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High Triglycerides Affect 50% Of Children In J&K, Govt Data Shows

Firdus Ali

Srinagar: Over 50 per cent of children aged 5-9 in Jammu and Kashmir are estimated to have high levels of triglycerides, a type of blood fat linked to increased risk of heart disease later in life, according to the latest government report. The report, Children in India

2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during the 29th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations (CoSSO) on September 25 in Chandigarh, highlights worrying trends in children's health across the country. Jammu and Kashmir, along with West Bengal, Sikkim,

Nagaland, Assam and other northeastern states, recorded the highest prevalence of high triglycerides among children. Specifically, over 67 per cent of children in West Bengal, 64 per cent in Sikkim, 55 per cent in Nagaland, and 57 per cent in Assam were estimated to have elevated triglyceride levels. Kerala and Maharashtra



reported the lowest prevalence at 16.6 per cent and 19.1 per cent, respectively.

The report also examined causes of newborn mortality, identifying prematurity and low birth weight as the leading factors at a national prevalence of 48 per cent, followed by birth asphyxia and trauma (16 per cent) and pneumonia (nine per cent).

Among adolescents, around five per cent were classified as hypertensive, with the highest prevalence in Delhi (10 per cent), followed by Uttar Pradesh (8.6 per cent), Manipur (8.3 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (seven per cent). High triglycerides affected over 16 per cent of Indian adolescents. The report | [More on P6](#)

Wangchuk Held Under NSA; Internet Cut In Leh

Opposition Cries Foul As Uneasy Calm Prevails In Curfew-Bound Leh



Observer News Service

Leh: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested Friday and slapped with the stringent

National Security Act (NSA), two days after violent protests over statehood and constitutional protection left four persons dead and | [More on P6](#)

Wangchuk's Arrest Can Complicate Situation: LAB

Rejects 'Foreign Hand' In Leh Violence

Reacting to Wangchuk's arrest, LAB leaders said the move could complicate the situation rather than restore normalcy, noting Wangchuk's global stature and commitment to non-violence. | [More on P6](#)

6 NORMALLY, AROUND 500 PEOPLE visit the hunger-strike venue daily, but on September 24, more than 7,500 people unexpectedly came and went out of control"

Canada Issues Updated Travel Advisory for India

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar — The Government of Canada has issued an updated travel advisory for India, warning its citizens to exercise a high degree of caution due to ongoing security risks, including terrorism, civil unrest, and crime.

The advisory strongly discourages travel to certain regions, singling out Jammu and Kashmir as particularly unsafe. "Avoid all travel to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir due to unpredictable security conditions, threats of terrorism, militancy. | [More on P6](#)

'Staggeringly High': SC Tweaks Guidelines To Reduce Backlog Of Cheque Bounce Cases

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi— Expressing concern over the pendency of "staggeringly high" number of cheque bounce cases in district courts of major cities, the Supreme Court has issued fresh guidelines to reduce the backlog that included voluntary compromises and release of accused on probation.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and N V Anjaria while dealing with the cheque bounce cases where the Bombay High Court reversed the concurrent finding of the district courts to release the accused, tweaked the 15-year-old



guidelines on compounding of offences under the Negotiable Instrument (NI) Act. It said this court takes judicial notice of the fact that despite repeated directions by this court in various judgments but pendency of cheque bouncing cases under the NI Act in district courts in

major metropolitan cities of India continues to be staggeringly high.

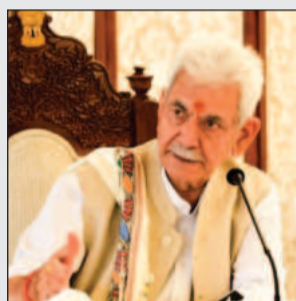
Referring to data from the National Judicial Data Grid, the bench said as on September 1, the pendency of Section 138 cases in Delhi district courts was 6,50,283, Mumbai district courts was 1,17,190, and Calcutta district courts was 2,65,985. "This pendency is putting an unprecedented strain on the judicial system as in some States, cases under Section 138 of the NI Act constitute nearly fifty per cent of the pendency in trial court (in Delhi section 138 NI Act cases constitute 49.45 per cent | [More on P6](#)

War Against Terrorism Not Over Yet: LG Chairs UHQ Meet In Srinagar; Seeks Whole-of-govt Approach To Tackle Drugs, Radicalization

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the war against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is far from over and called for a whole-of-government approach to tackle radicalization and the drug menace.

Sinha chaired the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) meeting at Raj Bhawan to review the current security scenario in



Jammu and Kashmir. Congratulating security forces for recent successful

anti-terror operations, the LG said, "War against terrorism is not over yet. Kinetic and non-kinetic operations must continue. We must maintain the momentum and take stringent action against terrorism and its entire ecosystem."

He called for a "Whole of Government Approach" to effectively tackle radicalization and the drug menace, directing agencies to continuously adapt to evolving threats.

The meeting | [More on P6](#)

Launches Web Portal For Soldier Welfare

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday launched the web portal of the Lieutenant Governor's Sainik Sahayta Kendra (LGSSK) at Raj

Bhawan. The initiative is dedicated to the welfare of serving personnel of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). | [More on P6](#)

HC Sets Guidelines for Timely Contractor Payments

Directs SOP To Ensure Dues Paid Within 60 Days

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday issued slew of directions to ensure the effective enforcement of contractual payments by the government, observing constitutional governance does not permit the State to hide behind bureaucratic excuses while depriving its contractors of their rightful dues.

Disposing of a petition by directing release of outstanding principal amount of Rs 97,87,012 to a contractor who had completed various works in 2017, a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal also directed Chief Secretary to formulate and implement a Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) to ensure that no admitted dues arising from completed contractual works are withheld beyond a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of submission of final bills provided there is no legal impediment and all the codal formalities are completed.

To ensure the effective enforcement of contractual payments and to uphold the principles of fairness and accountability, the court ordered that once the work has been executed strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the tender and the agreement, the authorities shall be under a clear statutory and contractual obligation to release | [More on P6](#)

2,417 Indians Deported From US This Yr: MEA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Over 2,400 Indians have been deported from the US since January, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

The issue of deportations is back in the news after American authorities repatriated Harjit Kaur, a 73-year-old Sikh woman from Punjab who had lived in the US for three decades.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India stands against illegal migration and it wants to promote pathways for legal mobility of people.

The US has deported a total of 2,417 Indian nationals between January 20 and | [More on P6](#)

NIA Attaches Properties Of HM Operative

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday attached immovable properties of a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) operative involved in supplying arms and ammunition to active members of the banned outfit in Kashmir.

On the orders of the NIA special court in Jammu, the agency attached the properties of Tariq Ahmad Mir, a chargesheeted accused who was arrested in April in a terror-related case.

The attached assets include a concrete, single-storey residential building on 780 square feet of land and an orchard measuring eight marlas at Maldera village in Shopian district, the NIA said in a statement.

Mir, an associate of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen member Syed Naveed Mushtaq, was chargesheeted before the NIA court in October 2024.

"Today's | [More on P6](#)

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NIT Rourkela Develops Indigenous Force Plate For Gait Profiling

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, have developed a low-cost indigenous force plate for measuring multi-axial ground reaction forces (GRF) to help in gait profiling, according to officials. Force plates are globally recognised as essential diagnostic tools for analysing human musculoskeletal health. Due to high costs and the lack of Indian manufacturers, its availability in India remains limited. Gait profiling is a method of evaluating an individual's walking pattern by comparing their unique gait to a reference dataset of healthy individuals' gait patterns.



The new device from NIT Rourkela can be supplied at one-fourth the price of international systems, making it an affordable alternative, they added. A patent has been filed for the product and the research has been published in the Journal of Mechanics in Medicine and Biology.

The research team used the indigenously developed force plate along with the motion capture system to evaluate the heel pad stiffness in a non-invasive technique. By studying how the heel pad, the natural cushion of the foot, behaves in people with different body weights, the team has taken a step closer to developing better footwear and treatment strategies to reduce heel pain.

According to A Thirugnanam, Professor at NIT Rourkela, the GRF measured from the force plates will be

“With too much stress, the heel pad loses its cushioning ability to the foot causing pain and discomfort. The condition can also be caused by ageing, injury, obesity, diabetes and also ill-fitting shoes

useful to diagnose the abnormal gait patterns. This device will also be useful in sports academics, educational institutes, hospitals and rehabilitation centres in India as it is affordable compared to the existing foreign suppliers.

“Especially among adults, heel pain is one of the most widespread foot ailments. It is often linked to overloading of the plantar fascia, a band of tissue that supports the arch of the foot. However, in many cases, changes in the Heel Pad, a fatty tissue under the heel, can also cause the problem. This issue acts as a shock

absorber when we stand, run or walk. “With too much stress, the heel pad loses its cushioning ability to the foot causing pain and discomfort. The condition can also be caused by ageing, injury, obesity, diabetes and also ill-fitting shoes,” he said. Understanding how the heel pad responds to pressure and stress is vital. For the same reason, traditional approaches use medical imaging or load-based tests to measure heel pad thickness and stiffness, but these do not capture how the pad behaves in real, dynamic movements like walking.

To address this limitation, the NIT Rourkela team has used an indigenously developed force plate, a cost-effective device for gait profiling and ground reaction force measurement. With this new technology, the researchers used 3D motion capture and force plate technology to study how the heel pad bends and shifts during plantar flexion, the stage of walking when the heel lifts off the ground.

To make this study more meaningful, the research team divided 15 volunteers into three groups of normal weight, overweight and obese. Retroreflective markers were placed on the heel pad area of the volunteers and their movements were carefully recorded and analysed.

“Most neuromuscular disorders will affect the gait pattern of an individual. Since gait requires precise coordination of muscle strength and balance, disturbances in any of these can alter the walking pattern and the corresponding GRF. Some common neuromuscular diseases like myopathies, peripheral neuropathies, neuromuscular junction disorders, spasticity, ataxia, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy etc, can alter the GRF,” he said.

“These abnormalities in GRF can be diagnosed using the force plate. The device can also be used in designing orthotics, prosthetics and insole design in the shoe manufacturing industry.

“The indigenously force plate designed and developed by our team can be supplied at a reasonable cost, making it affordable to all sports academics, health-care sectors and academic institutes across India,” Thirugnanam added.

