

Uneasy Calm In Leh After Daylong Turmoil

50 Detained; Educational Institutions Closed



Observer News Service

Srinagar: An uneasy calm prevailed in Leh on Thursday as police and paramilitary forces strictly enforced a curfew, a day after violent clashes between protesters demanding

statehood and security personnel left four dead and over 80 injured.

At least 50 people have been detained in connection with the unrest that erupted during a shutdown called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) | [More on P10](#)

Wangchuk's NGO FCRA License Cancelled

Observer News Service

The Central Government has cancelled the FCRA license of Sonam Wangchuk's | [More on P10](#)

KDA Seeks Impartial Probe

Press Trust Of India

Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Thursday demanded an impartial probe into the clashes between protesters and security personnel in Leh town of Ladakh and asked the Union Territory administration to stop "witch hunting" and | [More on P10](#)

Govt To Provide 5-marla Land To Flood-hit Families: CM

Hopes For A Comprehensive Relief Package From Centre

Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said five marlas of land will be provided to each flood-affected family rendered homeless to allow them to reconstruct their dwelling units. Omar made the announcement while interacting with residents of Duggain village in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district,



whose houses and livelihoods were severely impacted by the recent flooding.

Earlier, he conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in the district, accompanied by Bani MLA Rameshwar Singh.

Assuring people of all possible | [More on P10](#)

'Honesty In Pleadings Non-negotiable'

HC Imposes Rs 20K Costs For Suppressing Facts

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that transparency and honesty in pleadings are "non-negotiable," the High Court of J&K and Ladakh imposed Rs 20,000 costs on "sub-contractors" for suppressing the material facts before it.

The petitioners had sought directions against respondents in particular Hindustan Construction

(HCC) Co. Ltd to release the withheld amount of nearly Rs 24 lakhs along with interest at the rate of 24% per annum for the "wrongful withholding of the payment of the admitted liability" in connection with completion of the contract work—Uri Hydel Project II.

However, counsel for HCC argued that petitioners have not come to the Court with | [More on P10](#)

J&K RS Polls

NC Yet To Decide On Seat Sharing: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the National Conference (NC) has not yet held any discussions regarding the party's candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections scheduled for October 24.

Omar hinted at the possibility of allocating a seat to their ally, the Congress,

saying the party will decide its strategy after considering how many seats it wishes to contest and how many it may allow others to contest.

"There are four seats. We will decide how many seats we will fight and how many seats we will leave for others to contest," Abdullah told reporters during his visit to the flood-hit Mahore | [More on P10](#)

₹1 Lakh Cr Urban Challenge Fund A Game-Changer: LG Sinha

Calls For Uniform Housing Regulations Across States, UTs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called for uniform housing regulations across states and union territories to make the real estate sector more transparent, competitive and people-friendly. Speaking at the Governing Council Meeting of the All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (AIFORERA)



in Srinagar, the LG said uniformity in rules would bring harmony, protect

home buyers' interests, and strengthen accountability in project delivery.

"The transparency, accountability, and efficiency brought by the RERA Act 2016 must protect home-buyers' interests, and a swift grievance redressal mechanism is required to transform this sector into a more regulated and efficient industry," Sinha said.

He underlined that the ₹1 lakh crore | [More on P10](#)

'500 New ATL Labs Will Boost Inclusive Innovation'

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir is set to witness a major boost in student-led innovation with the launch of 500 additional Atal Innovation Labs (ATLs) under the Frontier Region Program, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced today at the University of Kashmir. The initiative, costing Rs 100 crore, aims to expand access to innovation infrastructure across remote and tribal areas of the | [More on P10](#)

15-Day Deadline To Stop Environmental Plunder

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Committee on Environment on Thursday issued a stern directive to all concerned departments to submit detailed action-taken reports within 15 days on measures to curb environmental violations across the Union Territory.

The high-level review meeting, held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla, emphasised a zero-tolerance approach to environmental degradation while recognising the need to protect the livelihoods of communities dependent on natural resources.

"We will not allow anyone to loot our environment," said committee member and Uri MLA Sajad Shafi. He stressed that laws protecting forests, rivers, and other natural assets will be enforced | [More on P10](#)



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2

Study Shows High BP In Childhood Linked With Increased Death Risk From Heart Disease In Mid-50s

Press Trust Of India

A higher blood pressure at age seven could increase risk of dying from heart disease in mid-50s, researchers said, stressing the importance of checking children's blood pressure regularly and inculcating heart-healthy habits. "Having hypertension or elevated blood pressure as a child may increase the risk of death by 40 per cent to 50 per cent over the next five decades of an individual's life," said lead author of the study, Alexa Freedman, an assistant professor at the North-western University's school of medicine, US. The researchers presented the findings at the American Heart Association's Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2025. The study is also published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). Around 38,000 children born to women enrolled in the US Collaborative Perinatal Project (CPP) between 1959 and 1966 were followed up into the sixth



decade of their lives. A total of 2,837 participants were found to have died in 2016 -- 504 of these were attributed to cardiovascular disease. The authors wrote, "In a large sample of US children born between 1959 and 1966, higher BP at age seven years was associated with greater risk of premature (cardiovascular) mortality." "Our results highlight the importance of screening for blood pressure in childhood and focusing on strategies to promote optimal cardiovascular health

beginning in childhood," Freedman said. Bonita Falkner, an expert volunteer with the American Heart Association, emeritus professor of paediatrics and medicine at Thomas Jefferson University, and not involved with the study, said the results of this study and those of older child cohort ones, with potential follow-up in adulthood, "will contribute to a more accurate definition of abnormal blood pressure and hypertension in childhood."

In a large sample of US children born between 1959 and 1966, higher BP at age seven years was associated with greater risk of premature (cardiovascular) mortality

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, PULWAMA

email : xenphe.pulwama@jk.gov.in

GIST NOTICE INVITING TENDERS E-NIT S. No. 14/PHEP/Fresh of 2025-26

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)e-tenders in single cover system are invited on overall percentage rate basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	EMD/ Performance Security @3% (in ₹)	Cost of TD (in ₹)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Programme	Ref to AA	Tender Call
1	Providing of water supply facilities to buildings of Milk Chilling Unit/ Feed Block Making Unit at Sangerwani.	0.72	2160	200	15 days	DEE	SCA to TSS	25-DDCP of 2025 Dated 25-02-2025, endorsed vide No. DDCP/MilkVillage/2024-25/5868-80 Dated, 25-02-2025.	2 nd

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	25	09	2025	1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	25	09	2025	1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	25	09	2025	1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	08	10	2025	1400 Hrs
5	Bid opening date	09	10	2025	1100 Hrs

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama** and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama**. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)
- Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:
 - i) Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR
 - ii) Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
 - iii) Scanned copy of self-attested bidder details as per the format annexed.
 - iv) Scanned copy of the latest Income Tax Return.
 - v) Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the last quarter.
 - vi) Scanned copy of a duly notarized Legal Affidavit, executed by the authorized signatory of the tenderer, mentioning the Name of Work and Reference to NIT/Work, certifying the following:
 - The Tenderer is not blacklisted/ debarred by any of the Central/ State/ UT Government /Board/Corporation / PSU, as procuring entity in India on the date of the submission of the tender.
 - The Tenderer has not been declared bankrupt by any institution or Government.
 - The tenderer has not been adjudged by any court of law of the land as insolvent.
- Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.
- Note: Bidders must upload only the required documents as specified above. Submitting irrelevant or unnecessary documents will lead to the rejection of your tender. Please ensure that you follow the instructions carefully to avoid any issues.**
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The original instrument in respect of **Treasury Receipt, EMD** and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama** by hand or by speed/registered post before processing of allotment. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least two years.
- No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of (jktenders.gov.in)
- The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the tender opening committee to be constituted by the competent authority.
 - No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours.**
- Videography record through the professional person before, during & after execution and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated in tender document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawings and as per site requirements.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the bidder

NO: PHEP/2338-48
DIPK-6542/25

Dated:-25-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division,
Pulwama

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that The White Luxury, situated on the banks of Nigeen, Srinagar, has applied before the competent authority for registration as a Home Stay. Any person having any objection to the said registration is hereby invited to submit the same, in writing, along with supporting documents, to the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no objections are received within the stipulated period, the registration shall be processed further in accordance with law, and no subsequent objections shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Khalid Qayoom Mir
Mob: 78894 29460

fzko

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 30242 session september 1995 year 1995 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/parent against my name / caste as Mushtaq Ahmad instead of Mushtaq Ahmad Lone Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mushtaq Ahmad Lone
Father's name: Ghulam Qadir Lone
Mother's Name: Gh Fatima
DOB: 16-04-1973
Residence: Uri (Main) Baramulla
Mobile no: 9596709991



inf

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in the records of Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Shuhama Nagbal Branch, the mother's name in the Joint Mother/Daughter Account No. 0854040100001996 in the name of Haya Jan has been wrongly recorded as Haseena. The correct name is Irfana Akhter. Any person having any objection to this change may approach the concerned bank branch or the relevant authority within 7(seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of this period, no objection shall be entertained, and the correction will be deemed final.

NOTICE

I Dr. Tajamul Hussain Shah, Resident of Hyder Colony B, Buchpora, Srinagar, hereby declare that in the school records of my son namely Saleh Tajamul shah, the mother's name of Saleh Tajamul Shah is recorded as Sumaira, the actual and correct name of Saleh Tajamul Shah's mother is Sumaira Nabi. If anyone having any objection to this correction is requested to contact principal of Burn Hall School, Sonwar, Srinagar within one week of the publication of this notice.

Date 26/09/2025

Media Info only

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Ray-eesa Jaan while my correct name is Raveesa Jan. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Raveesa Jan
D/O Ghulam Mustafa Dar
R/o Rakh Doslipora Tehsil Singpora

fko

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in Name in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04B 8811 issued in favour of MO-HAMMAD MAQBOOL MALIK Parentage GHULAM MOHI U DDIN MALIK

Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL MALIK Parentage GHULAM MOHI U DDIN MALIK wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Registration Certificate as MOHAMMAD MAQ-BOOL MALIK Parentage LATE MEHDI MALIK Which needs to be changed as MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL MALIK Parentage GH-ULAM MOHI U DDIN MALIK Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Bud-gam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Rifat jabeen to (New Name) Rifat begun in future I will be known as Rifat begun. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact pass-port office srinagar within 7 days. after 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Name: Rifat begun
W/o: Muzaffar ahmad antoo
R/o: Nageen Bagh Sopore

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Anwar Muneer while his correct name is Mohammad Anwar Sheikh . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muneer Ahmad Sheikh
F/o Mohammad Anwar Sheikh
R/o Nehalpora Tehsil pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the trade name in the Pesticide License from Gulposh Pesticide to JK Farms Fertilizers. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi Srinagar, within a period of seven days.

Mohd Ashraf Ganaie
Ghulam Qadir Ganaie
Gonipora, Kunzer

fko

ازنیابت ہونی زینگیئر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب طارق احمد ولد غلام نبی بٹ ساکنہ ہونی بمراد اجرائی / ڈیپنٹ سرفٹیکٹ بحق خود

اشتہار ہرخاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست لغرض ڈیپنٹ سرفٹیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کاجائی غورخیدا احمد بومردخہ 06-12 کوٹ ہوا ہے اور موتنی کے وارثان جائزہ ذیل ہے

غلام نبی بٹ ولد محمد بٹ عمر رسیدہ 75 سال والد موتنی

عاشق بیگم دختر غلام نبی بٹ گھریلو کام 45 سال بشیرہ۔۔

رفیقہ بیگم دختر۔۔ 43 سال ۔۔

طارق احمد بٹ پسر۔۔ دکا نداری 39 سال برادر موتنی

گلشن اختر دختر۔۔ گھریلو کام 35 سال بشیرہ۔۔

عبدل حمید بٹ ولد غلام نبی دکا نداری 31 سال برادر

اس کے علاوہ سماعتہ عائشہ بیگم و رفیقہ بیگم دختر گلشن اختر کی شادی ہو چکی ہے اور اپنے شوہران کے ساتھ خانہ آباد ہے ہے سرفٹیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مذکر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکو فتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ عدا کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تحصیلدار

FKO

ازنیابت ہونی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب مصطفی سلطان ولد محمد سلطان اخبار ساکنہ گنگی پورہ بمراد عطا لگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق اولاد ان ابرار و مطیب دفاق

اشتہار ہرخاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست لغرض OBC سرفٹیکٹ بذمرہ اخبار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی اخبار ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن سخی پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور سخی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کاتبہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

مصطفی سلطان ولد محمد سلطان اخبار مزدوری 39 سال 6000

صفیرہ بیگم زوجہ مصطفی سلطان اخبار گھریلو کام 36 سال

ابرار مصطفی پسر۔۔ زیر تعلیم 13 سال

مطیب مصطفی۔۔ 10 ۔۔

فاق مصطفی۔۔ 05 ۔۔

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرفٹیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنپہ کی مہوار آمدنی 6,000 روپے تک ہے سرفٹیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مذکر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکو فتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ عدا کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تحصیلدار

FKO

ازنیابت ہونی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب محمد شفیع ابنگرو ولد محمد شبان ابنگر ساکنہ زاولہ بمراد عطا لگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق اولاد ان دختر تنزیلہ شفیع

اشتہار ہرخاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست لغرض OBC سرفٹیکٹ بذمرہ ابنگر پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی ابنگر ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن زاولہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور سخی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کاتبہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد شفیع ابنگر ولد محمد شبان ابنگر مزدوری 45 سال 4000

شریفہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شفیع ابنگر گھریلو کام 44

مسکان شفیع دختر زیر تعلیم 20 سال

تنزیلہ شفیع 18 سال ۔۔

عزیزہ شفیع محمد ابنگر 14 سال ۔۔

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرفٹیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنپہ کی مہوار آمدنی 6,000 روپے تک ہے سرفٹیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمہ اخبار سراسر دان کے اندر اندر اپنے مذکر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکو فتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ عدا کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تحصیلدار

FKO

ازنیابت ہونی پورہ اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار شو لی پورہ

مضمون :- درخواست اجازت بذمہ دختر تنزیلہ علی سان ڈیپنٹ جملہ بڈگام بمراد اجرائی لگی ہیئر (Legal Heir) سرفٹیکٹ

اشتہار ہر اد گانی ہر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست نسبت اجرائی ہیئر سرفٹیکٹ دختر خاندان پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے جس کی نسبت پٹواری حلقہ کے پورٹ طلب کی ہے جس کے مطابق ساکنہ والدہ السید ولدہ سید محمد الدسان ڈڈنہ مورخہ 2025-18 کوٹ ہو چکا ہے ساکنہ نے نوٹیفکیشن کاپی ماتھر بھی ہے موتنی کاتیکٹ ذیل درج ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و معلولیت	رشد و نمو موتنی	عمر	پیشہ	کنیت
1	سید محمد یوسف	پسر	48 سال	تجارت	شادی شدہ
2	سید شوکت	پسر	38 سال	ملازم	شادی شدہ
3	سید تاجار	پسر	32 سال	ملازم	شادی شدہ
4	سید اختر	دختر	40 سال	گھریلو کام	طلاق شدہ
5	سید وحید	دختر	33 سال	گھریلو کام	شادی شدہ

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو سرفٹیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک حلقہ کے اندر اندر دفتر میں پیش کریں بعد گزرے یہ عدا کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر

تابع تحصیلدار شو لی پورہ

mcb

Chinar Corps Holds Free Medical Camp For Chattabal Residents

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to provide accessible healthcare and address the medical needs of the local population, the Chinar Corps on Thursday organised a free medical camp at Chattabal.

According to a statement, the camp extended medical aid to over 300 residents, including women and children, reflecting the strong community response to the initiative.

The camp offered comprehensive consultations along with free blood investigations for diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, anaemia and dyslipidemia. Recognising the persistent concern of dental health in the area, a special dental camp was also arranged, which emerged as

one of the major highlights of the day.

Officials said the initiative facilitated timely diagnosis and raised awareness about lifestyle-related diseases while also providing essential treatment guidance to the underprivileged. By reaching out to those with limited access to medical facilities, the camp contributed towards fostering a healthier environment within the community.

