

Hello, Kashmir

DON'T MAKE IAS/JKAS A 5 YEAR PLAN..

RATHER START EARLY AFTER CLASS 12TH

Join EXCEPTIONAL'S 03 Year Foundation Course



New Batch's commencing on

September 22, 2025 | IAS

September 30, 2025 | JKAS

To register, visit www.exceptionalacademy.co.in

J&K Records 2nd Lowest Murder Rate In 2023

Stands 2nd Among UTs In Kidnapping Cases, Shows NCRB Data

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded the second-lowest rate of murder cases among all states and Union territories in 2023, with less than one case per one lakh population, according to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The Union Territory saw a 38% decline in murders over two years, from 136 cases in 2021 to 99 in 2022 and 84 in 2023. The murder rate in J&K was 0.6 per lakh, well below the national average of 2 and the Union Territories' average of 1.7. Only Lakshadweep recorded a lower rate — zero. Among UTs, Delhi had the highest murder rate (2.4), while Manipur topped the states chart (4.7).

Despite the low rate, J&K had the second-highest number of murder cases among the eight UTs, after Delhi (506 cases). NCRB recorded 101 victims in J&K in 2023 — 86 males and 15 females, including three children. Most victims (41) were aged 18-30. Cases were attributed to personal vendetta (23), family disputes (28), extremism/insurgency (8), and love affairs (6). No murders were reported due to dowry, political reasons,



CRIME SNAPSHOT - J&K (NCRB 2023)

Kidnappings/Abductions

- » Total Cases: 1,004 (2nd highest UT after Delhi)
- » Rate (per lakh population): 7.4
- » Victims: 1,010 → 502 children (419 girls), 508 adults (492 women)
- » Untraced Victims: 798 (746 women)
- » Chargesheeting Rate: 30.6%

honour killings, witchcraft, human sacrifice, communal, religious, or caste-based motives.

Investigations in J&K remain slow. The chargesheeting rate for murder cases was 72%, the lowest among UTs and below the all-India rate of 85.7%.

While murders fell, J&K recorded the second-highest number of kidnapping or abduction cases among UTs in 2023, with | [More on P6](#)

Demographic Manipulation Bigger Threat Than Infiltration: PM

Unveils ₹100 Coin, Stamp At RSS Centenary

Hails RSS' Role In Strengthening National Unity, Social Harmony

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday warned that demographic manipulation is a bigger threat today to



India's social harmony than infiltration.

Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), he said that India's soul has always been rooted in "unity

in diversity" and cautioned that if this principle is broken, the country's strength will be diminished.

Modi also recalled his August 15 speech and the announcement of his

'Demographic Mission' to "protect Indian citizens against infiltrators snatching the livelihood of youth targeting our sisters and daughters".

"The social harmony today has a bigger threat from conspiracy for demographic change than infiltrators which directly impacts internal security and future peace. India today faces challenges that directly target its unity, culture and security," he said.

The RSS has consistently prioritized social harmony, Modi said, defining social harmony as establishing social justice by giving precedence to the | [More on P6](#)

J&K Bank Celebrates 88th Foundation Day



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Wednesday celebrated its 88th foundation day, paying rich tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh — the founder of the financial institution.

"Celebrating 87 years of existence on the Foundation Day, J&K Bank organised a commemorative function today at its Corporate Headquarters, which was chaired by MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee," a spokesman of the bank said here.

"On this auspicious occasion of our Bank's Foundation Day, we pay heartfelt tributes to Late Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, whose vision and foresight laid the foundations of this financial institution that has been integral to the economic empowerment and social transformation of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and is on its way to become one of the best banks in the country. I really salute his vision," Chatterjee said.

"The task at our hand is to take our Bank to the next level. For that we need to continue the mission of socio-economic transformation in our core geography so that the initial dream continues to be realised," he added. | [More on P6](#)

Search Op Launched In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Security forces on Wednesday launched a search operation after getting information about suspicious movement in the Rajbagh sector of the Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The search operation was jointly launched by the police and the Border Security Force (BSF) in the area along the Ujh river near the Jhathana village | [More on P6](#)

Gandhi Jayanti

LG Urges People To Embrace Non-violence

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 156th birth anniversary and extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, the LG emphasized Gandhi's ideals of peace, non-violence, truth, tolerance, compassion, and

selfless service, urging citizens to internalize these values and contribute towards building a "Viksit Bharat". "Bapu dedicated his life for freedom of our country, social equity and development of our villages. His concept of Swadeshi was focused on making India Aatm-Nirbhar and boost local production. I appeal to all the people to buy Swadeshi Products | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM Greet People On Dussehra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Vijaydashami.

In his message, LG Sinha said, "Vijaydashami symbolizes the victory of good over evil and righteousness over unrighteousness. May this sacred festival inspire us to work for | [More on P6](#)

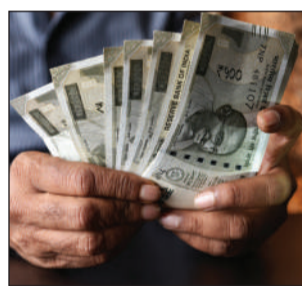
Centre Hikes DA/DR By 3 Pc For Employees, Pensioners

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a Diwali bonanza to central government employees and pensioners, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to increase Dearness Allowance (DA)/ Dearness Relief (DR) by 3 per cent envisaging an annual outlay of Rs 10,083.96 crore.

The hike in DA and DR comes days after rationalisation of GST rates, bringing down prices of mass consumption items like ghee, paneer, butter, 'namkeen', ketchup, jam, dry fruits, coffee and ice creams, and aspirational goods like TV, AC, washing machines will become cheaper.

The DA/DR increase of 3 per cent over the existing rate of 55 per cent of the basic



pay/pension to compensate against the price rise is effective July 1, 2025.

This will benefit about 49.19 lakh central government employees and 68.72 lakh pensioners.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of an increase in DA and DR will be Rs 10,083.96 crore per annum, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said | [More on P6](#)

Police Raid Residences Of JeI-Linked Individuals

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sopore Police conducted search operations at the residences of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI)-linked individuals in Zaloor, Sopore, as part of ongoing efforts to dismantle separatist-terror networks and maintain peace.

The searches targeted the homes of Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, son of Abdul Rahim Bhat, and Tanveer Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Jabbar Dar, following FIRs registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The police carried out

the operations after obtaining valid search warrants from the competent court.

During the raids, incriminating material linked to the proscribed organisation was recovered and seized for further investigation. The process was conducted in the presence of Magistrates and independent witnesses to ensure legal compliance and transparency.

Sopore Police said the operations are part of ongoing investigations aimed at unearthing networks involved in separatist and terror-related activities. Officials | [More on P6](#)

Wangchuk's NSA Detention On Credible Grounds: Admin

Press Trust Of India

Leh: Ladakh Administration on Tuesday rejected claims of a "witch-hunt" or a "smoke-screen" operation against activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was detained under the National Security Act last week. It asserted that the actions taken by law enforcement agencies were based on credible inputs and documents.

The administration appealed that the process of law should be allowed to take its own course and expressed confidence that "together we will bring back normalcy in the peace-loving Leh township and continue with our dialogue process". Wangchuk, the primary face of the agitation seeking



statehood and Sixth Schedule safeguards for Ladakh, was detained under the stringent NSA following the violent clashes between protesters and security personnel on September 24. Talks between the Centre and representatives from Ladakh have hit a roadblock with the | [More on P6](#)

Any Issue Can Be Resolved Through Talks: Ladakh LG

KO Web Desk

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday urged the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) to reconsider their decision to stay away from talks with the Centre, stressing that any issue can be resolved by sitting across the table.

Gupta said the administration had invited the groups for dialogue, | [More on P6](#)

All-India DGP-IGP Meet PM, HM To Attend; J&K Security On Agenda

Agencies

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are set to attend the All India DGP-IGP Conference in Chhattisgarh in November, where top police officials from across the country will deliberate on key issues including internal security, anti-Naxal operations, cyber security, the fight against narcotics, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and border management.

According to the details, the 60th edition of the three-day conference beginning November 28 will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while the valedictory session | [More on P6](#)

PARAS HEALTH Presents

MIRCHI BACHPAN BACHAO

SCREEN HATAO, BACHPAN LAUTAO

Presented By: PARAS HEALTH

Co-Presented By: Hamdaad KHAALIS MASALE

Parenting Partner: FOOTPRINTS Pre-School & Day Care

Food Partner: Hamdaad Kachi Ghani Mustard Oil

Print Partner: KASHMIR OBSERVER

Outdoor Partner: rampage ADVERTISING AGENCY

Advertising Partner: spectrum advertising services



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

'Meeting National Targets To Reduce Air Pollution Can Lower Disease Prevalence In Women'

Press Trust Of India

Meeting national targets of cutting PM2.5 pollution by 30 per cent can help bring down prevalence of diseases such as hypertension, COPD and anaemia from the current nearly five per cent to three per cent among women of reproductive age. Researchers and experts from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Climate Trends, a research-based consulting and capacity building initiative in Delhi, have developed a 'Health Benefit Assessment Dashboard' based on data gathered via the fifth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). Launched in 2019, the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is aimed at improving air quality by reducing particulate matter (PM) levels by 20-30 per cent by 2024-25, keeping 2017 as baseline. The team modelled future

were analysed to be highest in densely populated, high-burden states in the country's north and eastern regions. Current prevalence of diabetes of 1.7 per cent among women of reproductive age -- 15 to 49 years -- could drop to 1.4 per cent if the PM2.5 reduction targets are met, the experts said. Further, decline in prevalence of lower respiratory infections, low birth weight and anaemia were found to be most pronounced among children in regions having severe air pollution, particularly the Indo-Gangetic Plain and eastern states. Speaking at a workshop where the findings were shared, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, the Chairperson of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, said, "One thing that is very critical but often overlooked is the role of indoor air pollution. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has gone a long way and has been an amazing change in terms of the ownership of LPG con-



scenario based on a 30 per cent reduced PM2.5 levels, "with the aim of helping policymakers and researchers with real-world health impact data as the severe air pollution months approach". "Achieving the 2024 NCAP target of reducing 30 per cent PM2.5 levels, can help decrease the nationwide disease prevalence to 3.09 per cent from the national average of 4.87 per cent, according to the NFHS-5 data," the research team said. Health benefits of clean air

nections." "But the fact remains that many families are still using biomass for cooking and sometimes for heating in the winter months. This significantly contributes to outdoor air pollution, apart from being a direct risk to women and children," Swaminathan added. "So, there is a very specific gender equity issue with indoor air pollution, in addition to the fact that it contributes anywhere between 30 to 60 percent of ambient air pollution," she added.

'Over 60% Of Daily Energy Needs Of Indians Comes From Low-Quality Carbohydrates'

Press Trust Of India

A study that analysed India's dietary consumption in relation to risk of metabolic disorders has estimated that 62 per cent of the country's total daily energy intake comes from low-quality carbohydrates, including white rice and processed whole grains. About a fourth of the world's diabetics are estimated to be living in India, significantly higher than other countries. Researchers from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), among other institutes also found high levels of saturated fat and a low intake of protein contributing to the total daily energy intake across India. The analysis looked at data collected by the ICMR-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study, a door-to-door population survey of a representative sample of individuals aged 20 and above from across 30 states and union territories, and the NCT of Delhi.



