

Tariffs won't shake 1.4 billion dreams - India stands tall: Gaurav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta has sharply criticized the United States' decision to impose a 50% tariff on Indian imports, calling it unjust, discriminatory, and a blatant example of geopolitical double standards. Gaurav Gupta said that America's justification-India's continued purchase of Russian oil-is misleading and hypocritical. "Our energy imports are driven solely by national interest and market economics, aimed at securing affordable energy for 1.4 billion Indians," he said. He pointed out that multiple major economies-including the European Union, China, Japan, South Korea, and Turkey-continue to import



Russian energy in large volumes. Even the U.S. itself imports uranium hexafluoride from Russia. "Yet, only India is being penalized. Why? This reflects a clear and targeted double standard," Gupta said. He emphasized that these new tariffs on sectors like textiles, gems & jewellery,

machinery, and vehicles are not just about Russian oil-they are part of a larger attempt to push India to open its agriculture and dairy markets to genetically modified and ethically objectionable products such as blood meal. "Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, India has repeatedly and firmly declined such unreasonable demands. We will never compromise our farmers, our food safety, or our cultural values," he asserted. Speaking on the global context, Gupta said the U.S. move is not isolated. "Other BRICS nations like Brazil and South Africa have also been punished for not falling in line. Brazilian leader Jair

Bolsonaro faced coup allegations and lost elections to Lula da Silva, who himself has been accused of corruption. In South Africa, President Ramaphosa has consistently voiced anti-West sentiments, yet India is being targeted disproportionately. This is not about oil-it's about sovereignty and strategic independence," he noted. Gaurav Gupta further added that while the U.S. pushes its 'America First' policy, it should realize the world is now multipolar. "India is a responsible, rising power, recently concluding Free Trade Agreements with the UK and Saudi Arabia. Our credibility is globally recognized," he said.

GGF honours ADGP Armed Police J&K with flags presentation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Gandhi Global Family, led by Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Varma, recently held a special meeting with Anand Jain IPS, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed Police Jammu & Kashmir to honour him. During the meeting, members of Gandhi Global Family presented flags to Mr. Anand Jain in recognition of his dedicated service and leadership in the region. The meeting underscored the strong bond between organizations and law enforcement agencies in promoting peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir. Gandhi Global Family, known for its commitment to social harmony and community welfare, expressed its appreciation for the tireless efforts of Anand Jain IPS in maintaining law and order in challenging circumstances. Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Varma said, "It is an honor to recognize the leadership and dedication of Anand Jain. His work inspires us all to continue striving for peace and unity in our communities." The flag presentation symbolizes the organization's support and solidarity with the police force in their mission to serve and protect.

Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

HC upholds suspension of Indian Powerlifting Federation's Recognition

Petitioner directed to apply afresh; Court cites loss of global affiliation and expiry of recognition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' decision to suspend the recognition of the Indian Powerlifting Federation (IPF), ruling that the action was justified under the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, in light of the federation's loss of affiliation with international bodies and the expiry of its recognition. Justice Sanjay Dhar dismissed the writ petition filed by the IPF, through its President Rakesh Jain, seeking quashing of the suspension order dated October 3, 2017, and the subsequent order dated November 19, 2019. The petitioner was represented by Mr. Ajay Vaid, Advocate, while Mr. Vishal Sharma, Deputy Solicitor General of India, and Mr. Irfan Khan, Advocate, appeared for the respondents. The Court observed that the petitioner's recognition had lapsed on December 31, 2017, during the pendency of its suspension, rendering any plea for revocation of the suspension redundant. Moreover, it held that the dissolu-

tion of the IPF's executive body by both the International Powerlifting Federation and Asian Powerlifting Federation-its erstwhile affiliating bodies-warranted action under the Sports Code guidelines. "The guidelines clearly permit suspension where the international federation has suspended or dissolved the national body," the Court noted. "There was no option left with the Ministry but to suspend recognition." It was also noted that during the period of suspension, another entity, Powerlifting India, emerged under the leadership of Rajesh Tiwari, with claims of new affiliation and support from international bodies. However, the petitioner continued to assert itself as the original body, now affiliated with different international leagues not recognised by the Ministry. "In the absence of current affiliation with the recognised international federations, and given that recognition has already expired, the only lawful route available to the petitioner is to apply afresh," the Court held. The petition was accordingly dismissed.

