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Protecting Hangul, Markhor is Protecting Life: CM Omar

Pledges early action on recommendations

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday pledged that his government will act promptly on the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Hangul protection and other threatened Ungulates conservation (2IHUC-25), so that measurable progress is achieved in the population of Hangul and Markhor before the next such conference is held.

The Chief Minister, who is also Pro-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), was speaking at the valedictory session of the three-day international conference at SKUAST-K's Shalimar campus.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of conservation experts, scientists, policymakers, and delegates from India and abroad, the Chief Minister assured that the State Government would treat the outcomes of the conference with utmost seriousness.



"On behalf of my colleagues in government, I assure you that the recommendations emerging from this conference will be implemented at the earliest. My hope is that when we meet here next time, the population of Hangul and Markhor will have grown significantly," the Chief Minister said. Recalling the words of eminent conservationist MK Ranjitsinh, he stressed that conservation is deeply tied to human well-being. "Conservation is not only about animals—

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Speaker Says Legislature is the Temple of Democracy

Attends 11th CPA India Region Conference at Bengaluru

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, attended the 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Conference held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The prestigious conference is being held from 11th to 13th September 2025 and was attended by Speakers and Secretaries from all States and Union Territories across the country.

The inaugural address was delivered by Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla.

Addressing the gathering on the theme "Debates & Discussions in the Houses of Legislature: Building People's Trust, Meeting People's Aspirations", Speaker Rather underlined the pivotal role of legislatures as forums of healthy debate and discussion.

"It is a matter of immense pride and privilege to speak on a topic that lies at the very heart of our democracy. The legislature is not merely a building of bricks and stones, it is a temple of democracy where the voice of the people resonates and the future of our

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Thousands Throng Dargah Hazratbal Shrine

Friday Following Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: With tears rolling down their cheeks and hands raised in devotion, thousands of devotees thronged the revered Dargah Hazratbal shrine on the banks of Dal Lake on Friday, marking the Friday following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) with deep religious fervour.

The shrine reverberated with emotional prayers as the head priest displayed the Moi-e-Muqaddas—the hair strand believed to be of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

As per the details, the sacred moment drew cries of "Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah" from the sea of worshippers, who had gathered from across the Valley to catch a glimpse.

"I have been coming here since childhood. Every time I see the holy relic, my heart

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CM Omar, Dr Farooq offer prayers at shrine

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday joined thousands of devotees in offering Jumma (Friday) prayers at the revered Hazratbal Shrine on the occasion of the Friday following of Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

On this blessed occasion, the Chief Minister also had the honour of

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PM Modi to visit 5 states from today

Will inaugurate projects worth Rs 71,850 Cr

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEPT 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting five states, namely Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar from 13th to 15th September (Saturday to Monday), to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of projects worth Rs 71,850 crore, according to the Prime Minister's Office on Friday.



Prime Minister will visit Mizoram and lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 9000 crore at Aizawl, at around 10 AM. He will also address a public function, according to the statement.

While in Manipur, he will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore at

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C P Radhakrishnan sworn in as V-P

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 12: Named after first Vice President S Radhakrishnan and strongly rooted in the RSS and the BJP, Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan brings with him a rich political and administrative experience as the 15th vice president of India, which his supporters believe will also prove handy in his role as the ex-officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Seen as a soft-spoken and non-confrontational leader, the 67-year-old Radhakrishnan took oath on Friday. He succeeds Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned as vice president on July 21, taking everyone by surprise. Radhakrishnan is the third leader from Tamil Nadu to occupy the coveted post.

Dhankhar was known for his frequent run-ins with the Opposition, and had even faced an impeachment notice from them.

Described as a 'Pachai Tamizhan' (true-blue Tamil) by well-wishers, Radhakrishnan was serving as the governor of Maharashtra when he was named as the vice presidential nominee of the BJP-led NDA.

On Tuesday, when he was elected as the

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Efforts Underway To Predict Cloudbursts Early: Jitendra Singh

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 12: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday highlighted the challenges related to predicting the exact forecasting of earthquakes and cloudbursts and said that efforts are on to study the contributing factors behind cloudbursts so that early warning can be provided.

"There is no exact forecasting capability for earthquakes and cloudbursts yet,

but we are studying the contributing factors behind cloudbursts. Typically, when there is humidity and heat at a particular place, it tends to become explosive (a trigger for cloudbursts). If we can identify these contributing factors, we can at least provide possible early warnings," Singh told reporters at a Vartalap programme organised by PIB here.

He added that the department has

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PNGRB proposes LPG pipeline for J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: In a significant development, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has initiated the process for laying a petroleum and petroleum products

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National Integration Tour Uphold unity: Prez Murmu to J&K students

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPT 12: As part of the National Integration Tour organized by the Indian Army, a group of students from Jammu and Kashmir had the rare honour of interacting with the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The interaction provided the young participants a unique platform to engage with



the highest constitutional authority of the country and gain insights into India's governance, leadership, and democratic values. The President urged the students to pursue excellence, uphold unity, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.

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HT EXCLUSIVE

A FRESH DAWN: NEW ERA IN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN J&K

Goods Train from Srinagar to Delhi Marks A New Ray of Hope amid Grim Scenario of Connectivity, Right Step on Right Time

Abu Hasnain

HT Special Correspondent

What is being well taken as a historic move amid very grim connectivity scenario and aimed at enhancing trade connectivity and economic development in J&K, Indian Railways has launched a dedicated goods train service between Srinagar and Delhi, marking

ing a significant milestone in the integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the national transport network. This development comes as the final leg of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) nears completion, bridging a long-standing gap in infrastructure and enabling seamless freight movement from the Kashmir Valley to rest of the country.

All the stake holders have wel-



comed this historic step aimed at boosting the Local Economy. The launch of the goods train service is being hailed as a transformative step by local businesses and economic analysts alike. One of the leading fruit growers from Sopore, Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh said while talking to Headlines Today "For decades, traders in Kashmir had to rely on road transport

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Protecting Hangul.....

it is about human survival itself. Protecting Hangul, Markhor, or any threatened species is essentially about protecting life and the delicate ecological balance we depend upon."

Sharing his personal regret, Omar Abdullah noted that despite living close to Dachigam National Park, he had never seen a Hangul with a naked eye.

"I don't want a situation where our children and grandchildren know these species only through photographs in books, like the dodo or woolly mammoth. That would be a tragedy we must not allow," he warned.

The Chief Minister underlined the need for synergy between academic institutions and government agencies to ensure practical outcomes.

"Unless there is synergy between academic research and government implementation, we risk losing magnificent animals like the Hangul. Every species exists for a reason. When they thrive, ecosystems thrive—and when ecosystems thrive, humankind thrives as well," the Chief Minister said.

Cautioning against complacency, he said that these species will not wait for files to move from one department to another. "We cannot afford bureaucratic delays. The findings of this conference must translate into action with urgency," he said.

The Chief Minister thanked international and national delegates for their participation and expressed hope that such conferences would be held more frequently.

The three-day event brought together more than 200 delegates, including eminent wildlife experts, conservationists, and biologists from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia. Participants shared research and strategies for conserving Hangul, Markhor, and other threatened ungulates of the Himalayan region.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister released a Vision Document titled 'Institute of Mountain Wildlife Sciences' and distributed awards and appreciation certificates to participants.

Others who addressed the gathering included Forest Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. Nazir A. Ganie, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Suresh Gupta and international expert Dr. Gonzalez.

Reiterating his commitment, Omar Abdullah concluded: "That is my hope, that is my belief, and I am sure that if we approach it the right way—as we saw success with Project Tiger and encouraging signs with Hangul and Markhor—that success will continue to grow."

Speaker Says.....

nation is shaped," he stated. Highlighting on the importance of informed deliberation, Speaker Rather remarked, "Debate is the soul of democracy. When legislators engage in meaningful discussions, people begin to trust the system. Trust is strengthened when we move beyond disruption to discussion, beyond personal attacks to policy analysis, beyond noise to nuance.

He emphasized that debates must reflect the real issues faced by citizens, prioritize inclusive growth, and create actionable solutions. "Every time a law is passed after thorough debate, every time a policy is improved through suggestions in the House, it is the people's aspiration being honoured," he observed.

Calling for responsible conduct of members, he said, "When debates are reduced to shouting matches, when discussions turn into walkouts, the message that goes to the people is not of strength, but of weakness. We must demand that our representatives come prepared, respect decorum, and focus on solutions, not stunts."

On the sidelines of the conference, Speaker Rather also held a meeting with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Stephen Twigg. The Speaker expressed gratitude to Secretary General for the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's membership in the CPA.

The Secretary General extended an invitation to Speaker Rather to attend the upcoming CPA conference scheduled to be held in Barbados in the first week of October 2025.

Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Pandita, also accompanied the Speaker to the conference.

Thousands.....

trembles with love and peace," said a 70-year-old Ghulam Qadir, his eyes moist as he leaned on his walking stick amid the throng.

Shazia Bano, who had travelled with her children from south Kashmir's Anantnag, shared that it is not just a tradition, but a moment when they renew

their faith and love for the Prophet (SAW).

Moreover, the religious clerics, delivering sermons before the congregational prayers, urged people to follow the Prophet's teachings of compassion, truthfulness and service to humanity. The faithful also prayed for personal well-being, their families and lasting peace in the region.

Quranic verses echoed from loud-speakers as men, women and children stood shoulder to shoulder, their eyes fixed on the dome of Hazratbal glistening under the hot sun.

Additionally, the security arrangements had been tightened around the shrine, with medics and volunteers assisting the elderly and managing the swelling crowds.

Abdul Rashid, a shopkeeper selling prayer caps and other items outside the Hazratbal shrine, said days like this bring life to their stalls. "People come with devotion and they also buy something sacred to take back home as blessings. It keeps our livelihood alive." (KNO)

CM Omar.....

witnessing the sacred glimpse (deedar) of the Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) after the congregational prayers.

He prayed for peace, prosperity, and happiness for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also accompanied him on the occasion.

PM Modi to.....

Churachandpur at around 12:30 PM. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. Further, he will inaugurate various projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore at Imphal, at around 2:30 PM and address a public function.

The Prime Minister will thereafter visit Assam and participate in the celebrations of the 100th birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika in Guwahati, at around 5 PM. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.

On 14th September, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of major infrastructure and industrial development projects worth over Rs 18,530 crore in Assam. He will lay the foundation stone of various projects at Darrang, at around 11 AM and address a public function. Thereafter, he will inaugurate Assam Bio-ethanol Private Limited, Numaligarh Refinery Plant at Golaghat, at around 1:45 PM. He will also lay the foundation stone of Polypropylene Plant at Golaghat.

On September 15, PM Modi will visit West Bengal and inaugurate the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference-2025 in Kolkata, at around 9:30 AM.

Thereafter, Prime Minister will visit Bihar and inaugurate the new terminal building of Purnea airport at around 2:45 PM. Further, he will also lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth around Rs 36,000 crore at Purnea and address the gathering on the occasion. He will also launch the National Makhana Board in Bihar.

While in Mizoram, he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 9000 crore at Aizawl. These projects will cater to multiple sectors including Railways, Roadways, Energy, Sports among others.

PM Modi will also flag off three new express trains, Sairang (Aizawl)-Delhi (Anand Vihar Terminal) Rajdhani express, Sairang-Guwahati Express and Sairang-Kolkata Express on this occasion.

"Aizawl will now be directly connected with Delhi through a Rajdhani Express. The Sairang-Guwahati Express will facilitate movement between Mizoram and Assam. Sairang-Kolkata Express will directly connect Mizoram to Kolkata," the statement read.

In a major boost to road infrastructure, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of multiple road projects, including the Aizawl Bypass Road, Thenzawl-Sial-suk Road and Khankawn-Rongura Road.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Chhimtui River Bridge on the Lawngtlai-Siaha Road, which will provide all-weather connectivity and reduce travel time by two hours. Later on, the foundation stone of Khelo India Multipurpose Indoor Hall for Sports Development will be put. Strengthening the energy infrastructure in the region, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of 30 TMTPA (thousand metric tons per annum) LPG Bottling Plant at Mualkhang in Aizawl.