The effort was widely appreciated by locals, who expressed gratitude for the Army's outreach, which not only helped bridge gaps in primary healthcare but also reinforced preventive health awareness and further strengthened the bond of trust and goodwill between the Army and the Awam.

Youth Engagement Stressed In Forest Protection Event At SP College



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an effort to strengthen youth participation in environmental protection, the Zamin Foundation in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department on Thursday organised an awareness session on forest conservation at SP College Srinagar.

The programme, part of ongoing initiatives to involve students in climate and ecology-related issues, sought to highlight the importance of preserving the Valley's fragile forest ecosystems.

The session was inaugurated by Prof. Kaiser Bashir of the Department of Environmental Science, who underlined the college's commitment to environmental education. "We have a responsibility to nurture a generation of ecologically conscious citizens who understand their role in safeguarding natural resources," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Idrees Ahmed of Zamin Foundation outlined the organ-

isation's initiatives in sustainable community development and ecological balance.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Shiba, Range Officer Urban Forestry, J&K Forests, gave an engaging presentation on the challenges of forest conservation, the Forest Department's role in protection and management, and the importance of community involvement. She also introduced students to "Van Darshani," an initiative of the department to promote ecological awareness among children, and invited the Eco Club of SP College to join an upcoming eco-trek to the Zabarwan Hills.

The interactive session saw students raise questions on forest fires, conservation policies, and strategies for safeguarding the green cover.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed, Head of the EVS Department, who appreciated the collaboration between Zamin Foundation, the Forest Department, and the college in engaging students on environmental issues.

150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

RPHQ Sgr Organizes Seminar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Range Police Headquarters Srinagar in collaboration with Amar Singh College (Cluster University) Srinagar organized a Speech Competition (Seminar) at BCA Hall, Amar Singh College Srinagar Thursday, to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

A police spokesman said in a statement that the event was organized under the theme "Sardar Patel's Policy of National Integration is Still Relevant" aimed at to engage students in meaningful reflections on the values of unity, discipline, courage and leadership embodied by the 'Iron Man of India'.

Students from various departments of the college participated in the event with great enthusiasm presenting thought provoking speeches in English, Urdu, Hindi & Kashmiri languages.

The speech competition was graced by Prof. (Dr) Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, Principal Amar Singh College Srinagar as the Chief Guest.

In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the enduring relevance of Sardar Patel's vision, stating Sardar Patel's contribution to national integration stands unmatched.

All the guests delivered remarkable speeches and highlighted Sardar Patel's vision of integrity, self-determination, administrative acumen and deep commitment towards national unity.



Promote Local Products, Dr Jitendra Singh Tells Lal Chowk Traders

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday toured the bustling Lal Chowk market in Srinagar, where he interacted with traders and urged them to prioritise the sale and promotion of indigenous products to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's economy and empower local artisans.

The visit came in the backdrop of the Centre's recent revision of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates, a move the Minister described as "transformative" for small businesses across the country, including in Kashmir.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a landmark step by rationalising GST slabs.

Several items are now at zero per cent tax, which is being celebrated across India. What is more heartening is to see the same celebratory mood here in Kashmir's prime marketplace," Dr. Singh told reporters after meeting shopkeepers.

The Minister said traders at Lal Chowk expressed gratitude for the GST relief and noted that the decision had brought a tangible sense of ease to doing business. "Since Lal Chowk is also a centre for tourists from across India and abroad, the positive message going out from here carries nationwide significance," he remarked.

Recalling Prime Minister Modi's visit to Srinagar during the

2014 floods, Dr. Singh said the gesture of spending Diwali with affected families instead of at his official residence highlighted the government's enduring commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Linking the promotion of local products to the broader vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Minister said encouraging locally-made goods would not only boost the Valley's economy but also create more opportunities for artisans, traders and entrepreneurs.

"Empowering small businesses through indigenous products is the surest way to build a self-reliant economy. It is our collective responsibility to support this cause," Dr. Singh added.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS TAKEN A LANDMARK STEP BY RATIONALISING GST SLABS. Several items are now at zero per cent tax, which is being celebrated across India. What is more heartening is to see the same celebratory mood here in Kashmir's prime marketplace,"

Assembly Panel Urges Speedy Action On Pending PWD Assurances

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday held a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review assurances pertaining to the Public Works Department (PWD).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Sajad Gani Lone and attended by members Ch. Mohammad Akram, Javaid Ahmad Mirchal, Hilal Akbar Lone, Iftikar Ahmad, Mian Mehar Ali, Mohan Lal, Sunil Bahardwaj, and Shagun Parihar.

Senior officers of the PWD, including Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singh, Special Secretary R&B Naseer Ahmad Wani, Director Finance Mazhar Hussain, Joint Director Planning Mohammad Yaseen Lone, and Deputy Director Finance



Mohd Iqbal, were also present.

The Committee held a detailed discussion on assurances given by the government with regard to PWD works and projects. At the outset, the Chairman directed officials to address grievances and issues raised by members on priority. The officers assured the Committee that all pending assurances would be acted upon at the earliest, with the Principal Secretary reaffirming the Department's commitment to pri-

oritizing the highlighted works.

In his remarks, Chairman Sajad Gani Lone underlined that the Committee's mandate is to scrutinize assurances, promises, and undertakings made by Ministers on the floor of the House and to assess their implementation within a stipulated time frame. He emphasized the Committee's role in ensuring accountability, transparency, and improved governance, while announcing that frequent meetings would be convened to monitor progress.

Seminar On Practical Application Of New Criminal Laws Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Highlighting the need to connect legal education with real-world law enforcement, the Vitasta School of Law and Humanities today hosted a seminar in collaboration with Nowgam Police Station, focusing on the practical implications of recently enacted criminal laws.

The seminar served as a platform for students to understand how new legislation is implemented at the ground level. DySP (Probationer) Anwar Khan Ji and SHO Nowgam Mashrat Ahmad shared field experiences, explaining the challenges police officers face while ap-



plying the laws in daily operations.

Principal Rakib Ahmad Zia chaired the session, while faculty members Sadaf Sareen Khan and Uzma Yaqoob coordinated the programme. Third-semester students actively participated, raising queries during an interactive segment that offered candid responses from the officers.

The student organizing team from

the 2021 batch, led by Faizan Fayaz, ensured smooth management of the event. Senior student representative Sheeraz Bhat was also present to support the proceedings.

The seminar concluded with felicitation of student speakers and organizers, reinforcing the importance of bridging academic knowledge with practical insights into law enforcement.

- 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: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

02 Rabi-ul-Sani

1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:58
ZUHR	12: 22
ASR	4:41
Magrib	6:27
ISHA	7:47

This Day In History

- 46 BC - Julius Caesar dedicates a temple to his mythical ancestor Venus Genetrix in accordance with a vow he made at the battle of Pharsalus.
- 1901 - Great Britain annexes the Ashanti Kingdom and places it under the governor of the Gold Coast (Ghana)
- 1938 - Hitler issues ultimatum to Czech government, demanding Sudeten Land
- 1940 - Airplane manufacturer in Woolston bombed, 30 killed
- 1940 - Japanese troops attack French Indo-China
- 1944 - British & Polish paratroopers evacuate Oosterbeek (Arnhem)
- 1944 - Soviet forces occupy Estonia
- 1950 - Because of forest fire in Br Columbia, blue moon appears in England
- 1953 - US & Spain sign defense treaty (4 US bases in Spain)
- 1954 - Japanese ferry boat Toya Maru sinks in Strait of Tsugaru, 1172 die
- 1957 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1962 - Yemen Arab Republic proclaimed (National Day)
- 1973 - Turkey's state of siege ends (after 2½ years)
- 1980 - Soyuz 38 returns to Earth
- 1983 - Cosmonauts Titov & Strelakov are saved from exploding Soyuz T-10
- 1983 - Lebanon premier Chafiq Wazzan offers to resigns
- 1983 - Soviet military officer Stanislav Petrov averts a worldwide nuclear war by judging supposed missile attack from the US an error
- 1984 - President Reagan vetoes sanctions against South Africa
- 1985 - Tunisia drops diplomatic relations with Libya
- 1988 - US space shuttle STS-26 launched
- 1989 - Last Vietnamese soldiers leave Cambodia
- 1989 - Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze calls for total destruction of Soviet & US chemical weapons
- 1992 - Nigerian Air Force Hercules C-130 crashes three minutes after take-off from Lagos, Nigeria, killing 163
- 1992 - Tsuruhiko Kiuchi discovers comet Swift-Tuttle
- 1993 - Indians win their last game at Cleveland Stadium, beating Brewers 6-4
- 1995 - Earliest 1st-class cricket in Aust season (Qld v Western Prov)
- 2000- Anti-globalization protests in Prague, involving some 20,000 protesters, turn violent during the IMF and World Bank summits
- 2000- MS Express Samina sinks off Paros in the Aegean Sea, killing 80 passengers
- 2002- Overcrowded Senegalese ferry MV Joola capsizes off the coast of Gambia killing more than 1,000
- 2004- Canadian runner Ed Whitlock (73) becomes the first person over 70 to complete a marathon in under 3 hours (2:54:48) at the Toronto Marathon, Ontario
- 2006- Chris Sharma free solos Es Pontàs in Mallorca, Spain, the world's first-ever 9a+ (5.15a) deep-water solo route
- 2007- Shinzo Abe formally ends his first term as Prime Minister of Japan
- 2012- Greek trade unions call a general strike to protest austerity measures
- 2012- Japanese automakers suspend operations in China
- 2014- 43 students from Ayotzinapa Teachers College go missing (and presumed murdered) in Iguala on their way to a protest - one of Mexico's worst human rights cases
- 2014- World Health Organizations estimates that Ebola death toll has reached 3,091 - with Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone hit hardest
- 2016- First US Presidential debate: Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton vs Republican Donald Trump at Hofstra University
- 2017- Saudi Arabia announces it is overturning its ban on women driving, becoming the last country in the world to do so
- 2017- The video game Fortnite: Battle Royale is released, eventually becoming one of the most popular games worldwide
- 2017- World's second-largest gem-quality diamond, "Lesedi La Rona," sells for \$53 million
- 2019- WHO announces 800,000 children in DR Congo will be vaccinated in nine days in world's largest measles epidemic that has taken over 3,500 lives
- 2020- 108 pilot whales survive, while 350 die in Australia's largest mass stranding at Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania

Satellite Photos Suggest Undeclared Iranian ICBM Test

Associated Press

Dubai- : Iran has likely carried out an undeclared missile test at its Imam Khomeini Spaceport, satellite photos analysed by The Associated Press showed Thursday, underlining Tehran's effort to maintain its weapons programme despite the 12-day war with Israel in June.

Iran has not formally acknowledged the test last week, carried out at a circular pad that has hosted other major launches by the country's civilian space programme. A single lawmaker in Iran's parliament, however, claimed, without offering evidence, that Tehran tested a possible intercontinental ballistic missile.

The test and the claim raise concerns that Iran may be trying to expand the reach of its missiles as tensions remain high ahead of United Nations sanctions, which are likely to be reimposed this weekend over Tehran's nuclear programme — as it also repairs missile sites that were struck by the Israelis.

Scorch marks seen on the launch pad

Last Thursday, September 18, Iranian social media users posted images of the sky over Semnan province, showing what appeared to be a rocket's contrail at sunset. Iranian officials did not acknowledge what caused the contrail, nor did Iranian state media report



That image shows significant scorch marks, the pattern of which resembled scorching seen at the pad following past launches. When rockets launch, the flames from their engines pour down onto pads.

on the incident.

Satellite photos taken prior to that by Planet Labs PBC show the circular pad at Imam Khomeini Spaceport — about 230 kilometres south-east of Iran's capital, Tehran, in Semnan — painted blue ringed with red, white and green lines — the colours of the Iranian flag.

But in satellite images since September 18, the pad appeared discoloured, though it wasn't fully clear until a more-detailed Planet image requested by the AP taken this Wednesday.

That image shows significant scorch marks, the pattern of which resembled scorching seen at the pad following past launches. When rockets launch, the flames from their engines pour down onto pads.

Yemen Drone Breaches Israeli Defences, Injures 22 in Eilat

Associated Press

Jerusalem- In a rare breach of Israel's sophisticated missile defences a drone launched by Yemen's Houthi fighters

fallen in open areas without wounding anyone.

The Ansarallah said in a statement that its fighters had fired two drones at Israel. Israel has carried out retaliation



struck southern Israeli city of Eilat on Wednesday wounding 22 people, according to medics.

In the Gaza Strip meanwhile, Israelis killed at least 41 Palestinians, according to local hospitals.

Iran-backed Ansarallah fighters, known as Houthis in Yemen have regularly fired drones and missiles at Israel — and attacked international shipping — in what they say is support for the Palestinians. The vast majority of the drones and missiles fired at Israel have been shot down or

tory airstrikes on Yemen after past attacks, and Defence Minister Israel Katz, in a post on X, warned the Houthis that “anyone who harms Israel will be harmed sevenfold”.

The Israeli military said it had tried to intercept the drone. The Magen David Adom rescue service said the wounded were taken to a nearby hospital, two of them with “severe shrapnel injuries to their limbs”.

In Gaza, at least 22 people were killed when an Israeli



SC: Resume Day-to-Day Trials in Sensitive Cases

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi : The Supreme Court has said the practice of conducting day-to-day trials, particularly in sensitive cases, was given a complete go-by, stressing courts should revert to it.

Observing the right to speedy trial was implicit in Article 21 of the Constitution, the apex court said all high courts need to constitute a committee to discuss this issue very seriously for the benefit of their respective district judiciaries.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said for reverting to the old practice of conducting trials on a day-to-day basis, it is necessary to understand the current social, political and administrative scenario including the way the police is functioning.

“The practice of conducting trials on a day-to-day basis more particularly in important or sensitive cases as was the tradition about thirty years ago has been given a complete go-by. We sincerely believe that it is high time that the courts revert to that

practice,” the bench said in its September 22 order.

The top court's order came on a plea by the CBI challenging a September last year order of the Calcutta High Court granting bail to an accused in a rape case.

The bench said one of the significant factors contributing to delays in justice system was the discretionary practice of non-continuous criminal trials, where evidence was heard by the court in “piecemeal fashion”, with cases effectively spread out over the course of many months or even years.

“While limited judicial or court resources and a shortage of available court time due to the volume of cases are often cited for the use of this discretionary practice, the costs of non-continuous trials to both parties and to the justice system as a whole can far outweigh the perceived benefits,” it said.

The top court noted it is true that courts have the discretion to defer cross-examination.

“But we do not approve of the practice prevailing in the trial courts across the country that the examination-in-chief of a

particular witness is recorded in a particular month and his cross-examination would follow in particular subsequent month,” it said.

The bench said the legal position was that once the examination of witnesses starts, the court concerned must continue the trial from day-to-day until all the witnesses in attendance were examined, except those whom the public prosecutor had given up.

“We are at pains to note that it is almost a common practice and regular occurrence that the trial courts flout the said mandate with impunity,” it said.

The top court said even when witnesses were present, cases were adjourned on far less serious reasons or even on “flimsy grounds”.

It said the legislature itself has frowned at granting affidavits to flimsy grounds.

The bench said the chief justices of high courts might direct their administrative side to issue a circular to the respective district judiciaries stating among other things that proceedings in every inquiry or trial should be held expeditiously.

Study Predicts 75% Surge in Cancer Deaths Over 25 Years

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Yearly deaths from cancer could rise by nearly 75 per cent in the next 25 years to 18.6 million with a country's economic growth and an increasingly ageing population being major driving factors, according to a global study published in The Lancet journal.

New cases of cancer are estimated to increase by 61 per cent to 30.5 million in 2050.

Researchers also estimated that since 1990, deaths from cancer increased 74 per cent to 10.4 million and new cases more than doubled to 18.5 million in 2023, with majority of those living in low and middle-income countries affected.

India was found to see a

jump of 26.4 per cent in cancer rates between 1990-2023 — among the highest in the world. China was found to see a fall in rates by 18.5 per cent.

The team added that more than 40 per cent of deaths due to cancer around the world are linked to 44 risk factors which can be addressed, including tobacco use, an unhealthy diet, and high blood sugar, thereby presenting an opportunity for prevention.

“Despite the clear need for action, cancer control policies and implementation remain underprioritised in global health, and there is insufficient funding to address this challenge in many settings,” said lead author Dr Lisa Force from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

(IHME) at the US' University of Washington, which coordinates the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study.