NIA Court denies bail to LeT handler in major narcotics and terror funding case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge NIA Sandeep Gandotra has rejected the bail application of Abdul Rouf Badan alias Motu LeT handler; in a high-profile narcotics and terror funding case linked to cross-border operations involving the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit. Abdul Rouf Badan, who was arrested in August 2022 after remaining absconding for over two years, is facing multiple charges under the NDPS Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court observed that his alleged role includes acting as a courier for smuggling heroin and arms from across the Line of Control (LoC) and collecting funds used for terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The application, cited the gravity of the offences, ongoing investigation, and the sensitive nature of the evidence-including mobile communications, financial transactions, and witness testimonies. It was noted that 30 material witnesses against the accused are yet to be examined, and granting bail at this stage could jeopardize the prosecution's case. Special Public Prosecutor K.S. Pathania argued that Badan was a key link in a network involving Pakistan-based handlers and that he had received large sums of money in exchange for smuggling narcotics into India. The NIA highlighted his association with co-accused Abdul Momin Peer (A-1) and Saleem Andrabi (A-5), and claimed Badan purchased

property using proceeds from drug trafficking. The defense contended that the case against him was fabricated, with no direct evidence or recoveries made from his possession. However, the court held that in cases under the UAPA and NDPS Acts, the threshold for bail is higher and requires the court to be satisfied that accusations are "not prima facie true," a standard not met in this instance. The court emphasized that the delay in recording witness statements was largely due to the accused being on the run and directed the prosecution to expedite examination of all relevant witnesses. It also clarified that the decision does not affect the merits of the main case.

Police organises Tiranga Rallies

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing celebrations under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga campaign', police along with civil admin organised mega Tiranga rallies across PD Avantipora, besides a vibrant 'Tiranga Bike Rally' was also organised in Sopore, showcasing patriotic fervour and unity. In Avantipora, continuing its 'Har Ghar Tiranga campaign' police along with Civil administration organized mega 'Tiranga Rallies' across Police District Avantipora. Students, youth and general public participated in huge numbers in these rallies. The participants in these rallies sang the National Anthem, patriotic songs & waved the

SSP Anantnag holds security review meeting ahead of I-Day 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: In view of the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations, SSP Anantnag Amritpal Singh, convened a comprehensive security review meeting today at the District Police Office Anantnag. The meeting was attended by senior officers of District Police Anantnag and CAPF officers. The participants reviewed the prevailing security scenario in detail and discussed measures to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of Independence Day functions across the district. SSP Amritpal stressed upon maintaining a high level of alertness, strengthening coordination among all security agencies, and ensuring effective deployment of personnel at all vital and vulnerable points. He also directed for intensified area domination, surprise checks, and robust intelligence gathering to pre-empt any untoward incident. The officers reaffirmed their commitment to work in close synergy to uphold peace, maintain law and order, and ensure safe and successful Independence Day celebrations in the district.

New Vande Bharat Express between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Amritsar introduced

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: For the convenience of rail users and to enhance connectivity between key pilgrimage and cultural hubs, Indian Railways has announced the introduction of a new semi-high-speed train, Train No. 26406/26405, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Amritsar-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express. The inaugural run of the Vande Bharat Express will take place on August 10, 2025, with the special inaugural train (Train No. 02406) departing from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (SVDK) at 10:50 AM. The train will reach Amritsar Junction (ASR) at 5:00 PM, covering key stations en route including Jammu Tawi, Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar City, and Beas. The introduction of this new Vande Bharat service is expected to significantly boost tourism and religious travel between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Amritsar; two of the most visited spiritual destinations in North India.

NMC demands enhancement of Medical Allowance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subash Shastri on Saturday urged upon the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to increase the monthly medical allowance of pensioners from the existing Rs 300 to Rs 1000 in the line with other union territories across the country. In a statement issued here, Shastri appealed implementation of this enhancement to bring JKUT at par with Ladakh which had raised the allowance to Rs 1000 per month from April 1 2020. Shastri said that the current Rs 300 medical allowance has remained

unchanged for over two decades despite the steep rise in medicine costs and other medical expenses. He said the hike would provide much needed relief to pensioners grappling with increase health care expenditure. He also demanded a 2 percent in HRA for Jammu and Kashmir employees pointing out that the DA has already crossed 50 percent threshold which warrants a revision. Further Shastri pressed the centre to release 18 months of pending DA arrears from January to June 2021 stating that three installments were withheld during the period. He called for their

immediate disbursement to benefit employees and pensioners who have been awaiting the dues for over three years. Shastri further demanded immediate regularization of the services of all daily rated workers under SRO 64, an early release of 4%DA due from July ist in favour of both central/States and JKUT employees and pensioners beside appointment of Chairman and other members of the 8th pay commission and setting up of National Wage commission to evolve national Wage policy through out the country once for all and declare Jammu and Srinagar cities as B-1 City.