From Office of the Advocate Muneer Ahmad Dar
 In the case of
 1. Nazima Nazir D/O, Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/O, Matipora Pati Kripalpora Tehsil Singhpora
 2. Rafiq Akhter W/O, Fiza Ahmad Misgar R/O, Gunbagh Lalbazar Srinagar
 3. Safiya Qayoom W/O, Mohammad Qayoom Lone R/O, Matipora Kripalpora Sari Singhpora
 4. Mudasiir W/O, Zohoor Ahmad Hakak R/O, Pir Haji Mohammad Sahib Tehsil and district Srinagar
 A/P, Sheikh Hamza colony Safiya Masjid Lalbazar Srinagar
 5. Zohoor Ahmad Hakak S/ Gulam Ahmad Hakak R/o Lalbazar Srinagar.
 6. Fiza Ahmad Misgar S/o Gulam Mohammad Misgar R/o Umer Hail Srinagar.
 7. Nazir Ahmad Lone S/o Ali Mohammad Lone.
 8. Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Gulam Ahmad Bhat Both residents of Singhpora
 9. Mussadiq Yousuf Lone S/o Mohammad Yousuf Lone R/o Ussan Khoie Tehsil Pattan

Vs

Caveators
(Caveator)

General Public

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
 The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate
fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir
 Exhibition Grounds (Kashmir Haat) Srinagar -190001

 dated: 25.09.2025

NOTICE FOR INFORMATION OF REGISTERED ARTISANS AND WEAVERS

All artisans and weavers of the Kashmir Division (J&K UT) registered with the Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Kashmir, are hereby informed that the last date for submission of application forms for participation in the Annual UT-Level Award Competition 2025 has been extended up to 5th October 2025.

Interested artisans and weavers are advised to ensure that their duly completed application forms are submitted to the respective District or Block Offices of the Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Kashmir, on or before the extended deadline, i.e., 5th October 2025. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. DHHK/dev /671
 DIPK-6588/25
 dated: 26-09-2025

Development Officer
 Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Name and DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his Aadhaar card bearing Registration No:2685 8746 2035, as Amir Mumtaz Malla, and DOB as 24-06-2017, while as his Actual and correct name and DOB as per his Birth certificate is Anas Bin Mumtaz, and DOB is 24-02-2017. Now I want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

fko
Mumtaz Ahmad Malla.
 F/O Anas Bin Mumtaz.
 R/O Arin Dardpora, Bandipora, District Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, India, Pin code:193502.

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
 Impaired Assets Recovery Branch
 Corporate Headquarters
 M.A.Road, Srinagar - 190 001
 Tel:+91(0)194-2481930-35, Extn.1070/71/72
 Email: iarb.chq@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas
 The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. through its Authorized Officer, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 04.03.2025 calling upon the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) viz:

M/s SR Enterprises (Proprietorship Concern)

- Mr. Sayar Ahmad Reshi (Borrower Cum Mortgagor)**
 S/o Gulam Nabi Reshi
 R/o: Zakura near Lal Baba Sahib, Shrine.
- Mr. Gulam Nabi Reshi, (Mortgagor Cum Guarantor)**
 S/o Gulam Rasool Reshi
 R/o Zakura near Lal Baba Sahib, Shrine.
- Mr. Abdul Gani Sofi, (Guarantor) (Now Deceased)**
 S/o Habibullah Sofi
 R/o: Hafiz Bagh, Malla Bagh Srinagar.
- Mrs. Fatima (Mortgagor Cum Guarantor)**
 W/o Abdul Gani Sofi
 R/o: Hafiz Bagh, Malla Bagh Srinagar.

and other 6 guarantors of the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs.2,75,05,876.42 (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Five Lakh Five thousand Eight hundred seventy Six Rupees and Forty Two paise only) as on 28.02.2025 + interest + other charges w.e.f.01.03.2025 accrued thereupon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Mortgagors/Guarantors (including the legal heirs of the deceased guarantor namely Abdul Gani Sofi who stands expired and his liability having devolved upon his legal heirs) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rule of this 23th/24th day of September, 2025.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. of an amount of being Rs.3,23,26,200.10/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Three Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Two hundred Rupees and Ten paise only) as on 31.08.2025 + interest + other charges w.e.f.01.09.2025 accrued thereupon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSETS

- Equitable mortgage of a double storied residential house with attic along with land measuring 06 Marlas falling under Khasra No. 1524/594, Khata No. 183 and Khewat No. 15min opposite Lal Baba Sahib Shrine situated at Mouza Zakura, District Srinagar and standing in the name of Mr. Sayar Ahmad Reshi.
- Equitable mortgage of a double storied residential house with attic along with land measuring 9 1/2 Marlas falling under Khasra No. 2453/1524/594, Khata No. 183 and Khewat No. 15min opposite Lal Baba Sahib Shrine situated at Mouza Zakura, District Srinagar and standing in the name of Mr. Gulam Nabi Reshi.
- Equitable mortgage of a double storied residential house with attic along with land measuring 01 Kannal falling under Khasra No. 1189, Khata No. 1387 and Khewat No. 100 near Masjid Sharif Hafiz Bagh Malla Bagh, Srinagar standing in the name of Mrs. Fatima w/o Abdul Gani Sofi.

DATE: 23rd September, 2025.
 PLACE: SRINAGAR

Sd/-
Mr. Asif Nissar Khan
 Authorised Officer, J&K Bank Ltd.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)
DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
 NIT No: 66 /EEA/R&B of 2025-26/4686-96 Dated: 25 -09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE LANE FROM MAIN ROAD TO HOUSE OF ABDUL QAYOUM GANI VIA FROM HOUSE OF MOHAMMAD RAFIQ TO HOUSE OF MOHAMMAD MAQBUL INCLUDING STEPS NEAR POWER TRANSFORMER AT KHAPATI MOHALLA WARD NO 13 AT MC TRAIL.	6.00	300/-	2% of Adv cost	25 days	UDS of District Capex Budget 2025-26	CEE, DEE	DDCP
2.	Repairment of Drain from House of Ajaz Ahmad Sofi to House of Mohammad Shaif Khan at Tanshabagh Pampore near Dard/Ussan Lane No. 25.	1.28	200	2% of Adv cost	20 days	UDS of District Capex Budget 2025-26	DEE	DDCP
3.	REPAIRING TO THE STAIR CASE LOCATED AT LANE NO 1 GOVINA MOHALLA TULBAGH PAMPORE FROM THE HOUSE OF HABBIB ULLAH DAK TOMARIES GREENE STATION.	2.00	200	2% of Adv cost	20 days	UDS of District Capex Budget 2025-26	DEE	DDCP
4.	IMPROVEMENT OF LANE DRAIN BY WAY OF PIPES AND TILES FROM HOUSE OF RIYAZ AHMAD MIR ABDUL GANI SHEIKHI TO MOHD ASH KHAN AND OTHERS AT MALLIK MOHALLA DRANGBAL PAMPORE	2.20	200	2% of Adv cost	20 days	UDS of District Capex Budget 2025-26	DEE	DDCP

Position Of AAA: Accorded vide order No: 132-DDCP of 2025 Dated: 13.09.2025.
 Position of funds: Committed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	26-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	07-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08-10-2025 12:00 PM

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)
- The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority)
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

Sd/-
 Draftsman
 Sd/-
 Technical Officer
 Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK-6581/25 dated: 26-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as HASNAIN ABBAS while his actual name is HASNAIN ABBAS MIR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

mcb
FIRDOUS AHMAD MIR
 F/o HANAIN ABBAS MIR
 R/o KACHERPORA BUDGAM
 CELL. 6005582757

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my Son bearing No 915615070666 the name is entered as ARSALAN AHMAD BABA while his actual name is ARSALAN AHMAD BABA. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

mcb
JAVID AHMAD BABA
 F/O ARSALAN AHMAD BABA
 R/O JAWALAPORA BUDGAM

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan.

Sub : issuance of one and same person certificate.
 Public Notice

It is inform to general public that applicant's name and Parentage is recorded in school record as Tariq Ahmad s/o Mohd Maqbool Mir mother's name Shameema Bano instead of Tariq Ahmad Mir S/o Mohd. Maqbool Mir mother's name Shamima Begum. Now he wants to correct the same . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

از نیابت سرکی وار پوره

عنوان :- درخواست متناہب
 سینیہ و شاہدہ نی دختران غلام نی نیار ساکنہ سرکی وار پوره
 براد OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود

اشہتار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ نیار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی نیار ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکنہ سرکی وار پوره میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا کہہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے ساکنہ مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا ہتھیار ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ نیار ذات کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا عراض عدالت حد کو پیش کرے اور ان کی تیسری تیسری کے بعد گورنر سے عذر یا عراض تامل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

Naib Tehsildar
 FKO

Use Of Mobile Phones While Driving Remains A Growing Concern

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a rising tide of road accidents, prompting growing concern among residents and commuters. Reckless driving, compounded by the widespread use of mobile phones behind the wheel, has emerged as a serious threat to road safety in the city.

Despite clear prohibitions under traffic rules, many motorists continue to use their phones while navigating Srinagar's increasingly congested roads. This risky behaviour is not restricted to private car drivers; even some bus operators have been spotted attending calls or texting while driving, raising alarm among daily commuters.

Insha Jan, a university student from Nowhatta, added, "Sometimes I notice drivers scrolling or even taking calls in the middle of traffic jams. It is scary because a small mistake on such crowded roads can cause a major accident."

While a section of motorists adheres to traffic regulations, violations in broad daylight remain a common sight. The surge in the number of vehicles on city roads has only intensified the problem, leading to delays, frustration, and, at times, dangerous confrontations on the streets.

"I see many young people, even my friends, casually using their phones while

“We are trying our best to inculcate traffic sense among people. Everyone should follow norms, at least for their own safety,” he said.

driving. They don't realize how dangerous it can be. One second of distraction can put many lives at risk," said Aamir Dar, a student driver from Bemina.

Adil Bhat from Hyderabad stressed, "People treat using phones while driving as something normal, but in reality, it is reckless. Strict enforcement is needed, but more importantly, drivers themselves need to act responsibly."

Addressing the issue in an earlier interview, SSP Traffic Srinagar, Ajaz Ahmad, acknowledged the challenges in enforcement. "We are trying our best to inculcate traffic sense among people. Everyone should follow norms, at least for their own safety," he said.

For now, the use of mobile phones behind the wheel remains a persistent menace, posing a grave risk to road users and challenging authorities to find effective ways to ensure compliance and enhance road safety across Srinagar.



CM Omar Continues Public Outreach, Meets Delegations At Raabita Office

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday continued his ongoing public outreach initiative, meeting several delegations and individuals at his Public Outreach Office Raabita here, to address and resolve people's issues. Among the visiting delegations, a team led by the Vice President of Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) presented key suggestions on education reforms in J&K, while also highlighting the recent developments and concerns of the teaching community.

A deputation headed by the Chairman of Civil Society Baramulla raised important developmental matters concerning the welfare and progress of district Baramulla.

Similarly, a delegation of SRO-43 candidates of JKPCPC apprised the Chief Minister of their demands regarding settlement

of their pending compassionate appointment cases. In another interaction, the President of the Jammu & Kashmir Employees Co-ordination Committee, along with his team, discussed several issues related to employee welfare, service conditions and broader

would be examined and taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate redressal. He reiterated that his government is committed to responsive governance and remains focused on addressing the aspirations of the people across all sectors. Among others,

“The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and assured them that their genuine grievances and demands would be examined and taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate redressal.”

concerns of the workforce. They expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the pro-employee initiatives undertaken by his government since assuming office.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and assured them that their genuine grievances and demands

Deepak Bali, Advisor, Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Government of Punjab, called on the Chief Minister and discussed various tourism-related initiatives and avenues of cooperation between the two governments.