The GBD study looks at data from 204 countries and territories to discern trends and patterns in disease and quantify health loss and risk factors across places and time.

The researchers added that while overall death rates across the world fell by 24 per cent between 1990 and 2023, disparities in reduction rates were seen between high-and low-income countries.

Rates of new cases worsened in low-income (up by 24 per cent) and lower-middle-income countries (up by 29 per cent), underscoring the disproportionate growth occurring in regions with lower resources, the team said.

Israel Deepens Gaza City Offensive As Netanyahu Heads To US

Reuters

Gza City: Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza due to an Israeli military operation in the central Gaza Strip on Thursday. Reuters

Israeli forces advanced deeper into Gaza City on Thursday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to New York to address the United Nations General As-

sembly, with US President Donald Trump pursuing a deal to end the Gaza war.

Israeli strikes killed at least 19 persons across the Palestinian enclave on Thursday, local health authorities said. They included 11 persons from two families in Zawayda town in the central Gaza Strip, where planes hit a residential building.

Israel's military did not comment on the incident but said it had struck 170 targets across Gaza in the past 24 hours and attacked “terror infrastructure” used by militant groups to attack soldiers. Its forces were deep in Gaza City, it said.



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US ENVOY HOPES FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

Tanks have entered Gaza

them to go.

US envoy Steve Witkoff said on Wednesday that Washington was confident of securing breakthrough on Gaza in coming days after Trump shared a 21-point Middle East peace plan with leaders of Muslim-majority countries in New York.

Trump also promised Arab leaders he would not allow Israel to annex the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Politico reported.

Palestinians want the West Bank for an independent Palestinian state, with Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Netanyahu has declared there will never be a Palestinian state although Britain, France, Canada and other nations this week formally recognised Palestinian statehood.

Pune Varsity Duped of 2.46 Cr by UK Returned Engineer

Press Trust Of India

Pune- Pune police have arrested a Telangana-based electronics engineer, who holds a doctorate degree from a UK-based university, for an alleged online fraud with a private university of Rs 2.46 crore, officials said.

The university lodged a complaint with the police in the first week of September that the institution was allegedly swindled for Rs 2.46 crore by an online fraudster who posed as a professor of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

The fraudster promised the Pune-based varsity officials that he would help them get a project from IIT Bombay, a police release said on Wednesday.

The alleged online fraud took place between July 25 and August 26 this year,

wherein the fraudster, by posing as the professor of IITB, cheated the varsity by making them transfer Rs 2.46 crore into different accounts, it said.

A team of cyber crime police station initiated a probe into it and traced the suspect, identified as Seetaiah Kilaru (34), a resident of Yaprul in Hyderabad, Telangana, the police said.

“He is a mastermind in the case and was arrested on September 21. The accused is an electronics & telecommunication engineer from Telangana and holds a PhD from a UK-based university. During the investigation, he told us that he had cleared UPSC's prelim and mains examination in 2019-20,” a police official said. After being arrested, Kilaru was produced before a court which remanded him to police custody till September 28.

NEWS MAKERS

73-year-old 'undocumented' Sikh woman deported from US after 33 years

Chandigarh, Sep 25 (PTI) A 73-year-old “undocumented” Sikh woman, who lived in the US for more than 30 years, was deported to India earlier this week after being detained by immigration authorities in California without being given the chance to even say goodbye to her relatives, her advocate said.

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, Deepak Ahluwalia, the advocate, said, “Bibi ji (Harjit Kaur) is on her way back to Punjab. She has already landed in India.”

Kaur was detained by immigration authorities in California after she went for a routine check, triggering protests and concerns among her family and community members.

Kaur, a resident of East Bay in northern California for more than 30 years, was detained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials during a routine check, a report in Berkeley'side, a nonprofit news portal,

said earlier.

Her family along with hundreds of community members organised a protest, demanding the immediate release of Kaur, who was detained after the ICE officials asked her to come to its San Francisco office for additional paperwork.

She was then taken to a detention centre in Bakersfield, Ahluwalia said.

In the post, Ahluwalia claimed Kaur was taken from Bakersfield to Los Angeles where she was put on a flight to Georgia and thereafter to New Delhi.

He also claimed that Kaur's family members urged the authorities to give her a chance to say final goodbye to her relatives before she was sent back, but permission was denied.

“We were able to get her travel documents. We were trying to negotiate with the ICE attorney and the government for her to depart on a commercial flight. We booked a ticket for Monday. We also asked the authorities to release her for

24-48 hours, even under ankle monitoring, to give her a chance to say final goodbye,” Ahluwalia said.

“But around 2 am on Saturday, they took her from Bakersfield, drove her to Los Angeles in handcuffs, and put her on a flight to Georgia without even notifying the attorney, or giving any prior notice,” Ahluwalia claimed.

In Georgia, Kaur was kept at a temporary facility for detainees, he said.

“She was not even given a bed for nearly 60-70 hours, and made to sleep on the floor with a blanket. She was unable to get up as she had a double knee replacement surgery,” Ahluwalia said.

“She was also denied a shower the entire time. Prior to the flight on Monday, she and some other detainees were given wet wipes and told to just clean up before boarding the plane from Georgia to Armenia. From Armenia, she came to Delhi on an ICE chartered plane,” he said.

Self-styled godman forced students to visit him at odd hours

New Delhi, Sep 25 (PTI) Female students of a management institute here were allegedly forced to visit its director, self-styled godman Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati's quarter late at night, subjected to intimidation and even received inappropriate text messages from him at odd hours, an FIR filed against him read.

The FIR was registered after the administration of Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management (SRSIIM) lodged a complaint with a police alleging that during a virtual interaction with more than 30 female students, several of them revealed instances of sexual harassment, manipulation, and threats by Chaitanyananda, who was earlier known as Swami (Dr.) Parthasarathy.

According to the FIR, officials said the students were threatened with suspension and withholding of degrees if they resisted his advances. Many of the students belonged to economically weaker sections, making

them more vulnerable to pressure.

“The students who are from economically weaker sections were forced to visit Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati in his quarter late at night by three women staffers,” the FIR read.

The complainant further alleged that one female student was even “forced to change her name” and made to delete messages from her phone to erase evidence.

One of the victims, who joined the institute in October 2024, said that the harassment began shortly after she enrolled. She said Saraswati first interacted with the students on December 1, 2024, at the institute's ground floor office. “That day, instead of motivating us, Swamiji demotivated us. He introduced a woman as an associate dean and his devotee,” she said.

In the FIR, the complainant said that she contacted Saraswati over WhatsApp to share her X-ray reports when she suffered a hair-line fracture in her toe.

Kashmir Apple Growers Report Prices Halved From Last Year

‘Backlog, Rising Costs, Market Saturation Threaten Kashmir’s Horticulture Sector’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Demand for Kashmiri apples has plummeted drastically this season, with rates dipping to less than half of what growers earned last year, leaving thousands of orchardists across the valley in distress.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, president of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said the industry is facing one of its toughest phases in recent history.

“Rates are very low this year – less than even 50 percent of what we earned last season,” Basheer said. “The primary reason is the backlog of produce that remained stranded on highways, mandis, orchards, and other storage facilities. This backlog will take nearly a month to clear, and only after that, we may see some improvement. But by then, more apples will have already reached the market, adding to the crisis.”

Growers from different districts expressed deep concern over the unprecedented slump. They said that an apple box, which fetched over Rs 1,000 last year, is being sold for barely Rs 400 this season.

“How can we survive when the



cost of production itself is higher than the selling price?” asked Abdul Rashid, a grower from Shopian. “Fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, freight, labour, boxes, paper, and packaging – everything has become costlier. But when we take our produce to the mandis, we are forced to sell it at throwaway prices.”

Another grower, Ghulam Nabi from Sopore, said the situation has shaken the confidence of farmers. “We have been in this business for decades, but never have we witnessed such a disastrous season. It feels like we are working day and night only to incur losses. Many growers are worried about repaying debts taken for orchard man-

agement,” he said.

According to KNO, the growers fear that if immediate steps are not taken by the government to stabilise the market, the valley’s horticulture sector – which provides livelihood to lakhs of families – could face long-term damage.

“This is not just about farmers,” Basheer added. “If apple growers suffer, the entire rural economy of Kashmir suffers with them. We urge the authorities to intervene before it is too late.”

With the season’s peak harvest yet to arrive, orchardists are bracing for more challenges ahead, uncertain whether their produce will find fair prices in the already saturated markets.

Sopore Mandi Alone Bears Rs 700 Cr Brunt

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir’s horticulture sector, the backbone of the region’s economy, has suffered staggering losses due to the recent closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, with overall damages estimated at nearly Rs 1,500 crore.

President of Asia’s second-largest Fruit Mandi Sopore, Fayaz Ahmed Malik @ Kaka Ji, alleged that the government failed to act with the seriousness the crisis demanded, leaving growers and traders to bear the massive financial blow.

Malik said the horticulture industry, vital to the Union Territory’s GDP, grappled with the mounting losses as perishable fruit shipments remained stranded for days. “If the administration could not ensure the smooth reopening of the National Highway, they should have sought immediate defence assistance to avoid such chaos,” he said, adding that the government’s delay cost the sector heavily during its peak

fruit season.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Kaka Ji revealed that Sopore Fruit Mandi alone suffered losses of around Rs 600–700 crore, while the overall losses across Kashmir have touched an estimated Rs 1,500 crore. “The government must take a serious view of this crisis and provide every possible compensation to the growers”, he urged.

According to KNO, he further demanded that authorities should waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans for fruit growers and simultaneously seek a special relief package from the central government to salvage the horticulture industry.

It is noteworthy that the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the Valley’s only all-weather road link to the rest of the country, witnessed repeated closures in recent weeks due to incessant rains and landslides, choking the transportation of apples and other perishable produce at a time when Kashmir is in the middle of its peak harvest season.

Conference Charts Roadmap For Community-Based Mental Healthcare

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In what is being seen as a milestone effort to decentralize mental healthcare and strengthen community outreach, a major conference on “Access to Mental Healthcare Services in the Community” was held in Srinagar on Thursday.

The event, organized under the leadership of renowned psychiatrist and SAWAB Founder, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mar-goob, in collaboration with the Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS), brought together leading psychiatrists, public health experts, community medicine specialists, and NGO representatives to set the agenda for accessible and stigma-free mental health services in Kashmir.

Professor Ashok Malla, an international authority on community psychiatry and Professor Emeritus at McGill University, Canada, delivered the keynote address. He stressed the urgent need for culturally relevant, locally sustained models of community-based mental health care to close the treatment gap.

The conference was graced by Dr. Fazl Wani Parrey, Principal SKIMS Medical College,



as Chief Guest, and Dr. Afsana Anjum, Deputy Director, Health Services Kashmir, as Guest of Honour. Insights were also shared by Dr. Suhail Maqbool on behalf of VMS.

Prominent voices in psychiatry and community medicine, including Prof. Arshad Hussain (IMHANS-K), Dr. Abdul Majid (SKIMS MC), Dr. Zaid Ahmad Wani, Dr. S. Muhammad Salim Khan (GMC Srinagar), Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Bhat (SKIMS MC), Dr. Abdul Majid Ganai (former SKIMS), Dr. Nizamuddin (SKIMS MC), Dr. Imtiaz Mansoor (SAWAB), Dr. Majid Shafi (State Nodal Officer Mental Health), Dr. Bushra Imtiaz (SAWAB), Dr. Deebea Nazir (Tele-MANAS), and Dr. Mir Masood (SKIMS MC) deliberated on bridging gaps in existing services, early interventions, integration with primary healthcare, and resilience building.

The role of NGOs was also highlighted, with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) representative Miss Janna Rokka and Chinara International’s Mr. Javed Hajam showcasing innovative community-based psychosocial interventions for marginalized populations.

The conference drew wide participation from educators, healthcare workers, community leaders, students, media professionals, and social activists—signaling growing community support for mental health advocacy.

Reaffirming its commitment, SAWAB and partners vowed to reduce stigma, decentralize services, and empower communities through evidence-based practices and policy engagement, positioning the initiative as a cornerstone of Kashmir’s evolving mental healthcare framework.

Cluster University Leader Joins Global Scientific Elite

Prof. Mobin’s repeated global recognition underscores both his personal achievements and the university’s commitment to fostering research excellence.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

SRINAGAR: For six years in a row, Professor Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Srinagar and originally from Aligarh, has secured a place among the top 2% of the most cited scientists worldwide.

The recognition comes from a prestigious database compiled by Stanford University and Elsevier, which measures the influence of researchers based on citations and overall scholarly output.

Prof. Mobin, an expert in Materials and Corrosion, has built a prolific career spanning more than four decades.

He has published over 180 research papers, completed 40 research projects, and contributed five books alongside numerous book chapters.

His work has drawn international attention, earning him a Fellowship at the Royal Society of Chemistry in London.

“I owe this to perseverance, a commitment to learning, and following my passion for research,” Prof. Mobin said when asked about



the achievement.

The recognition has resonated across the Cluster University Srinagar campus. University officials praised his work as a reflection of the institution’s dedication to fostering academic excellence.

“Prof. Mobin’s achievement inspires young scientists in Kashmir and beyond, showing that dedication and innovation can earn global acknowledgment,” a university spokesperson said.

For Prof. Mobin, the honour represents the growing presence of Indian scholars on the world stage, emphasizing the potential of researchers across the country to shape global understanding in science and technology.

WORLD ALZHEIMER’S DAY

Experts Discuss Reversible Dementia In daylong CME

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Medical experts on Thursday held threadbare discussions on various stages of dementia at the government medical college (GMC) Srinagar here, with particular focus on identifying and treating reversible dementia and underlining the importance of early detection, timely interventions, and holistic care strategies.

The discussion was part of Continuing Medical Education (CME) organized by the Department of Neurology, Super-speciality hospital, Srinagar at the GMC Auditorium, to commemorate World Alzheimer’s Day, officials said. This year’s CME was centered around the theme ‘Ask about dementia’, and was attended by a large gathering of doctors, neurologists, postgraduate students, neuroscience students and caregivers of dementia patients from across the valley.

Principal GMC, Dr Iffat Hassan inaugurated the CME. Director health services Dr Jehangir Bakhshi and Prof Parvaiz A Shah were the guests of honors. It was also attended by administrator GMC and associated hospitals Mr Ashraf Hakak and Medical Superin-

tendent Dr Rubeena.

The heart of the CME was an engaging panel discussion, where experts deliberated on both the medical and social aspects of dementia. Topics such as accurate diagnosis, caregiver burden, social stigma, and community support were thoroughly discussed, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary solutions.

The deliberations put forth

geriatricians and strengthening of geriatric departments. Enhanced focus on non-pharmacological treatments for dementia symptoms. Greater emphasis on the identification and management of treatable dementias. The importance of open discussions on old-age homes, removing stigma, and fostering societal acceptance.

Speaking on the occasion, Organizing Chairman, Prof.



several key recommendations: Adoption of healthy lifestyle practices to help prevent certain types of dementia. A greater need for awareness campaigns and broader community discussions to reduce stigma and identify practical solutions. Establishment of more memory clinics and geriatric clinics, alongside training and recruitment of

(Dr) Bashir Ahmad Sanaie remarked: “Dementia is not only a neurological condition but also a major social issue. Through this CME, we sought to highlight the need to recognize reversible causes, provide timely treatment, and extend support to caregivers who are the backbone of dementia care.”

Organizing Secretary, Dr.

Sheikh Hilal Ahmad, in his address, stated: “We designed this CME to combine academic knowledge with real-world perspectives. The participation of caregivers alongside doctors and neurologists enriched the discussions and emphasized the need for patient-centered and family-oriented approaches.”

Earlier, a poster competition was also organized as part of the event, with enthusiastic participation from young doctors and trainees. The winners were felicitated for their innovative presentations. A unique feature of the program was the special session for caregivers of dementia patients, who were invited to interact directly with leading neurologists of the valley.

This session provided a valuable platform for caregivers to share their experiences, seek guidance, and understand practical approaches to managing the challenges of dementia care.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge from the Department of Neurology, GMC Srinagar, to continue academic initiatives and outreach programs aimed at raising awareness and strengthening dementia care in the region.