Findings published in the journal Nature Medicine show that an individual with highest intake of carbohydrate could be at a 30 per cent higher chance of developing diabetes, 22 per cent obesity and 15 per cent abdominal obesity, compared to lowest intake. Further, replacing refined cereals -- products from grains such as wheat, rice or corn -- with whole wheat or millet flour without lowering one's overall carbohydrate intake was not linked with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes. Evidence from the study confirms those from previ-

ous surveys that the country consumes high amounts of carbohydrates, the researchers said. "Nationwide, carbohydrates contributed 62.3 per cent of total daily energy intake, mainly from refined cereals (28.5 per cent) and milled whole grains (16.2 per cent). Total fat contributed 25.2 per cent, while protein intake was low at 12 per cent," the authors wrote. Public health strategies that look at cutting down on overall carbohydrate intake and saturated fat, while increasing consumption of plant and dairy proteins

could help mitigate risk of metabolic diseases in India, they added. The team also found that about 61 per cent of the those surveyed were physically inactive, with 43 per cent being overweight and 26 per cent obese. Improving diet and physical activity can reduce incidence of type 2 diabetes by 50 per cent, previous studies have shown. North India was observed to have highest rates of overweight (54 per cent), obesity (37 per cent) and abdominal obesity (48 per cent), while eastern region had the lowest prevalence of overweight (31 per cent), obesity (16 per cent) and abdominal obesity (29 per cent). Nearly one-third of the country's population was found to have hypertension (27 per cent) with little inter-regional differences. Overall, 83 per cent of the participants were seen to have at least one metabolic risk factor -- either newly diagnosed T2D, prediabetes, dyslipidaemia, general obesity, abdominal obesity or hypertension.

Global Report Says 40% Of Clinicians In India Could Be Using AI In Work

Press Trust Of India

More than 40 per cent of clinicians in India could be using artificial intelligence technologies for work purposes -- a three-fold increase from 12 per cent since last year, estimates a report. Published by Elsevier, a Netherlands-based scientific and technical information disseminator which manages journals including 'The Lancet', the report also suggests that India's adoption of AI surpasses global average of 48 per cent, and is ahead of that in the US (36 per cent) and UK (34 per cent). "India's clinicians are showing remarkable agility and enthusiasm in embracing AI, setting a pace that not only keeps up with but often rivals global leaders," Shanker Kaul, chairman of Elsevier Health in India, said. Authors of the 'Clinician of the Future 2025' report wrote, "41 per cent of clinicians in India have used AI for work

purposes, more than triple (of) last year's figure of 12 per cent." The country's rate of AI adoption may, however, lag behind that of China (71 per cent) and the Asia Pacific region (56 per cent), according to the report, which surveyed around 2,200 clinicians from across 109 countries, including those in Europe, North America and Latin America (about 275 from India). Fifty two per cent of the clinicians surveyed in India said they expect most patients to self-diagnose using AI in the near future, compared to the global average of 38 per cent patients doing so, the report said. The Indian clinicians were also found to "foresee a move towards universal healthcare and health equity in the coming years" -- an objective outlined in the the National Digital Health Blueprint, the authors said. Launched in 2019, the initiative aims to provide universal health coverage to the citizens of India.

Kaul said, "This strong optimism (of Indian clinicians) creates a tremendous opportunity -- one that can be fully realised with the right investment in comprehensive training of healthcare givers to address digital literacy gaps, especially in rural areas, robust governance and forward-thinking policy action." The analysis also suggests an increase in 'burnout' with two-thirds of the clinicians in India reporting seeing more patients now than they did two years ago, almost in line with the worldwide rate of 69 per cent. A high number of patients was found to be the reason most commonly cited by clinicians surveyed around the world for thinking they do not have enough time to deliver quality care. Further, a fifth of the Indian clinicians were seen considering a change in jobs and expecting to leave healthcare entirely -- globally, about a third were found to think along these lines.

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter, Sehar Lateef, who was born on 02-08-2016 at home. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Lateef Ahmad Haji inf
 F/o: Sehar Lateef
 R/o: Bul Bul Nowgam (Ulbugh Nowgam)

Public Notice

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Inayat Shahnawaz S/o Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger while his correct name is Anayat Ahmad Ahanger S/o Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu / Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Shahnawaz Ahmad Ahanger fko
 F/o Anayat Ahmad Ahanger
 R/o Bomai

Public Notice

I have lost my 9th pass certificate. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Govt High School Aripanthan within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Shafiq Bano bmg
 D/o Gh Nabi Bhat
 R/o Beerwah

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer ID No: 020603003184 from Gh Qadir Bhat To Nisar Ahmad Sheikh. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the PDD Sub Division Beerwah within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Nisar Ahmad Sheikh bmg_r
 S/o Mohd Akbar Sheikh
 R/o Magam Budgam

From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo

In the case of
 1. Bilal Ahmad Wani
 2. Zubair Ahmad Wani
 Sons of Wali Mohd Wani
 3. Ab kabir Dar S/o Ghulam Rasool Dar
 All residents of Wani Mohalla Sultanpora Pattan Caveators
 V/s
 Public at large
 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 seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte 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.
 fko Sd/advocate



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

IT Raids On Prominent Srinagar Business Family

Officials Search Hotelier's Residence & Showroom Over Alleged Financial Irregularities

Agencies

Srinagar: The Income Tax Department on Wednesday carried out raids at multiple locations in Srinagar, including the residence and business establishment of a local businessman.

Officials said that the searches were conducted at the house of a well-known hotelier and businessman, located at Shalimar. Simultaneously, another raid was carried out at his showroom at Brein Nishat. Teams of income tax officials, accompanied by police, searched the premises and examined documents related to financial transactions. The operations began early in the day and were still continuing at the time of filing this report.

Sources said the raids are part of an ongoing investigation into alleged financial irregularities. "Relevant records and documents are being scrutinised. Further details will be shared once the operation concludes," a source said.

Teams of income tax officials, accompanied by police, searched the premises and examined documents related to financial transactions

The Income Tax Department also conducted a raid at a hotel in the Humhama area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. [KNT]



Rumi Conference At ASC Highlights Love, Compassion & Unity

Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: A special commemorative conference was held at Amar Singh Club, Srinagar, bringing together leading intellectuals, academicians, and cultural figures of Kashmir to reflect on the life and teachings of the great 13th-century philosopher-poet Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi (RA).

The event celebrated Rumi's timeless message of love, humanity, and spiritual enlightenment. His poetry, originally written in Persian, continues to transcend cultures and faiths, inspiring people worldwide to embrace compassion, tolerance, and unity.

The conference featured a distinguished gathering of scholars, educationists, writers, lawyers, and other eminent personalities from the Valley, who deliberated on the enduring relevance of Rumi's philosophy in contemporary society. Speakers highlighted how his vision of love and human dignity provides guidance for fostering harmony, understanding, and mutual respect.

Advocate Zaffar A. Shah, Senior Counsel, said: "Rumi's poetry reflects the true spirit of Islam, emphasizing love, compassion, and justice. His words guide us toward kindness, respect for all humanity, and a closer connection with Allah."

Prof. Mushtaq A. Siddiqi, Former Vice Chancellor, IUST, added: "Rumi's words touch the heart and unite peo-

ple. They inspire love, kindness, and understanding, guiding us toward harmony, compassion, and inner peace."

Prof. Naseem Rafiabadi remarked: "Rumi's message is truly universal. From Turkey to Kashmir, his words reflect spiritual wisdom rooted in Islam, inspiring love, compassion, understanding, and fostering meaningful dialogue among peoples and civilizations."

Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, Patron, Khanqah-i-Hyderi, Ashmuqam, observed: "Maulana Rumi's message is a call for love, compassion, and humanity. In an age of division, his philosophy reminds us that unity, kindness, and mutual respect are the only paths to peace."

Prof. Jahangir Iqbal, HOD, Persian, University of Kashmir, noted: "As a Persian teacher, I see Rumi as someone who filled the hearts of people with love, faith, and wisdom. His words remind us that knowledge and faith always go hand in hand. To truly understand Rumi is to feel the deep love, kindness, and humanity that Islam inspires in every soul."

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie emphasized: "In today's world, it is the need of the hour to guide our new generation through the wisdom of Rumi. True education goes beyond earning a livelihood; it nurtures the heart, mind, and soul, cultivating knowledge with purpose, character with compassion, and a life dedicated to Allah and service to humanity."

M. Saleem Beg, Convenor IN-TACH, said: "Maulana Rumi's wisdom teaches us that the essence of life lies in love for Allah, compassion for humanity, and the pursuit of knowledge that elevates the soul."

Dr. Syed Afzal Hussain, HoD Persian, Govt. College for Women, Srinagar, said: "Rumi has inspired writers and thinkers around the world for centuries. His poetry goes beyond any religion or country and speaks to the love and goodness of all humanity."

Dr. Mudasar Nazar, Asst Professor, Persian, GDC Bhelssa, Doda, added: "Rumi's poetry brings together timeless wisdom and beautiful expression. As teachers of Persian, it is our duty to keep his legacy alive."

Nasir Hamid Khan, Secretary, Amar Singh Club, said: "It is an honor to host this special gathering. Today, Rumi has brought together thinkers from different backgrounds to share ideas and understanding."

Call to Uphold Rumi's Legacy
The event concluded with a shared commitment to carry forward Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's timeless message, emphasizing interfaith harmony and the importance of integrating his philosophy into contemporary education, culture, and social life.

The gathering at Amar Singh Club was widely hailed as a tribute to one of the world's greatest thinkers and poets, inspiring participants to uphold Rumi's enduring ideals of love, compassion, and unity in everyday life.

Office Of Banned Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Attached Under UAPA

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday attached the headquarters of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, the outfit founded by late separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani, in Srinagar.

Officials said the attached property comprises a three-storey building on one kanal and one marla of land in Hyderpora, located along the Airport Road.

The premises once served as Geelani's residence and office, from where he led the Hurriyat Conference.

The action was taken under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with a case registered at Budgam police station. Police said the attachment followed "collected evidence"

and due approval from the competent authority.

"In a major action against secessionist and terrorist networks, Budgam Police have attached the head office of the banned organisation Tehreek-e-Hurriyat at Rehmatabad, Hyderpora, under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)," officials said.

"Acting on collected evidence and with due approval from the competent authority, the property was attached as per legal provisions. This action marks a significant step in the ongoing investigation against unlawful and subversive activities and reflects the firm resolve of Budgam police to neutralise threats to national security and maintain peace in the region," they added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Driving Licence bearing DL No: Ashak Hussain Khan S/o Habib Ullah Khan, while my correct name as per Aadhaar Card is Ashiq Hussain Khan S/o Habibullah.