Srinagar Police Holds 'Run For Unity'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police on Friday organized a "Run for Unity" across several city police station jurisdictions to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the Iron Man of India.

The event paid tribute to Patel's role in national integration and sought to inspire citizens, particularly the youth, to uphold values of unity, discipline, and harmony.

Hundreds of students, teach-

ers, civil society members, and local residents participated in the run, which was flagged off from different areas including Lal Bazar, Safakadal, Rajbagh, Khanyar, Karan Nagar, Chanapora, and others. Participants carried banners, placards, and flags, creating a spirited atmosphere filled with patriotic fervor.

Educational institutions collaborated with the Police in organizing the initiative, highlighting the role of schools and colleges in fostering citizenship values. Police officials, teachers, and com-

munity leaders interacted with the participants during the event. Certificates and refreshments were distributed among runners as a token of appreciation, strengthening bonds between law enforcement and the community.

The programme is part of Srinagar Police's broader initiatives to promote civic responsibility, trust-building, and awareness of national figures.

The successful turnout reflected a strong message of unity and served as a fitting homage to Patel's enduring legacy.

- 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: +919484100200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
03 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 59
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4: 40
Magrib	6:26
ISHA	7: 46

DC Unveils Multi-Agency Plan For Traffic Relief

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To address the growing challenge of traffic congestion in the summer capital, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday chaired a high-level meeting of stakeholder departments to chalk out a coordinated action plan for decongesting city roads and improving traffic management.

The meeting, held at the DC Office Complex, brought together representatives from the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Lake

Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA), Traffic Police, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Roads & Buildings Department, SRTC, Tourism Department, and ARTO Srinagar.

During the deliberations, officials discussed measures to reduce congestion at heavy traffic junctions, increase road capacity, remove encroachments, regulate parking, and eliminate bottlenecks across the city. Safety, accident prevention, and stricter enforcement of traffic rules also featured prominently in the discussion.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:-

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR-MIXED25-1	13.10.2025 at 12:30 Hrs.	1) Allotment of contract for Distribution of On-Board free lifestyle magazine for passengers by Train No. 22488/22487 (Amritsar-Delhi Jn.) 2) Allotment of contract for Renovation, operation and maintenance of AC Waiting Room at Fazilka Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in
No.: NR-FZR0COML(NFR)/18/2024 Dated: 26.09.2025 2990/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo
In the case of
1. Mst. Hameeda Begum Widow of Late Gh Nabi Tantray
2. Ajaz Ahmad Tantray
3. Ishfaq Ahmad Tantra both sons of Late Gh Nabi Tantray
Mst Nelofer, Mst Zubaida, Mst Rehana, Mst Tawheeda
All residents of Pathallan Tehsil Pattan

Vs

Caveators
(Non-Caveator)

General Public

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/ misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in ex- parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate
fko

SAD DEMISE

With immense pain ,grief and sorrow, We inform the sad demise of Advocate Syed Ali Akbar S/O Syed Mustafa Shah , R/O Gasiyar Nabdiopora Hawal,Srinagar who passed away on 25th September 2025.

May Almighty Allah grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul. The Congregational Fateha Khawani prayer will be held on 28 September 2025 (Sunday) at their ancestral graveyard Baba Mazaar,Srinagar at 6:30 AM.

Following Majlis will be held at Masjid Noor-UL-Huda Gasiyar Hawal, Srinagar.

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of eatables with them.

BEREAVED FAMILY

This Day In History

- 1290 - Earthquake in Gulf of Chili China, reportedly kills 100,000
- 1794 - French troops conquer Crèvecoeur
- 1821 - Mexican revolutionary forces led by Agustín de Iturbide occupy Mexico City as Spanish withdraw, bringing an end to the Mexican War of Independence
- 1864 - Battle at Pilot Knob (Ft Davidson) American Civil War, Missouri: 1700 killed/injured
- 1905 - The physics journal Annalen der Physik publishes Albert Einstein's paper "Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon its Energy Content?", introducing the equation E=mc².
- 1938 - League of Nations declares Japan the aggressor against China
- 1940 - Nazi Germany, Italy & Japan sign 10 year formal alliance (Axis)
- 1941 - US launches its 1st Liberty ship, freighter SS Patrick Henry
- 1951 - Persian troops occupy oil refinery at Abadan
- 1953 - Typhoon destroys one third of Nagoya, Japan
- 1961 - Sierra Leone becomes 100th member of UN
- 1973 - Soyuz 12 carries 2 cosmonauts into Earth orbit (2 days)
- 1981 - Iran defends its besieged port of Abadan, driving back Iraqi forces
- 1988 - The National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi is founded in Burma (Myanmar)
- 1991 - US President George H. W. Bush decides to end full-time B-52 bombers alert.
- 1993 - The Sukhumi massacre takes place in Abkhazia.
- 1996 - In Afghanistan, the Taliban capture the capital city Kabul after driving out President Burhanuddin Rabbani and executing former leader Mohammad Najibullah.
- 2001 - At its two-day meeting in Vienna, OPEC decides to keep its production quotas unchanged at 23.2 million barrels per day, despite crude oil being at its lowest price levels since 1999
- 2002 - Timor-Leste (East Timor) joins the United Nations.
- Event of interest/Event of Interest
- 2008 - CNSA astronaut Zhai Zhigang becomes the first Chinese person to perform a spacewalk while flying on Shenzhou 7.
- 2009 - German Federal elections return Angela Merkel for her second term as Chancellor at head of centre-right coalition government
- 2012 - UN publicly releases documents from China and Japan detailing their contesting claims for the Senkoku Islands
- 2012 - The Mars Curiosity rover discovers what evidence of a fast-moving streambed-in Mars
- 2012 - The 2004 Japanese discovery of the 133th element has been confirmed
- 2013 - 7 people are killed in mosque bombings in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2013 - 19 people are killed and 45 are injured in a bus bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2013 - At least 22 people are killed after a refugee ship capsizes off the island of Java
- 2013 - 60 people are killed after a building collapses in Mumbai, India
- 2014 - 57 people are killed after Mount Ontake erupts in Japan
- 2015 - "Junts per Si" pro-independence alliance win parliamentary majority in Catalonia
- 2015- A "Supermoon" coincides with a lunar eclipse creating a "Blood Moon" over much of the earth
- 2017- Researchers confirm existence of giant tree rat "Vika" in the Solomon Islands that can crack open coconuts
- 2017- Thai Ex-Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra found guilty of criminal negligence in rice subsidy scheme, sentenced to 5 years in absentia
- 2018 - India's Supreme Court rules overturns 158-year old rule, section 497, decriminalizing adultery because it was discriminatory against women
- 2018- Justin Milne, head of Australian Broadcasting Corporation resigns amid allegations of firing journalists for the government

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Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
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Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Say No to Naysayers

Once again, skepticism is rippling through the valley. The renovation of a centuries-old sanctum, a small start-up promising new careers, and cultural celebrations bringing joy to our towns are met with raised eyebrows, murmurs of doubt, and the familiar sigh of, "this will never work."

Critique has its place, of course. But it takes a different kind of courage to notice what is being built, to lean in, and to help shape it further.

Kashmir has always been a land of ideas and ambition. Its poets, artisans, and thinkers left their mark far beyond these mountains. That same spirit thrives today in young entrepreneurs refusing to confine themselves to government jobs, in communities nurturing small cultural projects, and in citizens finding ways to preserve heritage while embracing change.

But, reflexive naysaying often overshadows these acts of creation, reducing them to trivialities, or worse, dismissing them as attempts at patronization.

Criticism is easy. It costs nothing to point out flaws, mock optimism, or cast doubt on a new initiative. Kashmir has lived under critics for generations. What it urgently needs now are builders: people who see value and contribute to it.

True progress requires empathy, effort, and the willingness to engage, not just observe from the sidelines.

Appreciating the new does not mean abandoning the old. Heritage and innovation are not enemies. They are partners in building a society that grows without erasing its past.

Supporting the renovation of historic spaces, encouraging entrepreneurial ventures, or participating in small festive moments strengthens our shared civic life.

Each act of participation is a vote for possibility, a signal that we value growth alongside preservation.

Kashmir's future will not be written by those who merely watch, but by those who choose to build.



Wajahat Qazi

Class differences and social hierarchies are a feature of the human condition. But these get articulated in different expressions and idioms in different contexts. Kashmir is no different.

How, the question, do these differences and hierarchies manifest themselves here?

Teasing out an answer to this question calls for some context and a brief historical delineation.

Historically, Kashmir, to state the obvious has not been a 'wealthy' place. It was defined by poverty.

Going back a few decades or even centuries, land was central to the political economy of Kashmir. The Kashmiri ruling elite, mostly an intermediary class of various regimes that ruled Kashmir, were awarded land grants (jagirs) for their services. The rest of the populace was either the labouring classes or involved at various levels in the production and making of crafts.

This pyramid was empty in the middle. There were no middle classes or hardly any to speak of.

Rushing to the 1947, a watershed year for the entire subcontinent, including Kashmir, land reforms (land to tiller) initiated by Sheikh Abdullah created a new dynamic. Along with a degree of emphasis on education, new classes came into being.

These classes were overlaid by the populist politics of Bakshi Ghulam Muhammad and the attendant socio-economic engineering of Kashmiri classes. While his motive was neither aspirational nor neatly meritocratic, but the class dynamic and nature changed.

New classes emerged and given the transition(s) in Kashmir

The Paradox of Wealth in Kashmir

Kashmir's new rich flaunt wealth, copy Western tastes, and bully old classes in anxious display.



are emerging.

What is the nature of these classes? How do they comport themselves? And what is their aspirational quotient?

The 'quest for capital', no matter the means, appears to be the operative dynamic for most classes. But quest toward what end?

The end is capital, material accoutrements and welfare thereof.

Allied to this is a deep desire for social mobility and conspicuous consumption, limited only by the "evil eye" of covetous and envious neighbours. These are not educated classes in the true sense of the term, merely moneyed ones. The envy they once felt toward the formerly wealthy dissipates, as these new classes now feel smugly equal to them.

The behaviour and comportment of the new moneyed classes generate academic and sociological interest. They build garishly large houses, a Kashmiri fetish, often designed from internet templates, yet they do not fully enjoy them.

The presence of the "evil eye" dampens their pleasure. Without understanding or awareness, they seek to partake in Western aesthetics and leisure, again in garish imitation.

One nouveau riche man showed me the multiple cars he owned and the "jacuzzi" space he was building for his "London-returned" son. London was pronounced with an exaggerated stress on the "L" and



One nouveau riche man showed me the multiple cars he owned and the "jacuzzi" space he was building for his "London-returned" son. London was pronounced with an exaggerated stress on the "L" and the "N," a vacuous yet smug grin curling across his face.

the "N," a vacuous yet smug grin curling across his face.

In the social behaviour of new money, grand wedding feasts and Kashmiri Muslim practices like khatam are common. These displays serve as both protection from the "evil eye," a public announcement that "they have arrived," and other social syndromes.

Of greatest interest is this class's attitude toward the less privileged. One might expect empathy or sympathy to define their behaviour. Instead, the opposite is true.

