

# Omar should refrain from endorsing Centre's abrogation of Articles 370, 35A: Mehbooba

PTI, SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party presi-

dent Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to refrain from endorsing the Centre's abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in the formulation of business rules for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The former chief minister warned that such a move would legitimise the "illegal and unconstitutional" actions taken by the BJP-led central government to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A.

In a strongly worded statement, the PDP president said despite the Supreme Court's ruling in favour of the Centre's decision, several legal experts believe that Article 370 cannot be abrogated by any authority, including Parliament.

"While the BJP may not restore these rights, it is likely that India, as a nation, will have to do so sooner or later. Any endorsement by the J&K government would weaken this claim and diminish the state's position.

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— Mehbooba Mufti, Peoples Democratic Party president

We have to keep the argument and narrative alive," she said.

Mufti also reminded the BJP-led Union government of the understanding it showed during the peak of unrest in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Thousands of FIRs of stone pelters were quashed and Ramazan ceasefire was declared. A high-powered delegation was sent to engage with the people of J&K, including separatists, who unfortunately declined the offer," she said.

"At the time, separatists believed that stone-pelting, burning schools and hospitals, and attacking army camps and police stations would resolve the Kashmir issue. However, things only

worsened," she added.

The PDP president urged the BJP to come down from its "high horse" and acknowledge that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not as normal as it appears.

"The façade of normalcy has been created by the force of agencies and the imposition of draconian laws such as the Public Safety Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"But this will not last forever. The government must reconsider its approach, reach out to the people, and build on the confidence-building measures initiated during my tenure," she said.

Mufti also stressed the need to reopen key trade routes, such as Uri-Mu-

zaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot, to boost the region's economy.

"As Jammu is increasingly sidelined, the Jammu-Sialkot route should also be revived to provide a market for Jammu's products," she said and urged the government to take inspiration from her vision document and the Agenda of Alliance, which underlined dialogue and economic development.

The PDP president claimed that little had changed even after Jammu and Kashmir elected a government in October last year.

"What's the difference between LG rule and the NC government? The same crackdowns, property attachments, and persecution of the Jamaat-e-Islami continue. Employees are still being terminated, youth are arrested under UAPA, and the misuse of PSA remains unchecked. Kashmiri youth continue to languish in jails outside J&K with no relief," she said.

**Death**  
**MARIA FRANCISCA PEREIRA**  
Born: 09.03.1941 / Died: 16.02.2025  
2ND FATRADE - VARCA  
"The world changes from year to year, but the love and memory of you shall never pass away."  
Beloved wife of late Caitan C. Fdes. Mother/mother-in-law of Peter/Ana, Patrick/Dulcin, Agnelo/Shalini, late Edwin. Grandmother of Daulita, Blossom, Beanstan & Abigail.  
Funeral Cortège will leave her residence today 17.02.25 at 3:45 p.m. to St Roque Chapel, Fatrade Varca for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.  
Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation  
Cosy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850473904

**ADEUS**  
We deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved uncle  
**FRANCISCO JOAQUIM XAVIER FERNANDES**  
Born: 16/08/1955  
Died: 16/02/2025  
and convey our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.  
Fondly missed & remembered by:  
Andrew Fernandes, Fatima Vas e Fernandes, Fanxeil Fernandes, Ednita Silveira, Baby Fay and Baba Evan.  
**WE PRAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.**  
Condolent Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao. Ph. 9823022194

**LORD I AM COMING HOME**  
Born: 21/08/1943  
Died: 16/02/2025  
**ANTHONY ROBERT CRASTO**  
(DANDEVADDO 1 - CHINCHINIM)  
Son of: Late Apolinario Crasto / Late Diogunha (Elvina) Costa  
Husband of: Judalina (Judy) Pascoal Crasto  
Brother/Brother-in-Law of: Late Virginia / Late Luis Fernandes, Late Margaret/Late Franky Faria, Glafira / Late Estelito Dias, Ranson/Eva Crasto.  
Brother-in-Law of: John / Assumptina D'Souza.  
Father/Father-in-Law: Elton/Jean, Elvina / Clarence.  
Grandfather of: Eyrich, Aleixo and Isla.  
Funeral Cortège will leave his residence Dandevaddo on 18th February 2025 at 3:45 pm to Our Lady of Hope Church, Chinchinim followed by mass and burial.  
Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation  
Cosy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850473904