Police organises Tiranga Rallies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing celebrations under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga campaign', police along with civil admin organised mega Tiranga rallies across PD Avantipora, besides a vibrant 'Tiranga Bike Rally' was also organised in Sopore, showcasing patriotic fervour and unity. In Avantipora, continuing its 'Har Ghar Tiranga campaign' police along with Civil administration organized mega 'Tiranga Rallies' across Police District Avantipora. Students, youth and general public participated in huge numbers in these rallies. The participants in these rallies sang the National Anthem, patriotic songs & waved the

Tricolour. In Sopore, police along with civil admin organised 'Tiranga Bike Rally', flagged off from MET Ground Sopore and saw enthusiastic participation from youth, community members, civil society representatives, and officers from Police, CRPF, and Civil Administration, including ADC Sopore. Participants carried the tricolour with pride, raising patriotic slogans throughout the 8.5 km route. Speaking on these occasions, officers highlighted the significance of the national flag as a symbol of unity, freedom, and justice, urging citizens especially the youth to uphold these values in their daily lives.

From "no one will hold Tricolour" to PDP MLA leading Tiranga Rally - Modi's new J&K exposes Mehbooba's hollow claims: Altaf Thakur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Jammu & Kashmir spokesman Altaf Thakur has strongly rebutted PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's past claim that "if Article 370 is removed, nobody from J&K will hold the Tricolour." Thakur said, "Mehbooba Mufti's rhetoric has been demolished by the ground reality. Today, a PDP MLA from Tral - her own party - is proudly leading a Tiranga rally. This is the real change

that has unfolded in Jammu & Kashmir under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi." He said that the August 5, 2019, abrogation of Article 370 was a watershed moment that ended decades of separatist sentiment and ushered in a new era of nationalism, peace, and development in the region. "Those who once threatened that no one will raise the Tricolour are now witnessing

a sea of national flags in every corner of the Valley - from the streets of Srinagar to the villages of Tral. This is a slap on the face of separatist propaganda. The people of J&K have embraced the Tiranga as their pride and identity," Thakur asserted. The BJP leader said that today's reality shows the overwhelming public acceptance of the national flag, the strengthening of national unity, and the collapse of divi-

sive politics that thrived under Article 370. "Prime Minister Modi has not only brought the Tricolour to every household in J&K but has also given people dignity, empowerment, and a sense of belonging to the great Indian nation," Thakur added.

turned hostile. Independent witnesses also failed to corroborate the prosecution's claims. The trial court ultimately acquitted the accused in August 2010. Challenging the acquittal, the State contended that the trial court had ignored material evidence and laid undue emphasis on minor contradictions. The Division Bench observed that the trial court's findings were based on a fair evaluation of evidence. "Suspicion, however grave, cannot substitute proof," the court stated, adding that even the recovery of alleged weapons-danda and boots-did not conclusively link the accused to the crime. The Bench noted that the alternative defense version-that the deceased suffered an epileptic seizure and died after falling-was supported by key witnesses and not rebutted by solid prosecution evidence. "While hearing an appeal against acquittal, the appellate court must lean in favor of the view that supports the accused if it is a possible one. There is no perversity in the trial court's judgment warranting our interference," the court concluded while dismissing the appeal.