According to the statement, the PM will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore at Churachandpur, including the Manipur Urban Roads, drainage and asset management improvement project worth over Rs 3,600 crore; 5 National Highway projects worth more than Rs 2,500 crore; Manipur Infotech Development (MIND) project, Working Women Hostels at 9

locations, among others.

In Assam, PM Modi will lay foundation stone for various projects, including Darrang Medical College & Hospital and GNM School and B.Sc. Nursing College.

At Numaligarh in Golaghat, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Assam Bioethanol Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) aimed at promoting clean energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. He will also lay the foundation stone of the Polypropylene Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) adding significant value to Assam's petrochemical sector.

In line with his commitment to a strong, secure and self-reliant India, Prime Minister will inaugurate and address the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference-2025 in Kolkata on 15th September.

Whereas in Bihar, PM will launch the National Makhana Board in Bihar. The Board will promote production and new technology development, strengthen post-harvest management, promote value addition and processing and facilitate market, export and brand development in Makhana, thereby benefiting the Makhana farmers of Bihar and the country. (Agencies)

C P Radhakrishnan.....

vice president, his mother Janaki Ammal fondly recalled the story behind his name.

"When my son was born, the then President Radhakrishnan was in office. He was a teacher, and I too was a teacher. In his memory, I named my son after him. At that time, my husband looked at me and asked, 'are you giving this name because you want your son to become the President one day?' After 62 years, just as my husband had said, it has come true," she had told reporters in Tamil Nadu.

Radhakrishnan on Tuesday described his election to the second-highest Constitutional post as a victory of the nationalistic ideology and vowed to work towards making India a developed nation by 2047.

He won the vice presidential election by bagging 452 votes, while the opposition candidate, B Sudershan Reddy, polled 300 votes.

"The other side camp (opposition alliance) said that this (election) is an ideological fight, but from the voting pattern, we understand that the nationalistic ideology has emerged victorious," Radhakrishnan said in his first public remarks after the win.

"It is a victory for every Indian; we all have to work together. If we have to develop Viksit Bharat by 2047, which means we should not do politics in everything, now we will have to concentrate on development," he had said.

A two-term member of the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore during the tenure of prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Radhakrishnan came close to becoming a Union minister, but had to lose out to fellow Tamilian Pon Radhakrishnan in 1998 after some confusion over his name by the then floor managers of the BJP.

Radhakrishnan joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as a teenager and rose through the ranks in the organisation and later in the BJP, gaining acceptability in the party and the state.

A member of the socially dominant and economically prosperous Kongu Vellalar Gounder community, he became the secretary of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit in 1996 and served as the party's state unit president between 2003 and 2006.

An avid sportsperson, Radhakrishnan was a college champion in table tennis and a long-distance runner. He also enjoys cricket and volleyball.

Radhakrishnan is considered an untainted leader with rich political and administrative experience for the vice president's office and this would also prove useful as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

"Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji has rich experience as MP and Governor of various states. His Parliamentary interventions were always incisive. During his gubernatorial tenures, he focused on addressing challenges faced by common citizens. These experiences ensured that he has vast knowledge of legislative and Constitutional matters. I am confident he will be an inspiring vice president," Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said after the NDA chose Radhakrishnan as the vice presidential candidate.

The Tamil Nadu leader is said to be held in high esteem across party lines in his state, resulting in the BJP giving him multiple gubernatorial assignments in Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra and Puducherry.

Radhakrishnan's candidature also seeks to disarm the Opposition of a key political narrative, as he is the first OBC leader from South India to be named for the vice-president's office.

An official profile circulated by the NDA projects Radhakrishnan as a leader who is eminent, knowledgeable and

untainted by any legal accusations.

Radhakrishnan's political innings started with his association with organisations such as the RSS and the Jan Sangh.

He took up student politics and has since used politics as a medium to serve the people.

Radhakrishnan's track record of holding electoral, organisational and constitutional responsibilities shows that he is set to create history as the vice president of India.

He was sworn in as the governor of Maharashtra on July 31, 2024. Before this, he served as the governor of Jharkhand for nearly one-and-a-half years.

Born on October 20, 1957, at Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Starting as an RSS swayamsevak at the age of 16, he became a state executive committee member of the Bharatiya Janasangh in 1974.

Between 2004 and 2007, Radhakrishnan served as the Tamil Nadu BJP president. In this role, he undertook a 19,000-km 'Rath Yatra' that lasted for 93 days. (Agencies)

Efforts Underway.....

also initiated programmes like the Himalayan ecology mission to understand these phenomena better.

Speaking on improving weather forecasting, Singh said there is a plan to establish a full-fledged IMD regional centre in Jammu, besides installing four more weather radars in the Union territory. At the programme, Singh also discussed lithium exploration in Reasi district and stated that the process will be restarted following a poor response initially during the tendering stage.

"Once exploration is carried out, we will know the actual quantity of lithium present. Several specialised companies exist in the country, but perhaps none have come forward so far. We will restart the process," he said.

Singh also mentioned the growth of startups in the country and said that India has risen to become the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with the number of startups increasing exponentially from just 350 in 2014 to over 1.5 lakh in 2025.

He highlighted the CSIR-Aroma Mission in Jammu & Kashmir, under which over 3,000 lavender-based startups have been established across rural India.

"These startups are not only generating substantial income but also creating employment opportunities, thereby transforming the lives of thousands of families.

He further said that Jammu can become a hub for the perfume industry if distillation facilities are set up here instead of outside. "We invite the private industry to join hands with us for this," he said.

Discussing international collaboration, Singh said, "There is a perfume hub in France called Grasse, a village famous for growing flowers used in perfumes. I visited Grasse and spoke with the Consul General there. We aim to add value to local products and better integrate the private sector in this mission." He also praised the media for playing a transformative role in shaping the science and technology landscape and highlighting issues related to the environment. (Agencies)

PNGRB.....

(LPG) pipeline to Jammu & Kashmir.

As part of its ambitious plan to expand the LPG pipeline network to the region, PNGRB has proposed a 230-kilometre-long LPG pipeline from Jalandhar (Punjab) to Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir).

To begin with, PNGRB has invited bids for the authorization of a petroleum and petroleum products (LPG) pipeline connecting Jalandhar in Punjab to Jammu in Jammu & Kashmir.

Documents reveal that the proposed pipeline is designed to operate with a minimum system capacity of 0.30 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) from its first year of operation and throughout its economic life.

According to the documents, the development of a common carrier petroleum and petroleum product (LPG) pipeline is essential to ensure a reliable, safe, and competitive supply of LPG from the existing Panipat-Jalandhar LPG Pipeline (PJPL). The project aims to connect bottling plants in Jammu's hinterland, thereby reducing road tanker traffic and

alleviating congestion issues originating from Jalandhar and beyond to meet regional demand.

PNGRB initiated a suo motu proposal for the development of the Jalandhar-Jammu LPG pipeline to cater to the LPG requirements of bottling plants in the region.

"After completing the public consultation process and holding discussions with entities and stakeholders during the Open House, PNGRB has decided to invite online Application-cum-Bid for authorization of the Petroleum Product LPG pipeline to be developed from Jalandhar to Jammu, spanning approximately 230 km with a minimum system capacity of 0.30 MMTPA, including common carrier capacity throughout its economic life," the documents state.

An analysis of the project by Deloitte estimates that the pipeline will generate savings of Rs 231 crore, eliminate 0.4 million road tanker trips, and reduce carbon emissions by 0.42 million tonnes.

The study further reveals that the pipeline project would require an expenditure of Rs 830 crore. (KNO)

Uphold unity.....

The meeting left the students inspired, instilling in them a stronger sense of responsibility, patriotism, and pride in India's democratic ethos.

Following their visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the group paid homage at the National War Memorial and visited the India Gate, reflecting on the courage and sacrifices of India's armed forces.

The National Integration Tour continues to play a vital role in fostering national unity, resilience, and pride among the youth, while deepening their emotional bond with India's heritage and aspirations. (KINS)

A FRESH DAWN.....

via the often-volatile Srinagar-Jammu highway, which is prone to frequent blockages due to landslides, snowfall, and political disruptions". "It is indeed a welcome step however we expect that more such goods trains will see the light of the day soon" added Sheikh.

With rail transport now operational, freight movement is expected to become faster, cheaper, and more reliable, providing a significant boost to sectors like, Horticulture (apples, cherries, walnuts) Handicrafts and Handlooms (pashmina, carpets, shawls) Agro-based products (saffron, dry fruits) "This is a game-changer," says Mushtaq Ahmad, an apple grower from Shopian. "We often suffer losses due to delays in truck transport. Railways will definitely help us reach Delhi markets on time and in better condition." Goods Rail connectivity is also of Strategic and Logistical Importance for fragile connectivity options available to J&K. Beyond its economic value, the goods train service carries strategic significance. It improves logistical preparedness in the region, reduces dependence on a single road corridor, and is aligned with India's broader aim of infrastructural and strategic integration of J&K.

With rising focus on multi-modal connectivity, this initiative supports the government's efforts to strengthen supply chains across the country, especially in remote and conflict-sensitive zones. Environmental and Cost Advantages Compared to road transport, railways offer a more sustainable and cost-efficient logistics solution. According to Indian Railways, the cost per ton-kilometer by rail is nearly 30-40% lower than by road. Additionally, carbon emissions are significantly reduced. "The green footprint of this development cannot be ignored," said a senior railway official. "Every truckload that shifts to rail reduces fuel usage and traffic congestion on national highways." Experts believe that as connectivity strengthens, there is a strong case for developing Kashmir as a logistics and Agri-Processing hub, unlocking long-term growth potential.

The goods train service between Srinagar and Delhi is more than just a logistical initiative, it is a symbol of integration, resilience, and opportunity. As goods begin to move more freely from the Valley to the national capital, so too might ideas, investments, and innovations. In a region long burdened by isolation and conflict, this rail line offers a track toward stability, prosperity, and national unity.



Major boost for health sector: J&K Govt allocates Rs 124.83 cr for diagnostic, critical care upgrades

Patients hail move, expect relief from travel, long waiting hours

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: In a significant step towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has announced an allocation of Rs 124.83 crore for key upgrades in the health sector, fulfilling an assurance made by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the recent Budget speech.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Health Minister Sakina Itoo, in a post on X, said, "As assured by the Hon'ble CM in the Budget Speech, we have allocated ₹124.83 Cr for key upgrades in J&K's health sector: CT Scan at GMC Jammu, MRI machines at GMC Baramulla, GMC Kathua

& GMC Rajouri, Cath Lab at GMC Doda, PET Scan at GMC Srinagar, and strengthening Telemedicine across J&K (80 units). We remain committed to stronger, accessible healthcare."

Currently, Kashmir has only a single PET scan facility at SKIMS Soura, which caters to thousands of cancer patients from across the valley. The installation of a second PET scan at GMC Srinagar is being widely welcomed. Meanwhile, a PET scan at GMC Jammu was made functional recently.

"This is a huge relief for us. Earlier, I had to wait for over a month for my PET scan at SKIMS. Now, with GMC Srinagar getting one more machine, patients like me won't have to face such delays," said Ghulam Nabi, a

cancer patient from Pulwama. Similarly, GMC Jammu currently has only one CT scan machine at GMC Jammu, leading to overcrowding. With an additional CT scan sanctioned, patients and attendants believe the waiting time will be reduced.

"My father had to be shifted to a private clinic last month because of the long queue at the GMC. It was both costly and stressful. Another CT machine at GMC Jammu will definitely ease things," shared Pooja Sharma, an attendant from Samba.

The government also plans to install MRI machines at GMC Baramulla, GMC Kathua, and GMC Rajouri, which will serve patients in North Kashmir, Pir Panjal, and Kathua. Until now,



patients from these regions had to travel long distances to Srinagar or Jammu for scans.

"Travelling to Srinagar for an MRI was not only time-consuming but also expensive. With Baramulla getting its own

facility, people of Kupwara, Baniptora, and Baramulla districts will save both time and money," said Mohammad Ashraf, a resident of Sopore.

A Cath Lab at GMC Doda has also been approved, a develop-

ment expected to save lives in the Chenab Valley, where patients often had to be rushed to Jammu in emergency heart cases.