Homes That Feed None

Fields that once fed the valley are vanishing under giant private houses. Unless Kashmir chooses land over concrete, the next generation will inherit empty homes and empty stomachs.

Irshad Mushtaq

There is a saying every Kashmiri child once heard at the dinner table: "Zaminas tass, makaan paas." Land is wealth, a house is only a structure. Beyond proverb, that cultural comment was a way of life.

Families measured prosperity not by how tall their walls were, but by how fertile their soil remained.

A home was a necessity. Land was survival. Today, that wisdom lies under piles of bricks and cement. Drive even thirty kilometers out of Srinagar and the change is startling.

Villages that once shimmered with paddy fields and saffron blooms now bristle with massive three-storey homes. Orchards that smelled of apples in autumn stand flattened, waiting for truckloads of gravel and iron.

The numbers confirm what the eye already knows.

Agriculture once contributed 28 percent to Kashmir's economy. It now hovers near 20 percent and continues to shrink. Each lost acre chips away at a system that has fed this valley for centuries.

The tragedy is crudely economic.

Families believe these houses are assets, but they drain savings from the day the roof is sealed. Construction costs soar as cement, tiles, wiring, and imported flooring enrich suppliers. Maintenance begins immediately and never stops.

A house like this generates no income and depreciates every year.

Land behaves differently. An acre of fertile soil grows food, supports jobs, and yields income season after season. It appre-

ciates in value because it provides something irreplaceable: sustenance.

You can earn from land. From a sprawling house, you collect only bills.

Imagine Kashmir in 2050. Children searching for a plot to build a modest home will find only concrete carcasses: oversized, aging houses their owners can no longer maintain or sell.

The soil that once fed them will be gone, sealed under roads and roofs. This is not a distant threat.

In parts of Srinagar, colonies built on farmland decades ago already sit half-empty, their giant houses unwanted and unsold. We are now exporting this mistake to the heart of the countryside.

This is a self-inflicted wound, and the cure is not to stop building but to build smarter.

The future is vertical. Around the world, well-designed apartments protect farmland while housing more people.

One acre that currently holds three lavish bungalows could hold dozens of families if used for flats.

Community living, shared resources, and small footprints are not foreign concepts. For a valley that depends on its soil, they are a lifeline.

Government action cannot wait. A total ban on private construction over agricultural land is essential. This is essentially about preserving the very ground that sustains life.

Without strict enforcement, public awareness, and incentives for vertical housing, Kashmir will pave itself into poverty.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Crisis in Cold Desert

A hunger strike in Leh has turned into a reckoning over identity, democracy, and the right to decide a future at the country's northern edge.

Iffat Aurooj

The morning in Leh was colder than usual when the sound of ambulance sirens cut through the thin September air. Two elderly hunger strikers, who had been fasting for weeks, were rushed to the hospital. Their bodies had given way long before their will.

Within hours, the streets filled with young protesters carrying banners and stones. Vehicles burned, government buildings were attacked, and police fired tear gas to push the crowds back.

Four people died and more than eighty were injured before nightfall.

The protest began with an act of resistance when Sonam Wangchuk, a Ladakhi engineer and environmentalist known for his work on climate adaptation, began a hunger strike on September 10. His demands were clear: statehood for Ladakh, constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil, and job reservations for locals.

His fast stretched into a second week under harsh Himalayan conditions and gave the movement a moral center.

For days, the supporters kept vigil as Wangchuk's health weakened. Then came the turning point.

Tsering Angchuk, 72, and Tashi Dolma, 60, fellow strikers who had refused food alongside him, collapsed and were hospitalized. Their sudden decline felt like a collective wound. Young people, already frustrated by years of stalled negotiations and vague promises, surged into the streets.

What began as a plea for rights hard-



The mountains of Leh have always drawn travellers for their beauty. Today they stand as a reminder that democracy at the country's farthest edge cannot be managed from afar.

ened into a pressing fight for survival and recognition.

Wangchuk ended his fast that evening with an emotional appeal for calm. He called it the saddest day of his life and said the path of nonviolence he had championed now felt fragile. But he insisted that the demands remained unchanged.

Life in Leh has since narrowed under curfews and prohibitory orders that ban gatherings of more than five people. Security forces patrol the bazaars and checkpoints stand at street corners. The administration points to ongoing talks with the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, who will meet a High-Powered Committee on October 6.

Many Ladakhis say these talks have delivered little beyond delays. Statehood, they reckon, is a shield for land rights, fragile ecosystems, and jobs for young people in the strategic zone.

New money often throws its weight around and bullies those who were once "beneath" them.

In offices, where they need files moved or work expedited, they flaunt their connections with officialdom, boasting, "I know this one," or "I know falaana fistaane."

Their body language, garishly amusing to me, resembles that of the "Last Mughal": puffed chests, smirking faces, and a swagger in their stride.

When I pointed this out to one such man, he replied, "I know these classes very well. If you don't put up a front, bullying and swagger, they'll run away with our pyjamas."

When it comes to the aspirations of new money, there is no larger ambition, commitment, or goal. It is simply money, money, and more money.

The outward signs of this pursuit include driving luxury cars, being acknowledged as equals in wealth and social rank, moving to better neighbourhoods (far from the shikasslads, the destitute), sending their children for short courses to easy destinations like the U.K. or Australia, boasting about these achievements, and marrying their children into the upper crust of society.

Ultimately, even death becomes a stage for conspicuous consumption.

Steaming samovars of nun chai are served to crowds on the chaharum, the fourth day after death, alongside trays of Kashmiri rotis, while the local maulvi delivers glowing sermons praising the deceased and extolling their virtues.

Perhaps this constitutes the ultimate tribute. The ironies and paradoxes are lost on everyone, naturally.

Wajahat Qazi holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and brings a rare blend of scholarship and real-world engagement to global affairs. His work spans academia and media, including his tenure as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

The author is a final-year Political Science student at Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, with a focus on democracy, governance, and Himalayan geopolitics.

The Toy That Taught Me Time

A Kashmiri teacher revisits a handmade toy of his childhood and finds in its spinning wings a lesson on time, memory, and the tender brevity of life.

Bashir Ahmad Dar

Someone once said that autumn belongs less to nature and more to the soul. I believe this every time the first cold breeze brushes the orchards of Kashmir and the leaves begin their slow descent.

Autumn holds its breath between the exhale of summer and the inhale of winter. A single leaf on the ground carries the weight of a departure. A chill in the air recalls the cooling of once-warm feelings.

Short days, long nights, and the fading light urge the body to rest



Each autumn, when the leaves fall and the air turns thin, I hear that sound again. It reminds me how time circles back even as it moves forward, how childhood inventions can hold lessons deeper than any textbook.



and the mind to look inward. A decaying branch stands like a reminder of endings. Even the sound of a sickle moving through a paddy field seems to reopen old wounds and refresh forgotten hurts.

Yet autumn does more than stir sorrow. It insists that we face the harvest of our efforts, and it rewards the courage to let go.

The light of this season, what poets call liquid gold, touches every surface with a slow radiance. It turns the ordinary, like dusty lanes, slanting rooftops, and heaps of dry leaves, into something both epic and intimate.

Inside me lives a long collection of autumn memories, each one a small jewel kept safe in a private box of time.

As a child I roamed freely in the soft evenings, played marbles with friends, and laughed beneath the fading sky. These scenes remain

as fresh as if they happened yesterday. Among them, one memory rises like a clear flame. It carries the sound of a simple toy that once filled my village lanes with music: the tikwawej.

The name itself tells a story. Wawej in Kashmiri means a small hand fan that pushes out air. Tik hints at the rhythmic clicking sound that comes when the toy spins in the wind.

Making a tikwawej was as easy as breathing for a village child. All we needed were four small thorns, a sheet of paper, a culm of grass, and the upper segment of a maize stalk, the part just below the tassel that we called hooel.

The paper was cut into two neat strips, each twice as long as it was wide. The maize segment became the heart of the toy. We wrapped the paper around it and pinned it tight with thorns, our natural

staples.

A small hole was bored through the center, and a thin culm was slipped through so the paper wings could spin freely. The front of the culm was capped with a tiny stalk piece, the back anchored into another stalk segment.

In a few minutes the tikwawej was ready.

To bring it alive, you held it in your hand and ran against the wind. The paper blades caught the air and began to turn, making the stalk rotate around the culm. The sound followed, a sharp, playful tik-tik-tik, as if time itself had found a new voice.

Sometimes I set four or five tikwawej on the dry lower stalks of a maize plant so they could spin together. The louder sound filled the fields, and I could feel the breeze they created against my face.

In those carefree afternoons I

only knew the thrill of movement. Years later I understood how much the toy had given me. The work of shaping paper and stalk sharpened my fingers and eyes. The spinning blades revealed the secrets of circular motion long before I learned the term in school. A simple game had introduced me to the science of wind and rotation.

One evening in 2004, when I was in Class 10, my younger brother begged me to make a tikwawej for him. I was preparing for my annual exams, a moment that felt like a gateway to the wider world.

As I finished the toy, an elderly man from our village watched in silence. Then he spoke words that have followed me through the years.

He said the turning of the wawej mirrors the turning of days and nights, and its tik-tik echoes the ticking of time itself.



As I finished the toy, an elderly man from our village watched in silence. Then he spoke words that have followed me through the years. He said the turning of the wawej mirrors the turning of days and nights, and its tik-tik echoes the ticking of time itself.

At that age, heavy with exam worries, I could not grasp the full meaning of his thought.

Now, each autumn, when the leaves fall and the air turns thin, I hear that sound again. It reminds me how time circles back even as it moves forward, how childhood inventions can hold lessons deeper than any textbook.

The tikwawej was a small, spinning prophecy of change, of how every season and life, keeps turning until the wind runs out.

—The author is a teacher based in Kashmir. He can be reached at darbashir1234321@gmail.com.

Clean Kashmir Now

Once marked by morning rituals of care, Kashmir now faces waste, polluted rivers, and growing disease. Renewal starts with everyday habits and shared responsibility.

Sheikh Amir

Before dawn, when Srinagar's old city was still asleep, a man would appear carrying a chest of water strapped to his back like a leather sack.

He moved through the narrow lanes, sprinkling water to settle the dust.

Behind him, a sweeper followed with a broom, tidying the streets before the first shops opened.

This was a rhythm of life, a culture of care that every child grew up watching and imitating. Cleanliness was not discussed. It was practiced.

Today that man is only a memory. His footsteps no longer echo in the alleys, and the sweepers who once worked with steady pride are fewer and often unnoticed.

The routines that shaped a shared respect for streets, drains, and riverbanks have faded. What remains is a landscape where garbage piles up, drains overflow, and the habits that once protected public health are slipping away.

The rivers tell the story. From the Jhelum to the Dal, waste now flows with the current: plastic bottles, sewage, and household trash traveling from markets and lanes into the waters that once defined Kashmir's beauty.

This neglect carries a heavy price. Waterborne diseases such as hepatitis and diarrhea continue to spread through villages in Shopian, Anantnag, and Kupwara. Children are the first to suffer, their small bodies bearing the cost of a community's carelessness.