IUST Organises Cleanliness, Beautification & Plantation Drive

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organised a Cleanliness, Beautification and Plantation Drive under Sewa Parv today. The programme was coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Sustainability and Climatic Change.

The drive saw active participation of students, faculty, and staff, who contributed to promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices on campus. Activities included cleanliness campaigns, plantation of saplings, and beautification of designated areas, aimed at fostering a cleaner, greener, and more vibrant environment.

On the occasion, Dr. Mir Hashim Rasool, I/C Dean of Students, highlighted the importance of such initiatives in cultivating social and environmental responsibility within the community. He emphasised that collective action and shared commitment are vital for building sustainable societies.

Omar Conducts Aerial Survey Of Flood-Hit Areas In Kathua

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected villages in Kathua district and interacted with those who lost their houses in the natural calamity, officials said.

The chief minister also chaired a meeting of officers and directed them to ensure necessary relief to the affected population, they said.

After conducting an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Kathua district, the chief minister held an interaction with the residents of Duggan village of Billawar whose houses were damaged in the recent flooding. Later, a meeting was held with the officers of district administration, the office of chief minister said in a post on X.

The chief minister assured of all possible assistance and directed the administration to ensure necessary relief to the affected, the post said.

Abdullah is also scheduled to visit Mahore area of Reasi district to assess the damage caused by the flash floods. (PTI)

Army Commander Reviews Counter-Terrorism Grid In Udhampur

Army’s northern commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Thursday reviewed the security situation and counter-terrorism grid in Basantgarh area of Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur district, the command said.

Basantgarh, a hilly area connecting Udhampur with Kathua and Doda districts through dense forests, has witnessed a series of encounters between Pakistani terrorists and security forces over the past couple of years.

The last encounter in the area on September 19 resulted in the killing of an army personnel but the terrorists managed their escape taking advantage of thick foliage and challenging topography.

The general-officer-commanding-in-chief, northern command was briefed on changing operational landscape and dynamics during the review meeting at Basantgarh. “He exhorted all ranks to maintain the highest standards of operational readiness,” Army’s northern command said in a post on X. (PTI)

Mehbooba Mufti Voices Alarm Over Ladakh Protests

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP President, Mehbooba Mufti, on Thursday expressed serious concern over the ongoing situation in Ladakh, describing the protests as a sign of growing unease among locals regarding their land, jobs, and cultural identity.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Mehbooba said Ladakh, historically known for its peace, is witnessing agitation for the first time since the revocation of Article 370 in 2019. “People had initially welcomed Union Territory status hoping for more rights. Now they fear losing their land, resources, and fragile environment to outside interests,” she said.

Highlighting the ongoing protest led by environment activist Sonam Wangchuk, currently on a hunger strike, Mehbooba said, “He has genuine demands to protect Ladakh’s environment, land, and livelihoods. Yet the Centre is allowing the situation to deteriorate. Even a peaceful person like him has run out of patience.”

She warned that locals fear a large-scale influx from outside, which could threaten their culture and delicate ecosystem. “Much of their land is under Army control, and remaining areas are eyed for hotels, resorts, and solar projects. Their future is at stake if Sixth Schedule protections are not extended,” she added. (Observer News Service)

LoP Sharma Inaugurates Blood Donation Camp At Padder

As part of the ongoing Seva Pakhwada initiative, Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma Thursday inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp at Padder, Kishtwar.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens, particularly the youth, who came forward in large numbers to contribute to this noble, life-saving cause.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, Sharma extended his heartfelt appreciation to all the blood donors and the organizers for their commendable efforts in making the camp a resounding success.

He emphasized that such initiatives not only strengthen public health infrastructure but also nurture the values of compassion, social responsibility, and nation-building.

Highlighting the significance of Seva Pakhwada, he said that the spirit of selfless service and community welfare lies at the core of our cultural ethos, and the active involvement of people in such programs reflects the collective resolve to build a healthier and stronger society. (Observer News Service)

Amazon Great Indian Festival Draws 38 Crore Shoppers in 2 Days

The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 has kicked off with an unprecedented start, attracting over 38 crore customer visits in its first 48 hours. Opening for Prime members on September 22 and all customers on September 23, the festival delivered record-breaking sales for sellers and brand partners across India.

Over 70% of visits came from beyond the top nine metros, highlighting the growing participation of tier 2 and 3 cities. Customers accessed more than 1 lakh products at the lowest prices, with over 30,000 new launches across categories including smartphones, laptops, TVs, home appliances, fashion, beauty, and groceries from top brands like Apple, Samsung, OnePlus, Sony, HP, LG, Bosch, and Levi’s.

The #GSTBachatUtsav initiative was widely embraced, with sellers passing on GST benefits worth crores. Prime members enjoyed faster deliveries, with over 30 lakh products reaching metro cities within a day and 50 lakh reaching tier 2 and 3 cities in 2 days.

Sellers, particularly small and medium businesses from cities like Ajmer, Rajkot, and Udupi, reported record engagement. Many saw daily sales triple, with home décor, apparel, toys, and festive items in high demand. (Observer News Service)

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KO VIEW

Listen to Ladakh

The sudden eruption of violence in Leh marks a tragic turning point in Ladakh's history. What began as a call for statehood and constitutional safeguards spiraled into chaos. About five people have lost their lives, dozens have been injured, and public property has gone up in flames. This is an unusual and unfortunate development for a region that has long been a symbol of peaceful civic action.

The unrest has not happened in a vacuum Since 2019, when Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory, residents have lived with the hope of greater autonomy and empowerment. Instead, they have found themselves under direct central administration, without a legislature and without the protections that could secure both their fragile environment and cultural identity. The demand for inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is rooted in the simple fact that over 90 per cent of Ladakh's population belongs to Scheduled Tribes. For them, the issue is not abstract politics but the preservation of their way of life.

The Centre's reluctance to move decisively on these demands has deepened frustration. Sonam Wangchuk, the climate activist who has led the recent hunger strike, expressed sorrow at the turn of events. His appeal for non-violence was overtaken by the anger of a younger generation that sees little reason to trust in promises that repeatedly get pushed into the future. So, this "Gen Z" impatience is not difficult to understand.

But violence comes at a heavy cost. Setting fire to offices and vehicles, or clashing with security forces, risks undermining a movement that has otherwise drawn sympathy across the country. Ladakh's strength has always been in its unity: Buddhists and Muslims, Leh and Kargil, religious leaders and civil society speaking in one voice. That unity is too precious to be sacrificed in anger.

The greater responsibility, however, rests with New Delhi. Ladakh it goes without saying, is not just another Union Territor. The region is ecologically delicate and geopolitically sensitive, sharing borders with both China and Pakistan. So, allowing disillusionment to fester in such a region is a gamble New Dehi cannot afford. So Ladakhis need to be genuinely listened to, not just engaged in another round of delayed assurances. The Centre thus must sit with Ladakhi representatives, listen to their concerns, and craft constitutional safeguards that reflect their unique demographic and geographic reality.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Kashmir's Winning Picks

Data from 2015 to 2025 shows how smart bets reshaped local wealth

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing is often described as a leap of faith. For many Kashmiris, the past ten years have proved that faith pays when matched with patience and planning. From 2015 to September 2025, a handful of well-chosen investments turned modest sums into life-changing gains.

Gold, long trusted in Kashmiri households, outshone expectations. Goldbees, an exchange-traded gold fund, rose 300 percent, multiplying four times to turn 10 lakh into 40 lakh. Automakers followed close behind. Maruti grew 255 percent, while Mahindra surged more than 500 percent, transforming 10 lakh into over 60 lakh and pointing toward a possible 365 lakh by 2035 if trends hold.

Consumer brands also delivered. Hindustan Unilever nearly tripled, and Havells electrified portfolios with a sixfold climb to 61 lakh. Even the Nifty Index, a mirror of India's economy, tripled in value, rewarding those who simply tracked the market.

These numbers tell a story of rising corporate strength in India and of ordinary Kashmiris who looked beyond savings accounts to build wealth. Many investors in Srinagar and beyond began with small SIPs and steady monthly purchases, proving that consistency can rival bold speculation.

The next decade will bring new risks, from global shocks to changing domestic policies, but the lesson is clear.

A balanced portfolio, regular investing, and a willingness to wait can turn the valley's savers into long-term winners.

The author is a Srinagar-based
reputed financial advisor.

Waheed Para's
Politics of Presence

The Pulwama MLA combines visibility, grassroots engagement, and advocacy to assert relevance in post-2019 Kashmir.

Arsalan Reshi

Pulwama's Naira village might seem too small to matter in politics. Its lanes and landscape rarely draw attention. Still, from this corner of Kashmir, Waheed Ur Rehman Para, known simply as Waheed Para, has emerged as one of the region's most visible young politicians.

His rise is instructive. It reflects both the promise of personal connection and the stark limits of political authority in post-2019 Kashmir.

The revocation of Article 370 shattered old power networks and intensified central oversight. Political legitimacy is constantly questioned. In this landscape, presence matters.

Waheed's detractors in dozens and diehards in droves say his appeal lies in accessibility.

Residents describe being able to reach him for wage disputes, bureaucratic hurdles, or local grievances. Social media amplifies his reach, making him a bridge between citizens and the system.

His rise is methodical, if not meteoric. Joining the People's Democratic Party in 2013, he became a political analyst to Chief Minister Mufti Syeed and later Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council.

These positions offered networks, measurable achievements, and a reputation for getting things done. Electoral contests proved more complicated.

Against Aga Ruhullah, a three-time MLA, Waheed won over 100,000 votes yet lost, swept aside by anti-incumbency.



For those tracking the next generation of Kashmiri politicians, Waheed Para exemplifies a paradox. The blend of visibility, advocacy, and credibility can shape citizens' experiences, but cannot alone remake the system.

Later, he secured an Assembly seat by ten thousand votes, a victory that highlights both personal credibility and the unpredictable post-2019 political terrain.

In the Assembly, he challenges both opposition and government.

He raises issues on reservation policies, daily wage workers' rights, and files Private Member Bills, often rejected.

Such initiatives reveal ambition and responsiveness, but they expose the limits imposed by central oversight and official inertia.

Influence exists, but only in fragments.

Waheed blends field visits with online engagement, projecting re-

sponsiveness. Some of this is performative, carefully staged for a mediated audience.

Observers note the effectiveness is uneven. Tangible results coexist with the appearance of action. Constituents, however, often experience these interventions as real, demonstrating that presence alone can partially compensate for systemic gaps.

Waheed's politics also marks a generational shift.

He belongs to a cohort balancing activism, mainstream politics, and governance. These leaders operate in tension: visible enough to earn trust, active enough to energize younger voters, but constrained enough to reveal systemic deficiencies.

Toxins at the Table

Every meal could carry hidden toxins, turning ordinary Kashmiri kitchens into sites of long-term risk.

Peerzada Faizan Gul

bons (PAHs).

Both can attach to DNA and cause mutations, which over time, and with frequent exposure, can lead to colorectal and other digestive cancers.

Officials in Kashmir have also raised concerns about formalin, an industrial preservative, being used to make meat look fresh.

Formalin contains formaldehyde, which the International Agency for Research on Cancer lists as a human carcinogen. Studies link it to cancers of the nose, throat, and blood.

Using formalin in food is illegal, but in a black-market supply chain where profit matters more than safety, such risks are often ignored.

The problem reaches beyond markets to poultry farms.

Many rely on antibiotics to speed growth and prevent disease, leaving residues in the meat sold locally.

These residues do more than fuel antibiotic resistance. Some antibiotics have shown mutagenic effects in lab studies, and perhaps more importantly, they disrupt the

gut microbiome.

Scientists now view a healthy gut as a key defense against cancer, especially colorectal cancer. When the gut is disturbed, the immune system weakens, creating conditions where malignant cells can grow.

Heavy metals add yet another layer of risk. Animals raised in polluted environments can accumulate cadmium, lead, and chromium in their tissues. Cadmium, for instance, can mimic estrogen and has been linked to breast and prostate cancers. These metals damage DNA, disturb hormones, and generate oxidative stress.

Once they enter the food chain, tracing them back to the source becomes almost impossible.

Cancer is already a growing burden in the valley. The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences reports a steady rise in gastrointestinal tumours, which now account for more than a third of all cases in Kashmir.

In a population already facing high rates of digestive cancers, re-

peated exposure to carcinogens in food acts as a hidden accelerator.

People may consume contaminated meat for years before the first tumour appears, long after the link to unsafe food is forgotten, even though the damage started at the dinner table.

This crisis demands more than occasional raids or headline-grabbing seizures.

Each intercepted consignment of spoiled meat is a small victory against a future cancer burden the region can ill afford. Regulators need regular inspections, strict enforcement of hygiene standards, and public testing of meat for preservatives, antibiotics, and heavy metals.

Hospitals and research institutions must track cancer patterns to catch food-related risks early. Consumers, too, have a role: asking questions, demanding transparency, and avoiding meat that looks unnaturally fresh or smells treated.

Kashmir's fight against contaminated meat is a fight for public health, families, and hospitals already under strain. Every step to keep toxic meat off the market is a step toward slowing a cancer epidemic that should never have been fed in the first place.

The author is a Radiation
Therapist in the Department
of Radiation Oncology at GMC



Letter to Editor

Kishtwar's Mega Dams Ignite Demand for Free Local Power

Kishtwar, deep in Jammu and Kashmir's Chenab Valley, is a land of contrasts. Pine-covered mountains rise above meadows nourished by the roaring Chenab River. But the story shaping this remote district today goes beyond its beauty.

Kishtwar has become India's newest powerhouse, a site where one river fuels a cluster of hydroelectric projects that promise to light homes far beyond the Himalayan foothills.

The numbers tell the scale of change. The Dul Hasti project, running since 2007, produces 390 megawatts of electricity. Under construction are Pakal Dul, set to generate 1,000 MW, and Ratle, with a planned 850 MW. Other plants, including Kwar, Kiru and Lower Kalnai, are expected to add more than

1,200 MW combined.

When these projects reach full capacity, Kishtwar will send thousands of megawatts across India's power grid, strengthening energy security and feeding the national appetite for growth.

But inside the district that makes this possible, frustration is rising. Residents pay regular electricity bills despite living in the shadow of giant turbines. Social activists and local leaders have rallied under the slogan "Hamari Bijli Hamko Do". Our electricity belongs to us.

They want free or subsidized power as recognition of the land and water sacrificed to dams and tunnels. Protests swelled last year before the district administration imposed restrictions on public gatherings. A court stay briefly lifted the ban, but

the movement lost momentum.

This tension between production and benefit runs deeper than power tariffs. Corporate Social Responsibility, mandated under India's Companies Act of 2013, requires companies of significant size to spend on local welfare. Hydropower firms in Kishtwar meet the letter of the law, but their contributions rarely move beyond paperwork. Faisal Hussain, a district council member, summed it up: "Effective Corporate Social Responsibility is essential for sustainable development." On the ground, results remain thin.

The Chowgan ground in central Kishtwar shows the gap between potential and reality. It is the town's main gathering space, but lacks basic amenities such as water coolers, benches and landscaped gardens.

Nearby tourist spots could draw visitors and jobs if CSR funds were directed toward infrastructure and environmental conservation. Instead, the river's bounty flows outward while public spaces decay.

Kishtwar's case highlights a national dilemma. Hydropower is marketed as clean energy, but local communities often bear the costs, including displacement, altered ecosystems, higher living expenses, without receiving proportional benefits.

Free or heavily subsidized electricity for host districts would be fair compensation for resources that fuel the country.

Sincerely,

Ayaan Saroori
ayaansaroori8@gmail.com

The Woman Who Turned Pain Into Power

Battling depression and anxiety, Zeenat found healing through faith, therapy, and teaching

Gowher Bhat

I first heard about Zeenat Basir in Chevakalan, a village in Pulwama where everyone seems to know her name. Even as a child, she stood apart.

"She was always in her own world," her friend Amina told me, "While we ran and played, Zeenat would sit under the old walnut tree, completely lost in her books."

That love for learning never left her.

She went on to earn a postgraduate degree in English, a B.Ed, and a diploma in computers, a rare achievement in a region where just 12% of rural women reach such milestones.

Her teachers whispered about her bright future, and neighbours assumed she would soon secure a government job, lifting her family's fortunes along the way.



But life had other plans.

By 34, after years of preparing for teaching posts and competitive exams, Zeenat faced rejection after rejection.