"This will be life-saving for people in Doda, Kishtwar, and Baderwah. In critical cardiac cases, even a few minutes matter. Now, patients won't have to travel 180 kilometres to Jammu," said Abdul Latif, a resident of Baderwah whose brother suffered a heart attack last year.

It is worth mentioning that a Cath Lab at GMC Anantnag has already been made functional, and work is underway to start an MRI facility there by year-end.

The government has also decided to strengthen Telemedicine services across J&K with 80 new units, aiming to

connect patients in far-flung areas with specialists at tertiary care hospitals. "This will bridge the gap between rural areas and advanced medical care. Patients in border and hilly regions will be able to consult doctors without having to travel long distances," a senior health official said.

The series of diagnostic and treatment facility upgrades is being seen as a crucial step in reducing the dependence on private hospitals and easing the burden on existing government medical colleges.

With cancer, cardiac, and trauma cases on the rise in the Union Territory, patients and attendants believe these steps will not only save money but also save lives—(KNO)

'New Criminal Laws Exhibition' enters its 2nd day

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: The ongoing "New Criminal Laws Exhibition", organized by the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) at JK Police Public School, Bemina, entered its second day with continued zeal and enthusiastic participation from the public.

As per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the three-day exhibition, which was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of J&K on 11th September, aims to raise public awareness and understanding of the newly introduced criminal laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023.

Following an overwhelming response on Day 1 with over 4,000 students and civil society members attending, today on Day 2 saw an additional 1,500 visitors from various walks of life, including concerned citizens.

The exhibition continues to serve as an effective platform for engaging the public with vital legal reforms, promoting legal literacy, and fostering informed civic participation.

The closing ceremony of the event is scheduled for Saturday, 13th September 2025, and the general public is cordially invited to attend.

The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) expresses sincere appreciation to all participants and stakeholders for their continued support in making this initiative a success—(KNO)

Srinagar Police cracks down on sale of rotten meat

Six FIRs registered; flying squads formed; recoveries made

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Acting swiftly on the reports of the sale of rotten and unhygienic meat in the district, Srinagar Police, in coordination with Civil Administration and the Department of Food Safety, has launched a dedicated operation to curb the menace.

In the ongoing crackdown, a

police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said six cases (FIRs) have been registered against individuals and establishments found selling rotten meat in violation of public health and safety regulations, which include case FIRs No. 45/2025 under section 271, 275

section 272, 275 BNS of PS Bemina, 67/2025 under section 271, 275 BNS, 51 Food Safety Act of PS Batamalo, 102/2025 under section 271, 280 BNS of PS Safakadal, 73/2025 under section 271, 275 BNS of PS Ram Munshi Bagh and 48/2025 under section 61, 271, 275 BNS of PS Zakura.

A Flying Squad comprising of officials from the District Police,

Civil Administration and the Food Safety Department has been constituted to carry out surprise inspections across the city. During these inspections, significant recoveries of rotten meat have been made and the items have been confiscated and destroyed as per protocol, police said.

J&K Police reiterated its commitment to safeguarding public

health and ensuring that no individual or business indulges in activities that endanger the lives of citizens. Strict legal action will be taken against violators under relevant provisions of the law.

The general public is also requested to remain vigilant and report any such malpractices to the nearest police station or via helpline numbers—(KNO)

High Court dismisses 35-year legal battle of Pakistani couple, asks them to leave immediately

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a 35-year long legal battle of a Pakistani couple to allow them to stay in Srinagar and has directed them to leave the country forthwith.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) an 80-year-old man, Mohammad Khalil Qazi, and his 61-year-old wife, Arifa were residing in Srinagar since 1988 on Pakistani

passports. They had challenged a 1989 deportation order, claiming Indian citizenship and rights to ancestral property. The High Court ruled that the couple had concealed facts to extend their stay in India and must leave the country immediately.

The court examined records, including a school certificate indicating that Qazi attended a Srinagar school from 1955 to 1957. This contradicted the couple's claim that he was stranded in Pakistan after the 1948 India-Pakistan war.

The division bench, led by Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, noted that the couple entered India on short-term visas that expired in 1988.

The judges stated that the appellants had not approached the court with clean hands and had attempted to manipulate the system by providing false information to prolong their stay.

The judgment referred to recent legal precedents, including Supreme Court rulings warning against the use of falsehood in litigation. (KNO)

2 decades on, Bla's Qazi Hamam street in shambles, locals await action

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, SEP 12: The residents of Qazi Hamam in Baramulla here have expressed strong resentment over the decades-long neglect of the vital street leading to Ziyarat Dastageer Sahab, saying that despite repeated pleas to the authorities, no repair work has been carried out since 2004.

Locals told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the vital street, which houses more than 300 households, has been lying in a dilapidated condition for years, yet no concrete repair or developmental work has been initiated.

Despite repeated representations to the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department and Municipal Council Baramulla, the residents say the issue has been left lingering with only estimates prepared over the last five years.

"Only tall claims of development are being made on social media, but on the ground, nothing changes. This road has not seen any proper repair for decades. Every time we approach the authorities, we only get assurances, never action," said a local resident.

Muzamil Mushtaq, the Mohalla head, said that the lane was last repaired in 2004 and ever since, no official has visited the area to review its condition. "It is unfortunate that a street located barely a kilometre from the district headquarters has been left in such neglect."

Residents noted that the street provides access to Masjid Shareef and the revered Ziyarat Dastageer Sahab while also serves as a major connecting route for the entire mohalla. They appealed to the authorities for immediate intervention to avert further hardship and damage.

Meanwhile, the officials at Municipal Council Baramulla said the matter will be looked into—(KNO)

Kashmir apple growers distressed, say unprecedented fruit fall hits orchards

SEEK GOVT INTERVENTION, COMPENSATION

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Apple growers across Kashmir are reeling under fresh distress as large-scale fruit fall has been reported from orchards at the peak of the harvesting season.

Already battered by extreme weather, pest infestations, and transport disruptions, farmers say this unexpected phenomenon is pushing them toward massive financial losses.

For months, the valley's orchardists have struggled against prolonged dry spells, hailstorms, high-velocity winds, and diseases such as spider mite and rusting. Highway closures further choked the supply chain, leading

to delays and rising freight costs. Now, when growers were finally ready to reap the fruits of their year-long toil, the sudden drop in apples has left them shocked.

"This is the first time in my life I am seeing apples falling from trees like this," Abdul Rashid, an orchardist from Shopian, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "We worked hard the whole year, fought pests and dry weather, but now prolonged rain spells during harvest have caused the fruit to drop in large numbers. It is heartbreaking."

Growers say the fallen apples lose their quality instantly and are downgraded to second-grade produce, fetching extremely low prices in the market.

"We have faced weather and pest damages earlier too, but this sudden fruit fall is something entirely new," said Ghulam Nabi, a grower from Pulwama. "If it continues, we may lose a major chunk of our produce. Our families depend solely on these orchards, and such losses threaten our very survival."

Agricultural experts point to the unusual weather pattern as the main reason behind the crisis. Prolonged wet conditions, they say, weaken the fruit's stem and attachment, causing premature drop.

"Continuous rainfall during the harvest period leads to physiological stress on trees. The moisture imbalance in soil and air

directly impacts fruit holding capacity," said Dr Shabir Ahmad Dar, a horticulture scientist. "But we need systematic field surveys to assess the extent and suggest preventive measures for the future."

Officials from the Horticulture Department acknowledged receiving distress calls from multiple districts.

"While excessive rainfall seems to be the immediate trigger, we will work to find out other contributing factors like soil nutrition and orchard management practices," said a senior horticulture officer.

Growers, however, say the government must go beyond assessments. "We urge immedi-

ate intervention. The authorities should not only study the problem but also announce compensation. This season has turned into a nightmare for us," said Mohammad Yousuf, a farmer from Kulgam.

The crisis has cast a shadow over Kashmir's apple industry, which is the backbone of the region's horticulture sector. Employing lakhs of people and contributing thousands of crores to the economy, the industry was already struggling with transport bottlenecks and rising input costs.

Farmers fear that if the fruit fall persists, the valley's apple output—and their livelihoods—will take another severe hit this year—(KNO)

Border residents welcome LG Sinha's initiative to rebuild houses damaged by Pak shelling, recent floods

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 12: Residents along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir have welcomed the initiative of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to get the new houses constructed for families affected by 'Operation Sindoor,' the recent floods and terrorism. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observ-

er (KNO) the High-Range Rural Development Society (HRDS) India in collaboration with the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir will build more than 1500 houses for the victims of Pakistan shelling, recent floods and the terrorism. "We lived for years amid rubble and fear. The news of new houses being built feels like a sunrise after a long, dark night,

giving us hope for the future," residents of frontier areas told KNO over phone.

"Cross-border shelling destroyed walls, roofs, and the peace we once had. Hearing that new houses will be constructed for those affected by Operation Sindoor gives us hope that our children can grow up without fear of the next attack," said Fatima Bano from Poonch.

Residents in Poonch, Uri and Karnah Tangdar welcomed the announcement. Mohammad Iqbal from Poonch, whose home was damaged during the cross-border shelling in May, said, "Finally, we will have a safe home for our children after all these months of living in temporary shelters." "We hope the government begins construction of these houses soon. This is a much-

needed relief for border residents who lost their homes during shelling," he said.

Mehar Bano from Uri said, "Our house was partially destroyed during Operation Sindoor. This project gives us hope that we can start afresh without fear of the past returning."

Rashid Ahmad from Karnah Tangdar said, "We have waited for months for support. Many

houses in our area were damaged, and some residents lost relatives during the shelling. No compensation was provided earlier, so the announcement that new houses will be constructed for sufferers is a welcome step for us and will help us rebuild our lives with dignity."

Suhail Ahmad, another resident from Poonch, said, "The monthly health check-ups and

digital connectivity will improve our standard of living. It is not just a house but a complete support system."

Officials said the initiative is expected to be completed in phases, prioritizing families who suffered the most damage. The project has been welcomed as a major step toward restoring normalcy and security for those living along the LoC. (KNO)

Satish Sharma Joins Virtual Meet with Union Youth Affairs Minister on Sports & Youth Engagement

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 12: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Satish Sharma today participated in virtual meeting chaired by Union Minister for Youth Affairs to discuss issues related to youth engagement, sports development, and holistic empowerment.

The virtual meeting was also attended by Sports Ministers of other states and UTs.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Yasha Mudgal; DG Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta and other senior officers YSS also attended the meeting.

During the interaction, Satish Sharma highlighted the significant transformation taking

place in J&K, adding that sports has become a bridge from conflict to aspiration. He also briefed the Union Minister about the impact of the J&K Sports Policy (2022), which has laid emphasis on talent scouting, infrastructure development and creation of culture of health and fitness across the region.

The Minister underscored the role of flagship programmes like Khelo India and Ab Khelega Jammu & Kashmir, supported by UT Capex funding, which together are training and engaging thousands of young athletes annually.

Citing recent success stories, Minister Sharma drew attention to inspiring youth icons from J&K including Arjuna Awardee and para-archery champion, Sheetal Devi, who brought laurels at Paralympics, Asian Para Games, and World Champion-



ships; Chain Singh, Olympian shooter from Doda, who has represented India in several prestigious international events. He also talked about cricketing

talents including Umran Malik, Abdul Samad, Rasik Salam, Vivrant Sharma, who have excelled in the IPL. He also mentioned about Nasir Sofi, a young

volleyball player from Baramulla recently selected for the U-15 National Coaching Camp for China.

Speaking on youth engage-

ment, the Minister informed that over 70 lakh youth participated in sports and related activities during 2024-25, with the figure expected to rise further this year. He emphasized the department's role in channelling youth energy towards positive pursuits, thereby diverting them from anti-social and anti-national activities.

Satish Sharma also placed before the Union Minister several key suggestions for strengthening youth and sports initiatives in J&K, which include Special funding for Sports Research Centres and Academies, use of AI-powered technology for real-time performance tracking and monitoring of schemes, enhanced inter-departmental coordination and Public-Private Partnerships to create a robust youth-centric ecosystem, greater emphasis on sports sci-

ence, psychology, and medicine to enhance athlete performance, besides positioning sports as a career pathway, creating employment opportunities, and encouraging startups in fitness, equipment manufacturing, and adventure tourism.