The challenge is not only infrastructure. It is behaviour.

Seasonal floods and weak waste systems make things worse, but the deeper problem lies in how people treat shared spaces. When families throw garbage into the nearest drain or river, when markets overflow with uncollected waste, the environment and the people both pay.

There are signs of hope. Schools



Sweeping a street, cleaning a riverbank, and washing hands after school seem small, but they protect health and restore pride. They remind people that public spaces belong to everyone and must be treated like a shared home.

across the valley are reshaping habits. Handwashing lessons, waste segregation drills, and gender-friendly toilets are keeping children healthier and helping girls stay in class.

Students carry these lessons home, reminding parents to sort waste, cover water containers, and clean their surroundings. Children are becoming messengers of a cleaner future.

Some neighborhoods are also taking action. Volunteer groups organize cleanups along riverbanks and inside crowded markets. In a few towns, shopkeepers sweep outside their stores before opening for the day. These are small acts, but when repeated they create a chain of responsibility that reaches beyond any government program.

Rebuilding a culture of cleanliness will require more than munic-

ipal drives or one-time campaigns. It calls for the revival of daily rituals that once defined Kashmiri life.

Sweeping a street, cleaning a riverbank, and washing hands after school seem small, but they protect health and restore pride. They remind people that public spaces belong to everyone and must be treated like a shared home.

Beyond slogan, Swachh Kashmir, akin to Swachh Bharat, is a call to remember what was once normal.

The man with his water chest may be gone, but his example remains. Each citizen can carry forward that legacy by caring for the places where we live, work, and play.

—The author is a scholar and can be reached at sheikhhamir1989@gmail.com

The Everyday Work of Marriage

Life after the wedding is where love is tested and strengthened, through forgiveness, conversation, and the art of coexistence.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

Kashmiri weddings are spectacles. The air fills with the scent of fresh flowers, the clatter of utensils, and the hum of relatives exchanging advice and criticism.

Months are spent selecting attire, arranging feasts, photographing every angle, and rehearsing rituals that are decades old.

Families stretch themselves, children go into overdrive, and for a moment, the world pauses.

When the bride crosses the threshold of her new home, and when the groom walks back after the reception, there is relief, as if the story has ended.

Reality says otherwise. Marriage is a comma, not a full stop. The responsibility begins after the music fades, guests leave, and the excitement settles.

It begins when two individuals confront the truth of sharing a home, a bed, and a life shaped by different experiences, habits, and expectations.

Two people from different families, often with contrasting routines and values, suddenly live under one roof.

Sleep schedules, eating habits, temperaments, anxieties, and ambitions collide. Learning to coexist requires patience, humility, and a willingness to surrender ego.

Mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding are the pillars of a lasting marriage. When these exist, marriage transforms from a battlefield into a garden, sometimes untidy or thorny, but always alive.

Husbands and wives are companions, not counterparts. Complementarity is crucial, especially in a place like Kashmir, where gender roles can be rigid.

One spouse may manage finances, the other may nurture children or maintain family bonds. Sharing responsibilities instead of measuring superiority eases tension.

Boundaries, though invisible, are vital. Respect each other's families as you expect yours to be respected. Safeguard personal dignity, never insult your partner in public or on social media. Allow private space for reflection, hobbies, or friendships.

These boundaries prevent cracks from becoming fractures.



Apologies, forgiveness, humour, and shared responsibilities make life lighter. The gift of marriage lies in waking up beside someone who knows your flaws and still chooses to stand by you.

Ego is the termite of marriage. Couples often fight over trivialities: how food is cooked, furniture placement,

and money spent. In truth, these arguments are about pride, not principle.

Kashmiri wisdom says: "Leave your shoes at the door." Leave ego there too. Forgiveness, compromise, and humour soften the sharp edges of daily life.

Marriage thrives on ongoing dialogue. Silence is dangerous. Couples who share a roof but stop talking become co-tenants. Conversation, even when difficult, keeps the relationship alive.

Weddings in Kashmir are weighed down by social expectation and ceremony. We know how to host grand feasts, but we rarely prepare young couples to host patience, compromise, and understanding at home.

Marriage must shift from a display of tradition to a school of companionship. Living with another person is both a challenge and a blessing. A successful marriage is measured by how they are managed.

Apologies, forgiveness, humour, and shared responsibilities make life lighter. The gift of marriage lies in waking up beside someone who knows your flaws and still chooses to stand by you.

That is the real poetry of marital life, the ordinary endurance of love, far beyond wedding fireworks.

—Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a Senior Consultant Surgeon, exploring health, society, and everyday life in Kashmir.

Flotilla Aims To Break Israel's Gaza Blockade: What to Know

Press Trust Of India

Athens: Spain and Italy say they are sending navy ships to where a flotilla of boats carrying activists seeking to break Israel's blockade of Gaza is sailing, after the activists said they were attacked by drones near Greece.

The Global Sumud Flotilla said on Friday it was preparing to set sail on the final leg to Gaza after being targeted by drones and communications jamming, with several explosions occurring on or near some of the boats. Some of the vessels were damaged, but no injuries were reported.

Here's what to know about

the flotilla.

The flotilla's goal Organisers say the flotilla includes 52 mostly small vessels carrying activists from dozens of countries. They are carrying a symbolic amount of humanitarian aid, mainly food and medicine, for Palestinians in the besieged enclave of Gaza.

The 23-month war has led to a humanitarian catastrophe in the territory that has seen much of it reduced to rubble. The world's leading authority on the food crisis has declared famine in Gaza's largest city.

Activists hope their actions will focus attention on the plight of Palestinians. They say

the flotilla is the largest attempt to date to break Israel's maritime blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has now lasted 18 years, long predating the current war in Gaza.

Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent Hamas from importing arms, while critics consider it collective punishment.

The boats' journey The core vessels set sail from Spain on September 1, heading east across the Mediterranean Sea, and have been joined by boats from other countries along the way.

The flotilla includes larger vessels that are providing

support and provisions for smaller boats.

Participants include high-profile activists such as Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and former Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau, as well as members of Italy's parliament and the European parliament.

Organisers say delegates from 46 countries had committed to participating, with activists including military veterans, doctors, clergy and lawyers.

The bulk of the flotilla was sailing south of the Greek island of Crete on Thursday, heading eastwards. Organisers said they expected to reach the Gaza area within a week.

SC Allows Green Crackers With Conditions

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday allowed certified manufacturers to produce green crackers on the condition that their sale is not carried in Delhi-NCR without approval.

A bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai also asked the Centre to take a fresh look at the absolute ban on the manufacture of firecrackers in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).

The bench, also comprising Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to consult all

stakeholders, including the Delhi Government, manufacturers, and sellers, before arriving at a final decision.

"In the meantime, we permit the manufacturers who are having the certification of green crackers as certified by NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) as well as PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation) to manufacture. However, this will be subject to an undertaking by the manufacturers to this court that until further orders passed by this court, they would not sell any of their crackers in the prohibited areas," it ordered.

The conditional order permitting certified manufacturers to produce green crackers till the plea is heard again on October 8 on filing of the MoEFCC report on the issue assumes significance as earlier on April 3, a bench headed by former top court judge Justice A S Oka, refused to relax the ban on the manufacture, storage and sale on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR.

Justice Oka had noted that air pollution levels remained alarming for a considerable time and a large section of the population worked on streets and was the worst affected by pollution.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

High Triglycerides

further compiled data on education, literacy and child protection. Nationally, 63.1 per cent of children and adolescents are literate, with literacy among those aged seven and above at 73.1 per cent. Boys aged 7-9 showed over 80 per cent literacy, rising to 92 per cent for those aged 10-14 and 91 per cent for 15-19. For girls, literacy was 81.2 per cent (7-9 years), 90 per cent (10-14 years) and 86.2 per cent (15-19 years).

The report underscores growing health challenges for children in J&K and across India, signaling the need for focused interventions in nutrition, healthcare, and adolescent well-being. (inputs from PTI)

Wangchuk Held

90 injured in the Union Territory of Ladakh, officials said. This law provides for long preventive detention without any scope for bail.

Police have shifted Wangchuk out of Ladakh, while the Ladakh administration has snapped all mobile internet connections within the jurisdiction of Leh district as a precautionary measure, they said.

In a day of fast-paced developments, the arrest of Wangchuk was sudden. He was scheduled to address a press conference in Leh at 2:30 pm but when he failed to arrive, the organisers became concerned.

They soon found the reason -- the climate activist had been arrested from his village Ulyaktoppo by a strong team of Ladakh Police, led by Director General S D Singh Jamwal.

Wangchuk was immediately shifted out of Ladakh. Reportedly, he has been taken to Jodhpur jail after detention under NSA.

The organisers went ahead with the scheduled press conference in which they admitted that the recent violence was caused by youth who went "out of control", but dismissed the involvement of any foreign hand behind it.

The arrest comes a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) cancelled the registration of Wangchuk's non-profit 'Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh' (SECMOL) to receive funds from abroad under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act or FCRA, 2010.

Mobile internet services were suspended in Leh as a precautionary measure.

Wangchuk, a prominent leader of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading a five-year-long agitation for statehood and constitutional safeguards for Leh and Kargil. The Centre has blamed him for inciting the recent violence, but Wangchuk denied the allegations. "To say it was instigated by me is to find a scapegoat... The violence was a symptom of frustrated youth," he said on Thursday.

Preparations for Talks with Centre A high-level team from the Ministry of Home Affairs visited Leh on Thursday to review the security situation. Meetings were held with the Lt Governor, civil and police officers, and LAB representatives.

According to a joint statement by LAB chairman Thupstan Chhewang and co-chairman Chering Dorjay, a preparatory meeting with the Home Ministry will be held in New Delhi on September 27 or 28, followed by a high-powered committee meeting including representatives from LAB, KDA, and Ladakh MP Mohd Hanifa Jan to discuss their four-point agenda.

LAB and KDA have jointly been leading the agitation for four years, focusing on statehood, Sixth Schedule inclusion, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil, and a Public Service Commission. Previous rounds of talks resolved issues like job guarantees and an additional Lok Sabha seat. With statehood and Sixth Schedule inclusion as the remaining key demands, all eyes are now on the upcoming talks, which are seen as a decisive moment for the future of Ladakh's political and constitutional aspirations.

Curfew and Security Measures in Leh Leh remained under curfew for the third consecutive day, with police and paramilitary personnel patrolling the streets in riot gear. Officials reported no untoward incidents and said restrictions are likely to be relaxed later in the day to allow residents to buy essentials. Over 50 people were detained following the clashes, and prohibitory orders banning gatherings of five or more persons continued in other towns, including Kargil.

Leh District Magistrate Romil Singh Donk ordered the closure of all schools, colleges, and anganwadi centres for two days. Residents reported shortages of essential supplies, including milk, vegetables, and ration.

Shops and businesses reopened in Kargil on Friday after a day-long closure called by KDA. Police maintained a strong presence in sensitive areas to ensure law and order.