Now, I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file it in the concerned office within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Ashiq Hussain Khan
S/o Habibullah
R/o Bazar Batamalo, Srinagar

iko

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Sr. Divisional Material Manager, NRI, Store Branch DRM Office, Ferozpur and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1.	94255487	Supply, installation and commissioning of electro-pneumatic pressurised flushing system for 100 LH Non-AC/AC coaches (400 lavatories) at Ferozpur and Jammu Division	400 sets	30.10.2025

NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.
Tender Notice No. 03/2025-26 Date: 30.09.2025 3033/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Dy. Chief Elect. Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work

Tender Notice No	17-E-C-TRD-SINA-2025
Name of work	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV OHE work in connection with provision of new lines at Srinagar station on BAH-BrML section over Jammu division.
Approximate Cost of the work	Rs. 5,55,38,180.28
Completion period	12 (Twelve Months)
Bid Security to be deposited	Rs.4,27,700.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 01.10.2025
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	24.10.2025 upto 15.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site. upto 24.10.2025.
Date/Time of Opening of tender	24.10.2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender)
Details Tender Notice & Tender Document	Above tender document will be available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in from 01.10.2025 to 24.10.2025 upto 15.00 hrs and for submission from 10.10.2025 to 24.10.2025 upto 15.00 hrs. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in the tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board of the above office.

No.17-E-C-TRD-SINA-2025 Dated: 30.09.2025 3034/2025
Serving Customers With A Smile

کاشمیر کا قتل عام

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ کل یعنی 30 ستمبر بروز منگل وار سنہ 2025 عیسوی کو محمد امین راتھر ولد غلام قادر راتھر ساکنہ لوچی باغ سرینگر نزدیک آؤسٹیڈ شالہ پورہ اس فانی دنیا سے رحلت کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ اس ضمن میں مرحوم کی انفرادی فاتحہ خوانی ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع شالہ پورہ نزدیک جامعہ مسجد شالہ پورہ کے نزدیک کل یعنی 2 اکتوبر بروز جمعرات کو ادا کی جائے گی۔

سوگواران کی طرف سے تمام رشتہ داروں، دوستوں و احباب سے استعافی گئی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی بھی قسم کا کوئی بھی میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں۔

مرحوم کی یاد میں کشمیر ٹریبون میڈیا گروپ اور محکمہ کٹی لوچی باغ سرینگر کی طرف سے ایک تعزیتی مجلس منعقد کی گئی جس میں مرحوم کے ایصالِ ثواب کے لئے دعائی گئی اور سوگواران سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس عطا کریں۔ آمین

سوگواران

Cell No: 7006790317

مدثر احمد راتھر ولد محمد امین راتھر۔ ساکنہ: لوچی باغ شالہ پورہ سرینگر

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUJBHERA: 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
08 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 05
ZUHR	12:22
ASR	4: 35
Magrib	6:21
ISHA	7: 41

This Day In History

- 939 - Battle at Andernach: King Otto & Hermann of Zwaben beat Eberhard of France & Giselbert of Lutherans
- 976 - Hisham II appointed kalief of Cordoba
- 1187 Sultan Saladin captures Jerusalem from Crusaders
- 1540- Venice and Turkey signs peace
- 1760 - Russian and Austrian army evacuates Berlin [NS=10/13]
- 1799 Duke of York & Russians capture Alkmaar in Netherlands
- 1835 Battle of Gonzales fought between Texan settlers and Mexican forces. First engagement of the Texas revolution
- 1851- The pasilalinic-sympathetic compass(a contraption built to test the pseudo-scientific hypothesis that snails create a permanent telepathic link when they mate) is demonstrated but proves to be a fake.
- 1870- Italy annexes Rome & Papal States; Rome made Italian capital
- 1895- 1st cartoon comic strip is printed in a newspaper
- 1901- First Royal Navy submarine launched at Barrow-in-Furness
- 1904- German General Lothar von Trotha issues order to exterminate Herero people of Namidia, first genocide of the 20th Century, will kill 65,000 Herero and 100,000 of the Nama tribe
- 19100 1st 2 aircraft collision (Milan Italy)
- 1919- US President Woodrow Wilson has a stroke, leaving him partially paralyzed
- 1920- The Chinese sign an agreement with the Russo-Asiatic Bank, largely French and Russian controlled, which will oversee the Chinese Eastern Railway, but give local supervision to China
- 1923- British occupying army leaves Constantinople
- 1924- League of Nations approves protocols of Geneva
- 1935- Mussolini's Italian army attacks Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1939 - Prototype for the Ilyushin Il-2, world's most-produced military airplane designed by Sergey Ilyushin, takes it first flight. Over 36,000 made for Soviet airforce in WWII.
- 1940- 17 German aircraft shot down over England
- 1940- British liner Empress, loaded with refugees for Canada, sunk
- 1941- 6 Paris synagogues are bombed by Gestapo
- 1941- Germans launch attack on Moscow
- 1942- RMS Queen Mary, carrying thousands of US troops, slices cruiser HMS Curacao in half, killing 239
- 1942- WWII: British Royal Navy boards floundering German U-boat U-559 retrieving abandoned Enigma code machine before it sinks; 2 British sailors go down with the sub
- 1943- Japanese troops leave Kolombangara, Solomon Island
- 1944- Polish resistance fighters capitulate in the Warsaw Uprising, with some 250,000 people killed
- 1949 - USSR recognizes People's Republic of China.
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-18 crashes near Black Sea resort of Sochi, kills 105
- 1977 - Pakistani general Zia ul-Haq bans all opposition
- 1980 - 38 year old Muhammad Ali comes out of 2-year retirement to challenge undefeated world heavyweight champion Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas; Ali pounded unmercifully for 10 rounds before corner throws in towel.
- 1981 - Ali Khamenei elected president of Iran
- 1984 - 3 cosmonauts return after a record 237 days in orbit
- 1986 - Sikhs attempt to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- 1990 - WW2 Allied nations cede any remaining rights as occupiers of Germany
- 1990 - Chinese plane explodes, about 100 die
- 1994 - Pakistan cricket batsmen Inzamam-ul-Haq & Mushtaq Ahmed put on 57 runs in 8 overs for highest last-wicket partnership ever to win a Test, as the home team beats Australia by 1 wicket in the 1st Test in Karachi.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

GST 2.0 and Kashmir's Second Chance at Growth

The government's tax reset is changing how Kashmir buys cars, runs hotels, and sells its crafts. The reform could revive hopes of prosperity, if it reaches the people who need it most.

Khalid Mustafa

When India launched the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the promise was bold: one tax to replace the messy patchwork of levies that burdened businesses and confused consumers.

It was marketed as a historic simplification, a single umbrella that would bring order to chaos.

What arrived instead was a jungle of slabs, cesses, and compliance struggles. The spirit was right, but the execution left small traders overwhelmed and customers disillusioned.

Eight years later, the government has returned with what it calls GST 2.0. Unlike earlier tweaks, this one feels like a full reset.

By 2025, the tax landscape has been reshaped into something far simpler. Instead of five rates and a string of hidden surcharges, most products now fall under two slabs: 5 percent and 18 percent. Luxury goods stand at a flat 40 percent.

Gone are the compensation cesses that once turned car purchases into ransom notes. For businesses, the paperwork is lighter, and for consumers, prices are easier to understand.

On paper, the change looks neat and efficient. The real test, though, is in places like Jammu and Kashmir, where the economy leans on two sectors, automobiles and tourism, that are deeply sensitive to tax shifts.

Take the car industry. For years, it has staggered under heavy levies. A regular passenger vehicle attracted 28 percent GST and, if it looked too fancy, another 22 percent cess.

Cars were already a stretch in Kashmir, where incomes are uneven and disruptions frequent. Dealers often saw their showrooms empty, and families held onto aging vehicles because buying new ones felt like a luxury.

Now, with GST 2.0 lowering rates on passenger cars to 18 percent and scrapping most cesses, showrooms in Srinagar and Jammu are reporting something unusual: genuine interest.

Taxi drivers and fleet operators, long resigned to patching up old Sumos and buses, are considering upgrades. For them, the math suddenly makes sense.

The timing could not be better in a place where old diesel vehicles are being phased out for environmental reasons.

The story extends beyond private cars. Buses, trucks, and three-wheelers, vehicles that carry Kashmir's workforce and goods, are now cheaper to buy. Public transport has always been the valley's backbone. A reduced tax burden could make it easier for operators to expand fleets, bringing relief to commuters who often wait hours for transport that may never arrive.

Beyond convenience, this is about enabling people to get to



work, students to reach schools, and goods to flow more smoothly in a land where terrain and weather already impose steep costs.

Tourism, the other pillar, is also watching GST 2.0 with interest. When luxury hotel rooms were taxed at 28 percent, many travelers skipped Kashmir altogether. Competing destinations such as Himachal Pradesh and Goa offered more affordable vacations. Locals recall families cutting short their holidays once they realized that a mid-range hotel stay could rival the cost of flights.

With GST rates reduced on hospitality, the numbers are shifting. Travel packages are becoming accessible, hotels are revising tariffs, and tour operators see renewed booking queries.

In Gulmarg, a hotelier says group inquiries from domestic tourists have risen after months of stagnation. On Dal Lake, shikara owners expect more customers willing to spend, not just pose for photographs.

The impact could be significant for a region where almost every family's livelihood ties to tourism, whether through hotels, transport, handicrafts, or food stalls.

Artisans stand to gain as well. Kashmiri handicrafts have long been undercut by both high taxes and cheaper imitations. Papier-mâché artists, shawl weavers, and wood carvers were forced to watch their margins shrink as GST made their products expensive for visitors.

The reduced rates offer a chance to restore balance. Tourists can now carry home souvenirs without feeling fleeced, while craftsmen may finally see fair returns for painstaking work passed down generations.

But some challenges loom large. State officials worry about shrinking tax revenues. Early estimates suggest a 10 to 12 percent dip in collections.

This is more than an accounting headache for a place with limited fiscal space.

Jammu and Kashmir relies heavily on central assistance, and the new GST regime may deepen that dependence unless the Centre designs compensatory measures.

Compliance remains another stumbling block. Many small traders lack the digital literacy or reliable internet needed to file returns seamlessly. Unless support systems, including training, better connectivity, and simplified filing portals reach the ground, the benefits may bypass those who need them most.

And then there is the fragility of Kashmir's tourism-driven economy.

One security incident can undo months of progress. A drop in tax rates cannot cushion the blow of headlines that discourage visitors.

To translate GST relief into sustained prosperity, the valley needs stability, better infrastructure, and promotion campaigns that reassure travelers.

The larger question is whether GST 2.0 will truly trickle down to everyday Kashmiris.

Will car dealers pass on the savings or silently inflate margins? Will hotel chains adjust prices in ways that draw tourists, or pocket the difference?

The government must monitor without smothering, ensuring reforms translate into real benefits rather than clever accounting.

At its heart, GST 2.0 is about trust. Trust that lower taxes will spark consumption. Trust that businesses will respond with fairness. Trust that ordinary people, already weary of economic uncertainty, will finally feel some relief.

That trust carries extra weight in Jammu and Kashmir, where cars symbolize mobility and tourism represents survival.

Tax reform is rarely dramatic. It is often hidden in percentages and paperwork.

But in Kashmir, the changes of GST 2.0 hold something more: the possibility of a little more movement on the roads, a few more tourists at the markets, and perhaps, a new confidence in the idea that policy can touch everyday lives.