The Union Minister appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and assured continued support of the Centre in strengthening youth and sports programmes across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma reaffirmed the J&K Government's commitment to promote holistic youth development, build world-class sports infrastructure, and bring national and international sporting events, making it a hub of sports excellence and youth empowerment.

Chairperson DDC Ramban visits Mahakund, assesses damages due to heavy rainfall

HT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEP 12: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan today conducted an extensive visit of Mahakund area of Sub-Division Gool to take firsthand stock of the damages caused by the recent spell of heavy rainfall.

Dr. Shan was accompanied by prominent civil society members. A large number of residents apprised her of the hardships faced by the community in the aftermath of the rainfall.

Dr. Shan inspected the extent of damage to private and public infrastructure including link roads, residential houses, agricultural fields, and other utilities. She expressed concern over the loss suffered by the people and emphasized the need for immediate relief and rehabilitation measures to mitigate their difficulties.

Interacting with the locals, the Chairperson patiently listened to their grievances who demanded restoration of rain hit link roads, compensation for damage of crops and restoration of essential services. She assured them that every possible support would be extended by the government to ensure that affected families receive timely relief and necessary assistance.

She further directed the concerned departments, especially the Public Works Department and Rural Development Department to speed up the restoration of road connectivity so that people are not forced to face isolation in the coming days. She also asked officials to prepare detailed assessment reports of the damages to facilitate adequate compensation and relief.

Highlighting the government's commitment to public welfare, Dr. Shan said that all line departments have been put on alert to respond swiftly to the situation and to work in close coordination with Panchayati Raj Institutions for ensuring smooth delivery of services at the grassroots level.

She also appreciated the resilience and cooperation of the local community in facing such natural adversities, while reiterating her commitment to continue regular field visits to monitor the pace of restoration works and ensure that relief reaches every affected household.

The visit of the DDC Chairperson was widely welcomed by the people of Mahakund who expressed gratitude for her timely intervention and personal concern for the issues faced by the rural population in difficult times.

DC Ramban Reviews Arrangements for Seva Parv, Poshan Maah Celebrations

HT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEP 12: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting of District Officers to finalize arrangements for Seva Parv, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar and Poshan Maah 2025 celebrations in the district. Seva Parv, a nationwide citizen-centric initiative, will be observed from 17 September to 2 October, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar will run concurrently, and Poshan Maah will be celebrated from 17 September to 16 October 2025 as a Jan Andolan to mobilize communities for improved health and nutrition.

The meeting was attended by ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, CMO, DYSSO, AD FCS&CA,

AD Handicrafts & Handloom, SDMS, DFOs, BDOs (virtually) and other senior officers. It focused on integrated planning for health, nutrition, sanitation, service delivery and financial inclusion across all blocks and panchayats.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination for the successful conduct of these programmes, which aim to bring governance closer to the people, ensure inclusive development and promote culturally rooted nutrition practices in Ramban district.

While reviewing arrangements for Seva Parv, the DC instructed BDOs and the CEO Municipality to launch Swachhata drives in all panchayats and urban wards, and to simultaneously conduct community plantation drives and

awareness campaigns on citizen services. He also asked DFOs to start community tree plantation drives under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Ek Ped Shaheed Ke Naam" to honour the nation. Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, and other educational institutions were directed to actively participate by organizing donation drives for books and stationary, undertaking school and campus beautification, and arranging voluntary extra classes for students.

The DC said Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar will promote women's health and well-being through outreach programmes, health check-ups, nutrition counselling and awareness on anaemia prevention, maternal health, menstrual hygiene and the active participa-

tion of self-help groups.

Poshan Maah 2025, themed "Suposhit Bharat," will focus on addressing obesity, Early Childhood Care & Education, Infant & Young Child Feeding and mainstreaming with activities such as BMI screenings, IYCF counselling, complementary feeding demonstrations, Poshan Chaupals and fitness challenges.

Emphasizing social outreach, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Social Welfare Department to engage with vulnerable sections by visiting old-age homes and orphanages, interacting with elderly persons, donating assistive devices such as wheelchairs and hearing aids, and organizing community meals for the needy.

To strengthen health services, the Health Department was asked

to organize health check-up camps, blood donation drives, and nutrition and awareness sessions under the Poshan Abhiyan across all blocks. Other departments were also directed to hold awareness and financial literacy camps on flagship schemes like PM-Kisan, Ayushman Bharat - PM-JAY, PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), PM Atal Pension Yojana (PMAPY), PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and other financial inclusion initiatives to empower citizens.

It was informed that a district-level programme will be held at the Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex Ramban, in sync with the launch of the national programme by Hon'ble Prime Minister on September 17, 2025, ensuring maximum community participation.

SSP Kulgam Flags Off 83 Students for Bharat Darshan Tour Under Civic Action Programme

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 12: In a commendable initiative aimed at fostering police-public goodwill and providing exposure to the youth, Kulgam Police today flagged off a group of 83 students for a week-long Bharat Darshan Tour under the Civic Action Programme (CAP). The tour was formally inaugurated at District Police Lines, Kulgam by SSP Kulgam, Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS, in the presence of DySP DAR Shri Mohd Ayub Rather and other senior officers of the district.

The group of students, hailing from various areas of District Kulgam, will be accompanied by five caretakers to ensure a smooth and well-coordinated journey.

Addressing the students, SSP Kulgam underlined the objectives of the Bharat Darshan programme, encouraging them to make the most of this opportunity by gaining a deeper understanding of the country's diverse culture, rich heritage, and modern



development. He highlighted the tour as a medium to instill values of unity, discipline, peace, and national integration, while also serving as a platform to boost confidence and inspire personal growth among the youth.

The tour, fully sponsored by Kulgam Police, includes all logistical arrangements such as air travel, AC transportation, comfortable boarding and lodging, guided visits, and more. The itinerary features visits to New Delhi and Chennai, where students will explore historical landmarks, reputed educational institutions, key indus-

trial establishments, and popular tourist spots.

To ensure the convenience and comfort of participants, each student has been provided with a complete travel kit including a tracksuit, sports shoes, cap, and carry bag.

The parents and guardians of the participants expressed heartfelt gratitude to the police department for such a constructive initiative, which not only provides educational exposure but also plays a crucial role in empowering the younger generation and guiding them towards a brighter future.

JKPICCA Applauds CM Omar Abdullah for Launching Rail Cargo Services to Rescue Apple Industry

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: In a much-needed relief for Kashmir's horticulture sector, the Jammu and Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) has extended its heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, for introducing special railway cargo coaches to facilitate apple transportation amid prolonged highway disruptions.

This landmark initiative—marking the first-ever railway cargo service dedicated to the Valley's fruit industry—comes at a time when apple growers and traders have faced mounting losses due to recurring blockages along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the region's primary lifeline for produce movement.

"This initiative is a ray of hope for fruit growers and traders who have suffered immense losses. The Chief Minister's timely intervention reflects his commitment to protecting Kashmir's horticulture economy," said Mohammad Arif Mir, Vice President of JKPICCA.

According to the association, the introduction of dedicated rail coaches for apple shipments to Jammu and Delhi fulfills a longstanding demand raised during a recent high-level meeting with the Chief Minister. The decision, hailed as "historic," is expected to significantly ease logistical challenges during the ongoing harvest season.

While welcoming the move, JKPICCA emphasized the urgent need to expand the scope of this facility. Given the scale of apple production in the Valley—among the largest in the country—the association has urged the government to increase the number of railway coaches to ensure smooth and timely transportation to national markets.

"Timely delivery is critical for price realization. With better logistics, growers can avoid distress sales and get fair market rates," said a JKPICCA spokesperson.

The association also reiterated its long-standing commitment to partnering with the government to strengthen the region's transport, cold chain, and storage infrastructure—critical pillars for sustaining and growing the horticulture sector, which contributes significantly to the local economy and employment.

With Kashmir's apple industry accounting for over 70% of India's apple production, experts say this initiative could be a game-changer if scaled properly and sustained beyond the current season.

Srinagar Police Continues Crackdown on Drug Peddlers: Attaches Property Worth ₹50 Lakhs Under the NDPS Act

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: In yet another significant move to combat the drug menace and dismantle the infrastructure supporting narcotics trafficking, Srinagar Police has attached a residential property worth approximately ₹50 Lakhs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The attached property comprises a single-storey residential house, constructed on land measuring 5 marlas and 68 square feet, bearing khasra No. 339 and valued at approximately 50 lakhs belonging to Waseem Ahmad Bafanda, son of Ghulam Ahmad Bafanda, resident of Lachmanpora, Dandrkha, Batamaloo. The action pertains to Case FIR



No. 1/2025 U/S 8/21, 29 of NDPS Act of Police Station Zadibal, in which the aforementioned has been found to be involved as the

accused person.

The accused person is a notorious drug peddler and he has a history of involvement in drug peddling, primarily targeting local youth, thereby posing a grave threat to public health and safety.

Investigations have revealed the aforementioned property was acquired through proceeds from illicit drug trafficking.

Acting under Sections 68-E and 68-F of the NDPS Act, Srinagar Police formally seized and attached the immovable property as per the due legal process.

The property cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise dealt with without prior approval from the competent authority. This development marks a

decisive step in the broader strategy of Jammu & Kashmir Police to dismantle the financial infrastructure of narcotics networks.

Jammu and Kashmir Police continues to prioritize a zero-tolerance approach towards drug-related crimes, aiming to safeguard the community, especially its vulnerable youth, from the dangers of substance abuse.

Srinagar Police urges all citizens to actively participate in the fight against drugs by sharing any relevant information. Public cooperation is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, and drug-free Srinagar.

Together, let us stand united against drugs and work towards building a secure future for our society.

LoP Sunil Sharma Visits Cloudburst-Hit Rajgarh, Assures Support to Bereaved Families

■ HT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEP 12: In the aftermath of the tragic cloudburst that struck Rajgarh in Ramban district on August 30, claiming five lives and leaving several families devastated, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Sunil Sharma, visited the affected area to express solidarity with the victims and assess ongoing relief efforts.

The cloudburst had resulted in sudden flash floods and mudslides, causing extensive damage to homes, farmlands, and infrastructure. The natural calamity has left the local community in mourning and in urgent need of support.

During his visit, Sharma met with the bereaved families, offered heartfelt condolences, and assured them of every possible kind of assistance to help them recover from the tragedy.

"We stand firmly with every family affected by this disaster", he said, stressing that the govern-



ment must ensure swift and adequate relief, and assured that he will personally follow up to see that promises are fulfilled, he stated.

He was accompanied by senior

district administration officials, police officers, and local BJP leaders, who briefed him on the current status of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation operations.

Sunil Sharma urged authorities

to expedite compensation for the victims and ensure timely rehabilitation for displaced families.

He also interacted with local residents and social workers, political leaders, listening to their

grievances and suggestions regarding the restoration of basic services like water, electricity, road connectivity, and education infrastructure disrupted by the disaster.

Highlighting the need for better preparedness in vulnerable hilly regions, Sharma stressed the importance of installing early warning systems and strengthening disaster response mechanisms to prevent such losses in the future. He called upon both the UT administration and the Central Government to extend all necessary support to rebuild the affected areas.

Sharma emphasized that long-term rehabilitation, including livelihood restoration and psychosocial support, must be prioritized to ensure a complete recovery.

Sharma reaffirmed his commitment to standing by the people of Rajgarh and ensuring that their voices are heard at every level of government.

Floods Underscore Urgent Need for Srinagar-Budgam Flood Channel, Encroachments Worsen Crisis

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Recent heavy rains in Jammu & Kashmir, including certain areas of Srinagar district, have caused severe flooding, significantly impacting residents' lives. Several neighborhoods were submerged, including Tayyaba Colony in Humhama, where water entered homes and streets, causing hardship for local residents.

In this context, a delegation from the Public Welfare Committee, Humhama, met with the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department Kashmir, Er. Showkat Hussain, to discuss the ongoing flood risks in the area and potential solutions. The committee highlighted that high water levels in the Jhelum River, Doodh Ganga and other streams badly affected Tayyaba Colony.