"Every time I failed, it felt like a piece of me disappeared," she said, sitting in her modest home as the evening breeze carried the scent of pine from the hills.

Nights were the hardest. She lay awake, tracing the ceiling beams, haunted by questions: What if my education means nothing? What will people think?

Mornings brought a fog of sadness. She withdrew from neighbours and relatives, dreading their casual questions: "When will you get that government job?"

Her husband, Farooq, watched silently as she faded.

One evening, he took her hand while tears traced her cheeks: "Zeenat, those exams don't decide your worth. You're already a teacher, even without a certificate. Teach one child. Let that be enough."

His words planted a seed of hope.

The following week, Zeenat stepped into her small courtyard. A few children sat cross-legged on the mud floor, notebooks open. Her voice trembled as she explained a grammar rule, but when she saw understanding flicker in their eyes, something inside her shifted.

Word spread quickly. Soon, the courtyard buzzed with laughter, questions, and the

scratch of pencils.

Little Safiya Gulzar once said, "Madam, English felt like punishment before. Now I help my brother with homework!"

Zeenat laughed: "That's wonderful, Safiya. English can be your friend if you let it."

Ayesha Sofi, shy but determined, stayed after class. "My father says girls should stop school after 10th. But when you teach us, I feel I can go further."

Zeenat knelt beside her: "Education is your light, Ayesha. I'll stand by you."

Even soft-spoken Samiya Firdous whispered, "One day, I'll be a teacher like you. You're my role model."

Those words wrapped around Zeenat like warmth on a cold day.

Still, the shadows returned. Some nights, fear crept in: What if this falls apart? Farooq suggested therapy. "People will laugh if they know I see a therapist," she protested.

He held her hand: "Seeking help is strength. If the body can fall sick, so can the mind."

Hesitant, Zeenat began online sessions with a Delhi-based therapist. The first meeting was heavy with tears and silence, but the therapist's calm voice steadied her: "Depression isn't your identity. It's an illness we can treat together."

She learned breathing exercises to calm her heart, journaling to untangle thoughts, and small daily goals to rebuild confidence. Her panic attacks eased. "Progress is about persistence," her therapist reminded her.

Faith became her anchor. After prayers, she whispered to Allah, "Grant me patience and healing. Guide me, keep me close."

Slowly, strength returned. With Farooq's support, therapy, and her students' trust, she found her balance.

Then came a new chapter.

She was blessed with a daughter, radiant and full of life. Motherhood brought respon-



With calm determination, she resumed preparing for government exams, but this time without fear. Farooq often tells her, "Even if that job never comes, you're already changing lives, more than any post could offer."

sibility, but also purpose. Zeenat balanced caring for her baby with teaching village children and even started online English classes.

Her home now echoes with lullabies and lessons.

With calm determination, she resumed preparing for government exams, but this time without fear. Farooq often tells her, "Even if that job never comes, you're already changing lives, more than any post could offer."

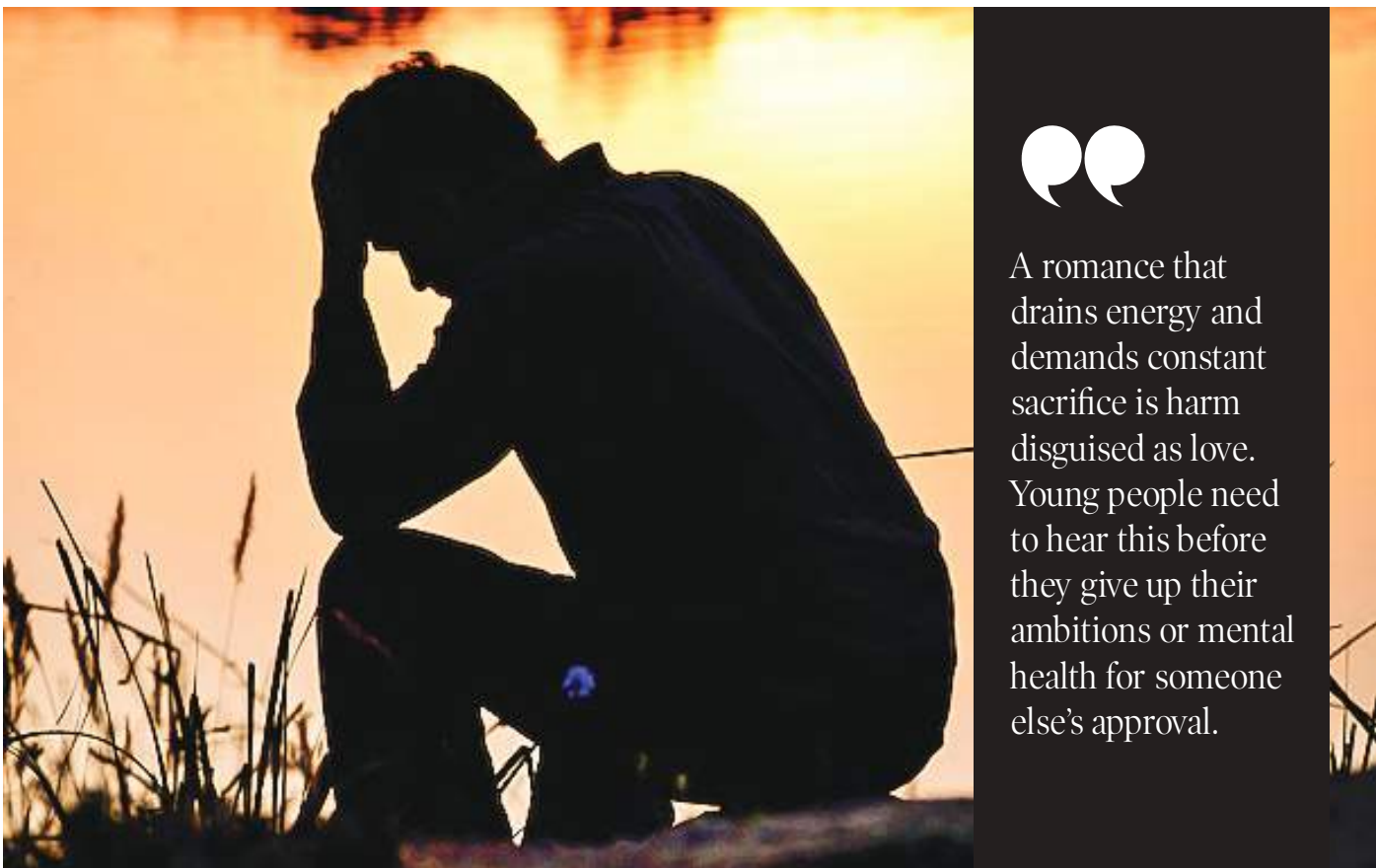
Today, Chevakalan sees Zeenat differently. Her students adore her, neighbours respect her, and her story inspires others facing silent battles.

"You are not your failures," Zeenat says, smiling at her daughter. "You are the courage to begin again."

— Gowher Bhat is a published author, freelance journalist, book reviewer, and educator based in Kashmir.

Love Without Lessons

Behind the glow of social media lies a growing crisis of heartbreak, obsession, and wasted potential among Kashmiri youth.



A romance that drains energy and demands constant sacrifice is harm disguised as love. Young people need to hear this before they give up their ambitions or mental health for someone else's approval.

Aarif Maqbool

Love spreads quickly through campuses and coaching centres in Kashmir. A glance exchanged in a lecture, a late-night message, and a walk along the Jhelum feels exciting and grown-up.

Social media fuels the rush, turning every emoji into a promise.

Teenagers and young adults dive in believing love will define their lives. Few pause to ask if they are ready for the weight it carries.

What begins with laughter and long calls often ends with sleepless nights and lost direction. Many students confuse attraction with love. They throw themselves into relationships before they have the maturity to handle them.

Possessiveness creeps in early. Jealousy grows fast. Small arguments stretch into hours of calls and messages. Days once filled with study and friendships shrink into a cycle of demands and apologies.

The sweetness of early romance slowly turns into a struggle for control.

Education suffers first. Teachers across Kashmir see bright students lose focus once they get involved. Classes go unattended, assignments remain unfinished, and exams are skipped.

A talented engineering student misses an entrance test after a night of arguments. A

young poet stops writing to keep up with constant calls.

Scholarships disappear, careers stall, and years of preparation collapse in a single semester.

The emotional cost is even heavier. Breakups bring waves of sadness, anger, and confusion. Anxiety grips the mind, sleep becomes restless, and depression takes hold.

Psychiatrists in Srinagar report a steady rise in young patients battling relationship stress. Many keep their pain hidden, afraid of parental anger or neighbourhood gossip.

Without guidance, heartbreak hardens into long-term scars: chronic anxiety, loss of confidence, even trauma when emotional blackmail or public humiliation enters the picture.

Some lose themselves entirely. They drop hobbies, distance friends, and sacrifice ambitions to keep a fragile bond alive. Their sense of self narrows until it revolves around one person. When the relationship ends, emptiness rushes in.

In tightly knit Kashmiri neighbourhoods, where every rumour travels fast, the fallout deepens. Parents react with anger or disappointment. Neighbours whisper. Young people feel cornered, and some take drastic steps they can never undo.

Local newspapers record the consequences with painful regularity. Stories of harassment,

blackmail, and suicide linked to failed relationships appear week after week. Affection slips into obsession. Control turns violent.

Each tragedy warns of how quickly young love can become dangerous when respect and maturity are missing.

The problem is not love itself. Healthy relationships can teach empathy, patience, and resilience. They can inspire ambition and provide strength. The danger lies in rushing in without understanding or support.

Families and teachers often avoid talking about relationships, leaving students to learn from peers or social media. Schools and universities need programs on emotional health, consent, and self-respect.

Counselling must be easy to reach and free of stigma. Parents and community leaders must create safe spaces for open conversation.

Kashmiri youth deserve more than heartbreak and lost opportunities.

A romance that drains energy and demands constant sacrifice is harm disguised as love. Young people need to hear this before they give up their ambitions or mental health for someone else's approval.

Love should build lives, not break them.

— The author can be reached at connect_aarifmaqbool@yahoo.com

Dear Kashmiri Groom

A fatherly letter to a young friend on love, marriage, and the values that matter most in Kashmiri families.



Syed Majid Gilani

I have spent forty-nine autumns in Kashmir, and each one has left its mark on my hair, and heart. The grey strands I see in the mirror carry stories of patience, endurance, and the people who have shaped my life.

I have met kindness and cruelty, honesty and deceit, sometimes in the same person. I have learned that appearances are often misleading.

A public smile can hide a private indifference, even a coldness.

Sahil, you are about to marry. Marriage is a commitment that merges two lives, two families, and two sets of values. It is easy to be swept away by love, excitement, or family pressure, but the smallest misjudgment can shape decades.

Take your time, observe, and listen.

Start with the girl herself. Notice how she treats elders, how she speaks, and how she cares for her family. Watch for patience, kindness, and respect. Ensure her choice is hers, freely given. Pressure, obligation, or hesitation in her heart will eventually echo as bitterness in yours. Early clarity saves years of silent regret.

Observe her home, especially her mother. A woman often learns the pulse of family life at home. How respect flows, duties are shared, and care is given. These patterns shape future homes.

Beware of imbalance. Men I know have built homes and livelihoods only to find love replaced by material pursuit or indifference. Loyalty unreciprocated becomes pain. Care unacknowledged turns into frustration.

Examine her habits. Substance abuse or harmful practices may not appear in polite conversation, but they define daily life. Protect your peace, Sahil.

Love cannot thrive where fear, pride, or resentment exists. Reciprocity is the foundation of trust, and trust is the only currency of lasting partnerships.

Men who establish boundaries, expect respect, and insist on honesty often find stability. Those who tolerate imbalance slowly lose value.

Words are ignored. Kindness becomes taken for granted. Life is too short to be a provider without partnership. No one should rule your home through fear or humiliation. Love must be chosen, freely, every day.

Marriage built on honesty, care, and shared values can be one of life's greatest blessings. Marriage built on greed, lies, or obligation can slowly erode dignity and peace.

I have watched good men give their hearts, resources, and loyalty, only to discover they were merely providing. Protect your self-respect. Walk away if love and understanding are absent.

Sahil, step into marriage with open eyes and a calm heart. Choose a partner whose intentions are true, character is gentle, and love is real. Build your home on respect, honesty, and shared care.

When boundaries are respected and love is mutual, the home becomes a haven.

The author is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

Publisher Tells HC: Arundhati’s Book Has Smoking Disclaimer on Cover

Press Trust Of India

Kochi- The Kerala High Court was on Thursday told that Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy’s book — ‘Mother Mary Come to Me’ — has a disclaimer against smoking on the back of its cover.

The submission by the book’s publisher — Penguin Random House India — came in response to a lawyer’s plea urging the High Court to prohibit the sale, circulation and display of the book with its present cover, where the author is shown smoking a cigarette.

The petitioner, Kochi-based lawyer Rajasimhan, claimed in his plea that the book

cover did not have a statutory health warning. Buy vitamins and supplements

In view of the submission, on affidavit, by the publisher, a bench of Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Basant Balaji asked Rajasimhan why he filed the plea without even looking at the back cover of the book.

The court also said that there were other statutory remedies available to the petitioner in the matter.

The hearing was adjourned to October 7 on the petitioner’s lawyer’s request for time to seek instructions.

Rajasimhan, in his plea, has contended that the cover page image sends out a

“damaging message” to society, especially to girls and women, by “glorifying” the act of smoking.

He has also contended in the plea that the image is also in violation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA), 2003.

Opposing his plea, the publisher said, in its affidavit, that there is a disclaimer — Any depiction of smoking in this book is for representational purposes only. Penguin Random House India does not promote or endorse tobacco use — on the book’s back cover.

“It appears that the petitioner either

conveniently suppressed this fact in the writ petition, or the petitioner has not conducted even the bare minimum due diligence expected of a public interest litigant and is, therefore, unaware of this fact,” the publisher has contended.

It has also been said that “any suggestion that the book’s cover glorifies smoking is outrightly incorrect, in the light of the specific disclaimer”.

The publisher also said that there have been several instances of photographs of persons smoking in magazines and news articles, but the petitioner did not do anything till now.

“The same points to a selective and

pick-and-choose policy on the part of the petitioner, which is inconsistent with the spirit of genuine public interest litigation. Indeed, the present writ petition, though styled as a public interest litigation, appears to be more in the nature of litigation interested in publicity,” it said.

Besides prohibiting the sale, circulation and display of the book with its current cover, the plea has also sought withdrawal of all of its copies from the market.

It has also sought a declaration that publication of the book with the current cover image and without the statutory health warning is “illegal and violative of COTPA”. Buy vitamins and supplements

IIT Kharagpur Researchers Flag How Extreme Weather Changes Affecting People

Press Trust Of India

A new study by a team of researchers of IIT Kharagpur has warned that extreme weather events are not only becoming more frequent and intense but also affecting people very differently depending on where they live and how old they are.

An IIT Kharagpur spokesperson said on Wednesday that by combining detailed climate projections with demographic data, the study compared the recent past (1991–2020) with the near future (2021–2050) under various warming and population growth scenarios.

The research team, led by Prof Rajib Maity of Civil Engineering department, looked at how heat waves or cold waves can overlap with heavy rain or dry extremes.

Its findings highlight stark insights as heat-related extremes concurrent with floods or droughts are projected to rise sharply worldwide, and Asia and Africa are set to be the hardest hit, with children and working-



age adults facing the greatest risk.

The study further flagged that sub-Saharan Africa will experience the highest youth exposure to extremes due to rapid population growth, while in Europe, North America and Australia, it is the elderly who are most vulnerable, especially to heatwaves combined with heavy rainfall.

"Europe, in particular, is expected to see the highest exposure levels for seniors globally, raising urgent concerns for healthcare and social care systems," it observed.

"While cold extremes will decline in tropical regions, they are projected to increase in parts of America, northern Europe and East Asia, creating the dual threat of more frequent heatwaves and per-

sistent cold spells," the researchers predicted.

One of the crucial findings shows that climate change is the primary driver of rising exposure globally, and population growth further magnifies the risks in developing regions, whereas in Europe and parts of Asia, where populations are stable or declining, climate change alone accounts for most of the increase.