DB upholds acquittal in wife's murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu on Wednesday dismissed a criminal appeal filed by the Union Territory of J&K challenging a 2010 acquittal order in a wife's murder case, citing failure of the prosecution to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar upheld the acquittal of Mohd. Afzal, a resident of Kolsar Kheral, Reasi, who had been charged under Sections 302 and 342 of the Ranbir Penal Code for allegedly murdering his wife, Mumtaz Begum, in June 2008. According to the prosecution, Mumtaz Begum died under suspicious circumstances on June 26, 2008. Investigators initially suspected that Afzal, who had married the deceased six months prior, doubted her fidelity and allegedly assaulted and confined her, leading to her death. A charge sheet was filed, and trial proceedings commenced in the Sessions Court, Reasi. However, during the trial, several key prosecution witnesses, including Afzal's first wife, daughter, and son,

turned hostile. Independent witnesses also failed to corroborate the prosecution's claims. The trial court ultimately acquitted the accused in August 2010. Challenging the acquittal, the State contended that the trial court had ignored material evidence and laid undue emphasis on minor contradictions. The Division Bench observed that the trial court's findings were based on a fair evaluation of evidence. "Suspicion, however grave, cannot substitute proof," the court stated, adding that even the recovery of alleged weapons-danda and boots-did not conclusively link the accused to the crime. The Bench noted that the alternative defense version-that the deceased suffered an epileptic seizure and died after falling-was supported by key witnesses and not rebutted by solid prosecution evidence. "While hearing an appeal against acquittal, the appellate court must lean in favor of the view that supports the accused if it is a possible one. There is no perversity in the trial court's judgment warranting our interference," the court concluded while dismissing the appeal.

CAT restores Kashmiri Migrant's selection, slams arbitrary denial over EWS delay

Tribunal directs appointment within eight weeks; cites pandemic hardship and Supreme Court rulings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark order favouring a Kashmiri Migrant candidate, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Jammu Bench has quashed the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board's (JKSSB) decision to cancel his selection for the post of Assistant Compiler in the Finance Department under the Prime Minister's Special Package for Kashmiri Migrants and Non-Migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The Bench comprising Judicial Member Rajinder Singh Dogra and Administrative Member Ram Mohan Johri ruled in favour of 24-year-old Ashu Bhat of Pulwama, terming

the cancellation "manifestly arbitrary and unsustainable in law." Represented by Advocate Siddhant Gupta, Bhat told the Tribunal he had applied under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in 2020 but could not obtain the certificate before the cut-off date due to COVID-19 lockdowns, administrative hurdles, and personal quarantine. He secured the certificate on May 29, 2021, and submitted it during document verification the following day - months before the final selection list was issued on September 23, 2021, with his name at Serial No. 53. Despite this, JKSSB cancelled his selection in May 2022, citing the post-cut-

off date issuance of the certificate. The Tribunal, however, cited multiple rulings of the Supreme Court and J&K High Court holding that procedural delays - especially during the pandemic - cannot defeat substantive rights when the candidate meets eligibility before final selection. Directing the authorities to issue Bhat's appointment order within eight weeks, the CAT also ordered that if no vacancy is available, he be adjusted against an equivalent post or a supernumerary post created. His seniority will align with his batchmates, with monetary benefits from the date of joining and notional benefits for the intervening period.

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE

11078 Jhelum Express

Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi

12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express

Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi

12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express

Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi

Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)

Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)

Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

HELPLINE

TELEPHONES

Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Local Assistance	199
Trunk Booking	180
Trunk Assistance	181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955
Change No. Announcement	1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953

HOSPITALS

Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637
Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
Child Hospital	2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270

AMBULANCES

Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248

FIRE STATIONS

Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705
City	2544263
Canal	2554064
Roop Nagar	2597522
Gangyal	2480026
Bari Brahmana	220020
Akhnoor	252481
Kathua	234313
Samba	243280
Katra	232451
Udhampur	270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920
Hot Line	383

TOURISM

Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554

BUS SERVICES

JKSRTC General Manager	2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562
Punjab Roadways	2542782

WATER SUPPLY

Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjthirhi	2547501
Narwal	2430031

ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS

Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipuri	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816

FIRE SERVICE - (Control Room)

	101
--	-----

CIVIC SERVICES

Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440

FIND CINEMA

SAIYAARA (HINDI)

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	10:15 AM / 04:20 PM / 10:30 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	09:00 AM / 02:45 PM / 11:20 PM

DHADAK 2 (HINDI)

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	1:30 PM
MAHAVATAR NARSIMHA HINDI	
PVR KC JAMMU	02:45 PM / 11:30 PM

SON OF SARDAR 2 (HINDI)

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	10:00 AM / 4:30 PM / 10:30 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	05:35 PM

KURIYAN JAWAN BAPU PRESHAN 2

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	1:00 PM / 7:30 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	12:10 PM

FREAKIER FRIDAY (HINDI)

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	3:30 PM
----------------------	---------