The arrest of Wangchuk, a key figure in the five-year-long agitation for Ladakh's rights, has drawn strong reactions from the opposition leaders, who blamed the Central government's handling of the situation.

In a fiery reaction to the arrest, Wangchuk's

wife, Gitanjali Angmo, accused the government of spreading a "false narrative" aimed at tarnishing his image.

"He was treated like a criminal without any reason," Angmo said, alleging that their house was ransacked by police.

She also criticised the government for "stooping to this level" to damage the reputation of a respected innovator.

"Let them not spread false narratives as they are doing," she said, referring to the BJP, as she questioned the saffron party's principles, stating, "They are not Hindus in any way. The BJP is not Hindu because its foundation is falsehood."

Some opposition parties alleged that the arrest "clearly exposes the government's witch-hunting agenda" and a "policy of repression against dissent".

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the arrest "unfortunate," accusing the BJP-led Centre of backtracking on the promises made to secure public participation in the 2020 Hill Council elections.

Abdullah said the Centre's actions were a betrayal of a commitment to the people of Ladakh.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications, Jairam Ramesh, said, "The Indian National Congress condemns the arrest of noted environmentalist and educationist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act."

This has been done to divert attention and responsibility from the BJP's "abysmal failure" to maintain law and order and ensure security of life and property in the Union Territory of Ladakh, Ramesh claimed.

"The crux of the issue is that the BJP has deceived the people of Ladakh for years. It promised the region Sixth Schedule status in the 2020 Leh Hill Council elections but has gone back on that promise with a vengeance," Ramesh said.

Trinamool Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha, Sagarika Ghose, said, "Whether in sensitive places like Kashmir or Manipur or Ladakh, the Modi government has no policy, no reach out, no reconciliation, no trust building."

She also alleged that the "incompetent Modi regime can only treat any dissent as 'anti-national' and arrest under draconian laws. Shameful."

CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas termed the happenings in Ladakh "brutality unleashed" and warned that "such repressive actions will only aggravate the situation and further fuel unrest".

Ladakh MP Mohamad Haneeefa demanded a judicial inquiry into the police firing on Wednesday, describing the violence as an "outburst" of frustration of the region's unemployed youth.

While condemning the arson by the protesters, he questioned police for resorting to "targeted firing" instead of using non-lethal methods.

He also dismissed any external conspiracy, saying Wangchuk "can never do such a thing" to instigate violence.

Legal advisor to the Leh Apex Body (LAB), Haji Ghulam Mustafa, called Wangchuk's arrest an "unwise decision" that could "complicate the situation".

He said the arrest "can hurt the people of Ladakh emotionally", with a potential of derailing the ongoing talks with the Centre.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the country is "passing through a difficult phase" and that "dictatorship is at its peak."

Wangchuk's Arrest

"The arrest of one person cannot stop the movement for our four-point agenda, including Statehood and inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution," LAB's legal advisor Haji Ghulam Mustafa said, adding that the step could hurt ongoing talks with the Centre.

"We have also heard about the arrest of Wangchuk, which is a very unfortunate and unwise decision on the part of the government... I do not see his role in Wednesday's unrest that claimed the lives of four protesters and left 90 others injured," Mustafa said.

"He is an internationally acclaimed figure known for his social activism and work in the field of education and climate. If you are someone of his stature, what is the message you are conveying to the people that you can arrest anyone," said Mustafa, who is also the legal advisor of Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

Mohammadd Ramzan, vice president of Anjuman-e-Moinul Islam, also condemned the arrest, calling Wangchuk a "son of the soil" and a Gandhian leader peacefully leading the agitation.

Leh Apex Body (LAB) co-chairman Chering Dorjay on Friday attributed the recent violence in Leh to youngsters who "went out of control," rejecting claims of a "foreign hand" behind the unrest. The incident left four people dead and around 90 injured. Dorjay demanded a judicial probe into the matter.

Speaking to reporters, Dorjay alleged that police and CRPF personnel fired indiscriminately

at the protesters without attempting other crowd-control measures like water cannons or warning shots.

Dorjay said the unrest followed a strike called by youth associated with the LAB on September 24, in response to the delayed talks with the Centre regarding the ongoing 35-day hunger strike led by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. "Normally, around 500 people visit the hunger-strike venue daily, but on September 24, more than 7,500 people unexpectedly came and went out of control," he said.

He added that protesters initially vandalized the Hill Development Council office and a nearby BJP office. Dorjay emphasized that the mob was unarmed, and many carried the national tricolour. He dismissed claims that Wangchuk or Congress leaders had instigated the violence.

Dorjay also rejected allegations of a "foreign hand" in the incident. "The injured from Doda, Nepal, Tibet, and Bihar were bystanders, with 95 percent of the injuries caused by bullets or pellets. Dorjay accused authorities of attempting to cover up mistakes and called for accountability.

Dorjay similarly questioned the timing of government actions against Wangchuk, including the revocation of his institute's FCRA license and cancellation of its land lease.

On talks with New Delhi, Dorjay said the LAB will meet home ministry officials after the funeral of the four victims. He urged a judicial probe to determine why live bullets were used, highlighting that standard police procedures were ignored.

The LAB's legal team is also working to secure bail for those detained following the violence, he said.

War Against

also focused on strengthening coordination among security forces, intelligence agencies, police, and civil administration to maintain peace and stability across the Union Territory.

The meeting saw the participation of Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, senior Army commanders, Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, officers from CAPFs, J&K Force, intelligence agencies, and the civil administration.

LG Declares 12

in Jammu Division and seven in Kashmir Division. The sites set to reopen from Monday, September 29, include Aru Valley, Rafting Point Yanner, Akkad Park, Padshahi Park Bijbehara, Dara Shikoh Garden in Anantnag, Kaman Post, Eco-Park Khadnyar in Baramulla, Dagan Top in Ramban, Dhaggar in Kathua, Chinkah in Reasi, Shiv Cave in Salal, Reasi, and Padri in Doda.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that reopening comes after a thorough security review and detailed discussions at the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) meeting, ensuring that all safety measures are in place for tourists and pilgrims.

LG Sinha wrote on X: "After a thorough security review and discussion in today's UHQ Meeting, I've ordered reopening of more tourist spots in Kashmir and Jammu Divisions, which were temporarily closed as precautionary measures."

The LG administration had opened 16 tourist destinations, including some parts of Pahalgam, in the month of June.

Authorities have assured enhanced security deployment and surveillance at these sites to provide a safe and secure environment for visitors.

Launches Web

Developed by BISAG-N, the portal - lgssk.jk.gov.in - is designed to log grievances, record actions taken, and provide tracking access to both authorities and applicants. While the Kendra remains the institutional platform for soldier welfare, the portal ensures structured follow-up and transparent monitoring of every case.

LGSSK acts as a bridge between serving personnel and the civil administration, ensuring that matters submitted are addressed promptly through the correct channels and resolved in a time-bound manner. By coordinating directly with government offices and monitoring progress, the Kendra assures soldiers that their families' needs will be looked after while they focus on their duties.

With offices now functional at the Civil Secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar, the Kendra will serve as a single-window facilitation centre for all serving personnel of J&K and those currently deployed in the Union Territory.

Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary of Tribal Affairs and in-charge of LGSSK, gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of the Kendra. Applications will be accepted only through

respective Commanding Officers to maintain authenticity and integrity. Submissions may also be made via email at lg-ssk-jk@jk.gov.in or by post to:

LG's Sainik Sahayta Kendra, Room No. 56, Ground Floor, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar - 190001

LG's Sainik Sahayta Kendra, Near Secretariat Treasury, Civil Secretariat, Jammu - 180001

NIA Attaches

property attachment is part of NIA's ongoing action against terror networks operating in Kashmir, aimed at disrupting India's peace, stability and harmony," the agency added.

Canada Issues

civil unrest, and kidnapping," the Canadian government warned, while clarifying that travel to Ladakh remains unaffected by the restrictions.

Non-essential travel is also discouraged to the northeastern states of Assam and Manipur, where insurgency, armed conflict, and sporadic violence continue to create instability.

In addition, Canada has advised against travel within 10 kilometers of India's border with Pakistan in Gujarat, Punjab, and Rajasthan, citing risks from terrorism, cross-border tensions, and the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance. The Attari-Wagah crossing, the only official land border point between India and Pakistan, is currently closed, further complicating travel in these areas.

The advisory reflects heightened international concern over security in parts of India. Similar alerts have been issued by other countries in recent months, urging foreign nationals to remain vigilant and stay updated on local developments before making travel plans.

HC Sets Guidelines

the due payment without any undue or arbitrary delay.

After the execution of work, the court said, the authorities shall not be permitted to raise objections pertaining to administrative approvals, sanction of funds, or diversion of funds as grounds to withhold or delay payment.

In cases where the delay in payment is not attributable to the contractors, the court said that the authorities shall be liable to pay interest on the outstanding amount at the prevailing rates in nationalized banks, calculated from the date the payment fell due until the actual date of payment.

Regarding Personal Accountability for Malafide Conduct, the court ordered that where delay or withholding of payment arises from negligence, omission, or mala fide conduct on the part of any officer or official, the accrued interest shall be recovered from the salary or emoluments of such officer, thereby fixing personal accountability and deterring arbitrary exercise of power.

The court said a welfare State cannot legitimately plead "paucity of funds" when payments for works already executed and utilized are withheld.

"The principle of economic justice obliges the State to ensure that contractors, having fulfilled their part of the bargain, are not subjected to financial distress on account of arbitrary or habitual withholding of dues," the court said, adding, "In cases of habitual or willful withholding, apart from interest, the Court may impose exemplary costs against the erring department, to be deposited with the State Legal Services Authority for utilisation towards public welfare purposes."

In addition, the court directed the Chief Secretary directed to formulate and implement SOP to ensure that no admitted dues arising from completed contractual works are withheld beyond a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of submission of final bills provided there is no legal impediment and all the codal formalities are completed.

"It is further made clear that while formulating and implementing the said SOP, the directions issued and observation made by this Court to ensure the effective enforcement of contractual payments expeditiously with a view to uphold the principle of fairness and accountability, shall be adhered to in its letter and spirit," the court said and directed that a compliance affidavit to this effect shall be filed within six weeks.

The court underlined that constitutional governance does not permit the State to hide behind bureaucratic excuses while depriving its contractors of their rightful dues.

"The dignity of governance lies not merely in rule-making, but in timely honouring of obligations, duty which the State, as a model litigant, is expected to uphold scrupulously," the court said.

The court rejected a plea of limitation raised by the authorities, underlining that once liability is admitted and the State continues to enjoy the fruits of the work executed by contractor, it cannot be permitted to turn around and deny payment on the plea of limitation.

"What emerges from the record is that the

liability is admitted by the respondents (authorities) themselves. Once liability is admitted, the only question that remains is with respect to delay in release of payment," the court said, adding, "Such delay, in the opinion of this Court, requires to be enquired into so that responsibility can be fixed upon the officers concerned."

If contractors are compelled to knock at the doors of the Court day in and day out for release of legitimate dues, the fault lies not with the contractor but with the authorities, the court noted.