— The author is a Management & IT Professional. He can be reached at er.khalidmustafashah@gmail.com

KO VIEW

Infertility's Silent Toll

In Kashmir, conversations about health usually begin and end with diabetes, heart disease, or blood pressure. But in recent years, another story is emerging, and it is infertility. It is, however, personal, painful, and for many, still too shameful to discuss.

The numbers tell us what people hesitate to say out loud. Kashmir's fertility rate has dropped to 1.4, well below the 2.1 needed to keep a population stable. This makes it one of the lowest in the country. Behind the statistic are couples spending years trying to conceive, women undergoing treatment in silence, and men unwilling to admit that the problem may not lie only with their wives. For a society that once celebrated early marriages and large households, this is an unsettling shift.

Experts trace this to social change. For example, late marriages. Weighed down by years of education, unstable jobs, and soaring wedding expenses, young people are forced to marry late. This leads to decline in fertility narrowing the chances of parenthood.

Lifestyle is another factor. Processed foods, smoking, stress, and sedentary routines are also contributing factors: No, wonder, doctors across the valley now speak of infertility as a daily reality in their clinics.

Scientists are also blaming the use of powerful pesticides in orchards as a factor. Today, many orchards receive up to 20 chemical applications a season, including plant growth regulators (PGRs) and systemic pesticides. These are not only stronger but also more harmful. Many of these chemicals interfere with hormones and reproductive health. According to reports, doctors are seeing the fallout in terms of thyroid dysfunction, PCOS, early menopause, and unexplained infertility.

What makes this crisis worse is the silence around it. Shame and stigma stop couples from seeking help. Women are too often blamed, even though men account for nearly half of infertility cases.

The health condition demands awareness, compassion, and public policy. Regulating harmful farm chemicals, expanding fertility care, and normalizing open conversations are urgent steps.

We can't afford to ignore this crisis. The valley faces shrinking families, and an aging population. Over the long term, this could bring about a demographic disruption, plateauing the population and later even reducing the population. This calls for the government to act.

Infertility in Kashmir is thus a layered issue. And to get this right not just needs proper health facilities to treat this epidemic but also a broader response to mental health crisis and joblessness, which, in turn, fuels late marriages and consequent infertility.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Path to Smarter Investing

Why discipline, patience, and awareness of market traps matter more than hype for investors in the valley.

Irshad Mushtaq

For many in Kashmir, investing in the stock market is about hope, family security, and building a future beyond the uncertainties of daily life. But the journey is filled with traps that often snare those chasing quick profits.

One of the biggest dangers is the lure of high P/E stocks. The price-to-earnings ratio tells us how much investors are paying for every rupee of a company's earnings. A reasonable P/E can reflect strong performance, but when it climbs to dizzying heights, 100 or more, it signals speculation. Many small and illiquid Indian stocks have been manipulated this way, leaving ordinary investors to bear the losses.

The rule of thumb is simple: when you buy a share, you are buying a piece of a business. Before joining a partner in trade, people ask about honesty, vision, and long-term prospects. Apply the same questions to listed companies. Do you trust the management? Is the business model sustainable?

The safest path, especially for beginners, lies in mutual funds and SIPs, which spread money across many companies, or ETFs that mirror major indices like the Nifty 50. Diversification remains the golden shield. No single stock, no matter how big, should hold all your savings.

Above all, avoid unlisted shares. Liquidity is scarce, and once trapped, money may not return.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



Tax reform is rarely dramatic. It is often hidden in percentages and paperwork. But in Kashmir, the changes of GST 2.0 hold something more: the possibility of a little more movement on the roads, a few more tourists at the markets, and perhaps, a new confidence in the idea that policy can touch everyday lives.

Letter to Editor

Why Kashmir Classrooms Need the World Outside

Learning often begins inside four walls in the valley, but the lessons that last a lifetime are found outside them.

Field trips are classrooms without ceilings, where ideas breathe freely and knowledge connects with the world.

Education has long been described as the ladder of progress. We admire great scientists, writers, and leaders, but forget that their first spark of curiosity may have been lit in lived experiences.

A child who touches the bark of a chinar tree, feels the chill of river water, or sees an orchard in full bloom learns with all senses.

Field trips can play a crucial role in making learning alive in a place like Kashmir, where schools already struggle with limited resources.

The Annual Status of Education

Report (ASER) has repeatedly shown gaps in comprehension and problem-solving among schoolchildren here. Trips to historical sites, farms, laboratories, and even local industries can bridge this gap. They allow students to see how rain turns into rivers, apples are stored, artisans carve wood, and hospitals heal.

These lessons cannot be captured on a blackboard.

I remember my own school days when even a short walk to a nearby forest turned into a science lesson. We would sit under pine trees, open our tiffin boxes, and listen as the teacher explained photosynthesis. The sunlight filtering through the branches became our diagram. That kind of learning stays, while definitions memorized for exams fade away.

Teachers are the backbone of this process. Their work is often underap-

preciated in the valley, despite carrying the burden of shaping minds in difficult circumstances.

Recognizing and rewarding teachers, giving them freedom to innovate, and supporting them with resources can create a culture where field trips become a regular part of schooling.

Field trips also nurture empathy and community. When students travel together, they learn cooperation, discipline, and respect for public spaces. They see beyond the narrow lanes of their mohalla and realize that the world is larger, more diverse, and interconnected.

These experiences can be windows to possibility for Kashmiri students who often feel isolated from opportunities.

Encouragement is key. When a teacher praises a hesitant student for making an observation on a trip,

it may be the first step toward confidence. When students are trusted with responsibility outside classrooms, like leading a group, noting observations, and asking questions, they begin to see themselves as contributors.

Education in Kashmir must be more than rote and routine. Field trips remind us that knowledge is in orchards, shrines, streams, laboratories, and museums. They give children a chance to connect with their land, their history, and their own potential. A school without such experiences is incomplete.

The walls of a classroom can teach us rules. The world outside teaches us life.

Sincerely,

Sahil Manzoor Bhati
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Forgotten Fairies and Folktales of Kashmir

From princes frozen in stone to golden waters of hope, Kashmiri folktales shaped hearts, whispered wisdom, and marked the passage back to life.

Sheikh Ubaid Gul

Evenings in the 1990s in Kashmir carried a light that belonged neither to the sun nor the stars. It came from the laps of elders, the warmth of their voices, and the magic of stories spilling from memory.

Their laps were private worlds, portals into places where fairies greeted us, trees hummed songs, and birds spoke in riddles.

Words were keys, unlocking spaces more wondrous than any magic spell. They promised golden



waters, impossible quests, and the slow unfolding of a universe that existed beyond our walls.

I remember a tale of princes turned to stone by hidden spells. Travellers, guided by a wandering mystic and a glowing ball, crossed the Valley of Idols with cotton in their ears, resisting bewitching voices that sought to stop them.

They carried vessels to capture golden water flowing from the roots of a singing tree. They poured it over the stone figures, and kingdoms remembered spring.

At the end, the storyteller spoke the same words: "They went there, we came here."

For years, those words floated past me like wind through the branches. I never paused. I never realized their weight.

Time eventually teaches in whispers. Dreams are temporary gifts shaped by desire. When morning arrives, they vanish. Our minds accept their passing, even as we cling to the echoes. Life moves in rhythms, alternating sweetness and loss, teaching us that all journeys, imagined or lived, have a season.

Stories work the same way. They arrive, ignite the mind, colour the heart, and then step back. "They went there" marks depar-

ture. The characters we walk with, the princes and fairies, the singing trees, return to the world from which they came. They were never ours to hold, only ours to accompany. They live in books, in memory, in the imagination, and their absence reminds us of time's law.

"And we came here" carries its own gravity. We return from the expanse of wonder to the solidity of reality. Elders placed us in that moment with intention. They knew the seduction of stories, the way they could spill over into life, stirring restlessness, and longing. They taught the boundary between imagination and the world we oc-

cupy. Their lesson was gentle, unavoidable, and essential.

I once spoke with a friend about a book she had read. She said, "You don't know how this attachment to a tale ruins later. It is better to be careful early."

In her words, I heard the wisdom of centuries. Stories are powerful. They teach, console, and shape. Yet too close an attachment dissolves the boundary, leaving reality hollowed, restless, and unfinished.

Time in Kashmir has always felt like a swift river. Night's sleep softens its current. Dreams offer a brief refuge. Stories serve the same purpose. They lift us out of hours, and let us breathe and wander through rivers of desire, landscapes of sorrow, and moments of triumph.

Dreams hold our secret wishes. Stories hold our unspoken emotions. Both leave traces that stay, tender and fleeting, reminding us of beauty without holding it hostage.

I understand now that each tale returns to its own world as inevitably as rivers reach the sea. We walk beside them only for a while. Our hearts expand and contract with their presence. When the story ends, we are left with a soft ache, a trace of wonder, and the pull of reality.

One day, we will meet them again in thought, far from the demands of the day. We will hear the whispers of fairies, follow the shimmer of golden water, and feel the warmth of the storyteller's lap.

The world waits for us, steady and indifferent, insisting we return. The chain of life pulls us forward, toward tasks, people, and seasons of our own making.

"They went there, we came here." The phrase is simple, but it carries the weight of lessons. It is a map of



In the folds of childhood memory, I learned that stories exist to awaken the heart and then step aside. Reality is not less magical. It is different, demanding, alive, and it waits.

imagination and reality, a reminder that magic has its time, as does waking. It teaches patience, acceptance, and the rhythm of return.

In the folds of childhood memory, I learned that stories exist to awaken the heart and then step aside. Reality is not less magical. It is different, demanding, alive, and it waits.

Those words now resonate in every tale I read. They teach me that wonder must always meet the present, that imagination is a companion, and that return is itself a grace.

The princes went there. We came here. Time moves on. We follow.

— The author is pursuing MCA at the University of Kashmir. He can be reached at sheikhubaidgul@gmail.com.



They went there, we came here."

The phrase is simple, but it carries the weight of lessons. It is a map of imagination and reality, a reminder that magic has its time, as does waking. It teaches patience, acceptance, and the rhythm of return.

Sounds of Silence

Between the alarms and the babble, silence waits patiently to restore our minds and souls.



Lily Swarn

Nowadays, said James Thurber, most men lead lives of noisy desperation. Alas, the blissful silence is eluding us. We are in a hellish, shrieking, and shouting marathon of our own making.

Silence is supposed to be a source of strength, yet we badger our ears and minds with cacophonous sounds that rip apart our souls and tear our sanity to shreds.

Quietude of the brain brings in a soothing hush and tranquility, which is sadly running away from us on noisy, squeaky shoes.

We do not know how to understand the eloquence of silence. Instead, we are ready to muffle and deaden sounds of wisdom. We suppress and smother the voice of warning that tells us to slow down and take a deep breath. We let the babble and tumult of life constantly drum our weary ears with a belabouring of sound and fury.

We no longer wake up to the sound of the mantras, Gurbani, or Azaan, muting them with our worldly pillows of foam.

The alarm clocks wake us up to a world of crazy, boisterous messages on cell phones. The television blares insane, unmelodious "songs" of violence and alcohol-induced pandemonium.

Where is there any place for silence in the traffic of our overflowing streets?

Mother Teresa reminded us that only in silence can we reach the soul.