"What sets this research apart is its age-specific lens. Unlike most climate studies that treat populations as a single group, this study disaggregates exposure across children, youth, adults, and seniors. This reveals the unequal burden of climate extremes and underscores the need for region-specific and age-specific adaptation strategies," the spokesperson said.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE OF TANGMARG AND ADJOINING AREAS

KASHMIR'S NOTED AND EXPERIENCED PSYCHIATRIST

Dr. Imtiyaz Hussain Mansur- MD

Senior consultant - Psychiatry & Neuropsychiatry
Expertise in consultation liason psychiatry
Formerly,

- Sr. Consultant Psychiatry - Government Health Services Kashmir
- Senior Psychiatrist at Hamad Medical Corporation Doha, Qatar

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Indian Banks Must Change Scale, Aim For Global Top 10: Shah

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Indian banks should not merely plan for growth, but change their scale and aspire to be among the world's top ten.

"I want to tell our Indian banks that they should not only plan for growth, but try to change the scale. Our banks should be in the top ten," Shah said, speaking at the Financial Express India's Best Bank Awards function here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of making India a 'vishwaguru' by 2047, he said. "The Constitution speaks of three types of inclusiveness, which are political, social and financial inclusion, and these are guiding India's growth story," Shah added.

Supporting the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is critical to the country's economic growth, the senior BJP minister said, reminding that behemoths like Reliance Industries, Adani Group and Torrent Group were also MSMEs at some point.

"If a country's banking system, especially the one in a country like India, does not give importance to MSMEs, it stops the growth story of the nation," he said.

If nobody had extended credit to these conglomerates, India would not have had so many industrial houses, Shah added.

It can be noted that as per the official statistics, the MSME growth in FY25 slowed down to 14.1 per cent from over 20 per cent in the previous fiscal. Analysts have of late expressed concerns about the credit quality in the MSME lending segment.



Talking about the global economy, Shah said India has emerged as a bright spot. "While the world is going through difficulties, with polarisation of societies and people losing faith in leadership, India is offering stability, trustworthy leadership and a robust economy," he stated.

He also highlighted India's consistent economic performance. "Many countries are struggling at a one to two per cent growth rate, while India has maintained a steady seven to eight per cent growth. This is a huge achievement," Shah said. Highlighting investor confidence, Shah added, "We have consistently maintained a 14 per cent increase in foreign direct investment. This reflects global faith in India's economy."

Speaking about structural reforms, the minister said, "Through the PLI scheme, industrial corridors, logistics parks and Start-up India, we have created a new ecosystem. A decade ago we had only 26 start-ups, and today we have 1.92 lakh. In the last ten years, India has moved from 26th to 3rd position globally in this sector."

Shah pointed to future areas of growth. "Electric vehicles, battery technology, green growth, fintech, space and defence manufacturing will all strengthen India's growth story in the coming years," he said.

KVIC Kick Starts Mission SEVA PARV Across Kashmir



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The State Office of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has initiated a special drive under Seva Parv with focused approach to support SC/ST beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

As part of this initiative, a Bankers meeting was convened at Conference Hall, Sanat Ghar, Bemina here today chaired by Khalid Majeed, Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir.

Rajesh Kumar, State Director, KVIC; Anil Kumar Sharma, Nodal Officer, PMEGP; representative from UTLCB, officers from leading banks, DIC, KVIB, Lead District Managers (LDMs), representative from department of Posts, and other stakeholders were also present. The meeting started with swadeshi

pledge of Khadi Mahotsav.

During the meeting, Nodal Officer (PMEGP) gave a detailed presentation (PPT) for all stakeholders, highlighting the overall performance of PMEGP in Jammu & Kashmir, progress made in sanctioning and disbursing cases of SC/ST beneficiaries and objectives and modalities of the ongoing special drive under Seva Parve.

He also emphasized on clearing all pending cases of SC/ST beneficiaries at the earliest, reviewing rectification cases concerning SC/ST applicants, ensuring that beneficiaries belonging to minority communities, women, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), and ex-servicemen who also fall under the SC/ST category, furnish their valid SC/ST certificates under PMEGP, adding that this step will enable faster subsidy release.

Tax Burden To Ease Further As Economy Gains More Strength: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

GREATER NOIDA- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said tax burden on people will ease further as India's economy gains more strength and asserted that reforms in GST are an ongoing process.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the UP International Trade Show (UP-ITS) here, Modi said that recent structural reforms in GST are set to give new wings to India's growth story and lead to greater savings for the people.

He stated that the government introduced reforms in the indirect tax regime by implementing GST in 2017, a significant step towards strengthening the economy, followed by further reforms in September of this year.

"We are not going to stop here... As the economy strengthens further, the tax burden will keep going down... With countrymen's blessings, reforms in GST will continue," the Prime Minister said.

He highlighted the measures taken by the govern-



ment, including no income tax on individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually and the GST 2.0 reforms, and stated that these initiatives will result in more savings in the hands of the people.

Modi further said the country is developing a vibrant defence sector, creating an ecosystem where every component bears the mark of 'Made in India.'

Production of the AK-203 rifles will soon begin in a fac-

tory set up in Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with Russia, he said.

Modi emphasised that India must become self-reliant and called for increasing investment in research and innovation. Every product that can be made in India should be made in India, said the Prime Minister.

Inviting global investments, Modi said, despite geopolitical disruptions and uncertainty, India's growth remains attractive.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO STOP HERE... As the economy strengthens further, the tax burden will keep going down... With countrymen's blessings, reforms in GST will continue,"

Silver Prices Hit Record High Of Rs 1.40 Lakh/Kg

Gold Drops By Rs 630 In Delhi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Silver prices rallied Rs 1,000 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1.40 lakh per kilogram in the national capital on Thursday following strong global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold prices, on the other hand, dropped by Rs 630 to Rs 1,17,370 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) due to poor offtake by retailers. The precious metal had closed at Rs 1,18,000 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 700 to Rs 1,16,700 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Rs 1,17,400 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Silver prices marched ahead in line with global trends. In international markets, spot silver rose more than 2 per cent to hit a high of USD 45.03 per ounce.

In futures trade, silver prices scaled new record levels. The December contract of white metal zoomed Rs 3,528 or 2.63 per cent to hit a record high of Rs 1,37,530 per kilogram. The March 2026 contract soared by Rs 3,431 or 2.53 per cent to hit a record peak of Rs 1,38,847 per kg on the MCX.

Gold for October delivery also increased by Rs 223 or 0.2 per cent to Rs 1,12,778 per 10 grams. Similarly, the December contract appreciated by Rs 262 or 0.23 per cent to Rs



1,13,909 per 10 grams.

"Gold stayed positive with gains on MCX, reinforcing the strong bullish sentiment. The rally is supported by the Fed's dovish rate-cut outlook and expectations of further easing into late 2025, keeping liquidity strong in bullion.

"Global uncertainties and declining dollar dependence continue to fuel buying interest in gold and silver," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

Globally, gold futures for December delivery went up marginally to USD 3,768.82 per ounce. Silver futures appreciated by more than 2 per cent to hit a high of USD 45.39 per ounce.

Meanwhile, spot gold rose by USD 21.40, or 0.57 per cent, to USD 3,757.54 per ounce.

"Gold edged above USD 3,745 per ounce ahead of key jobs and inflation data. Softer inflation could strengthen the case for interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, supporting bullion, with markets pricing

two cuts this year," said Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities.

Spot silver also rose more than 2 per cent to hit a high of USD 45.03 per ounce.

"On the macroeconomic front, the US data scheduled to release later in the day include initial jobless claims, durable goods orders, and the final reading of the US GDP for the second quarter.

"The outcomes of this data will influence the direction of the US dollar, provide insights for the monetary policy outlook and direction for bullion prices," said Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities.

Sandip Raichura, CEO - Retail Broking & Distribution and Director at PL Capital, said: "This year has placed gold right at the centre of financial history, with spot gold prices reaching an all-time high of USD 3,791.11 per ounce on September 23, almost double its levels exactly two years ago and past our 2024 targets of USD 3,700 per ounce."



Himayat Creating Pathways For Rural Youth Empowerment: Javid Dar

Hails mission for shaping futures, announces its expansion to agri-sectors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday lauded Himayat for creating a unique platform that offers rural youth an opportunity to shape their skills and build independent futures.

While speaking at the Himayat Alumni Meet 2025 in Srinagar, where several beneficiaries shared their success stories, the Minister said most participants came from humble backgrounds and had advanced in life through resilience and determination. "Himayat is a unique platform that offers rural youth an opportunity to shape their skills and build independent futures," he noted.

He added that in today's world, academic qualifications alone are not enough, skill is the real currency.

The Minister urged that skill development should extend to modern farming techniques, soil testing, livestock care, and even the use of artificial intelligence in agriculture. "If we train our youth in these areas, it can spark a real revolution," he said.

Citing inspiring success stories of Himayat trainees, Dar said ev-

ery individual must write their own journey of achievement despite hardships. Encouraging the youth, he quoted: "The essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting back."

He emphasized that honesty, hard work, and discipline as the foundations of lasting success. "Shortcuts never bring real achievements. Competition should be faced with courage and preparation," he stressed.

Dar also called for regular personality development training alongside skill trades to boost youth confidence. He congratulated the participants and lauded the Seva Parv initiative, running from September 17 to October 2 across the country, as a platform to highlight grassroots progress and youth empowerment.

"Every household faces difficulties, but we must overcome them, polish our skills, and move forward," the Minister said.

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, in his remarks, said the event was not merely an alumni meet but a journey that reflected "stories of struggle and success" of youth from remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir who through the Himayat Mission, have found their path to self-reliance.

40+ Startup Ideas Pitched At JKEDI Boot Camps Held Across J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU/SRINAGAR- In a major push to nurture grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organized series of Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camps across SKUAST (K) campuses, Government Polytechnic College Reasi, and Government Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam.

More than 250 students and

aspiring entrepreneurs participated enthusiastically, pitching over 40 innovative startup ideas under the recently launched J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

At SKUAST-K Wadura Campus, the boot camp was inaugurated by Dr. Shakeel A Mir, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, who urged students to think creatively and embrace entrepreneurship. Professors Imtiaz, Bilal Ahmad, and Zahoor A Baba, along with Navdeep, CEO & Head of SKIIE Centre, were also present.



JKEDI officers guided students

At Government Polytechnic College Reasi, the event was inaugurated by Principal Er. Arun Bangotra, who called on students to focus on sustainable ventures.

The session was led by JKEDI District Nodal Officer (DNO) Reasi, Abhilash Kumar Brarao, and Assistant Manager, Sorab Mengi. Eight students pitched their startup ideas, out of which four were shortlisted for the next round of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge. The boot camp witnessed participation of 85 enthusiastic students.

Personal Loan Documents You'll Need & How to Check Eligibility Fast

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- A Personal Loan is one of the most flexible financial solutions for individuals looking to cover expenses such as medical bills, home renovations, higher education, or even travel plans. Since it is an unsecured loan, lenders need to carefully verify the borrower's identity, income, and repayment capacity before disbursing funds. Understanding the documents required for a Personal Loan and using a Personal Loan and eligibility calculator can make your journey much easier.

Why Proper Documentation Matters Unlike secured loans, a Personal Loan does not require collateral. Therefore, your eligibility depends heavily on your income, repayment history, and financial profile. Submitting the correct set of documents ensures that your application is assessed without unnecessary delays. While the requirements may vary depending on whether you are salaried or self-employed, the general checklist remains consistent.

List of Documents Required for a Personal Loan

Here is a detailed guide on the documents typically needed:

1. Identity Proof

Any one of the following:

- PAN Card (mandatory)
- Aadhaar Card
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Voter ID
- Job card issued under NREGA

Letter from the National Population Register containing name and address details

2. Address Proof

Acceptable documents include: Latest utility bill not older than 2 months (electricity, water, piped gas, post-paid mobile, telephone)

- Aadhaar Card
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Voter ID

3. Income Proof

- Income documents vary for salaried and self-employed applicants.
- For Salaried Individuals
 - Salary slips for the last 3 months
 - Bank statements for the last 3 months showing salary credits

- Latest Form 16 or Salary Certificate
- For Self-Employed Professionals
 - Latest Income Tax Return with computation of income
 - Bank account statements (last 1 year)
 - Profit and loss account and balance sheet (if applicable)
 - Qualification proof
- For Self-Employed Non-Professionals
 - Latest two years of Income Tax Returns with computation
 - Bank account statements for the last 1 year
 - Proof of business, such as GST registration, Udyam Aadhaar, or Shop Establishment Certificate
 - Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association, and Certificate of Incorporation (for companies)
- Partnership deed (for partnership firms)
- 4. Date of Birth Proof
 - Any one of the following:
 - Passport
 - PAN Card
 - Aadhaar Card with date of birth

- Driving Licence
- Birth Certificate
- School leaving certificate
- 5. Signature Proof
 - Any of the following documents can serve as signature verification:
 - PAN Card
 - Passport
 - Banker's verification
- 6. Photographs
 - Recent passport-size colour photographs along with a duly filled and signed loan application form.
- 7. Other Important Papers
 - Signed loan agreement
 - Standing Instruction (SI) request or ECS forms (for repayment)
 - These documents allow lenders to confirm your eligibility and process your application efficiently.
 - Using a Personal Loan and Eligibility Calculator
 - Before applying, it is always advisable to check your borrowing capacity. A Personal Loan and eligibility calculator is an online tool that helps you estimate the amount you may be eligible to borrow based on your income, expenses, repayment capacity, and credit history.

CS Directs Enforcement Of GST Rate Reductions To Benefit Consumers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the implementation of recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and ensure that the benefits of reduced tax rates directly reach consumers on the ground.

Those who attended this meeting includes Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir/ Jammu; Controllor, Legal Metrology besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for strict enforcement to prevent unjustified pricing and directed the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) to constitute special market-checking teams. These teams will monitor retail and wholesale markets to ensure that commodity prices are reduced in proportion to the GST rate cuts recently announced by the Central Government.

The Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat informed the meeting that several companies have already initiated revisions in their product pricing in line with the new tax regime. Notably, 169 companies have revised their rates and submitted intimation to the Legal Metrology Department.

The Chief Secretary further emphasized that the reforms, effective from September 22, 2025, must yield visible relief for the common consumers in the coming days. The Legal Metrology Department will intensify inspections to verify compliance and take strict action against any violations.

He maintained that the objective of these reforms is consumer welfare. It is imperative that the reduction in GST rates translates into lower market prices so that people feel the real benefit, he underlined.

The meeting reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding consumer interests and ensuring transparency in the market system.

Court Sentences Ex French President Sarkozy to 5 Yrs Jail

Agencies

Paris: A Paris court on Thursday sentenced former French President Nicolas Sarkozy to five years in prison after finding him guilty of criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his 2007 campaign with funds from Libya, a verdict that the still-influential conservative leader denounced as “a scandal.”

The historic ruling made Sarkozy the first former president of modern France sentenced to actual time behind bars. In a major surprise, the court ruled that the 70-year-old

will be incarcerated despite his intention to appeal. It said his imprisonment would start at a date yet to be fixed, sparing the former head of state the humiliation of being led out of the packed courtroom by police.

The court found Sarkozy guilty of criminal association in a plot from 2005 to 2007, when he served as interior minister, to finance his winning presidential campaign with funds from Libya in exchange for diplomatic favours. It cleared him of three other charges including passive corruption, illegal campaign financing and concealing the

embezzlement of public funds.

Sarkozy denounced the ruling as a humiliation for the country. “If they absolutely want me to sleep in prison, I will sleep in prison. But with my head held high. I am innocent. This injustice is a scandal,” he said with his wife, the singer and model Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, at his side.

“I ask the French people — whether they voted for me or not, whether they support me or not — to grasp what has just happened. Hatred truly knows no bounds,” he said.

“Should I appear in handcuffs before the Court of Appeal? Those

who hate me this much, think it’s humiliating for me. What they humiliated today is France.”

With Sarkozy standing in front of her, chief judge Nathalie Gavarino said in sentencing him that “the goal of the criminal conspiracy was to give you an advantage in the electoral campaign” and “to prepare an act of corruption at the highest possible level in the event that you were elected President of the Republic.”

The facts were “exceptionally serious” and “capable of undermining citizens’ trust in public institutions,” with Sarkozy having used his position as interior minister “to

prepare an act of corruption at the highest level,” the judge said. Sarkozy described the financing plot as simply “an idea.”