"This Court notes with concern that such cases of withholding of admitted dues are repeatedly coming before this Court, reflecting systemic inaction," the court said, adding, "The writ court cannot turn a blind eye to such grievances on hyper-technical pleas of limitation, when non-payment of the admitted liability being acknowledged by the respondents (authorities) from time to time is a recurring cause till the amount is released."

'Staggeringly High'

of total trial court pendency," it said. Tweaking the existing top court guidelines, the bench underlined the necessity owing to a huge pendency of such case and the falling interest rates in the last few years.

Under the revised guidelines, if the accused pays the cheque amount before recording of his evidence (namely defence evidence), then the trial court may allow compounding of the offence without imposing any cost or penalty on the accused.

"If the accused makes the payment of the cheque amount post the recording of his evidence but prior to the pronouncement of judgment by the trial court, the magistrate may allow compounding of the offence on payment of additional 5 percent of the cheque amount with the legal services authority or such other authority as the court deems fit," it said.

The top court said similarly, if the payment of cheque amount is made before the sessions court or a high court in revision or appeal, such court may compound the offence on the condition that the accused pays 7.5 per cent of the cheque amount by way of costs.

"Finally, if the cheque amount is tendered before this court, the figure would increase to 10 per cent of the cheque amount," it said.

The bench said in its recent verdict it was held that the offence under Section 138 of the NI Act was quasi-criminal in character and compoundable for the proceeding was essentially a civil proceeding and open to the parties to enter into a voluntary compromise.

"Not only a voluntary compromise can bring the proceedings under Section 138 NI Act to an end, but the accused under the said offence are entitled to benefit under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958," the order read.

The top court decided to issue fresh guidelines saying the service of summons on the accused in a complaint filed under Section 138 of the NI Act continued to be one of the main reasons for the delay in disposal of the complaints.

The punishment under the NI Act, the top court said, was not a means of "seeking retribution" but more a means to ensure payment of money and promote credibility of cheques as a trustworthy substitute for cash payment.

The top court issued procedural guidelines fusing it with the new criminal procedural law Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) and said that under Section 138 of the NI Act, service of summons shall not be confined through prescribed usual modes but shall also be issued dastbi that is summons shall be served upon the accused by the complainant in addition.

2,417 Indians

September 25, he said. Jaiswal also noted the case of Kaur. Once the Indian nationality of any person, who is in any country without legal status, is proved, they are taken back and this is also the case with the US, he said.

"We want to promote legal pathways for migration. At the same time, India stands against illegal migration," he said.

Whenever, there is a person who does not possess a legal status in any country and he or she is referred to us, we do the background check and confirm the nationality, he said.

"Because, then we are in a position to take them back. This is what has been happening with the deportations from the US. As far as visa fraud cases and other such matters are concerned, we want to promote legal migration from India," Jaiswal said.

"At the same time, we want to see how best we can clamp down on illegal migration because that undermines our efforts to promote legal migration," he said.

Jaiswal said the government of India has been working with state governments to crack down on people promoting illegal migration and visa frauds.

Apple Growers Face Deepening Crisis Due To Cold Storage Shortage

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's apple industry - often described as the backbone of the valley's economy - continues to reel under crisis this year. While highway blockades and low demand have already dented the season, the shortage of cold storage space has now left small and medium-scale growers in despair, forcing many to sell their produce at throwaway prices.

Small growers from Shopian, Pulwama, and adjoining districts said that while the government often advises them to make use of cold storage facilities during market slowdowns, the ground reality is very different.

"Tell us, what is the benefit of cold storage units when we can't even store our produce in them?" asked Abdul Rashid, an orchardist from Pulwama. "We were waiting for better market rates by storing our apples, but when we approached the units, they said all slots were booked months ago. This facility only



secures the position of big traders, while small and middle-class growers like us are left helpless."

Another grower, Ghulam Ahmad from Shopian, urged immediate government action. "In every crisis, we are told to rely on cold storage. But capacity is far less than demand. Unless new units are established, this problem will haunt growers every year," he said.

Growers also complained about the skyrocketing freight charges and low demand.

Bashir Ahmad, a dealer at Jabli Pora Mandi, highlighted their dilemma: "Imagine the plight of

a grower; he can neither send produce outside due to high freight costs and low demand nor store them in cold storage due to advance bookings. What option is left except to sell apples at a loss?"

"Without immediate intervention, lakhs of families dependent on the apple trade will continue to suffer," he said.

Adding to the discontent, former MLA Zainapora and current DDC member Aijaz Ahmad Mir accused certain cold storage units of mismanagement. "There are growing complaints regarding the functioning of units in Aglar Shopian and Lassipora. I urge the management to address these concerns with fairness. Do not exploit orchardists or cancel agreements that have already been finalised. Our farmers deserve dignity and justice for their toil," he said.

Mir further pointed to chaotic scenes outside units: "Long queues of Tata mobiles loaded with apples can be seen waiting at Lassipora. The mismanagement has created traffic jams and inconvenience for the public. To make matters worse, some units shut down for three days a week. This is unacceptable, and authorities must intervene immediately."

Meanwhile, cold storage owners said the existing infrastructure is far below the valley's actual requirement. "Kashmir produces 22-25 lakh metric tonnes of apples annually. But all 70 cold storage units in Shopian and Pulwama combined have a capacity of only 3 lakh tonnes. People expect us to accommodate everything, which is simply impossible," they said. They added that an unusual

rush this year has worsened the problem. "Normally, produce arrives gradually over two months, but this time bulk quantities came all at once due to highway closures and poor demand outside. Over 50% capacity was filled within just a few days. We are trying our best to accommodate more growers, but we too have limitations," a cold store manager said.

Owners said that while cold storage units are meant for 'A-grade' apples, many growers are now bringing 'B-grade' produce due to weak markets, further adding pressure. "We appeal to growers to cooperate. Every possible effort is being made to maximise capacity use, but unrealistic expectations will only deepen the crisis."

As Kashmir's apple season progresses, growers and traders remain caught between poor market demand, high freight costs, and insufficient storage facilities. Unless immediate measures are taken, experts warn, the valley's fruit economy could face long-term damage—(KNO)

GDA Takes Over Royal Park Hotel

After reclaiming the historic Nedous Hotel in August, the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) on Friday took possession of the Royal Park Hotel after the expiry of its rent agreement.

Officials confirming the development informed that the GDA-owned property (Royal Park) had been rented out to a local businessman several decades ago, but the lease period ended in June this year and was not renewed.

Following the lapse, the authority moved to reclaim the hotel to prevent any unauthorised occupation.

The takeover was carried out smoothly in the presence of officials to ensure a peaceful handover.

The action comes close on the heels of GDA's high-profile eviction of the 137-year-old Nedous Hotel earlier on August 04, as part of a wider drive to retrieve government assets in Gulmarg whose leases have expired.

Authorities said the property will remain under the GDA's control until a fresh decision is taken regarding its future use. (KNO)

ACB Charge Sheets Ex-VC JDA, Others In Illegal Plot Allotment Case

Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu & Kashmir, has produced a chargesheet before the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu against Vinod Sharma, Ex-Vice Chairman, JDA and others in illegal plot allotment case.

As per a statement issued, the spokesman said that the ACB has produced a chargesheet in a case under FIR number 18/2014 PS VOJ (now ACB), registered under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006, and Section 120-B RPC, before the Hon'ble Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu.

The chargesheet has been filed against Vinod Sharma, Ex-Vice Chairman, JDA, Mamta Sharma wife of Vinod Sharma, Chany Sham, then Naib Tehsildar, JDA (now retired and expired) and Rishi Kumar, then Patwari, JDA (now retired and expired), the statement added.

The instant case was registered on the basis of a verification conducted by the then Vigilance Organization (now ACB) into allegations of illegal allotment of Plot No. 42, Sector-1A, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and illegal possession of an additional 4,300 sq. ft. of land by Mamta Sharma, wife of the then Vice Chairman, JDA.

Investigations revealed that the accused persons, in connivance with officers/officials of JDA, by abusing their official position, facilitated the illegal allotment of the plot and encroachment of the adjoining land at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. (Observer News Service)



WHILE COLD STORAGE UNITS ARE MEANT FOR 'A-GRADE' APPLES, many growers are now bringing 'B-grade' produce due to weak markets, adding pressure.



Authorities imposed curfew in Leh on Friday to restore law and order.

KO PHOTO

1371 Schools In J&K Run By 'Single Teachers'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, over 32,000 school students are being taught by single teachers in 1371 educational institutes—thus raising a question on quality of education and availability of staff.

According to the official figures were available with KNO, Jammu and Kashmir has at least 1371 schools wherein single teachers have been posted or deployed.

On the contrary, the government as well as the management of private schools claim that they have a sufficient availability of human resources and infrastructure but the official figures reveal a different story.

The figures reveal that there is an enrolment of 32,303 students enrolled in those schools where only single teachers are posted or

deployed.

Pertinently, in a previous report, the official figures have revealed that in Jammu and Kashmir more than 31,054 students were enrolled in those schools that were functioning with a single teacher.

In the previous report, there were only 1330 schools that were functioning with only a single teacher. However, the recent report suggests that the numbers have increased by at least 41 schools.

In July-2024, the news agency reported that there were a total of 23,117 government run schools in Jammu and Kashmir out of which 4394 have been deleted from the UDISE data.

Principal Secretary, School Education Department and Project Director of Jammu and Kashmir Samagra Shiksha were not available to comment on the issue.

People Of Ladakh Facing Karma: Sajad Lone

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Thursday condoled the deaths of four persons in violence in Ladakh but took a controversial stand, saying the people in the cold-desert region are facing "Karma".

"I am pained at the death of four people in Ladakh. May they rest in peace," Lone said in a statement here.

However, he went on a tirade, saying he would call "a spade a spade". "What they are going through is buyers' remorse - a feeling of regret experienced after making a purchase, typically one regarded as unnecessary or extravagant. This is Karma," Lone said.

The MLA from Handwara claimed that the Kashmiri people were reviled and slandered by the people of Ladakh for 70 years.

"I was the happiest when they were separated from us and a UT was carved for them. I was more happy for us than them," he said.



Lone gave details of what he described as systemic challenges faced by Kashmiris during the unified arrangement. "They would take away our jobs in the name of reservation. They would humiliate us. They would not allow our transporters or businessmen to work in Ladakh. They had the Hill Council. We as Jammu and Kashmir had literally no control over them. We would cede jobs to them in the name of reservation. Disproportionate funding. Tiny Assembly seats. And an even tiny Parliament seat. Four Assembly seats and a Parliament seat for a tiny population. ST caste status for the whole region," he said.

Despite these arrangements, Lone characterised Ladakh's approach as problematic.

Omar, Iltija Flay Wangchuk's Arrest

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The arrest of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Friday has drawn sharp criticism from political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting growing tensions over Ladakh's demands for statehood and constitutional safeguards.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called the detention "unfortunate" and accused the BJP-led central government of renegeing on promises made to the people of the region. Speaking at a function in Srinagar, Abdullah said, "The way the Central government was after him since yesterday, it seemed they would do something like this. Promises were made with the people there...I don't understand what compulsions does the Central government have to backtrack after making promises."