Growing up in the angry-bird world of changing channels at our whims and fancies, how can we nurture our souls in peace and quiet?

We, who feel lost in a silent room? We, who seek assurances from fellow weaklings who tell flattering lies? We, who are steeped in our own brains: steaming, squawking, hullabaloo?



Growing up in the angry-bird world of changing channels at our whims and fancies, how can we nurture our souls in peace and quiet?

Batalvi wrote, "Mai chup di maun boli sikh reha haan, mai chup da geet har sapne di akhh vich likhh reha haan." I am learning the silent language of quiet, I am writing the song of silence in the eyes of every dream.

The silent hills often beckon with their promise of freedom from clamour and racket. On a lighter note, silence is a great tool when you have no answers. It is also the deadly pause, a la Dilip Kumar.

It terrifies the one who is waiting for the next word. Never underestimate the power of silence as unnerving, authoritative.

Firaq said it well: "Yeh sukoot-e-naaz, yeh dil ki raggon ka tootna, khamoshi mein kuchh shikast-e-saaz ki baatein karo," or Iqbal's: "Khamoshi, ae dil, bhari mehfil mein chilaana nahi achha; adab pehla qareena hai, mohabat ke qareenon mein."

— Lily Swarn is an internationally acclaimed poet, novelist, and essayist, author of *A Drop of Cosmos*. She is the 2023-24 International Beat Poet Laureate India and a Peace and Humanity ambassador.

The Scoreboard of Childhood

Parental ambition and school pressure have turned childhood into a competition, with lifelong scars.

Meer Mudasir

The other day, I was walking past a coaching centre when I overheard a mother scolding her nine-year-old son. Her words cut through the corridor: "You let eight students go ahead of you, that's murder."

Murder. Neither failure, nor carelessness. Not even underperformance. Murder.

I stood there stunned, thinking about how a simple slip in rank could be framed as a crime. If childhood is a crime scene, then who exactly is guilty?

This is what parenting has come to in Kashmir. It has turned into a high-stakes tournament where every exam is a final.

Children are no longer seen as individuals with their own character and curiosity. They are treated as carriers of parental ambition, shaped less by love and more by unresolved ego.

The obsession is everywhere: homes, classrooms, and conversations at dinner tables. Parents who once drifted through their own studies now treat their child's second rank as a humiliation.

Marksheets are read out like judgments in court. Uncles and aunts join the chorus. The child is reduced to a stage where adults play out their anxieties.

The consequences are visible in facts and figures. A 2022 study by Child Rights and You (CRY) found that more than 70% of children in Jammu and Kashmir experience academic stress, most of it from parental pressure.

A 2023 survey by Save the Children showed that one in four students between the ages of eight and fourteen report symptoms of anxiety, sleeplessness or self-doubt directly linked to school expectations.

These are children still learning multiplication tables.

The competition starts long before school feels like school. Parents chase admission into "elite" kindergartens as if the rest are wastelands. They measure toddlers by how fast they can recite poems or how many English words they can pronounce.

Four-year-olds are expected to stand on stage and demonstrate knowledge they barely under-



If we do not step back, we will raise a generation of ghosts, children who grow into adults forever searching for the unconditional love they never felt.

stand. Childhood is turned into a performance long before it has had the chance to be lived.

I have seen how damaging this becomes. Children begin to internalise the message that love is conditional, that joy only counts if it comes with a grade.

A girl who proudly brings home 92% learns that the missing eight marks matter more than the ninety-two she earned. A boy who shows his art is told, "Fine, but why didn't you top maths?"

Their lesson is clear: effort is

invisible, only absence matters, the absence of perfection, and approval.

Some children carry this burden in their bodies. They develop stomach aches before exams, because tests have become linked to terror. Others stop trying altogether.

One child I knew tore up his own homework because he had learned that effort would only end in humiliation. These are patterns forming across classrooms.

The weight seeps into teenage years, where children learn to fake smiles, suppress breakdowns and pretend resilience. It travels into adulthood, where success feels hollow and failure feels fatal.

The result is a generation of adults who never believe they are enough, even when they are thriving.

Schools feed this culture rather than resist it. They plaster topers on billboards like trophies. They send parents weekly "performance alerts," as if childhood were a stock exchange. They build an atmosphere where pressure is normalised, and comparison is the language of growth.

Schools become factories, parents become supervisors, and children become products on a conveyor belt.

Perhaps it is time we start teaching parents before teaching children.

Imagine a Parenting 101 class in every creche, where humility is taught alongside rhymes, where adults are asked to reflect before they demand. Imagine replacing the question "What rank did you get?" with "What did you enjoy learning today?" Imagine parents learning that empathy is not weakness and that childhood is not a rehearsal for adulthood.

Einstein was once dismissed by his teachers as a poor student who daydreamed too much. History remembers the daydream, not the dismissal.

How many Kashmiri children with untapped potential are being suffocated by a culture that values rank more than imagination?

The mother who called underperformance "murder" revealed how easily we equate mistakes with crimes, and how quickly we bury innocence under the weight of expectation.

If we do not step back, we will raise a generation of ghosts, children who grow into adults forever searching for the unconditional love they never felt.

— The author is a literature enthusiast and fintech professional based in Kashmir.

Bharat Celebrates #GSTBachatUtsav On Amazon.in

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the ongoing Amazon Great Indian Festival, the Great Savings Celebration #GSTBachatUtsav storefront enabled sellers to pass on over 100 crore in GST savings across appliances, fashion, everyday essentials and other applicable categories. The shopping festival also demonstrated Amazon.in's reach and delivery speeds, with 40% of customer orders that were placed in the first 24 hours being delivered the same or next day across the country. Within just three days, customers from 100% of India's serviceable PIN codes have placed orders on Amazon.in, bringing festive celebrations to households across Bharat.

"As part of our commitment to supporting sellers and helping them stay compliant with government reforms, we enabled a smooth transition to the new GST rates starting September 22. Through tools, automatic updation of tax codes, masterclasses on the changes and more, we empowered lakhs of sellers to conveniently implement GST benefits for customers. In the first few days of the Amazon Great Indian Festival, we have enabled sellers to pass on savings over

100 crore in GST benefits to customers. Customers can continue shopping and save more with these benefits, over and above fantastic deals, as the Amazon Great Indian Festival continues until Diwali," said Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India" said Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India.

"We are delighted with the tremendous response to Samsung Bespoke AI Appliances during Amazon Great Indian Festival, across refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioners. The contribution of the Bespoke AI portfolio has grown significantly, driven by differentiation and strong marketing efforts. Today, 1 out of 2 Samsung appliances sold on Amazon are from the Bespoke AI range. This momentum is led by customer preference for our Side-by-Side refrigerators, Front-Load washing machines 9kg/12 kg, and WindFree air conditioners. Notably, Samsung's Side-by-Side refrigerator is the only model in its category to feature among the top 10 best-sellers on Amazon" said Gufran Alam, VP and Head of Digital Appliances, Samsung.



"iQOO has always been amongst the highest-rated smartphone brands on Amazon, and it's delightful to see this love translate into an overwhelming response during the first 48 hours of the Amazon Great Indian Festival. We truly value the trust consumers place in our performance-driven devices and would like to thank Amazon's support in further strengthening this partnership" said Nipun Maurya, CEO, iQOO India.

Following this strong start to the Amazon Great Indian Festival, shopping trends are already reflecting how GST savings, affordability, and access are shaping customer choices across categories. From large appliances and daily essentials to premium fashion, beauty, and wellness products, customers across Bharat are upgrading their lifestyles while also embracing value-driven purchases.

GST-led demand shaping festive shopping

The recent GST reductions played a pivotal role in shaping customer demand across categories this festive season. Customers upgraded to big-ticket appliances with air conditioners growing at double digits year-over-year, while inverter batteries surged 2X and

dishwashers grew by 120%. Kitchen appliances saw a 50% jump in eco-friendly units as shoppers balanced sustainability with affordability. Everyday essentials reflected the impact of GST savings with beverages, oils, and cereals growing over 100% vs BAU, while high-protein foods and spreads from D2C brands surged over 150%. Holistic wellness was a standout priority, with protein sales rose 180% vs BAU, vitamins & supplements increased 250% vs BAU, and tier 2+ customers contributed to a 1.5X spike in demand. Family care categories also benefited, with diapers growing 160% vs BAU after the GST rate cut from 12% to 5% and premium baby skin care increasing 150% vs BAU as parents sought toxin-free, dermatologically tested formulations.

Premium shopping on the rise across Bharat

Premiumization remained a defining trend this Amazon Great Indian Festival. Smartphones above 20,000 grew 50% YoY, lifting overall category ASPs by 30%. Premium TVs continued their momentum, with QLEDs up 23% and Mini-LEDs up 27%. Laptops and smart home products saw unprecedented demand, the

iPad Air M3 surged 300X, MacBook Air M4 performed at 150X. Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 saw 430X surge, while the Sony S20R Dolby Home Theatre sold at 196X. Shoppers also leaned into luxury, lab diamonds surged 10X YoY. Korean beauty grew 327% YoY, premium luggage categories rose 94% YoY, and apparel from brands like CK Jeans (+7X) and Gap (+3X) drove a 2.5X spike. Precious jewelry and silver coins soared 5.5X YoY. Crucially, this growth was not confined to metros; demand from smaller towns and Tier 2/3 cities contributed significantly, reinforcing the accessibility of premium products across Bharat.

Health and wellness take center stage

Festive shopping reflected a deeper shift towards health-conscious choices. Premium fruits such as berries and avocados grew 3X and 2X respectively, while nuts surged 21X. Vitamins and nutraceuticals saw robust traction with specialized formulations like COQ10 and magnesium leading demand. Home fitness continued to expand, with treadmills growing at 66% YoY as customers invested in personal wellness. Together, these choices underline the lifestyle shift towards holistic well-being, amplified by affordability and access made possible this season.

Democratized shopping, faster than ever

Shopping trends reinforced Amazon's unmatched reach and delivery speed. Over 65% of Amazon Bazaar shoppers came from tier 2 and beyond, with new customers increasing 10X and daily shoppers growing 500% vs average. Two-wheeler sales rose 150% YoY, alongside strong growth in accessories (+40%) and EV adoption (+28% YoY). Amazon Now continued to offer ultra-fast deliveries in select pin-codes to customers in Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai. Amazon Fresh expanded to more than 270 cities (4.5X growth in 2 years) and grew 40% YoY with gift sets surging 12X (in 48hrs). Prime members enjoyed the fastest-ever deliveries, with over 80 lakh products delivered within two days, including lakhs of products within minutes and hours.

CM Pays Tribute To Gandhi Ji On His Birth Anniversary

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.

In his message, the Chief Minister highlighted the enduring relevance of Gandhi Ji's teachings of truth (Satya), non-violence (Ahimsa), peace, and humanity in today's world, which continues to face conflicts and social divisions.

"Gandhi Ji dedicated his life to the service of humanity, waging an unwavering struggle against social evils

such as untouchability, the caste system, and inequality, while standing for justice, compassion, and equality for all," Abdullah said. He emphasized that Gandhi Ji's philosophy remains a guiding light for building a society rooted in tolerance, harmony, and brotherhood.