“I am being convicted for having supposedly allowed two of my staff members to go ahead with the idea — the idea — of illegal financing for my campaign,” he said.

The court found that two of Sarkozy’s closest associates when he was president -- former ministers Claude Guéant and Brice Hortefeux — were guilty of criminal association, but likewise acquitted them of some other charges.

5 Teens Drown While Making Reel In Bihar River

Press Trust Of India

Gayaji: Five teenage boys drowned in the Falgu river in Bihar’s Gayaji district on Thursday while shooting a video for social media, police said.

The incident happened at Kenisthal Pahad Ghat in Khizra Sarai police station area around 1.30 pm. Four of the deceased were identified as Jain (14), Shufiana (16), Sajid (16) and Anas Kumar (17), while the identity of the fifth one is yet to be ascertained, they said.

“Seven boys went into the river to shoot a reel. They were swept away by the strong currents of the river. Local swimmer Ranjay Manjhi was there, and he jumped into the river and rescued two boys. The remaining five boys could not be saved,” SHO Mukesh Kumar said.

“The rescued boys were immediately taken to the hospital and their condition is out of danger,” he said.

The bodies of the deceased were later fished out of the river, he added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Uneasy Calm

to press for the extension of the Sixth Schedule and statehood for Ladakh.

Officials said protesters indulged in arson and vandalism, including the torching of the BJP office, damage to vehicles, and ransacking of the Hill Council headquarters. A police officer confirmed that the situation in the curfew-hit areas was under control, with no fresh incidents reported.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on a fortnight-long hunger strike in support of the demands, ended his fast following the violence and condemned the turn of events. “This is the saddest day for Ladakh... the path we were treading for the last five years was peaceful,” he said, appealing to the youth to halt further violence.

Centre and Activist at Odds

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) blamed Wangchuk for the unrest, alleging that his statements provoked the crowd and that politically motivated groups exploited the situation.

“In spite of many leaders urging to call off the hunger strike, he continued with it and misled the people through provocative mentions of Arab Spring-style protest and references to Gen Z protests in Nepal,” the MHA said in a strongly worded statement. According to the government, mobs “guided” by Wangchuk’s speeches stormed the BJP headquarters, torched the Leh Hill Council Assembly hall, and attempted to burn down a CRPF vehicle with personnel inside.

Wangchuk, however, rejected the allegations, calling the violence an “organic outburst” of frustration among the youth due to unmet promises on statehood and constitutional safeguards.

He stated, “They may be clever in making somebody else a scapegoat, but they are not wise. At this time, we need wisdom, because youths are already frustrated.”

Security Measures Intensified

To prevent escalation, prohibitory restrictions banning assemblies of five or more people were imposed in Leh, Kargil, and other major towns. Kargil District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar issued orders under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita to curb unauthorised processions and public statements likely to disturb peace.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta chaired a high-level security review meeting, calling Wednesday’s events “heart-wrenching” and the result of a “conspiracy.”

Political Reactions

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged the LG-led administration in Ladakh to introspect on its failure to maintain peace. “The government in Ladakh is theirs (BJP). When they fail, they blame others,” he said.

Opposition leaders across parties criticised the Centre. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti attributed the unrest to “wrong policies” and a breach of public tolerance after years of unfulfilled promises. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav called the BJP’s “breach of promise” on statehood a cause of public outrage, while CPI(M) and Left parties condemned the “brutal repression” that led to the deaths.

Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh called for careful consideration of the youth’s demands, describing the inclusion in the Sixth Schedule as an “eminently reasonable solution.”

Wangchuk’s NGO License Suspended

The Union Home Ministry cancelled the FCRA licence of Wangchuk’s Students’ Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), citing alleged discrepancies in the organisation’s accounts, including a foreign fund transfer deemed against “national interest.”

The CBI has also launched an inquiry against the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL), also founded by Wangchuk, over alleged violations of the FCRA. Wangchuk maintained that the institution does not seek foreign funds.

The LAB and KDA, representing Buddhist-majority Leh and Muslim-majority Kargil, have been leading the agitation for four years. The next round of talks with the Centre is scheduled for October 6, but Ladakh remains tense, with strict curfew, heavy security deployment, and internet restrictions still in place.

LG Calls For Heightened Vigilance

Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory, Kavinder Gupta, on Thursday chaired a security review meeting here and called for heightened vigilance to safeguard peace.

“The lieutenant governor chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the emerging situation across Ladakh, emphasising the need for heightened vigilance, seamless inter-agency co-ordination, and proactive measures to safeguard peace, security, and public order across the UT,” the L-C’s office said in a post on X.

Officials said senior officers from the police, CRPF and civil administration attended the meeting and discussed in detail the prevailing law and order situation in the region.

Wangchuk’s NGO FCRA

Students’ Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), just a day after violent protests erupted in Leh over demands for statehood and Sixth Schedule inclusion. The cancellation, issued under Section 14(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, takes immediate effect.

According to an MHA order, SECMOL was granted registration under FCRA to accept foreign contributions for cultural and educational programs.

It stated that the ministry had issued a Show Cause Notice (SCN) on August 20 this year through speed post followed by mail on September 9 to show cause as to why the NGO’s FCRA registration should not be cancelled.

The ministry noted that in view of violations u/s 8(1)(a),17, 18, 19 and conditions of registration under section 12 (4) (f) (i) of the Act, the FCRA registration certificate of the association is liable to be cancelled in exercise of power u/s 14 of the Act.

It stated that considering the facts and position, the Competent Authority, hereby, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 14 (1) of the Act, cancels with immediate effect the FCRA Certificate of Registration No. 152710012R granted to SECMOL.

No FIR has been registered yet, but the CBI has requested details of foreign funds received by the organizations between 2022 and 2024. Wangchuk said the CBI acted on a complaint from the Ministry of Home Affairs, and claimed that the institutes do not rely on foreign funding but occasionally export knowledge to generate revenue, which authorities reportedly considered foreign contributions.

“CBI team came with “an order” about 10 days ago. The order said we have not taken clearance under FCRA to receive foreign funds. We don’t want to be dependent on foreign funds, but we export our knowledge and raise revenue. In three such instances, they thought it was foreign contribution,” Wangchuk claimed.

He said a CBI team visited HIAL and the Students’ Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) last week, seeking details of foreign funds received by them between 2022 and 2024.

The teams are still camping in Ladakh and going through accounts and statements of the organisations, he said.

Wangchuk said the matters the complaint refers to were service agreements with taxes duly paid to the government. They pertained to India exporting knowledge to the United Nations, Swiss University and an Italian organisation, he said.

“It was a very dignified assignment. They saw it and they were convinced. They understood it is not helping them, so they began asking for accounts outside that period. Their mandate was to check for accounts during 2022-24, but they started asking for accounts of 2021 and 2020. Then they went to our school asking for various documents outside their mandate period and a school outside the complaint’s purview,” Wangchuk alleged.

Both these schools give free education to needy young students. In HIAL, students are paid stipend for their work on various projects, he said.

“The CBI officers are still camping in Ladakh and rigorously going through records,” Wangchuk said, adding that they have not questioned him.

The activist said first, the local police filed a sedition case against him. This was followed by an order taking back the land given for HIAL, citing that the lease amount was not paid.

“Everyone knows, we have documents to show. The government had almost been apologetic in saying that their lease policy is not formed and hence it cannot take fee. It said ‘please bear with us and continue construction,’” he claimed.

Wangchuk alleged that this was followed by the CBI action and income tax summons.

“The funny part is, Ladakh is one place where there is no tax. Yet I voluntarily pay taxes, and I get summons. Then they resurrected a four-year-old complaint that labourers were not paid properly. It is guns blazing from all sides on us,” he alleged.

Wangchuk had started a hunger strike on September 10, pressing for Ladakh’s inclusion in the Sixth schedule and for statehood.

The cold desert region witnessed the worst violence since 1989 on Wednesday, when groups of youths indulged in arson and vandalism, targeting the BJP headquarters and the Hill Council, and set ablaze vehicles.

Police and paramilitary forces had to lob tear-gas shells to bring the situation under control, officials said.

KDA Seeks

“harassment” of people.

It also defended climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was blamed by government for making “provocative statements” leading to mob violence, and expressed sympathies with the families of four slain protesters, describing them as “heroes of Ladakh”.

“Instead of handling the situation in a proper manner, the administration used excessive force on the unarmed protesters...we want a thorough probe into the violence and legal action against those who ordered the firing,” co-chairman of KDA Asgar Ali Karbalai told reporters here.

The Leh Apex Body and the KDA have been jointly spearheading an agitation over the past four years in support of their demands including statehood for Ladakh and have held several rounds of talks with the government in the past.

Karbalai, who was flanked by other senior members of the KDA including Ladakh MP Hanifa

Jan and prominent leader Sajjad Kargili, said whatever happened was unfortunate but the way the government handled the situation was like “rubbing salt into our wounds”.

“The UT administration and the Ministry of Home Affairs are equally responsible for the happenings. We have been agitating peacefully for the last more than five years in support of our four demands including statehood, extension of Sixth Schedule, public service commission and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil.

“We are holding hunger strikes, demonstrations and long marches but the government’s failure pushed the youth to the wall. No job was made available to the local youth and deliberate attempts were made to delay the talks,” he said.

After May 27 talks, the Centre promised next round within a month but “maintained dead silence” despite back-to-back hunger strikes – first in Kargil and later in Leh, he said.

Wangchuk-led hunger strike was going on since September 10 but instead of convening a meeting in near future, the Centre called for talks on October 6 when already 11 days of hunger strike have passed, Karbalai said.

“Two elderly participants fell seriously ill and had to be shifted to a hospital, leading to concern among the people,” he said.

“They are trying to save themselves by blaming Wangchuk and others. It is the failure of the UT and Ministry of Home Affairs,” he said, adding the government is claiming that they were apprehensive of violence but why necessary security measures were not taken in advance.

“We reject their charges blaming Wangchuk and others for the violence,” he said.

MP Hanifa Jan said the people of Ladakh felt ignored after the MHA failed to convene next round of talks.

“The government must stop harassment of youth, hold free and fair investigation and restart dialogue with all seriousness to resolve pending demands,” he said.

Kargili alleged that the failed policy of the government was responsible for all the happenings.

“People felt frustrated without jobs. They (BJP) have included the demand (for extension of Sixth Schedule) in their manifesto but never kept their promise,” he said, adding “we never endorsed violence but they need to act with wisdom and restart the dialogue”.

He said the narrative to blame Wangchuk and others is “baseless and not acceptable to us”.

The KDA leaders also accused the government of witch-hunting, harassment of people associated with Leh Apex Body and mass detention of youth.

The government should immediately put an end to all this and restart dialogue with the people of Ladakh in a sincere manner, they said.

They said the people of Ladakh stand with the bereaved families of four persons who lost their lives.

“They are our heroes and their sacrifice will be remembered forever,” Karbalai said.

1 Lakh Cr Urban

Urban Challenge Fund, aimed at redeveloping 300 cities across India, would be a game changer in building sustainable growth hubs. He also called upon private players and developers to play a greater role in affordable housing, while emphasising welfare of workers engaged in construction.

The LG stressed the need for real-time monitoring of projects and wider awareness campaigns for buyers. He urged developer bodies like NAREDCO to work closely with AIFORERA to ensure workers’ families are not deprived of basic rights.

On the occasion, Sinha released the Journal and Annual Report 2024–25 of AIFORERA in the presence of senior officials, including Anand Kumar, Chairman of AIFORERA, and Satish Chandra, Chairman of J&K RERA.

‘500 New ATL

Union Territory.

The University of Kashmir serves as the nodal institution for the ATL Sarthi initiative, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, to establish robust monitoring mechanisms and strong institutional linkages with ATLs in schools across Jammu and Kashmir. The program focuses on mentorship, skill-building for ATL teachers, and guiding students in transforming their ideas into commercial prototypes.

Empowering India’s ‘Amrit Generation’

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the initiative, stating, “The Atal Tinkering Labs are empowering young students with the tools for discovery, problem-solving, and self-development. By nurturing the curiosity of India’s ‘Amrit Generation,’ ATL labs are laying the foundation for a developed and aspirational nation.”

He further highlighted the steady transformation taking place in the UT’s innovation ecosystem at the school level. Districts including Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kulgam, Shopian, and Srinagar are witnessing a surge in student-led innovation, equipping students with future-ready skills and the ability to address local challenges.

Inclusive Innovation and Local Problem-Solving The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the additional ATLs will play a crucial role in inclusive innovation by reaching students in remote and

tribal areas. “These labs provide the youth of the region with vast opportunities to invent solutions to local challenges in agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, and disaster management,” he said.

He also urged the University of Kashmir to focus on capacity building for ATL teachers, unlocking their potential and promoting creativity and innovation among students.

Future Opportunities

LG Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for supporting the expansion of ATLs in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, innovation has become a permanent part of society and is no longer limited to industries.

He also highlighted the Rs 1 lakh crore fund for research, development, and innovation over the next six years, aimed at accelerating progress in high-priority sectors such as energy security, climate action, and deep technologies like Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence.

Showcasing Young Innovators

During the launch, the Lieutenant Governor visited stalls showcasing innovative projects by ATL students, interacting with the young innovators and encouraging them to make the most of the opportunities provided by the government. A coffee table book celebrating the successful innovations of ATL students from Jammu and Kashmir was also released during the event.

High-Level Participation

The launch ceremony was graced by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy & Space. Senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty members, teachers, and students of ATLs across the UT were also present. Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir; Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education; and Ms. Deepali Upadhyay, Program Lead, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, were among the dignitaries who attended.

15-Day Deadline To

without leniency. “At the same time, we will consider the perspective of those whose survival depends on these resources,” he added.

The meeting discussed key concerns such as illegal mining, unlicensed stone crushers, and desilting of the Jhelum River. Departments including Wildlife, Forest, Pollution Control Board, and Urban Local Bodies were directed to implement immediate corrective measures.

Committee members clarified that while legally operating companies will face no obstruction, any illegal activity threatening the environment will be met with firm action. “The committee will not compromise on safeguarding the environment or in addressing public grievances arising from illegal practices,” Shafi said.

Addressing questions on royalty charges for stone quarries and extraction of loose material, he clarified that operations would be allowed only in permitted areas, and fixed quotas in metric tons must be strictly adhered to.

Highlighting the panel’s dual approach, Shafi said, “We do not want to create any ecological imbalance. Our approach is clear: no compromise on the environment, but no unnecessary hardship for those earning an honest living.”

Legislators used the forum to flag gaps in enforcement and urged stricter monitoring to protect fragile ecosystems. Department heads were instructed to ensure ground-level action and timely compliance.

Govt To Provide

assistance, Omar directed the administration to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation measures.

“The year 2025 has brought immense devastation to Jammu and Kashmir -- from the dry spell in March-April to incessant rains, flash floods, and landslides in August-September. From Kathua to Kupwara, the damage has been unprecedented,” he said.

Omar highlighted the scale of destruction, noting that torrential rains have damaged over 350 bridges, around 2,000 km of road network, thousands of hectares of agricultural land, besides washing away standing crops and inflicting damages on both government and private buildings.

“Given the enormity of restoration challenges, Jammu and Kashmir is looking forward to a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package from the Central Government,” he added.

Emphasising the importance of first-hand assessment, Omar said his visit to the remote and isolated areas of Kathua was aimed at understanding the ground realities.

He also undertook an aerial survey of damages in Hiranagar and Lakhnapur, the entry point of Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the CM convened a meeting with district administration, including Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma and senior civil and police officers.

He directed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct extensive tours of all affected areas and submit detailed ground reports at the earliest.

MLA Bani highlighted extensive damages due to landslides triggered by torrential rains in his

constituency.

In villages such as Moar, Najote, and Kanthal-Majra, nearly 100 families have lost their land and property completely, he said and demanded allotment of five marlas of land for such affected families, besides highlighting other pressing concerns, including damages to the Jalana Bridge, delay in tendering of work for High School Lohai, upgradation of High School Sadrota, as well as amnesty from KCC loans and electricity bills for affected families.

The Chief Minister assured that the government would examine all these demands with due seriousness and extend all possible support to the affected families.

“The government has decided to provide five marlas of land to each family who have been rendered homeless and left without land due to landslides and flash floods so that they are able to construct their dwelling units,” Omar said.