The delegation emphasized that the absence of a flood water channel has been a longstanding issue. Additionally, illegal constructions and unauthorized encroachments have obstructed the natural flow of water, exacerbating flood risks. The committee urged the government to promptly construct a proper flood channel and strong protective embankments from Humhama to Narkara, Budgam, to prevent future loss of life and property.

The Public Welfare Committee also expressed its gratitude to the then Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Er. Ambreen, who had earlier taken a courageous stand when a private builder attempted to construct nearly 300 flats on the flood channel land after obtaining permission from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

The Committee recalled that Er. Ambreen opposed the illegal construction project, insisting that the land belonged to the Flood and Irrigation Department and could not be allowed for construction or transfer. She pursued the matter before the Tribunal Court, which ultimately cancelled the illegally obtained permission granted by the SMC.

The Committee stated that Er. Ambreen had this honest and courageous officer not taken a firm stand at that time, the entire area would have faced catastrophic destruction in the recent floods. The residents acknowledged and appreciated her bold decision and expressed gratitude for her dedication to protecting the flood channel.

The committee further lauded the current team's proactive response during the recent floods, which played a key role in mitigating further damage. (NTK)

Ashok Koul Hails Parcel Train for Apple Growers, Thanks PM Modi & Minister Vaishnav

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Jammu-Kashmir, Ashok Koul has welcomed the announcement by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to start a daily time-tabled parcel train service from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar (Delhi), calling it a "lifeline" for apple growers and a timely intervention that will bring immense relief to the horticulture sector of the Kashmir Valley.

"This is a historic decision that reflects the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the welfare of every section of society, including the hardworking farmers and growers of Kashmir," Ashok Koul said in a statement.

The parcel train service, comes amid a major crisis caused by the prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44). This closure has severely impacted the transportation of apples, the economic backbone of the Valley. The move is expected to facilitate direct and reliable access to Azadpur Mandi, Asia's largest fruit market, significantly reducing losses and delays.

Ashok Koul appreciated the bold approach of the Union Government, stating that the rail connectivity solution shows how infrastructure development under PM Modi's leadership is being used to solve long-standing regional problems.

The introduction of this daily parcel train will not only save crores in losses but also restore the confidence of our growers and traders. This initiative reaffirms that the voice of Kashmir's people is heard at the highest level," he added.

Ashok Koul highlighted that the apple industry in Kashmir provides livelihood to over 3.5 million people and contributes nearly 8% to Jammu and Kashmir's GDP. He expressed confidence that this initiative would stabilise prices, reduce wastage, and ensure timely market access all critical factors during the peak harvesting season.

Calling it a "game-changer for the horticulture sector," BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul urged the farming community to fully utilise the service and assured that the BJP will continue to advocate for long-term infrastructure development in the Union Territory.

He also thanked the Indian Railways and the local administration for making swift logistical arrangements to ensure a smooth rollout of the service from Budgam Railway Station.

ANU president Ajay Piramal inaugurated Anant's newest building, faculty and graduate housing

■ Gulfam Barji

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: Ajay Piramal, President, Anant National University ANU, inaugurated Anant's newest building, Faculty and Graduate Housing, on 1 September 2025 in the presence of key members of the university leadership. The event marks a significant milestone in the university's commitment to providing a vibrant living experience for the members of the Anant community.

The newly built facility, designed by acclaimed Rushabh Parekh Design Studio (RPDS), has a built-up area of 26,475 sq m and comprises 172 apartments, including studio apartments and 1, 2 and 3 BHK homes. A true home-away-from-home crafted with care and attention to detail, the housing also features thoughtfully designed common spaces, a gymnasium, yoga room, café and a visitor's lounge. Ensuring safety, the residence is equipped with CCTV surveillance across all common areas and is secured round the clock by Anant's dedicated security team.

During the visit, Mr Piramal also



interacted with the faculty and students, encouraging them to follow their passion and use their creativity to design solutions for global impact, something that Anant National University prepares them for. He said, "India is a young country, and you are the future. You can

make a difference with your design thinking and develop solutions that are unique to India and globally relevant. Anant offers that opportunity and scope for you to create impactful solutions."

Anant is currently undergoing a massive infrastructural transformation, expanding over 1.5 lakh sq m to create a world-class learning environment. The state-of-the-art academic centers, equipped with cutting-edge technology, will ensure that students have access to the latest innovations in design and technology. What makes this expansion unique is the involvement of some of the world's most renowned architects, including BV Doshi/Rajeev Kathpalia, Bimal Patel, Rahul Mehrotra, Sasaki, Hafeez Contractor, Aniket Bhagwat and Vijay Arya.

With this expansion, Anant National University reaffirms its commitment to providing world-class infrastructure to facilitate world-class learning, while also contributing to the mission of Viksit Bharat through design-driven innovation and excellence.

Islam Teaches Peace and Harmony, Brotherhood is the Need of the Hour: Mohammad Tayyib Raza

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 12: The Joint Secretary of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Personal Law Board, Jammu, and General Secretary of Idara Islamia Fatimah al-Zahra Educational Trust, Ragoora Sidhra Jammu, Mohammad Tayyib Raza, in his message on the occasion of Juma after Eid ul Milad ul Nabi, said that Islam is a religion that spreads the message of peace, love, and brotherhood across the world. The true teachings of Islam guide

us to live with fraternity, equality, and tolerance, thereby establishing peace in society.

He said that in the present era, where misunderstandings are emerging among different sections of society, the greatest need is for people to understand the true teachings of Islam and follow them to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. He emphasized that social harmony and mutual cooperation are not only religious obligations but also a human necessity.

Mohammad Tayyib Raza fur-



ther stated that real development and prosperity in the world are

only possible when hatred, enmity, and divisions are replaced with love, peace, and mutual cooperation. It is the responsibility of Muslims, he said, to convey through their character and actions that Islam is entirely a religion of peace and harmony. If Muslims support one another in practical life and adopt love instead of hatred, the evils of society can be eliminated.

He pointed out that the greatest challenge today is that people are being divided due to various

reasons. In such a situation, the need for unity and solidarity is greater than ever before. Therefore, collective and individual efforts must be directed towards promoting harmony and brotherhood.

He appealed to the public not only to listen to this message delivered on Juma but also to implement it in their daily lives. Helping one another, supporting the needy, and spreading positive thinking in society are the real steps that can lay the foundation of a peaceful community.

DC, SSP Ramban Inspect NH-44; Review Traffic Regulation and Bailey Bridge Progress at Bhatti

■ HT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, carried out a thorough inspection of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) in the district today. The review focused on traffic regulation, road safety, and the progress of infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity and ensuring smooth transport movement. DySP Traffic, Sajjad Khan, also joined the inspection team.

The officials visited Nashri, a critical junction on NH-44, to monitor vehicular movement and assess current traffic conditions. The objective was to identify major bottlenecks, evaluate commuter hardships, and chalk

out measures to ensure smooth transit along this crucial corridor that connects Jammu with Kashmir. The Deputy Commissioner interacted with traffic personnel and local commuters to understand ground realities and gather feedback on existing challenges.

During the site visit, the DC held detailed discussions with district officers, traffic management teams, and representatives of concerned agencies. Emphasis was laid on improving coordination among departments, timely deployment of resources, and strategic planning to reduce congestion and enhance road safety, especially during peak hours and adverse weather conditions.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the significance of prompt interventions to ensure



hassle-free travel for commuters, transporters, and emergency

services. He highlighted that NH-44 is a lifeline for trade, tour-

ism, and essential supplies, and assured that the administration

is working towards upgrading its infrastructure and operational efficiency.

Inspection of Bailey Bridge Work at Bhatti:

Later in the day, the DC and SSP visited the site of the ongoing construction of the Bailey Bridge on the Karol-Maitra-Gool road at Bhatti, a critical alternative route being developed by the Army to improve local connectivity. The Deputy Commissioner interacted with Army engineers and project supervisors to review the progress of construction work, safety protocols, and timelines.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the Army and the technical teams for working under challenging terrain and weather conditions. He directed that all bottlenecks affecting the work and traffic flow on NH-44 be

addressed on a priority basis. Furthermore, he instructed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to take immediate corrective measures to clear obstructions and enhance road accessibility for uninterrupted travel.

The inspection also emphasized the need for real-time monitoring systems, quick response units, and proper signage to ensure safe and efficient movement of vehicles, particularly during landslides or other emergencies.

The officials concluded the inspection by reiterating the administration's commitment to improving transport infrastructure, ensuring commuter safety, and supporting all stakeholders involved in maintaining the highway's operational capacity.

HT EDITORIAL

Expose the rot behind rotten meat scandal

For the past one month or so the multiple episodes of seizure or dumping of rotten meat and chicken have cast a shadow on the non-vegetarian food items being supplied by different hotels and restaurants across the union territory. As on date the people are apprehensive about visiting a hotel or restaurant and ordering any non-vegetarian food. Same is the case with the takeaways or delivery service being offered by the people associated with the food and hospitality industry.

In the whole scenario the all important stakeholders are staring at huge economic losses and they are unable to come to terms in this regard. The hotel and restaurant industry is in doldrums and revival of the same seems to be a distant dream. There is no denying the fact that there are some unscrupulous elements that are hell bent on earning profits by any means but at the same time it must be kept in mind that most of the people involved in the trade are fair players.

Reacting to this disturbing development the Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association (KHAROA) has expressed serious concern over what it termed as the thundering silence of the government regarding the supply of allegedly unsafe mutton into the valley. The Association has said that officials of the administration created a misleading impression that the imported unsafe mutton was being supplied to restaurants and eateries of Kashmir. They said that this narrative was floated without any investigation, probe or establishment of a supply chain.

The KHAROA said that some enforcement officials in their apparent competition with each other resorted to arbitrary practices—declaring meat preparations as unsafe or rotten simply by touching them. The KHAROA office-bearers met with the authorities and pointed out these flaws, adding that no corrective action has been taken so far. It was demanded that the government name and shame the unscrupulous elements responsible. However, no names have been disclosed so far, creating confusion and mistrust among the public.

Since the KHAROA has demanded naming and shaming of unscrupulous elements it is imperative that the concerned department does the same at the earliest. This will expose the people involved in the trade of rotten meat and chicken and people will not visit the hotels and restaurants involved in this dirty trade. The sooner it is done better it will be for one and all and people will stop pointing fingers towards one and all involved with the hotel and restaurant industry.

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Women addicts: The silent half of J&K's drug crisis



Aadil Ghulam Bhat

The Jammu and Kashmir Police under the NDPS Act seized the houses, property and land of several drug peddlers reflects the administration's determination to the stance of strengthen its fight against drug abuse. The move is meant to signal deterrence — a message that those who profit from addiction will not go unpunished. But, being only confined to policing alone to curb the crisis, Jammu and Kashmir would not have been grappling with one of the highest rates of drug use in India as of now. The worsening indicators of jammu and kashmir points to a deeper problem: the reliance on enforcement without an equal emphasis on treatment and prevention.

What the data shows in 2022 national survey on drug use, conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It is estimated that more than 5.3 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir are dependent on opioids — the highest share in the country when measured against population. Cannabis use is also significant, with more than 1.4 lakh users. Within this broad picture, the numbers relating to women stand out for both their scale and their invisibility. Nearly 8,000 women are estimated to be opioid users, and more than 36,000

are dependent on cannabis. These figures may only be the surface, given the stigma attached to female addiction. In a society where women's suffering often goes unacknowledged, the actual burden is likely far greater.

The region's health infrastructure is ill-equipped to meet this demand. At present, J&K has 10 Addiction Treatment Facilities, 5 District De-addiction Centres, and one Rehabilitation Centre. Not a single one is designed specifically for women. Across India, over three lakh people accessed treatment in 2022-23. By contrast, J&K, despite being one of the worst-affected regions, lacks gender-sensitive services altogether. This is not a matter of oversight but of policy neglect. Without specialised centres and trained counsellors, women face multiple barriers: fear of exposure, lack of privacy, and social ostracism. The absence of female-friendly facilities ensures that many remain trapped in cycles of dependency without medical support.