"The need of the hour is to imbibe his principles and walk on his path of truth and non-violence to create a just and inclusive society," the Chief Minister observed, urging the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, to draw inspiration from Gandhi Ji's life and uphold the values of peace, communal harmony, and mutual respect in daily life.

Paddy Yield Down By 40%, Say Farmers

Demand Compensation For 'Heavy Losses'

Agencies

Srinagar: Farmers across Kashmir have reported massive losses in paddy production this year, with yields dropping by nearly 40-50 per cent. They blame the prolonged dry spell during the crucial growing months, followed by incessant rains and flood-like conditions just before harvest, for the crisis.

Growers from several districts said the weather pattern this year has devastated their livelihood. "For three consecutive months—June, July and August—there was hardly any rainfall. The crop did not grow properly, and then just when we were expecting to harvest, heavy rains submerged the fields for days together. The paddy fell flat and started rotting," said Ghulam Nabi, a

farmer from Pulwama. Many said that their produce, already weakened by the dry spell, could not withstand the continuous waterlogging. "Our fields were inundated for almost a week before harvesting. By the time the water receded, the crop was damaged beyond recovery. In many places, farmers couldn't even collect enough paddy for household use," said another farmer from Anantnag.

According to locals, hundreds of families who are directly dependent on paddy cultivation for sustenance have been left without a secure income this year. "We have lost almost 40 per cent of our crop. Families who rely only on paddy are staring at a financial crisis," said Abdul Rashid, a farmer from Budgam.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Records 2nd

1,004 cases, slightly down from 1,046 in 2022. Delhi led with 5,715 cases. The kidnapping rate in J&K was 7.4 per lakh population, slightly below the national average of 8.2.

Among the abduction victims, 502 were children (419 girls) and 508 adults (492 women). At year-end, 798 victims remained untraced, including 746 women, marking the second-highest number of missing persons among UTs. The chargesheeting rate in kidnapping cases stood at 30.6%, better than Delhi (6.6%) but below the all-India average of 37%.

Demographic Manipulation

marginalized and strengthening national unity.

"The nation today faces challenges that directly target its unity, culture, and security - ranging from separatist ideologies and regionalism to disputes over caste and language and divisive tendencies incited by external forces," he said.

Asserting that India's soul has always been rooted in "unity in diversity", Modi warned that if this principle is broken, India's strength will be diminished. Therefore, he stressed the need to continuously reinforce this foundational ethos.

"Social harmony today faces a grave challenge from demographic manipulation and infiltration, which directly impacts internal security and future peace...this concern led me to announce the Demography Mission from the Red Fort," he said.

Modi also called for vigilance and resolute action to confront this threat.

Modi highlighted the contribution of the Sangh in nation-building and said it reached every corner of the country with the goal of fostering harmony by removing divisions of caste and creed and spreading the message of an inclusive society.

"The Sangh has fought against the atrocities of the British. Their only interest has always been love towards the nation," Modi said, adding that Sangh volunteers gave shelter to freedom fighters and its founder Doctor Keshav Baliram Hedgewar was also jailed several times during the freedom struggle.

The prime minister said there have been numerous attempts to crush the spirit of the RSS by levelling allegations and registering false cases.

"The RSS has never been bitter, despite attempts to make false cases against them, attempts to ban them, and other challenges," he said, in an apparent reference to the ban on the RSS after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

Modi said swayamsevak understood that they were not separate from society, but society is made of them.

"What is good belongs to them, and what is less good also belongs to them," he said.

Modi said even the then RSS chief Madhav Golwalkar was falsely implicated in a case and sent to jail.

"Yet, when he came out, he said with calm wisdom: 'At times, the tongue may get caught under the teeth, but we do not break teeth,'" the prime minister said.

He said one of the key reasons the RSS never harboured bitterness is the unwavering faith of every swayamsevak in democracy and

constitutional institutions.

The Prime Minister recalled that during the Emergency, this very belief empowered swayamsevak and gave them the strength to resist.

"These two core values - oneness with society and faith in constitutional institutions - have kept swayamsevak composed in every crisis and sensitive towards societal needs. Despite facing numerous challenges over time, the Sangh stands firm like a mighty banyan tree, continuously serving the nation and society," Modi said.

The prime minister also released a special postage stamp and a commemorative coin to mark the centenary of the RSS.

"The Rs 100 coin features the national emblem on one side and on the other side it depicts a majestic image of Bharat Mata in Varada Mudra with a lion, while swayamsevak are shown bowing before her in devotion and dedication," Modi said.

"For the first time in the history of independent India, the image of Bharat Mata has been featured on Indian currency, which marks a moment of great pride and historical significance," he said.

The prime minister said the foundation of RSS on Vijaya Dashmi 100 years ago was not just a coincidence but a resurrection of a tradition that has been continuing for thousands of years.

"The Sangh has been synonymous with patriotism and service since its inception," he said.

Modi asserted that the RSS believes in 'One India, Great India', yet post-Independence attempts were made to prevent it from joining the national mainstream.

The centenary celebrations were organised by the Ministry of Culture and attended by RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Founded in 1925 in Nagpur by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the RSS was established as a volunteer-based organisation with an aim to foster cultural awareness, discipline, service and social responsibility among citizens.

Modi was himself an RSS 'pracharak' and made a mark as an able organiser before being shifted to the BJP, which draws its ideological inspiration from the Hindutva organisation.

LG, CM Greet

unity, peace, and progress, and strengthen our spirit of harmony and brotherhood."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted that Dussehra inspires people to uphold values of truth, righteousness, and justice. "The festival conveys a timeless message of moral courage and harmony, which is vital for building a better society," he said, wishing the people joy, peace, and renewed spirit on the occasion.

Search Op

located near the International Border, the officials said.

They said the locals reported the movement of three suspected persons, including one carrying a heavy backpack, and accordingly, the joint search parties moved in and are conducting a thorough combing operation since early morning.

The search parties have not come across any suspected person so far but footprints

confirmed movement of some persons, the officials said.

The operation was going on when the last reports were received, the officials said.

Centre Hikes DA/DR

while briefing on decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting.

The increase is in accordance with the accepted formula based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

Centre revises DA/DR twice a year. The last revision, announced in March, was effective from January 1.

The Union Cabinet last month had approved a performance-linked bonus for railway employees.

LG Urges People

and strengthen local artisans and cottage industries," LG said.

He concluded by urging everyone to pledge to follow the path of truth and non-violence, promote peace, and work towards the holistic development of India.

Police Raid

reiterated that strict legal action will continue against individuals associated with banned organisations or attempting to revive separatist-terrorist networks.

Wangchuk's NSA

Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) backing the Leh Apex Body's (LAB) decision to suspend dialogue until Wangchuk and others were released.

Termining the release of Wangchuk and others as the key condition for resuming negotiations, scheduled for October 6, the two powerful organisations also demanded a judicial inquiry into the police firing in Leh that left four people dead and scores of others injured.

Gitanjali Angmo, Wangchuk's wife and co-founder of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL), has alleged that a "witch-hunt" was underway to project her husband as an "anti-national."

She claimed there was "no need to impose the NSA on Sonam Wangchuk" and asserted that authorities have not provided her with formal documents detailing the charges.

In a statement issued on Tuesday night, the Department of Information and Public Relations said, "The administration of UT of Ladakh would like to clarify a few issues in the background of a series of press conferences and media statements given by certain sections."

"There have been reports in the media of baseless allegations of victimisation of certain individuals, including Wangchuk, by government agencies. There is no question of witch-hunting or smoke screen," it said.

The administration said actions taken by the law enforcement agencies were based on credible inputs and documents. "The agencies should be allowed to continue with their investigation impartially without vitiating the process."

It said the case of financial irregularities and foreign currency violations by HIAL is under investigation by agencies. "Prima facie, there is evidence available, which merits such investigation."

Further, the statement said, despite knowing

that it is not a recognised university, HIAL is issuing degrees to young men and women, jeopardising their future prospects.

"HIAL did not make full disclosure of foreign funds in their balance sheets in the relevant Financial Years. FCRA cancellation of SECMOL is based on clear evidence of multiple violations (not just one).

"After observing these irregularities, appropriate action has been taken. There are established processes and forums available to appeal to the appropriate authorities, which the organisation can resort to," it said.

It said the government had already announced dates for talks on September 20 and had also expressed flexibility for dates, taking into consideration the convenience of the Ladakh leaders.

"Still, Wangchuk made multiple provocative statements. He gave the reference of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on several occasions from the Anshan venue, trying to incite the public, especially the youth," it said.

During an interview with Ladakh Express on September 11, the statement said, Wangchuk stated, "the youth are saying that they do not want peace and Mahatma Gandhi's path is not necessary. People are not scared of the security forces deployed, and if people come out worse may happen."

"Before starting his anshan, Wangchuk suggested (Sept 9) people to wear masks, caps and hoodies, etc., while participating in the protest, citing Covid as an excuse, though there is no sign of spread of Covid in Ladakh," it said.

He said Wangchuk, in a video uploaded on his YouTube channel 'Achoe Nyinstam' (a dedicated channel for the Ladakhi audience wherein he speaks only in vernacular), stated (June 8, 2025) that he would bring an 'Arab Spring' type revolution in India to overthrow the government.

"Wangchuk had suggested 'overthrow' of government on the lines of 'Arab Spring', if their demands were not met, besides putting forth the idea of self-immolation for instigating agitation for this purpose, as happened in Arab countries including Tunisia," the statement said.

On multiple occasions, the statement said he suggested self-immolation by Ladakhis on the lines of protests in Tibet.

Referring to the September 24 violent protests, it said even though other LAB leaders, including elders, rushed to pacify the aggressive crowd, Wangchuk made no attempts to ensure peace.

"When the situation was out of control, Wangchuk called off his fast and discreetly moved out from the backside of the anshan venue, thereby indicating his overall sense of irresponsibility," it said.

It said Wangchuk did not call off his hunger strike despite the government announcing the date of the next meeting of the High Powered Committee, although he sat on the strike demanding talks with the government.

"The government also expressed flexibility for dates as per the convenience of the Ladakh leaders. This irresponsible act of continuation of the hunger strike for personal and political gain is responsible for all the further unfortunate developments," the statement said.

As regards the grounds of detention, it said the same has been duly served to Wangchuk.

Any Issue Can Be

and prior consultations could have prevented tensions. "The central government had invited them for talks... Only through talks, things become possible," he said, appealing to the people of Ladakh to come forward and engage in dialogue.

The LG criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that his remarks on the Ladakh situation were aimed at "vitiating the atmosphere," similar to his interventions during the farmers' agitation and other protests.

The agitating groups are demanding a judicial inquiry into the September 24 violence and the release of detainees, including activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was booked under the National Security Act (NSA). Gupta said a magisterial probe has already been announced and will start soon.

A semblance of normalcy returned to curfew-bound Leh after authorities relaxed restrictions on Tuesday, reopening shops and businesses for several hours. On Wednesday, the relaxation period was extended further, though mobile internet remains suspended and prohibitory orders banning gatherings of five or more people continue across Leh and Kargil.