**DEATH**  
BORN: 08/05/1963  
DIED: 15/02/2025  
**SOCCORO PRECCY COLACO (PRACXY COLACO)**  
(POROBUS VADDO, VELIM)  
"A thought, a prayer, is all we can give, This you will have, as long as we live."  
Beloved son of late Prizaco Colaco & late Ely Sales. Loving brother/brother-in-law of Pratima/Ledwig Vaz, Immaculate/Wilson Caeiro. Affectionate uncle of Lysander, Liyana & Lionel Vaz, Intasha/Roosevelt Mendes, Warren/Shaina Caeiro & loving TI Praxy of Zayne Caeiro.  
Funeral cortège will leave his residence on 18/02/2025 (Tuesday) at 3:45 pm to St. Francis Xavier Church, Velim for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.  
(NO CONDOLENCE VISIT PLEASE)  
RELATIVES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION

**HEAVEN GAINED AN ANGEL**  
You left so suddenly, Without a chance to say goodbye, And though we try to understand, Only God knows why. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow, Our tears still gently fall, For losing you has left a void, Yet your Love still holds us all. A mother's love, a grandma's touch, So precious, so pure, And though heaven holds you now, Your love, your strength, and precious memories Will keep us close forevermore. Rest in peace, our precious one  
**Luisa Rebelo**  
TAMBETTUM, MAINA - CURTORIM  
BORN: 14/3/1946 DIED: 13/2/2025  
Beloved Mother / Mother-in-law of: Virginia (Elvira) / Manuel Rodrigues.  
Most affectionate & everloving Grandmother of: Mabyn / Carlos, Vanessa Krissy / Javley & Brylan. Doting great-grandmother of: Jade & Chloe.  
Rest easy our Beloved Mai

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
Born: 14.03.1946  
Died: 13.02.2025  
**Luisa Rebelo**  
Tambettim, Maina-Curtorim  
"No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye. But the love you left behind will never die! You will always remain forever in our hearts"  
Adues Mai  
Wife of late Aleixo Rebelo.  
Ever loving mother/mother-in-law: Virginia/Manuel, Minguelina/Joseph Manuel, Joaquim Santan/Margarita, Caetano(Cajie)/Isabela, Leopoldo, Julia/Robert. Sister/sister in law of Menin/Caetano Manuel, Antoneta/Lourecinio, late Custodio/late Magliin & Sr. Rosalina(Ursuline Community, Brazil). Most precious grandmother and great grandmother. Passed away peacefully.  
Funeral cortège will leave her residence on TUESDAY 18th Feb. 2025 at 3:45 pm for St. Rita's Church, Maina Curtorim for Eucharistic celebration at 4:00pm followed by burial.  
Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation  
BODKIES 9822129657

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In ever loving memory of  
**SANJAY PRAKASH MALGI**  
(Ex-D.O. of LIC, Panjim-Goa / U.K.) (Durgawadi - Taleigao)  
Son of PRAKASH / SUMANGALA MALGI, Beloved husband of CYNTHIA MALGI, Father of ILEANA.  
Brother/Brother-in-law of JASMINE (DINGY)/RAUL. Uncle of JIA, Son-in-law of CASTILHO/CONCEICAO FERNANDES. Brother-in-law of CERELANA/BRICIO BRAGANZA, CYDAN, Uncle of CHRISLEY & Family. There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved SANJAY PRAKASH MALGI, on Tuesday, 18th February, 2025, at 7.30 a.m. at Our Lady of Ajuda Church, Ribandar followed by prayers and blessing of the grave, offered by sorrowful family.  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
We the bereaved family of LATE SANJAY express our profound gratitude to the Priest Fr. Francis Dias, Doctors, Relatives, Neighbours & Friends who helped us in our hour of grief, offered floral tributes, condolences & prayers. We regret our inability to thank each one personally. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In Everloving Memory of  
**ASHBURN LYNDON PEREIRA**  
~Porvorim-Socorro~  
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved son and brother Ashburn, on Tuesday the 18th of February 2025 at 8:00 a.m. at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave.  
Relatives, Neighbours & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
ART TRICKS-8011429627

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
**FRANCISCO JOAQUIM XAVIER FERNANDES**  
(Proprietor of M/S FERRON CONSTRUCTIONS and EX-SARPANCH, SAO JOSE DE AREAL, SALCETE - GOA)  
BORN: 16/08/1955 DIED: 16/02/2025  
Most Beloved Husband of Bernardina Romana Vas (GMHSS, Borda-Margao). Son of Late Joaquim Simao Fernandes / Late Florinda Dias. Son-in-Law of Late Constantino Vas / Filomena Sequeira. Father / Father-in-law of Flossy (DSLRL, Panjim) / Jofry De Souza (Deccan Fine Chem Pvt Ltd), Ferron and Er. Floyd Avina. Most Affectionate Nana of Baba Jonan and Jaeden. Brother / Brother-in-Law of Late Josefina / Late Emidio D'Silva, Brother-in-Law of Fatima / Andrew Fernandes, Basilia Vas, Manuel / Flavia Vas. Loving Uncle of Alvito / Nelly, Jasmine / Earl, Connie / Mounita, Roanna / Agnelo, Fanxeil / Ednita, Jayesh, Shania & Shane. Funeral Cortège will leave his residence Naikabhat, Sao Jose De Areal TODAY, at 3:15 p.m., 17th February 2025 (Monday) to St. Joseph Church, Sao Jose De Areal for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.  
Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
Aquila Advt. 9421377777 9421577777