Wangchuk, a senior member of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), was arrested two days after violent protests in Ladakh left four people dead and 90 others injured. The Ministry of Home Affairs has blamed him for provoking the violence, a charge strongly de-



nied by his supporters. LAB, along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been campaigning for Ladakh's statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for over five years.

Abdullah also criticized the government's handling of promises made during earlier elections, highlighting the Union territory's political engagement that went unrecognized. "If the people of J&K are being kept away from statehood because they didn't elect the BJP to power, then they should tell the court," he said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti also weighed in, describing Wangchuk's detention as a blow to peaceful activism. Writing on social media, she said, "Sonam Wangchuk, once a darling of the Indian government, hailed as a nationalist, has been arrested for waging a peaceful fight for the people of Ladakh... the arrest undermines peaceful activism."

Infoma Academy Launches App Combining Learning, Fun & Digital Business

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Infoma Academy has taken a major step in the digital sphere with the launch of its much-awaited mobile application. The announcement was made by the academy's Chief Executive Officer, Amaan Shakeel, alongside the development team who worked for months to bring the idea to life.

"Our vision was to build a single space where knowledge, entertainment, and business could grow together," Shakeel said. "We want to empower individuals, creators, and entrepreneurs to learn, innovate, and succeed."

The app offers several groundbreaking features. One of the highlights is the Marketplace for Social Media Owners, allowing WhatsApp group admins, Instagram page owners, Facebook managers, and YouTube creators to buy and sell their online communities - opening new doors for digital entrepre-

neurship. In addition, users can take part in interactive quizzes, climb up leaderboards, and expand their awareness through a Knowledge Hub that carries articles, facts, and informative posts. For content creators, the platform includes short video sharing tools similar to leading global apps, while a built-in gaming section provides entertainment linked with competitive scores.

The launch has been welcomed by students, social media managers, and young entrepreneurs across Kashmir. Industry experts say the multi-dimensional app could become a game changer, blending creativity with business and education under one roof.

By uniting fun, facts, and opportunities, Infoma Academy's new platform may well shape the way Kashmir's digital generation connects and grows.

Sakeena Reviews Strengthening Of Professional Education

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Friday met with Prof. Minu Mahajan, Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JKBOPEE), to discuss ways to enhance professional education opportunities across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Minister Itoo reviewed the functioning

of JKBOPEE and the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Srinagar. She directed the Chairperson to explore creating additional seats in the special B.Ed course to meet the growing demand for trained special educators in mainstream and specialized institutions.

The Minister also called for a standardized grievance redressal mechanism to facilitate students and applicants. Appreciating JKBOPEE's role in ensuring merit-based and transparent admissions, she assured full gov-



ernment support to expand professional and technical education opportunities for students in J&K.

Chairperson Mahajan expressed gratitude for the allocation of 290 additional MBBS seats, highlighting that the move will strengthen medical education and contribute to making J&K a hub of academic excellence.

Minister Itoo emphasized continued efforts to provide students access to quality, diverse, and career-oriented educational opportunities.

Form No 3
[See Regulation -13(1)(a)]

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT I)**

**2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35
Sector-17 A, Chandigarh**

Case No. TA/248/2023

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 29413

**UCO BANK
VS
M/S FOUR BHAI MOTORS**

- To,
- M/S Four Bhai Motors
National Highway Sonwar, Srinagar through its partners i.e defendants 2 to 6 Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
 - Niaz Ahmed Shah
Sons of Late Kh. Ali Shah Residents of Alson House, Buchwara Srinagar Kashmir
 - Mubeen Ahmed Shah
Sons of Late Kh. Ali Shah Residents of Alson House, Buchwara Srinagar Kashmir
 - Sultan Ali Shah
Sons of Late Kh. Ali Shah Residents of Alson House, Buchwara Srinagar Kashmir
 - Liaquat Ali Shah
Sons of Late Kh. Ali Shah Residents of Alson House, Buchwara Srinagar Kashmir
 - Yasmin Ali
D/o: Late Kh. Ali Shah Residents of Alson House, Buchwara Srinagar Kashmir

SUMMONS

Whereas, TA/248/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 29.07.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 598413/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 30.10.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 30.07.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

CM Omar Inaugurates 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat C'ship In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday declared open the 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2025 at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex here.

The championship, which runs from September 25 to 30, has drawn participation from young athletes representing 11 countries, marking a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship and cultural exchange in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said it was his first formal introduction to the fast-growing martial art of Pencak Silat, which has witnessed remarkable progress in Jammu and Kashmir since its introduction a decade ago.

"I was told that this discipline



is being practiced in 19 out of 20 districts of J&K. I look forward to its introduction in the remaining district so that the entire J&K is covered," he said.

The Chief Minister praised the inclusive spirit of the sport, highlighting that Pencak Silat

enjoys equal popularity among both boys and girls. He said, "This game teaches us discipline and respect for our opponents. Your opponent is not your enemy, but an opponent only. That is the true spirit of sportsmanship."

Welcoming the athletes and delegations from India and abroad, Omar Abdullah said, "We take great pride in hosting you here and choosing Srinagar as venue for this prestigious championship. I hope you not only enjoy the competition but

also carry with you fond memories of this place for the rest of your lives."

On the occasion, a march past of participating teams, cultural performances from Jammu and Kashmir, and a Pencak Silat demonstration by athletes enthralled the audience.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, besides coaches, officials and athletes from participating countries were present at the opening ceremony.

In a social media post the CM wrote: "I feel proud that Srinagar is hosting this prestigious championship and I laud the growing popularity of Pencak Silat across Jammu & Kashmir."

5 DPS Students To Compete At Junior Asian Pencak Silat C'ship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Five Delhi Public School Srinagar students will represent India at the 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship 2025. The championship, which has brought together 11 countries and 12 teams, is currently underway at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex in Srinagar.

The students who will proudly don the tricolor are:

- Hurriyah Showkat, Class 11
- Samma, Class 11
- Alishiba Jeelani, Class 11
- Mysha Bilal, Class 10
- Nehal Zubair, Class 10

ment to their unwavering dedication, hard work, and extraordinary talent in the martial art of Pencak Silat.

Expressing her pride, Principal Ms. Shafaq Afshan said, "This is a remarkable accomplishment and a proud moment for the entire DPS Srinagar community."

Chairman Mr. Vijay Dhar also shared his delight, adding, "To have five of our own represent the nation is a matter of great honour."

The championship is being jointly organized by the Indian Pencak Silat Federation and the J&K Sports Council, with the official confirmation of selection shared by the Pencak Silat Association of J&K.

Seva Parv Day 8 Brings Sports & Environmental Drives to Budgam

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam advanced its Seva Parv Activity Calendar into Day 8 on Friday, engaging students and communities through a variety of sports and social initiatives across the district. The fortnight-long program, which is being celebrated from September 17 to October 2, continues to inspire enthusiastic participation every day.

Friday's highlights included sports competitions in volleyball, kabaddi, cricket and several indigenous games held in different zones of Budgam. Young participants displayed passion, teamwork and discipline, reflecting the spirit of

Seva Parv.

In addition to the sports contests, multiple zones including Beerwah, Chadoora, Hardehpanzoo, Narbal and Magam introduced new activities combining environmental and fitness themes. These included "Play and Plant" tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns in sports complexes, and awareness programs connecting sports with environmental responsibility.

The ongoing celebrations are being conducted under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, who noted that Seva Parv not only fosters sporting culture but also strengthens community spirit and environmental consciousness among the youth.



ICC Acts On Indo-Pak Asia Cup Feud, But BCCI Appeals Fine



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India captain Suryakumar Yadav was fined 30 per cent of his match fee for his comments on the Pahalgam terror attack, a sanction that the BCCI has appealed against, while Pakistan's Haris Rauf also copped a similar penalty in the ICC's disciplinary action amid increasing hostilities between the two feuding sides.

Another Pakistan player Sahibzada Farhan was handed a warning for his gun-fire celebration during last Sunday's Asia Cup match against India by match referee Richie Richardson after a hearing here on Friday.

"The ICC will not issue any official release on the sanc-

tions till end of the tournament given the sensitivity of the matter," a tournament source said.

It could come on Monday, while the tournament final is scheduled to be played here on Sunday between the arch rivals, who have so far clashed twice in the ongoing event with India winning on both occasions.

The ICC was scheduled to issue a press release about the sanctions, but it was decided that the global body will wait till the end of the tournament. It is understood that the BCCI doesn't agree with Richardson's assertion that Suryakumar has breached the Code of Conduct by standing for his country's Army and victims of terror attack.

J&K Yogasana Team Leaves For Junior & Senior Nationals

The J&K Yogasana Sports Association, recognised by the J&K Sports Council and affiliated with Yogasana Bharat, flagged off its junior Yogasana team from Srinagar Railway Station for participation in the 6th Junior and Senior C National Yogasana Sports Championship 2025-26 (Men & Women).

The prestigious championship is being hosted by the Yogasana Sports Association of Andhra Pradesh from September 28 to October 1 at PB Siddhartha Arts & Science College, Siddhartha Group of Institutions, Siddhartha Nagar, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The J&K contingent consists of 16 talented players and three officials, who will compete in both Junior and Senior C categories across multiple events including:

- Traditional Yogasana
- Forward Bend, Back Bend, Twisting Body, Hand Balance, Leg Balance & Supine Individual
- Artistic Yogasana (Single, Pair, Group)
- Rhythmic Yogasana (Pair)
- Traditional Yogasana (Group)

(Observer News Service)

Tennis Ball Cricket C'ship 2025 Begins In Bandipora

The Tennis Ball Cricket Championship 2025 began on Friday at Government NM Higher Secondary School Kaloosa, Bandipora, by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawal.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Deputy Education Officer Bandipora, Principal Government NM Higher Secondary School Kaloosa, Member Bandipora Advisory Board, besides Padma Shri Awardee and Brand Ambassador of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, Faisal Ali Dar.

The championship is being organised under the banner of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and My Youth My Pride initiatives by the district Bandipora Tennis Ball Cricket Association, affiliated with the J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association. A total of 16 teams from across the district, representing schools and clubs in sub-junior, junior, and senior categories, are participating in the tournament. (Observer News Service)

Barcelona Legend Busquets To Retire At End Of MLS Season

Former Barcelona and Spain midfielder Sergio Busquets is retiring from soccer at the end of his current season with Inter Miami, the Major League Soccer team said Friday.

The 37-year-old Busquets is widely regarded as one of the best defensive midfielders of his generation, forming a storied three-man midfield at Barcelona with Xavi Hernández and Andres Iniesta behind Lionel Messi.

Busquets debuted for Barcelona in 2008 under Pep Guardiola and went on to play 722 matches for the club — putting him third all-time behind Xavi and Messi — while winning nine Spanish league titles and the Champions League three times. What Busquets lacked in speed and scoring, he more than made up for in his tackling, precise passing and ability to provide balance to the team both in defense and going forward. (AP)

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