Gupta described the September 24 incidents as "tragic and unfortunate" and said the administration imposed restrictions and closed schools and colleges as precautionary measures. He assured that authorities are working to restore normal life and prevent such incidents in the future.

On criticism over Wangchuk's detention under the NSA, Gupta said it was a matter for the central government, and he is focusing on local issues.

PM, HM To Attend;

is likely to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said an official.

He said about 250 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP will attend the event physically while more than 200 others would participate virtually, said an official.

He said the special focus at the conference will be on Naxal-affected regions. It is expected to discuss ways to build further on these gains and chalk out new strategies. "Other key issues that will come up for discussions include internal security, cyber security, the fight against narcotics, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and border management."

The Union Home Minister has already set a deadline of March 31, 2026 to completely wipe out the Naxal menace from the country.

Notably, since 2014, PM Modi has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference. Free flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned in the conference.

The event will provide an opportunity to senior police officials to share their views and recommendations on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country to the Prime Minister.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. However, after the PM Modi led government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Intelligence Bureau, outside the national capital. (KNO)

J&K Bank Celebrates 88 Years With Tributes, Launches Cleanliness Drives

The Task At Hand Is To Take Our Bank To Next Level: MD & CEO

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Celebrating eighty-seven years of its existence on the Foundation Day, J&K Bank organized a commemorative function today at its Corporate Headquarters, which was chaired by MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and attended by Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General Manager Imtiaz Ahmad Bhat, General Managers, Deputy General Managers, and other senior officers of the Bank.

At the outset, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee fondly remembered the Bank's Founder Shri Maharaja Hari Singh and paid rich tributes to him along with the entire management for his vision and foresight.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "On this auspicious occasion of our Bank's Foundation Day, we pay heartfelt tributes to Late Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, whose vision and foresight laid the foundations of this financial institution that has been integral to the economic empowerment and social transformation of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and is on its way to become one of the best banks in the country. I really



salute his vision."

"It has been a journey full of challenges, but successes as well. And I think, we have travelled the path with utmost dedication and focus on economic growth", he added.

He further said, "However, the journey so far is half-way through. The task at our hand is to take our Bank to the next level. For that we need to continue the mission of socio-economic transformation in our core geography so that the initial dream continues to be realized. Besides, we need to place our Bank very prominently in the purview of

all banks in the country."

Highlighting the Bank's future mission, MD & CEO said, "Let's take the pledge today that all of us will put in our best efforts so that J&K Bank becomes one of the best banks in the country."

While acknowledging the role of earlier leaders on the occasion, he said, "They have guided the Bank well through all the difficult times, enabling us to dream of achieving greater things tomorrow."

Thanking all the stakeholders, MD & CEO said, "On this day, as we move forward with renewed purpose, I extend my heartfelt

gratitude to the entire J&K Bank family, UT Government and all other stakeholders especially our valued customers whose trust and emotional equity remains the bedrock of our journey towards excellence."

On the occasion, MD & CEO also launched the Bank's special audio-visual series 'Yadon Ki Jama Poonji - Season II' that will be featured fortnightly on the Bank's social media pages from today. The video series celebrates the legacy of love and unwavering bond of trust between the Bank and its customers and employees. MD & CEO also rolled out revamped eNewsletter - an internal communication platform of the Bank.

On the occasion, two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect in the memory of J&K Bank Family members, who have died especially in the line of duty.

Earlier in the day, the Bank conducted a cleanliness drive under the country-wide campaign 'Sewa Parv: 2025 - Together for cleaner and prosperous nation'. Led by Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, the top management team including CGM Imtiaz Ahmad Bhat, General Managers, DGMS, and other

senior officers, actively took part in cleaning surroundings of a water channel flowing near the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "Cleanliness is not just a responsibility but an expression of service to our community and environment. By participating in 'Sewa Parv', we reaffirm our collective duty towards building cleaner and healthier surroundings for society."

He added, "As the premier financial institution of this region, it is our privilege to not only serve people financially but also contribute meaningfully to social and environmental causes."

Meanwhile, similar cleanliness drives have been conducted across the Bank's operational geographies in the country led by the concerned heads. These drives were a part of the Bank's contribution to the national campaign for cleanliness and environmental care under Seva Parv 2025.

The day's events concluded with the leadership and staff pledging to uphold the values of the institution while embracing innovation and inclusivity in delivering financial services to its customers.

Ramban Doctor Suspended Over Misconduct Allegations

Authorities on Tuesday ordered the suspension of a doctor, who was subsequently booked by the police over allegations of misconduct with a female patient at a government hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

A female patient levelled allegations of misconduct against a consultant gynaecologist at the sub-district hospital, Banihal, triggering anger among people in the area on Tuesday.

The issue was subsequently raised by Banihal's National Conference MLA, Sajjad Shaheen.

In a post on social media, he wrote "I immediately spoke to the Health Minister, Madam Sakina Itoo, and briefed her about the incident, strongly urging strict action against the erring doctor. The minister has assured that exemplary action will be taken and such shameful acts will never be tolerated."

Shaheen also wrote that the doctor has been arrested following the complaint. Police has not confirmed that he has been arrested.

District Development Councillor Banihal and senior Congress leader Imtiaz Ahmed Khanday said that he met Health Secretary Syed Abid Shah in Srinagar, demanding the doctor's suspension and strict action. "The health secretary assured immediate action," Khanday said.

Later in the evening, the government issued an order suspending Dr Girdhari Lal Manhas, Consultant Gynaecologist at SDH Banihal.

"Pending inquiry into his conduct, Dr Manhas is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect. During the suspension period, he shall remain attached with the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu," an order issued by Health Secretary Shah said. (PTI)

Police Crack Down On SIM Card Misuse, Inspect Vendors

In a bid to bolster internal security and prevent misuse of mobile communication, Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out a special drive to inspect SIM card compliance across the district. The exercise involved scrutinising documents submitted during SIM issuance and ensuring that no SIM was activated without valid ID and address verification. Vendors were also assessed for safeguards against unauthorised SIM activation.

During the inspections, officials reminded vendors of their critical role in curbing misuse of communication networks for unlawful activities. They were strictly instructed to adhere to KYC norms and warned that violations could attract stringent action, including license cancellation and prosecution.

The police also urged the public to stay alert and report any suspicious activity or irregularities related to SIM cards. Emphasising a zero-tolerance approach, authorities said such inspection drives will be conducted regularly to maintain a secure communication environment in the district. (Observer News Service)

Pulwama Man Dies A Month After Pantha Chowk Accident

A 62-year-old man from Pulwama, who was critically injured in a road accident at Pantha Chowk in August, succumbed to his injuries at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar on Tuesday evening.

The deceased, Altaf Ahmad Pandith, son of Abdul Gani Pandith of Wuthor, Pulwama, was involved in a collision between his motorcycle and a truck on August 31. The truck, driven by Abdul Hamid Bhat of Khanmoh, bore registration number JK05B/9730. Pandith sustained multiple injuries and was rushed to SMHS Hospital, where he received treatment for a month before his death. Police have registered the case and an investigation is ongoing.

Road accidents continue to be a major concern in Kashmir, with experts urging stricter adherence to traffic rules, improved road safety awareness, and monitoring of accident-prone areas. (Observer News Service)

Infant Found Abandoned Near Railway Track In Kathua

A two-and-a-half-month-old boy was found abandoned near a railway track in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Wednesday, police said.

The infant was found abandoned near the Jammu-Pathankot railway track at Hatli in the district, following which police shifted him to a hospital where doctors declared his condition as stable, they said.

"Police brought a child to the hospital. The condition of the baby, who is under observation, is stable," a doctor told reporters. (KO Web Desk)

Mortar Shell Defused Along LoC In Rajouri

Live mortar shell was found in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) and was subsequently defused by the experts in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, officials said.

The shell was noticed by some villagers in an open field at Naka Panjgarian who promptly informed the police and army units deployed in the area, they said.

The officials said the experts of bomb disposal squad later safely defused the mortar shell which was believed to have landed in the village from across the border during cross-border shelling during Operation Sindoor in May. (Observer News Service)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) ZOOKA to (New name) ZOOKA BEGUM. In future I will be known as (New Name) ZOOKA BEGUM. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

ADIL

First Auto Rake With 116 Vehicles Sent From Haryana To Kashmir

KO Web Desk

ANANTNAG: The Northern Railway on Wednesday dispatched its first automobile rake from Manesar in Haryana to south Kashmir's Anantnag district, ferrying 116 passenger vehicles, including Brezza, Dzire, WagonR, and S-Presso.

According to the Railways PRO of the Jammu division, the train departed from Maruti Suzuki India Limited's in-plant Gati Shakti Terminal (GCT) at Manesar at 12:35 pm and is expected to reach the newly inaugurated Anantnag railway terminal by 10:00 am on October 3. The 850-kilometre journey will take approximately 45 hours.

The train will cross the world's highest railway arch



bridge over the Chenab River on its route to Anantnag.

This comes after the first-ever freight train carrying cement arrived at the Anantnag goods shed from Rupnagar in Punjab on August 9, marking a milestone in integrating Kashmir with the national freight network.

Officials said the Udhampur-

Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) has strengthened regional connectivity, improved logistics efficiency, and significantly reduced road congestion. Since August, several freight trains carrying Army winter stock, fruits, and other goods have reached Kashmir from various locations and returned with local produce.

Gold Hits Record High, Families Forced To Cut Back On Jewellery

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Gold prices in Kashmir have surged to a historic high of Rs 1.20 lakh per 10 grams, casting a shadow over the ongoing wedding season. The steep rise—nearly Rs 10,000 in just a few weeks—has left families grappling with skyrocketing wedding expenses.

"Gold has touched an all-time high in Kashmir markets. We are selling 22-carat at around Rs 1.20 lakh per 10 grams, and customers are struggling to adjust," said Ashfaq Ahmad, a Srinagar-based jeweller.

For families preparing for marriages, the surge has been a jolt. "My daughter's wedding is in the second week of October. We had planned to buy more gold, but with these prices, we are forced to cut down on jewellery purchases," said Rumaya Jan, a resident of Anantnag.

Brides-to-be are also reconsidering their plans. "Gold has always



been a part of Kashmiri weddings, both as a tradition and a form of security. But at this rate, it's becoming unaffordable," said Fatima, whose wedding is scheduled next week.

Jewellers report a slowdown in demand, with many opting for lighter jewellery, silver, or imitation ornaments. Fayaz Ahmad, another jeweller, noted, "People are either postponing purchases or adjusting their budgets due to the high prices."

Experts attribute the rise to global economic uncertainties and a stronger dollar, which are driving international gold prices upward and impacting consumers in Kashmir.

Ladakh Student Bodies Seek Judicial Probe Into Leh Killings

Demands Compensation, Release of Detainees and Media Accountability

Observer News Service

LEH: Multiple Ladakh student associations have jointly appealed to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for a judicial inquiry into the September 24 violence in Leh, which left four dead and dozens injured.

In a memorandum addressed to the Union Home Minister, the students described the incident as causing "profound grief and unease" within the Ladakhi community and emphasized the need for timely, transparent action to uphold justice and restore public confidence.

The associations called for an

impartial inquiry supervised by a sitting High Court judge to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths and injuries. They said a transparent process would ensure accountability and strengthen trust in the rule of law.