# Praised Kerala's startup growth, not CPI(M)-led govt: Tharoor

PTI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday clarified that he did not praise the CPI(M)-led government in Kerala, but instead highlighted the state's progress in the startup sector.

Speaking to reporters here, Tharoor said that his article in an English daily did not contain any political references. He emphasised that his focus was solely on Kerala's growth in entrepreneurship and innovation, aiming to highlight the state's development in that specific area.

Tharoor's response followed the political storm triggered by his article in the English daily, where he praised Kerala's entrepre-

I wrote the article based on the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2024, which stated that Kerala attracted an investment of 1.7 billion US Dollars within 18 months. If anyone challenges the accuracy of this fact, I will relay it to those who published the report

— Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP

neurial growth under the LDF government. While his party questioned the basis of his claims, the CPI(M) welcomed them.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday attacked the opposition stating that Tharoor's article had debunked the false propaganda spread by the Congress-led UDF against Kerala.

However, responding to the issue, KPCC president K Sudhakaran accused the Left government of inflating

small enterprise figures, but did not mention Tharoor by name.

Tharoor said, "I wrote the article based on the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2024, which stated that Kerala attracted an investment of 1.7 billion US Dollars within 18 months. If anyone challenges the accuracy of this fact, I will relay it to those who published the report."

The Congress leader also clarified that he does not believe that the overall industrial environment in Kerala has changed. Kerala is still facing a major economic crisis, with 80 per cent of state PSUs running at a loss, he stated.

Tharoor further said that he had voiced his opposition over several other issues, including youth unemployment, noting that Kerala ranks second after Jammu and Kashmir

in terms of high unemployment rates.

He claimed that the state is facing a crisis due to the migration of educated youth and challenges in the agricultural sector, particularly in rubber, cashew, and pineapple farming. In a latest Facebook post on Sunday, Tharoor said that his article is not an attempt to assess the entire economic situation of Kerala.

"I wrote this article as an MP, focusing on a specific issue in Kerala the transformation of the business environment driven by the growth of the startup sector," his post said.

"I take this opportunity to proudly acknowledge that it was former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, as a Congressman, who laid the foundation for this progress. The developments stem from his initiatives, including the launch of the Startup Village and the state's Startup Mission. The current government has naturally carried them forward," it added.

# Gaurav may be trapped, I have sympathy for him: Himanta on Cong MP's wife's controversy

PTI, GUWAHATI: Appearing to soften his stand against Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi over the controversy surrounding the Congress leader's British wife, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday suggested that the opposition leader may have been "trapped or blackmailed" as part of a larger

"anti-India" conspiracy. Sarma expressed sympathy for Gogoi, saying the matter had gone beyond politics with the emergence of new evidence and was now solely related to national security.

The BJP leader welcomed the Congress MP's planned legal case over the controversy related to his wife Elizabeth Colburn's alleged ISI links, saying the state government was also mulling a similar step.

"We started discussing this topic about a parliamentarian, but now it has escalated to a much higher level. It is no longer related to Gaurav Gogoi. Now, we have proof or information of an anti-India force actively working behind this. We will decide in today's cabinet," Sarma said.

The CM said when he meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah the next time, he will discuss how the state gov't's proactiveness can be synergised with central agencies. "Now it looks like Gaurav Gogoi is just an actor in the entire system, he is not the director. Maybe, he is trapped unintentionally. So, we will examine the matter with a sympathetic outlook. We don't want to accuse him at this moment.

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In loving memory of  
**Maria Gracina Coutinho**  
(Vidhanagar - Aquem, Margao)  
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Maria on Tuesday, 18th February 2025 at 8:00 am at Holy Spirit Church, Margao, followed by prayers and blessings at the grave, offered by her sorrowful husband Danny, daughter Dilys and family.  
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

**CONDOLENCE**  
If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Romans 14:8  
We deeply mourn the sad demise of our dear  
**LUDOVICO SANTANA BARRETO**  
(Maina - Curtorim)  
**MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE**  
With fond memories from  
Nephews & Niece Bruno, Centia/Nevel, Loyal and Grandchildren Lea, Liva & Luello.  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992