The real question for the reasons of drug addiction in J&K go beyond availability of drugs or the weakness of administrative authority to tackle the problem. But, the indication shows that the Kashmir has lived through three decades of conflict, marked by violence, displacement, and family disruption. Unemployment, political unrest remains high, and opportunities for young people are scarce. Domestic violence and broken family structures further aggravate vulnerabilities, particularly for women. For them, addiction is rarely seen as a medical issue. Instead, it is treated as a moral failing that brings dishonour to the family. This perception not only

isolates women but also prevents them from seeking treatment even when services exist. The silence around female addiction is therefore not accidental but the outcome of entrenched stigma.

Seizing property or arresting traffickers is necessary to curb supply, but these actions cannot by themselves address the demand side of the problem. A public health emergency requires public health solutions. This means recognising that addiction is an illness, not a crime, and investing in facilities that offer treatment with dignity. The administration must prioritise the creation of women-specific centres staffed with female counsellors. Training ASHA and Anganwadi workers to identify women at risk can create an early support network within communities. Schools and colleges can play a preventive role through structured awareness programmes that go beyond one-time campaigns and instead focus on sustained engagement with students.

Funding mechanisms already exist but need to be used more transparently. The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) provides resources for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Yet J&K has not demonstrated either efficient utilisation or adequate reporting of these funds. Greater accountability, along with targeted allocation for women's facilities, is essential. Civil society groups and NGOs working on the ground must also be brought into the fold to extend outreach and break the silence surrounding women's addiction.

J&K's experience also highlights a larger dilemma in India's drug policy. For many years, the country has been

back and forth between seeing drug addiction as a crime and a health problem. Unfortunately, this lack of clarity has led to half-measures on both sides: weak enforcement in some areas, inadequate treatment facilities in others. The global evidence, however, is clear — countries that balance enforcement with comprehensive harm-reduction strategies fare better in reducing addiction and its social costs. For example Portugal's decriminalisation model, which combines legal reform with strong treatment systems, is often cited as an example. India does not need to replicate such models wholesale, but it must recognise that punitive action alone will not work.

In J&K, the stakes are especially high. Addiction does not only destroy physical health and mental health it also impacts the financial health, families and weakens society. It compounds the stresses of a conflict-ridden society. Women's addiction, left unaddressed and unnoticed and carries costs of negligence and fake promise of welfare. Neglected children, broken households, and intergenerational trauma. Ignoring this dimension is not only unjust but also shortsighted from a policy perspective.

In the end, that will not be what defines success—not how many people are arrested or how much property is taken away. It will depend on whether men and women struggling with addiction can walk into a clinic without fear of being judged and receive treatment as patients, not criminals. Until J&K builds a system that offers care alongside enforcement, its drug crisis will remain unresolved — and its silent half, the women, will remain unseen.

From Silent Voices to Kral Koor: The Literary Journey of Rayees Ahmad Kumar



Mohammad Arfat Wani

Rayees Ahmad Kumar, who was born in the peaceful village of Berigam Qazigund in Kashmir, is one among those few literary voices that do not write with ink but with conscience, infusing passion, sincerity, and responsibility in each word. A columnist, novelist, book reviewer, and occasional poet in English and Kashmiri, he is of the noble tradition of writers who do not come from profession but from a vocation, understanding writing not as a job but as a holy obligation. His own life shows dedication, humility, and a passion for learning from the humble Govt Primary School Berigam, to Govt High School Sopat, Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Anantnag, and Govt Degree College Khanabal. From there, he went on to do post-graduate studies in Political Science from IGNOU, did his B.Ed from Rehmat-e-Alam College of Education Anantnag, and is now doing an M.Sc. from IGNOU, and this exemplifies the spirit of lifelong learning. He developed his passion for newspapers from an early age when as a child he looked forward to his father or grandfather getting one home, reading articles and columns with an avidity as if they were treasures, sowing the seed of a passion that soon blossomed into a devotion towards literature. His first article was published in Aash, the annual magazine of Govt BHSS Anantnag, followed by regular contributions to Verinag, the annual magazine of Govt Degree College Khanabal, and soon his essays and columns began to get space in local and national dailies, usually responding to social, cultural, and educational problems with clearness and moral seriousness. A nature lover and a peace seeker, he employs language as tools of consciousness and change, hoping that literature should resonate both with the heart and with the conscience, and among his eminent works, Silent Voices and Kral Koor (Potter's Daughter) are landmarks of his literary journey, worth not only reading but also being celebrated.

Silent Voices: A brief overview

Released in 2023 by Shrihind Publications, Silent Voices (ISBN 978-93-92759-25-3) is a volume of twenty-four poems that glows like a dim lamp in the shadows of indifference, a unique Kashmiri voice in English literature. Its foreword is prose poetry, reminding readers that poetry is not a mere beautification of



language but a healing energy that can reach conscience and evoke compassion. Poetry is for Kumar the language of isolation, an exchange between soul and Creator, a whisper of feelings too profound to be uttered in everyday language. Influenced by literary titans like Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Keats, Donne, and Shelley, he places himself in their line while staying anchored in Kashmir. His poetic odyssey had its start in school, when he recited poetry with emotion, finding in poetry both a friend in loneliness and a source of lucidity, perception, and ethical insight. Dedicated to his deceased grandfather Haji Habibullah Kumar, whose love still leads him, the book is greater than an anthology; it is a temple of thanks and remembrance. In poems such as Chinar and Autumn, Kumar pays tribute to Kashmir's natural beauty, whereas Desperation and Predicament exhibit human vulnerability. Spiritual tribute is offered in poems such as Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (RA) and Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA), whereas Barn Swallow and Tiger allow nature to speak for itself, and Mart and Gravedigger reveal greed and tragedy. Humanity Lost laments moral decay, Mother's Pain resonates perpetual maternal sorrow, and cultural wealth is witnessed in Chilliah-Kalan, Kangri, Pheran, and Kashmir the Paradise. Universally relatable concepts of love, knowledge, and endurance shine in Freedom, Spring, Woman, Teacher, Solacer, Song of Love, and Childhood, while the one on the Covid pandemic reflects tragedy with the healing break given to nature. Kumar's recourse to simple English makes complex thoughts reach out, intermingling Kashmiri essence with human universality, making Silent Voices a repository of memory, conscience, hope, and culture, unifying aesthetic pleasure with moral insight.

Kral Koor (Potter's Daughter): A concise overview
Kral Koor (Potter's Daughter), published for the first time in 2021 by INK LINKS Publishing House, Pampore, reflects his social conscience. Committed

to his parents, late grandfather, and daughter, it tells a tale of gratitude beset by tragedy. Set in a tiny village outside Anantnag, it tracks the life of the potter, Mushtaq, his wife Jabeena, and their daughter Fozia. The potter's wheel as an allegory for patience, fate, and the dainty molding of life captures the theme of this film. Fozia, a smart and aspiring girl aspiring to be a doctor or scientist, is the product of her parents' sacrifices, but whose aspirations are dampened by tradition and societal pressure. Tainted "Kral Koor" because of her family history, she is subject to caste discrimination and patriarchal brutality, especially in the house of her in-laws where barrenness and ardor for a male child are prominent, evidencing the prevalent ignorance on scientific realities on the issue of child sex determination. Fozia's tragic suicide surprises the reader and stands for millions of silenced women, as her in-laws' house being burnt and her weeping parents killed heighten the tragedy, yet Kumar's account is realistic, dialogue true to life, and cultural setting vibrant. The title is reversed from abuse to symbol of dignity; Fozia emerges as a symbol of resistance and social consciousness, as a universal icon of girls battered by poverty and prejudice. Kral Koor is not just fiction; it is a social document retaining the life of potters, revealing caste-based discrimination, critiquing patriarchy, and forcing reader to debate their own conscience, leaving an indelible mark on society.

Conclusion: A Voice of Conscience

Silent Voices and Kral Koor combined make Rayees Ahmad Kumar a writer of moral depth, lyrical sensitivity, and social responsibility. His poetry stirs the conscience, his fiction exposes society's wounds, and his columns evoke cultural and educational awareness. Situated in Kashmiri soil but universal in appeal, his works prove that literature is not merely for pleasure but for remembrance, justice, and compassion as well. Kumar is a chronicler of his times, a witness to emotion, and a torchbearer of conscience. His own path from a village boy soaking up newspapers to a writer whose words adorn national pages is itself a tale of inspiration. Through his books, he challenges us to remember that voiceless voices need to be heard, untold stories need to be heard, and truth, no matter how painful, needs to be written, stored, and shared. Silent Voices and Kral Koor are living proof of the literary capacity to provoke empathy, resist injustice, and rejoice in resilience, establishing Rayees Ahmad Kumar as an outstanding figure in modern Kashmiri and Indian literature.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. His email address is wania6817@gmail.com

Mohan Bhagwat Ji has always been a strong votary of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat': PM Modi



This day evokes two contrasting remembrances. The first dates back to 1893, when Swami Vivekananda delivered his iconic Chicago address. With the few words, "Sisters and Brothers of America," he won the hearts of thousands present in the hall. He introduced the timeless spiritual heritage of India and the emphasis on universal brotherhood to the world stage. The second is the gruesome 9/11 attacks, when this very principle came under attack thanks to the menace of terrorism and radicalism.

There is something else about this day which is noteworthy. Today is the birthday of a personality who, inspired by the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, has dedicated his entire life to societal transformation and strengthening the spirit of harmony and fraternity. For lakhs of people associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, he is respectfully referred to as Param Pujya Sarsanghchalak. Yes, I am referring to Shri Mohan Bhagwat Ji, whose 75th birthday is, incidentally, falling in the same year when the RSS marks its centenary. I would like to convey my best wishes to him and pray for his long and healthy life.

My association with Mohan Ji's family has been very deep. I have had the good fortune of working closely with Mohan Ji's father, the late Madhukarrao Bhagwat Ji. I have written extensively about him in my book, Jyotipunj. Along with his association with the legal world, he devoted himself to nation-building. He played a pivotal role in strengthening the RSS across Gujarat. Such was Madhukarrao Ji's passion towards nation-building that it groomed his son, Mohanrao, to work towards India's regeneration. It is as if Parasmani Madhukarrao prepared another Parasmani in Mohanrao.

Mohan Ji became a Pracharak in the mid-1970s. Upon hearing the word 'Pracharak', one may mistakenly think it refers to someone who is simply doing Prachar or campaigning, propagating ideas. But, those familiar with the working of the RSS understand that the Pracharak tradition is at the core of the organisation's work. Over the last hundred years, thousands of young people, inspired by a patriotic zeal, have left their homes and families to dedicate their lives to realising the mission of India First.

His early years in the RSS coincided with a very dark period of Indian history. This was the time the draconian Emergency was imposed by the then Congress government. For every person who cherished democratic principles and wanted India to prosper, it was natural to strengthen the anti-Emergency movement. This is exactly what Mohan Ji and countless RSS Swayamsevaks did. He worked extensively in rural and backward areas of Maharashtra, especially Vidarbha. This shaped his understanding of the challenges faced by the poor and downtrodden.

Over the years, Bhagwat Ji held various positions in the RSS. He performed each and every one of those duties with great dexterity. Mohan Ji's years as the head of the Akhil Bharatiya Shariik Pramukh during the 1990s are still fondly remembered by many Swayamsevaks. During this period, he spent considerable time working in the villages of Bihar. These experiences further deepened his connect with grassroots issues. In 2000, he became the Sarkaryawah and here too, he brought his unique way of working, handling the most complex of



situations with ease and precision. In 2009, he became the Sarsanghchalak and continues to work with great vibrancy.

Being Sarsanghchalak is more than an organisational responsibility. Extraordinary individuals have defined this role through personal sacrifice, clarity of purpose and unshakable commitment to Maa Bharti. Mohan Ji, in addition to doing full justice to the enormity of the responsibility, has also brought to it his own strength, intellectual depth and empathetic leadership, all of which is inspired by the principle of Nation First.

If I can think of two attributes Mohan Ji has held close to his heart and imbibed in his work style, they are continuity and adaptation. He has always steered the Organisation through very complex currents, never compromising on the core ideology we are all proud of and at the same time addressing the evolving needs of society. He has a natural connect with the youth and thus, has always focussed on integrating more youngsters with the Sangh Parivar. He is often seen engaging in public discourse and interacting with people, which has been very beneficial in today's dynamic and digital world.