The memorandum also demanded dignified government employment for the bereaved families, substantial financial compensation, and full medical coverage for those injured. It further called for the immediate lifting of restrictions in Leh and the release of youths detained during the protests, including environmentalist Dr. Sonam Wangchuk.



Criticizing sections of the national media for "unverified and misleading reports," the students sought accountability and formal apologies, stressing that Ladakhis remain patri-

otic and committed to peaceful dialogue, but had been hurt by false portrayals.

The joint appeal was signed by several groups, including the All Kargil (Ladakh) Students' Association Delhi (AKSAD), Ladakh Students Forum JNU (LSF-JNU), All Ladakh Student Welfare Association Chandigarh (ALSWAC), All Ladakh Student Welfare Association Jammu (ALSWAJ), Student Educational Movement of Kargil (SEMOK), All Ladakh Student Association Kashmir (ALSAK), and Ladakh Student Welfare Society Aligarh (LSWSA). (inputs from KNT)

Maha Navami Celebrated With Devotion In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid chants of hymns and fragrance of incense, Kashmiri Pandits observed Maha Navami with traditional fervor across temples in the Valley on Wednesday.

At the historic Shan-karacharya Temple in Srinagar and the revered Kheer Bhawani shrine in Ganderbal, devotees have gathered since early morning to offer prayers to Goddess Durga. The rituals included havan, recitation of Durga Saptashati, and distribution of prasad.

"Maha Navami has special significance for us. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and fills us with spiritual strength," Rajesh, a devotee who attended the prayers at Shan-karacharya Temple said.

Families performed kankaj puja at homes, where young girls were worshipped as embodiments of the goddess. "This tradition connects us to our roots. Even though our community has gone through challenges, such festivals keep our culture alive," said Sumita, a resident of Anantnag.

The day also saw Kashmiri Pandits organizing community feasts at temples in Anantnag, Baramulla, and Jammu (for the displaced families). Cultural programmes featuring devotional songs and bhajans were held in various community halls.

"For us, Maha Navami is not just a festival; it's a reaffirmation of faith. It is heartening to see temples here filled with devotees, especially young children learning about the rituals," said Ashok Bhat.

KCCI Executive Committee Elections To Be Held on Oct 6

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has announced that elections for its Executive Committee for the term 2025-27 will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025.

According to the schedule, polling will take place at the Kashmir Government Arts Emporium, near the GPO in Srinagar, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The counting of votes will be conducted immediately after the conclusion of polling on the same day.

Officials said the elections will be conducted under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar

and the KCCI Election Commission. Observers from various government departments and banks will oversee both polling and counting to ensure fairness and transparency.

The polls were earlier slated for September 22, 2025, but were deferred following the directive of the DC Srinagar's Office via Letter No. DCS/ADC(PS)/Misc/2025-26/6084-92 dated September 20.

The KCCI has urged all eligible members to carry a valid KCCI Membership Identity Card, valid up to March 31, 2026, for verification at the polling station. The commission said this measure was necessary to guarantee a smooth and transparent electoral process.

MLA Demands Check on Unverified Social Media, Influencer Verification

Agencies

SHOPIAN: MLA Shopian, Adv Shabir Ahmad Kullay, on Wednesday, urged authorities to take strict measures against what he described as the growing menace of unverified social media activity. Addressing reporters in Shopian, the legislator said the trend of self-styled social media influencers had reached a level where it was "creating a mess everywhere and damaging the sanctity of information."

Kullay appealed to the Director General of CID and other concerned officials to initiate a thorough process of verifying the credentials of such individuals. He stressed that while social media is an important tool in today's digital age, its misuse by

untrained and unaccountable individuals has become a matter of serious concern.

"Many so-called influencers, without any sense of responsibility, circulate baseless and misleading content. This not only confuses the common people but also undermines the efforts of professional journalists who are committed to truth and ethics," he said.

The MLA said journalism is more than a profession and must be treated as a sacred responsibility towards society. "True journalists act as the voice of the people, highlighting their issues and bridging the gap between the public and the administration. But this noble role is at risk of being overshadowed by a flood of unchecked and misleading content," Kullay warned. [KNT]

India Welcome To Collect Asia Cup From Me At ACC Office: Mohsin Naqvi

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday said the Indian team is "welcome" to collect the Asia Cup trophy from him at the continental body's head office here as controversy around the champions being denied the top prize continued to rage.

In a post on X, Naqvi rejected reports claiming that he, at the ACC AGM on Tuesday, apologised to BCCI officials for his actions at the presentation ceremony on Sunday when he walked away with the trophy after the Indians refused to accept it from him.

Naqvi is also the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman and in-



terior minister of his country with a pronounced anti-India political position.

"As ACC President, I was ready

to hand over the trophy that very day and I am still ready now. If they truly want it, they are welcome to come to the ACC office

and collect it from me," he wrote. "Let me make it absolutely clear: I have done nothing wrong and I have never apologised to the BCCI nor will I ever do so," he added.

Ashish Shelar and Rajeev Shukla had represented the BCCI in the ACC AGM where they raised a strong objection over the trophy not being duly handed over to the Suryakumar Yadav-led side which beat Pakistan in the final.

Naqvi had told the BCCI officials on Tuesday that he was ready to give the trophy to the Indian team. However, no decision on that issue was taken in the AGM, upsetting the BCCI top brass further.

The BCCI will take the matter to the ICC which will have its meeting in November.

The two teams played each other thrice in the tournament with India winning each time, including the final. India maintained a 'no handshake policy' with Pakistan players during the event, infuriating the PCB.

The hostilities between the two neighbours are at an all-time high after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 Indian tourists were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

India had subsequently launched military action under 'Operation Sindoor' to dismantle terror infrastructure across the border.

Women's World Cup: No Handshake Policy For Team India Against Pakistan

Following the precedent set by the Indian men's cricket team during the Asia Cup in Dubai, Harmanpreet Kaur and her side will also not engage in customary handshakes with Pakistan players during their Women's World Cup clash in Colombo on October 5.

"The BCCI is aligned with the government and there will be no customary handshake at the toss, no photo-shoot with the match referee, and no end-of-game handshakes. The policy followed by the men will also be implemented by the women," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

It will also be closely watched as to who presents the toss in Colombo, with expectations that it would be a former player or pundit from a neutral nation.

The atmosphere will stand in sharp contrast to the 2022 ODI World Cup in New Zealand, where images of Indian players dotting over Bismah Maroof's infant daughter had gone viral. (PTI)

Gill Opts For Long Batting Session Ahead Of 1st WI Test

Skipper Shubman Gill had a long batting stint while the trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel returned to action for India's final training session here on Wednesday before the first Test against the West Indies.

With 754 runs in India's last Test assignment in England, Gill was India's most successful batter in his first assignment as full-time captain but the challenge for him would be to quickly switch from playing T20 cricket with the white ball to get into the Test match groove. Among the batters named for the two-Test series against the West Indies starting on Thursday, Gill is the only one with no recent experience of playing with the red ball while the rest of the others have had their opportunities.

Meanwhile, Bumrah, Kuldeep and Axar, who had taken a break from the team's first nets session held here on late Tuesday afternoon, were back to training with the red ball following their triumph in the Asia Cup. (PTI)

Australia Beats New Zealand By 6 Wickets In 1st T20I

Mitch Marsh blasted 85 from 43 balls as Australia beat New Zealand by six wickets Wednesday in the first Twenty20 international for the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy.

Marsh lit up a bitterly cold night at Bay Oval by hitting nine fours and five sixes as Australia surpassed New Zealand's total of 181-6 with 21 balls remaining. Australia hit 20 fours and nine sixes on a night of high winds and low temperatures. Marcus Stoinis finished the run chase with a boundary from the first ball he faced. Marsh put on 67 in 5.3 overs for the first wicket with Head (31), then added 68 for the second wicket with Matthew Short as Australia took the opener of the three-match series. The second match on Friday and finale on Saturday at the same venue are expected to be affected by rain. (AP)

Seva Parv Reaches Villages With Sports Activities Across Budgam



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam pressed ahead with its Seva Parv Activity Calendar by taking sports directly to rural and remote areas of the district. The calendar, which runs from September 17 to October 2, continues to see enthusiastic involvement from students, youth, and local communities.

On Wednesday, village-level sports events were organized under the theme "Village Sports Day", ensuring that even remote corners of the district became part of the ongoing celebrations. Volleyball,

kabaddi, cricket and other local games were conducted in different villages, drawing participation from young athletes and spectators alike.

The events were conducted under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, who emphasized that bringing Seva Parv activities to villages reflects the department's commitment to inclusivity, grassroots sports promotion, and community engagement.

The Seva Parv Calendar will conclude today on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, with a grand district-wide finale.

Adil Reshi Powers Royal Goodwill To Red Premier League S2 Title

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Flamboyant opening batter Adil Reshi smacked a 58-ball 106 to lead Royal Goodwill Cricket Club to a thumping 45-run win over Athwas India XI in the final match of Red Premier League Season 2 at Bakshi Stadium on Tuesday night.

After being put in to bat first, Royal Goodwill posted a mammoth total of 221/4 in the allotted 20 overs. Adil's incredible knock included 8 fours and 8 sixes, as he was ably supported by Nasir Bashir Kumar, who made 66 in 47 balls.

Athwas India had several senior J&K Ranji players in the team, including seamer

Auqib Nabi and all-rounder Abid Mushtaq. However, the stars failed on the biggest stage as Auqib went for 50 runs in his 4 overs for 1 wicket, while Abid gave away 39 runs in his 4 without taking a wicket.

Chasing a major total, Athwas India was bowled out for 176 runs in 19.1 overs. Qazi Junaid made 55 runs in 30 balls, while Pramod Chandila scored 59 in 38 balls. Unfortunately for Athwas India, the effort wasn't enough as they fell short.

Yash Garg and Rouf Bashir took 3 wickets each for Royal Goodwill.

Adil Reshi was awarded player of the match for his brilliant performance.



Record-Breaking Abhishek, Varun Continue To Top ICC T20 Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Rapidly-rising Indian batting star Abhishek Sharma widened the gap between him and the rest by achieving the highest-ever rating points, while Varun Chakravarthy continued to top the bowling charts in the latest ICC T20 International Rankings issued on Wednesday.

However, Pakistan's Saim Ayub has ended Hardik Pandya's run at the top of the T20I all-rounder rankings.

Abhishek broke a record that has lasted for almost five years by reaching the highest-ever rating 931 points in the ICC Rankings following India's title-winning run at the just-concluded Asia Cup here.

The 25-year-old overtook the previous best rating of 919 points, which was achieved by England right-hander Dawid Malan in 2020, the ICC said in a statement.

Abhishek only made his international debut last year, but has put together an amazing record amassed a total of 314 runs at an average of 44.85 in the seven Asia Cup games.

Chakravarthy remained the No.1 ranked bowler in T20I cricket after seven scalps at the Asia Cup, with teammate Kuldeep Yadav (up nine spots to 12th), Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi (up 12 places to equal 13th) and Bangladesh tweaker Rishad Hossain (up six rungs to 20th) among the big movers on the latest rankings.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001