HC Imposes

clean hands and have suppressed the material facts to the extent that earlier writ petition, which was preferred by them, was not withdrawn under any bonafide assurance, rather their petition was dismissed as not maintainable, leaving it open for them to avail other remedies available under law.

“It is the duty of every party before the court to lay all relevant facts necessary for the fair adjudication of the matter. Failure to do so strikes at the very root of justice because the court’s ability to dispense fair and equitable relief depends on an accurate and complete factual matrix,” a Bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nagral said, underlining that when material facts are deliberately withheld or concealed, the court is misled.

“The adversarial process is compromised. This not only results in injustice but also erodes public confidence in the legal system,” the Court said, adding, “The Hon’ble Apex Court has been unequivocal in stating that the omission of material facts is not a mere procedural lapse but a serious misconduct.”

The rationale, the court said, is that the integrity of the judicial process takes precedence over individual claims, and no party should benefit from dishonest or fraudulent behaviour.

“Thus, in the light of the law laid down by the Hon’ble Apex Court and also by various High Courts including this Court on such like matters, it can safely be held that “transparency and honesty in pleadings are nonnegotiable,” the court said.

The judicial system relies on the good faith of parties, and any deviation in the form of suppression of material facts invites stringent consequences, including dismissal of the petition and imposition of costs, the court underscored.

“This approach ensures that justice is administered in an environment of trust and fairness, safeguarding the dignity and sanctity of the judicial process,” the court said.

The petitioners instead of availing other remedies available under law have chosen to file the instant petition by way of 2nd round of litigation urging similar grounds and facts and “that too by suppressing the material facts and with a view to mislead this Court to get a favourable order.”

“This Court in the aforesaid backdrop holds that the petitioners have abused the process of Court by filing the instant petition and it is a fit case, where the exemplary costs can be imposed with a view to deter such unscrupulous litigants to abuse the process of Court,” the bench said and imposed Rs Rs. 20,000 costs on the petitioners.

NC Yet To

sub-division in Reasi district.

Responding to speculation that NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and former minister Sajad Kitchloo might be considered for the polls, the Chief Minister said, “You can name anyone you want, but it is the party which is going to decide on this. As far as I know, there has been no discussion on who we will nominate.”

Front-runners and Speculations

Sources said that NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, former minister Sajad Kitchloo, and party treasurer Shammii Obero are the front-runners for the NC tickets. In contrast, names like Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Aga Syed Mehmood, and Ajay Sadhotra are reportedly unlikely to be considered.

Meanwhile, Jammu & Kashmir Congress president Tariq Hamid Karra said the party’s high command will take the final decision on its candidates. “The matter will be discussed with the party leadership, and they will examine all aspects before taking a final call,” Karra told reporters.

NC-Congress Alliance Likely to Win Three Seats

The NC-Congress alliance is expected to comfortably secure three out of the four Rajya Sabha seats. The Congress, which has six MLAs in J&K, may stake a claim for one of the “safe” seats. Party sources suggest Ghulam Ahmad Mir, MLA from Dooroo, could be considered. Mir has been active at the national level and is currently the general secretary in charge of West Bengal. He previously led the party’s successful campaigns in Jharkhand, winning 16 assembly and two Lok Sabha seats.

The party may also look at fielding a senior leader from the Jammu mainland, which has historically been its stronghold, although it has not won any assembly or Lok Sabha seats there since 2014.

ICC Hearing: Surya Told To Not Make Political Statements, Pak Called On Friday

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav was on Thursday told to refrain from making any comments that could be construed as political in nature by the ICC match referee Richie Richardson during an official hearing of the global body on a complaint filed by Pakistan Cricket Board.

The hearing against Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan and Haris Rauf, on a complaint filed by the BCCI, will be held on Friday as the two are playing in their Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

It is understood that the PCB had filed the complaint within the stipulated seven-day period after the September 14 game between India and Pakistan in which Suryakumar had refused to shake hands and then dedicated the victory to the Indian armed forces for carrying out



Operation Sindoor in May. He had also expressed solidarity with the victims of Pahalgam terror attack.

"Surya attended the ICC hearing today. He was accompanied by BCCI's COO and Cricket Oper-

ations Manager. Richardson explained to him that he shouldn't be making any comments that could be seen as political in nature. The sanction can't be ascertained. Since it falls under Level 1, it could either be a warning

or a financial penalty of 15 per cent deductions in match fees," a tournament source privy to the details told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Earlier, India had filed an official complaint with the ICC against Pakistan cricketers Rauf and Farhan for their provocative gestures during the two sides' Asia Cup Super 4 game here last Sunday.

It is reliably learnt that the BCCI filed the complaint against the duo on Wednesday and the ICC is in receipt of the e-mail.

Rauf, Sahibzada Gestures

During the September 21 match, Rauf had made gestures to depict the bringing down of a plane to mock India's military action after Indian supporters chanted "Kohli, Kohli" referring to the couple of match-winning sixes that the Indian legend hit off the pacer at MCG during a

T20 World Cup game in 2022.

During the match, he hurled abuses at Indian openers Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma during his bowling spell, and the two youngsters responded with their bats.

Sahibzada, during the same match, celebrated with a gun-firing gesture using his bat as a machine gun prop, something that has been widely criticised.

"That celebration was just a moment at that time. I do not do a lot of celebrations after scoring 50. But, it suddenly came to my mind that let's do a celebration today. I did that. I don't know how people will take it. I don't care about that," Farhan had told reporters after the match.

Both Rauf and Sahibzada will have to explain their gestures at the hearing and if the players' answers are not convincing, then they could face sanctions as per the code of conduct.

Real Kashmir Placed In 'Group Of Death' In AIFF Super Cup



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC has been placed in a "Group of Death" in the AIFF Super Cup 2025-26, which is all set to begin on October 25.

The Snow Leopards are in Group A alongside ISL clubs Mohun Bagan SG, Chennaiyin FC and East Bengal FC. The Srinagar-based club will play East Bengal in the tournament opener on October 25. They next play Mohun Bagan SC on October 28. Real Kashmir will take on Chennaiyin FC on October 31.

Other teams competing in the AIFF Super Cup include FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC, NorthEast United FC, Inter Kashi, Bengaluru FC, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Punjab FC, Gokulam Kerala FC,

Mumbai City FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Hyderabad FC and Rajasthan United FC.

"The Group Stage will see 24 matches, which will be played between October 25 and November 6, before a brief break for the November FIFA International Window, when India play Bangladesh (November 18) in their AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Final Round," the AIFF said in a statement on Thursday.

"The top teams from each of the four groups will progress to the semi-finals, the dates for which, will be announced later."

The J&K Football Association wished Real Kashmir the best on their upcoming challenge and praised team owner Arshad Nizam Shawl. "This is not just a victory for RKFC—it is a victory for the spirit of football in Jammu & Kashmir," the FA said.

3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat C'ship Mascot Unveiled In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The mascot for the 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat championship was officially unveiled in Srinagar on Thursday, setting the stage for one of Asia's most exciting martial arts events.

The championship will be held from September 25 to 30, bringing together young athletes from across 11 countries.

The unveiling ceremony was presided over by Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, who also released the trophies for the upcoming tournament. Chief Sports Officer, Divisional Sports Officer, Chief Coach were also present on the occasion.

The grand inauguration ceremony of the championship will take place on September 26, at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex, Srinagar. The opening ceremony shall be



graced by Chief Minister of J&K, Omar Abdullah; Union Minister of Sports, Satish Sharma, along with other distinguished dignitaries.

Srinagar is set to turn into Asia's sports hub as the six-day event brings together 11 countries, 12 teams, and over 300 athletes and officials. Teams from India (A and B), Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal,

and Kazakhstan will be competing for top honours.

The championship is being organized with the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Indian Pencak Silat Federation (PFA), and the Asian Pencak Silat Federation.

The athletes and coaches from across the participating nations have already arrived in Srinagar.

J&K Ignites With Youth Power As Sewa Parv Fuses Sports & Social Awareness

Azhar Hajini

SRINAGAR: The spirit of service, fitness and unity is sweeping across J&K as the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations witness unprecedented enthusiasm and participation. From spirited sports tournaments to impactful social awareness campaigns, the fortnight-long event, observed from September 17 to October 2, is channelizing youth energy towards nation-building and community welfare.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports is at the forefront of this massive mobilization, orchestrating a diverse calendar of events that cater to young athletes, students, and community

volunteers alike.

In the capital city, Sewa Parv was observed with great fervour, engaging over 4,200 youngsters.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports continued its vibrant Sewa Parv calendar on Day 7 with a blend of sporting competitions and awareness drives.

Zones Narbal and Soibugh in Budgam introduced impactful activities such as anti-drug awareness rallies, cycling expeditions and exhibitions promoting a drug-free lifestyle.

Ghulam Hassan Lone, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, emphasized that Sewa Parv is a platform to cultivate social responsibility and community bonding alongside sporting



excellence.

Anantnag district witnessed two major highlights. A District

Level Cycling Race, a flagship Sewa Parv event, saw over 340 male students compete in a 7-kilometer race, promoting health and environmental sustainability. Simultaneously, the District Level Athletics Meet for Girls at the Sports Stadium Naanil was a resounding success. Young athletes in the U-14, U-17 and U-19 categories displayed exceptional talent and competitive spirit in various track and field events.

The Inter-District Division Level Football Tournament for U19 and U17 girls concluded with Team Jammu emerging as U17 champions after defeating Team Reasi 2-0. The U17 Boys Boxing category is currently underway.

A grand inaugural ceremony

was held for the Inter-District Division Level Kabaddi U-19 Boys and Inter-Division UT Level Wushu tournaments at the Indoor Sports Stadium Doda.

The Under-17 Inter-Cluster Cricket Competition for boys is actively underway, alongside successful Under-19 cricket trials in Zone Dangerpora, focusing on talent identification and promotion.

The Inter-District Division Level Under-14 Boys Volleyball Tournament was inaugurated at the Mini Stadium Sports Complex, aiming to foster camaraderie, discipline, and athletic excellence at the grassroots level.

Adding a powerful dimension to the celebrations, a vibrant cycle rally was organized in Tangdar Valley.

CS Reviews Performance Of Deptt Of Youth Services & Sports

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a review meeting of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, emphasizing the pivotal role of the department in channelizing the energy of the youth into productive avenues.

He stressed that apart from sports, young people should be encouraged to explore diverse domains such as music, arts and other creative pursuits in line with their interests and aspirations.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D vaidya, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal; Director General, YSS; Director General, Resources; Executive Director, J&K Bank; Secretary, J&K Sports Council; and other senior officers.

The CS advised the department to work towards hosting high-profile sporting events in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in football, cricket, and other popular disciplines.

Presenting the achievements of the department, Commissioner Secretary, YS&S, Yasha Mudgal informed that J&K won 44 Gold, 54 Silver, and 82 Bronze medals, compared to 31 Gold, 20 Silver, and 52 Bronze last year. This also includes 3 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze medal at international competitions.

She further highlighted that around 35.5 lakh youth were engaged in departmental activities last year, and efforts are underway to raise this figure to 45 lakh youth during the current year. (Observer News Service)

Open Selection Trials For Junior Carrom Nationals On October 6

The J&K Carrom Association announced Thursday that it will hold selection trials for J&K team to participate in the 50th Junior National Carrom Championship, being organised by the All India Carrom Federation in association with the State Carrom Association, Madhya Pradesh, and the Gwalior Jila Carrom Association, scheduled to be held from November 1 to 4 at LNIPE, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

The association said it will conduct Open Selection Trials on October 6 at Carrom Hall, Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, for selecting players to represent J&K at the prestigious event. The selection will be followed by screening as per sports council norms, and thereafter, a 21-day coaching camp will be organised at Carrom Hall for the selected players to prepare them for the national championship.

Eligibility for participation is as per the All India Carrom Federation guidelines:

Players born on or after 02.11.2007 may take part in Junior (Under-18) events.

Players born on or after 02.11.2004 may take part in Youth (Under-21) events.

"The association requests all interested and eligible players from J&K to report for the open trials on the scheduled date, along with the required documents in Original to support their age and identity or for any information contact 9906767529, 9070000093," the association said. (Observer News Service)

DC Bandipora Reviews Preparations For Wular Marathon 2025

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday reviewed the preparations for the second edition of the Wular Marathon 2025, scheduled to be held on October 12.

During the meeting, DIG BSF Brig N. Rose Babu gave a detailed presentation on the strategic framework for security arrangements, route management and inter-agency coordination.

It was informed that the marathon, being organized under the theme "Save Wular, Run with Bordermen", will comprise three formats viz. 5 km, 10 km and 21.1 km.

The Half Marathon (21.1 km) will start from the Helipad BSF Campus Bandipora and culminate at Wular Vintage Park, while the 5 km and 10 km categories will have Wular Vintage Park as both the starting and finishing point. It was further given out that the event is open to both males and females aged 14 years and above, and registration will be free of cost for all participants. (Observer News Service)

Asia Cup 2025: India Take On Sri Lanka In Super 4 Contest

Sanju Samson being an apparent middle-order misfit will certainly worry head coach Gautam Gambhir and the Indian team management might be tempted to check out Jitesh Sharma during their inconsequential final Super 4 encounter against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup here on Friday.

Once India won against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, which had lost both its Super 4 encounters against Bangladesh and Pakistan, was ousted from the competition and will be taking the field to complete formalities.

The stage now seems set for a possible India-Pakistan showdown in the final on Sunday.

Apart from Samson, who is not fitting into the puzzle called the Indian batting order, the only other worry at the moment could be missing 10 catches so far in the tournament, including five against Bangladesh en route to final. (PTI)

Bumrah Named In India Squad For West Indies Tests, Nair Dropped

Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday named in India's Test squad for the home series against the West Indies while Devdutt Padikkal replaced an off-colour Karun Nair in the side.

Bumrah, who had played only three out of five Tests in England due to workload management, had made himself available for the two-match West Indies series starting in Ahmedabad on October 2.

Ravindra Jadeja was named vice captain of the squad to be led by Shubman Gill. The second game of the series will be held in Delhi from October 10.

"Bumrah is ready and keen to play both Tests against West Indies," Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said here.

European Football Body UEFA Moves Toward Vote To Suspend Israel

AP

GENEVA: European soccer body UEFA is moving toward a vote to suspend its member federation Israel over the war in Gaza, people familiar with the proposal told The Associated Press on Thursday.

A majority of UEFA's 20-member executive committee is expected to support any vote in favor of suspending Israeli teams from international play, two sources told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Such a step would prevent Israeli national and club teams from playing in international competitions including next year's World Cup. Israel's men's team is set to resume its World Cup qualifying campaign in two weeks with away games against Norway and Italy.

It is unclear whether world soccer body FIFA will support excluding Israel given the close relations between FIFA's leader, Gianni Infantino, and President Donald Trump. The Trump administration's

support to secure the World Cup, and process visas for players, officials and potentially hundreds of thousands of visiting fans, is seen as key to FIFA delivering a success-

from the World Cup.

FIFA's ruling council is scheduled to meet in Zurich next week. The 37-member council includes eight from UEFA.



ful tournament in the U.S., Canada and Mexico next year.

A State Department spokesperson said it will work to stop any efforts that tried to ban Israel's team

Calls to exclude Israel from soccer and other sports have increased in recent weeks amid an outcry over the humanitarian toll of its military campaign in Gaza.

Last week Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said Israel should be banned from international sports events just like Russia, which was sidelined after its full-

from international competitions.

UEFA and its president Aleksander Ceferin signaled a tougher view on Israel last month when banners saying "Stop Killing Children. Stop Killing Civilians" were placed on the field in front of the Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham teams ahead of the Super Cup game in Udine, Italy.

Last week, Israel was accused of committing genocide in Gaza by an inquiry commission commissioned by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

At the Champions League final in May, PSG fans displayed a banner saying "Stop Genocide in Gaza" in French. UEFA did not open a disciplinary case despite having rules against political messaging inside stadiums.

On Wednesday evening in Greece, Israeli club Maccabi Tel Aviv played PAOK in the UEFA-organized Europa League. There were pro-Palestinian protests outside the stadium in Thessaloniki and a "Stop Genocide" banner displayed inside.

scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Earlier this week seven independent experts working with the U.N. Human Rights Council urged FIFA and UEFA to suspend Israel



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