Broadly speaking, Bhagwat Ji's tenure will be considered the most transformative period in the

100-year journey of the RSS. From the change in uniform to the modifications in the Shiksha Vargs (training camps), several significant changes occurred under his leadership.

I particularly remember Mohan Ji's efforts during the COVID period, when humanity battled a once in a lifetime pandemic. In those times, continuing the traditional RSS activities became challenging. Mohan Ji suggested increased usage of technology. In the context of the global challenges, he remained connected with global perspectives while developing institutional frameworks.

At that time, all Swayamsevaks made every possible effort to reach out to those in need, while ensuring the safety of themselves and others. Medical camps were organised in several places. We also lost many of our hardworking Swayamsevaks, but such was the inspiration of Mohan Ji that their determination never wavered.

Earlier this year, during the inauguration of the Madhav Netra Chikitsalaya in Nagpur, I had remarked that the RSS is like an Akshayavat, an eternal banyan tree that energises the national culture and collective consciousness of our nation. The roots of this Akshayavat are deep and strong because they are anchored in values. The dedication with which

Mohan Bhagwat Ji has committed himself to nurturing and advancing these values is truly inspirational.

Another admirable quality of Mohan Ji's personality is his soft-spoken nature. He is blessed with an exceptional ability to listen. This trait ensures a deeper perspective and also brings a sense of sensitivity and dignity to his persona and leadership.

Here, I also want to write about the keen interest he has always shown towards various mass movements. From Swachh Bharat Mission to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, he always urges the entire RSS family to add vigour through these movements. In order to further social well-being, Mohan Ji has given the 'Panch Parivartan', which includes social harmony, family values, environmental awareness, national selfhood and civic duties. These can inspire Indians from all walks of life. Every Swayamsevak dreams of seeing a strong and prosperous nation. To realise this dream, what is required is both clear vision and decisive action. Mohan Ji embodies both these qualities in abundance.

Bhagwat Ji has always been a strong votary of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', a firm believer in India's diversity and the celebration of so many different cultures and traditions that are a part of our land.

Beyond his busy schedule, Mohan Ji has always found time to pursue passions like music and singing. Few people know that he is very versatile in various Indian musical instruments. His passion for reading can be seen in several of his speeches and interactions.

This year, in a few days from now, the RSS turns 100. It is also a pleasant coincidence that this year, Vijaya Dashami, Gandhi Jayanti, Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti and the RSS centenary celebrations are on the same day. It will be a historic milestone for lakhs of people associated with the RSS in India and the world. And, we have a very wise and hardworking Sarsanghchalak Mohan Ji, steering the organisation in these times. I will conclude by saying that Mohan Ji is a living example of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, showing that when we rise above boundaries and consider everyone as our own, it strengthens trust, brotherhood and equality in society. I once again wish Mohan Ji a long and healthy life in service of Maa Bharti.

PIB

THE ALOPECIA



■ Surinderpal Singh

Alopecia which is commonly known as hair loss is a medical condition that affects millions of individuals worldwide. The term alopecia refers to the partial or complete absence of hair from areas of the body where it normally grows particularly the scalp. Hair loss is not only a matter of physical concern but it also affects the individuals psychologically and socially. The alopecia could affect the self-esteem and overall quality of life.

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF ALOPECIA

Alopecia is classified into several types the most common being:

1. Androgenetic Alopecia (AGA):
It is also known as male or female pattern baldness and is the most prevalent form of hair loss primarily caused by genetic predisposition and hormonal imbalances, specifically increased sensitivity of hair follicles to dihydrotestosterone (DHT).

2. Alopecia Areata (AA):
An autoimmune condition in which the immune system mistakenly attacks hair follicles, leading to well-circum-

scribed patches of hair loss.

3. Telogen Effluvium (TE):
It is characterized by widespread thinning of hair due to stressors such as illness, surgery, medication or nutritional deficiencies, which shift hair follicles prematurely into the telogen (resting) phase.

4. Cicatricial Alopecia:
It involves scarring of hair follicles, leading to permanent hair loss, typically associated with inflammatory skin disorders.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY
Hair growth occurs in a cyclical process involving three phases:

Anagen (growth phase):
This phase would last for several years in where active hair production occurs.

Catagen (transitional phase):
This is a short period where growth of hair ceases.

Telogen (resting phase):
The prominent feature of this phase are th hair detaches and eventually falls out.

In alopecia there are many factors such as genetic susceptibility, immune dysregulation, hormonal imbalances and environmental stressors who plays a vital role in disrupting the normal hair cycle, either shortening the anagen phase or accelerating the transition to the telogen phase.

CONVENTIONAL TREATMENTS
The current medical treatments for

curing alopecia include pharmacological agents such as minoxidil (a topical vasodilator) and finasteride (a 5-alpha reductase inhibitor), as well as advanced interventions like platelet-rich plasma (PRP) therapy and hair transplantation surgery. Although these therapies are effective for many, these treatments may have side effects and are not universally accessible due to cost or contraindications.

NATURAL APPROACHES TO MANAGE ALOPECIA

With growing public interest in holistic health many natural remedies for treatment of alopecia have gained attention. Although rigorous scientific studies for these remain limited, several natural interventions show promise either through anecdotal evidence or preliminary research.

1. Nutritional Interventions
Biotin (Vitamin B7):
Biotics are essential for keratin production, the biotin supplementation may improve hair strength and reduce shedding in cases linked to deficiency.

Zinc and Iron:
The deficiencies in these minerals are commonly linked to telogen effluvium. Hence Zinc and iron supplementation can restore normal hair cycles.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids:
Omega-3 fatty acids are found in flaxseed and fish oil and in they possess anti-inflammatory properties that may support scalp health.

2. Herbal Remedies
Aloe Vera (Aloe barbadensis):
Aloe Vera is known for soothing properties, it may reduce scalp inflammation and improve hair follicle health.

Green Tea Extract (Camellia sinensis):
Green tea extract are rich in polyphenols, especially epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), green tea may inhibit 5-alpha reductase and promote hair growth.

3. Scalp Massage and Essential Oils
Regular scalp massage enhances local blood circulation, promoting nutrient delivery to hair follicles.

Essential oils such as rosemary oil and peppermint oil have demonstrated potential in stimulating hair growth through vasodilation and anti-inflammatory effects.

A small controlled study found that rosemary oil applied topically over several months improved hair count comparable to minoxidil in androgenetic alopecia.

4. Stress Management
Psychological stress is a well-established trigger for telogen effluvium and alopecia areata. Techniques such as mindfulness meditation, yoga and biofeedback therapy can modulate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, potentially reducing the hair loss.

5. Lifestyle Factors

Adequate sleep hygiene, avoidance of harsh chemical hair treatments and protection from environmental pollutants are important preventative measures. A balanced diet rich in vitamins, proteins and antioxidants is essential for overall hair health.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Despite the popularity of natural treatments they fails to deliver the best results due to lack of scientific studies. Most existing studies are small-scale or observational. There is a need for systematic research to establish standardized dosages, safety profiles and long-term effectiveness of natural interventions.

Alopecia represents a complex interplay of genetic, immunological and environmental factors. While conventional pharmacological treatments remain the mainstay of clinical practice, natural remedies offer complementary approaches that are increasingly appealing due to their minimal side effect profile and accessibility. Integrative strategies combining nutrition, herbal remedies, stress management and lifestyle adjustments may improve patient outcomes. Healthcare professionals should guide patients toward evidence-based natural therapies, recognizing the need for further scientific validation.

The author is a Faculty in Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib Pubjab



Alopecia areata



Anagen effluvium



Telogen effluvium



Traction Alopecia



Androgenic Alopecia

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7051179677 | 8082531040 | 8082657200

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAFAQA BEGUM D/O LATE GHULAM HASSAN MIR R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of Dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GHALUM HASSAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R.O SALOOSA has passed away on 25/10/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... SARA BEGUM wife 85 years aged widow
- 2...RAFAQA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Tangmarg
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer KHAIPORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ROUF BIN MAQBOOL S/O MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE R/O HARNOW KAWACHEK Tehsil TANGMARG Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/10/2007 and event has been shown to be occurred at Home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-Executive Magistrate 1st Class Tangmarg

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (old name) Basharat Hussain To (New name) Syed Basharat Hussain . In future will be known as (New name) .Syed Basharat Hussain

If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar with in 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

**Syed Basharat Hussain
S/O:-Syed Irshad Huseain
R/O:-Qadeem Masjid lane Lal Bazar Srinagar**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name dob and Address has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 680097103158 as Waseem Ahmad Shah S/O Ab Jabar Shah R/O Vodapora DOB 14/01/2002 while his correct Name Address DOB is Waseem Jabar Shah S/O Abdul Jabar Shah R/O Khuramabad Handwara DOB 05/04/2004 now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority /UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

**Name: WASEEM JABAR SHAH
DOB 05/04/2004
S/O ABDUL JABAR SHAH
R/O: KHURAMABAD THEHSIL HANDWARA
DIST KUPWARA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Tangmarg
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Notice for the general Public

It is hereby notified that the applicant MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE S/O ABDUL AHAD LONE R/O HARNOW KAWCHECK had applied for the issuance Birth certificate of his /her son namely ROUF BIN MAQBOOL the applicant intends to register DOB of his Son as per Hospitals/school/other recods which is 31 /07/ 2007.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-Executive Magistrate 1st Class Tangmarg

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of RAFAQA BEGUM D/O LATE GHULAM HASSAN MIR R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GHALUM HASSAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R.O SALOOSA has passed away on 25/10/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... SARA BEGUM wife 85 years aged widow
- 2...RAFAQA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Wagoora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Tangmarg
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Notice for the general Public

It is hereby notified that the applicant MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE S/O ABDUL AHAD LONE R/O HARNOW KAWCHECK had applied for the issuance Birth certificate of his /her son namely ROUF BIN MAQBOOL the applicant intends to register DOB of his Son as per Hospitals/school/other recods which is 31 /07/ 2007.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

It is hereby informed that my name has been recorded differently in some documents:

In Aadhaar Card: Feraz Ahmad Gojer Teenda
In Bank Records (A/c No. XXXX00663, J&K Bank, Branch Sallar): Fayaz Ahmad (Teenda)

Both refer to the same person i.e. myself. From now onwards, my correct and official name shall be treated as: Feraz Ahmad Gojer Teenda, S/o Bashir Ahmad Gojer

Any person having any objection may contact within 7 days of publication of this notice, failing which no claim will be entertained.

**Sd/-
Feraz Ahmad Gojer Teenda
R/o Ro Lehandagar, Pahalgam**

Public Notice

I have lost Number plate of my Vehicle Scorpio bearing registration number JK07 1462. if anybody found Kindly return it to below mentioned address otherwise i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**ARSHID AHMAD GANAIE S/O GH MOHAMMAD
GANAIE R/O HAIL JAGEER KREER**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GH NABI MIR S/O ALI MOHD MIR R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that Mst SHAHMALI W/O ALI MOHD MIR has passed away on 22/06/2006 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , GH NABI SON 54 years Labour
- 2...TAJA BEGUM daughter 71 years H/W
- 3...FATIMA daughter 46 //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAFAQA BEGUM D/O LATE GHULAM HASSAN MIR R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GHALUM HASSAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R.O SALOOSA has passed away on 25/10/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... SARA BEGUM wife 85 years aged widow
- 2...RAFAQA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

I, Rubeena Akhtar W/o Ghulam Ahmad Gujjar Baniya, resident of Sallar, Srigufwara, Pahalgam, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as "Rubeena Jan W/o Ahmad Baniya".

My correct name is **Rubeena Akhtar W/o Ghulam Ahmad Gujjar Baniya**.

Both names refer to the same person, i.e., myself.

