African players have been booked on individual commercial airline flights. Obviously, all can't be booked on same airlines but ICC has taken care of individual bookings. ICC chairman Jay Shah has personally spoken and assured players of a safe journey back home," an ICC source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"It must be mentioned that



Darren Sammy is already on his way home having left on Monday night," the source also informed.

The two teams that played their final games in Kolkata (West Indies in Super 8s on March 1 and South Africa on March 4 in semi-final) have not been able to fly out due to the disruption that has been

caused by International airspace restrictions across parts of West Asia following American and Israeli strikes on Iran.

The situation has forced multiple airlines to avoid routes through the Gulf region. ICC's airline partner is Emirates and they are unable to operate due to shutdown of Dubai airspace.

The restrictions severely complicated outbound travel from India towards the Caribbean and Africa, forcing cricket authorities to explore alternative routes and charter arrangements.

Earlier, in a communication conveyed on Tuesday evening, both teams were scheduled to leave Kolkata on a shared charter flight to Johannesburg on Tuesday afternoon.

From there, the West Indies contingent was to continue onward to Antigua, while the South Africans were expected to disperse for their respective commitments.

However, the flight arrangement was called off hours before the scheduled departure because of some "logistical issues", an official

of the Cricket Association of Bengal told PTI.

"As per a latest development on Tuesday afternoon the chartered flight was cancelled and no further information regarding this is received", read a message communicated to the West Indies and South Africa teams.

"Due to logistical issues the chartered flight may have been cancelled at the last minute so now maximum players are making their own arrangements," the local official told PTI.

The West Indies squad has been stranded in Kolkata since March 1 after being knocked out of the T20 World Cup by India, who defeated them by five wickets in their Super Eight match at Eden Gardens on March 1.

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