Sd/- Rubeena Akhtar

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GH MOHD BHAT S/O MOHD ASSADULLAH BHAT R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHD ASSADULLAH & ATTIQA BEGUM S/O MOHD AKBAR BHAT & MOHD ASSADULLAH BHAT has passed away on 20/03/2023 & 03/05/ 2021. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , GH MOHD BHAT SON 56 years Labour married
- 2... AB HAMEED SON 53 years Do married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of SARA BEGUM W/O LATE GHULAM NABI SHAH R/O WATERGAM WAGOORA for the issuance of Dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MUZAFFAR AHMAD SHAH /O GHULAM NABI SHAH R.O WATERGAM has passed away on 12/05/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... SARA BEGUM W/O late GH NABI SHAH wife 85 years House wife
- 2...SHAREEFA BEGUM.D/O GH NABI SHAH daughter 65 years married
- 3...MOHD AYOUB SHAH son 60 years Farmer
- 4...JAVID AHMAD SHAH son 57 years Farmer
- 5...NAYEEMA BEGUM daughter 50 years H/W
- 6...AFROOZA BEGUM daughter 47 years H/W
- 7...AJJAZ AHMAD SHAH son 44 years Farmer

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Wagoora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Tangmarg
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer KHAIPORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ROUF BIN MAQBOOL S/O MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE R/O HARNOW KAWACHEK Tehsil TANGMARG Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/10/2007 and event has been shown to be occurred at Home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

پیام تسلیت و تعزیت

غلام احمد بٹ ولد مرحوم محمد قاسم بٹ

بارگجی بالا، ہارون داغ مفارقت دے کر چل بسے

ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون کے نائب صدر کے خاوجا جان اور سابق نائب صدر کے ناموں جان کے ارتحال جانگداز و صدمہ جانکاہ پر ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون کے عہد اران، مہبران نے اپنے گہر سے رنج و غم کا مظاہرہ کیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر ہم مرحوم کے فرزندان و دیگر اہل خانہ خصوصاً نائب صدر ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون جناب غلام حسن بٹ عرف محمد حسین اور سابق نائب صدر جناب علی محمد کو تسلیت و تعزیت اور ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون کی طرف سے مرحوم کے وفات پر رنج و غم ظہار فرمیں اور اہل خانہ کو تسلیت و تعزیت پیش کرتے ہیں۔ بہر کف ایسے وقت میں ہر کا دل تنہا تنہا کے سوا کوئی چارہ نہیں ہے۔ مرحوم کی رعایت آپ لوگوں کے خاندان میں ایک ناقابل تلافی خلا پیدا ہوا ہے اور جس کا ازالہ کرنا مشکل ہی نہیں بلکہ ناممکن ہیں۔ بہر حال قضا قدر کے فیصلے پر راضی ہونا بھی ایمان کی علامت ہے۔ ہم اللہ تعالیٰ کی بارگاہ میں دست بردار ہیں کہ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس اور محمد وال محمد کی شفاور رحمت نصیب عطا فرمائیں اور پسماندگان کو ہر ذریعہ و ذریعہ سے عطا فرمائیں آمین

شریک غم : ادارہ اوقاف کمیٹی وادی محلہ ہارون جنرل سگریٹری



Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of JAWAHIRA BEGUM W/O MOHD SHAFI LONE R/O THINDIMA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that Lt MOHD SHAFI LONE S/O AB RAHMAN LONE has passed away on 11/08/2023 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , JAWAHIRA BEGUM Widow 47 years H/W
- 2... AAKASH SHAFI SON 14 years student
- 3...NAUMAN SHAFI SON 13 //
- 4...AAHIL SHAFI SON 09 //
- 5...SHAMALI BEGUM mother 66 years H/W

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of SARA BEGUM W/O LATE GHULAM NABI SHAH R/O WATERGAM WAGOORA for the issuance of Dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MUZAFFAR AHMAD SHAH /O GHULAM NABI SHAH R.O WATERGAM has passed away on 12/05/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... SARA BEGUM W/O late GH NABI SHAH wife 85 years House wife
- 2...SHAREEFA BEGUM.D/O GH NABI SHAH daughter 65 years married
- 3...MOHD AYOUB SHAH son 60 years Farmer
- 4...JAVID AHMAD SHAH son 57 years Farmer
- 5...NAYEEMA BEGUM daughter 50 years H/W
- 6...AFROOZA BEGUM daughter 47 years H/W
- 7...AJJAZ AHMAD SHAH son 44 years Farmer

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Wagoora

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo, son of Abdul Gani Dagroo, resident of Kalantra Bala, have noticed an error in the school records of my children. Their caste has been incorrectly recorded as "Malla" instead of the correct caste, "Dagroo". I now wish to correct the names and caste of my children in the school records. The correct details are as follows:

1. Faizan Bin Ramzan S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
2. Nadim Ramzan Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
3. Owais Ahmad Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
4. Ishraq Ramzan Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo

If any person has any objections to this correction, they may file their objections with the Headmaster, Govt. Middle School Kalantra Bala, or the Zonal Educational Officer, Chandoosa, within seven days of the publication of this notice.

**Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
S/o Abdul Gani Dagroo
R/o Kalantra Bala, Tehsil Kreeri,
Distt. Baramulla, J&K**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Imtiyaz Begum (W/o) Late S. Mohammad Anwar Khan, D/o Late Col. S. Peer Mohammad Khan, Ustad-Mohalla, Jammu) who passed away on 10th September, 2025 in Toronto, Canada.

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for Death certificate of my Daughter Namely Dazy Bano,D/O Late Gh Nabi Hajam, from Registrar Death's and Birth's Block Development Office Aloosa, as her Date of Death 17-08-2025, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Registrar Death's and Birth's Block Development Office Aloosa with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Saida Begum
W/O Late Gh Nabi Hajam
R/O Aloosa, tehsil Aloosa, District Bandipora.**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband name MUZAFFER MOHAMMAD KHAN S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O LAWAYPORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0206050011815 wants to be registered on my name AFROOZA W/O LATE MUZAFFAR AHMAD KHAN R/O LAWAYPORA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name...AFROOZA
W/O ... LATE MUZAFFAR AHMAD KHAN
Division.... BUDGAM
Sub division.... NARBAL**

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Abdul Aziz Dar, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar, R/o Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla, have misplaced my Registration Certificate (RC) at the main market in Kalantra. The details of the RC are as follows:

**Registration No.: JK05G9554
Eng.No TBJ1H69977
Ch No.MA12U2TBKJ1H63409,
Name: Abdul Aziz Dar
S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o: Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla**

I now intend to apply for a duplicate RC at the ARTO Office, Sopore, Baramulla. If anyone has any objections, they may file their objections at the ARTO Office, Sopore, Baramulla, within seven days of the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

**Abdul Aziz Dar
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla**

بِقَائِلِهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant her Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen.

Fateha Khawani for the departed soul will be held on Sunday, 14th September, 2025 at the residence of Justice Hakim Imtiyaz Hussain (Son-in-Law), Friends Colony, Opposite Mosque, Near Harwan Garden, Harwan, Srinagar at 10:00 AM.

**Bereaved Family
9419000991
9419009882**

Adani Enterprises acquires DP Jain Toll Roads for Rs 1,342 crore

United News of India

MUMBAI, SEP 12: Adani Enterprises today announced through a filing made to the stock exchange that it has acquired a 100 per cent stake in DP Jain TOT Toll Roads (DPJTOT) at an enterprise value of Rs 1,342 crore.

Adani Enterprises stated in its filing that the transaction is carried out through Adani Road Transport Ltd (ARTL), which is a subsidiary of the company.

ARTL, which oversees the road infrastructure part of the business, has 8 under construction projects

at the end of the June quarter.

Adani Enterprises stated that it acquired the company from D P Jain & Co Infrastructure, adding that the transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, was executed on September 11, 2025.

Under the agreement, ARTL will purchase the entire shareholding of DPJTOT from D P Jain TOT Toll Roads Private Limited, D P Jain & Co Infrastructure Private Limited, and DPJ-DRA Tollways Private Limited.

D P Jain TOT Toll Roads was incorporated in May 2021 as a special purpose vehicle for tolling,



operation, maintenance, and transfer of the Palanpur-Radhanpur-Samkhiyali section of NH-27 in Gujarat, and has a concession

period of 20 years.

Before this transaction, ARTL did not hold any stake in DPJTOT. The acquisition is expected to strengthen ARTL's presence in the toll road segment and aligns with its strategic expansion plans, the statement mentioned.

The move comes in the backdrop of rising activity in the infrastructure sector, including divestments, bonus issues, as well as rights issues by other infrastructure firms. The deal is likely to contribute to ARTL's long-term growth trajectory and operational scale. UNI

NITI Aayog organises sixth consultative meeting on Ease of Doing Research and Development

United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 12: The Sixth Consultative Meeting on Ease of Doing Research and Development has said India's scientific future will be defined not only by ease of doing research but more critically by ease of translating research into tangible outcomes.

"India must focus not only on generating new knowledge but also on translating it into technologies, processes, and solutions that strengthen national self-reliance and global competitiveness," said Jishnu Dev Varma, Governor of Telangana.

The consultative meeting brought together



Institutional leaders, Vice Chancellors, and scientific ministry/ departments.

Ashutosh Sharma, president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and N Kalaiselvi, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in their keynote interventions stressed the need for reimagining India's research landscape where Ease of Doing Research and Development is a priority.

Anil Kakodkar, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and VK Saraswat, member of NITI Aayog, exchanged their insights on the future of Indian science and research.

The meeting was held on September 10-11 at CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) for "in-depth discussions on strengthening India's research and development", said an official statement today.

Consultative meetings on NITI Aayog are fora where NITI Aayog convenes key stakeholders like institutional leaders, academics, government officials, and industry experts to discuss critical national development issues and strategies. UNI

Sushila Karki likely to head the Interim Administration in Nepal

United News of India

KATHMANDU/NEW DELHI, SEP 12: Former Nepal Chief Justice Sushila Karki is likely to be appointed head of the interim government and the Parliament has been dissolved.

The development follows day-long consultations between President Ram Chandra Paudel, the leaders of Gen Z protestors and the Army at the President's office.

"President Ram Chandra Paudel agreed to dissolve the House of Representatives and declare a state of emergency under Article 273(1) of the Constitution... Following intensive discussions at the President's Office an understanding was reached to appoint former Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the head of an interim government," the President's Press Advisor was quoted as saying.



The decision comes after two days of violent protests by students and youth, dubbed Gen Z protestors, against corruption and banning of 26 social networking sites by the government. At least 50 lives were lost and residences of prominent Ministers were torched and vandalised. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and five of his Cabinet Ministers were forced to resign. The protestors were demanding immediate dissolution of Parliament and formation of a non-partisan interim administration. They, however, said they will not be joining the government but will monitor from outside.

Ms Karki who has studied in Banaras Hindu University, is the only woman to have held the post Nepal's Chief Justice.

Born on June 7, 1952, Sushila Karki got her bachelor's degree in law from Tribhuvan University in 1978 and master's degree in political science from Banaras Hindu University in 1975. She began her legal career in 1979 and was appointed ad hoc judge in the Supreme Court in 2009 after rising to the rank of senior lawyer in 2007. In 2010, she was appointed the institution's permanent judge. UNI

Inflation inches up marginally to 2.07 pc in August, food inflation remain in negative zone

United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 12: India's retail inflation rose to 2.07 pc in August 2025, which is a 46 basis points increase compared to July 2025, official data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said today.

Food inflation showed some improvement and stayed in a negative zone at -0.69 pc which is a 107 basis points increase compared to July 2025. The increase in headline inflation and food inflation during August is mainly due to a rise in inflation of vegetables, meat, fish, oil and fats, personal care, eggs, etc.

In rural areas, overall inflation rose to 1.69 pc in August compared to 1.18 pc of the previous month. Food inflation in rural areas improved to -0.70 pc in August compared to -1.74 pc of last month.

The urban inflation stayed at 2.47 pc in August compared to 2.10 pc in



July.

The official data also noted a surge in housing inflation as it rose to 3.09 pc in August 2025 compared to 3.17 pc in July. The housing index has been compiled for the urban sector only.

Data showed a fall in Education inflation as it remained at 3.60pc in August compared to 4.11pc in July 2025.

Health and Transport & Commu-

nication also witnessed a decline and came to 4.40 pc and 1.94 pc, respectively, in August 2025.

Moreover, fuel & light inflation also came to 2.43 pc in August compared to 2.67 pc in July 2025.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is an executive ministry that ensures the credibility and quality of statistical data released in the country. UNI

Mirza International group faces Income Tax raids across multiple cities

United News of India

LUCKNOW, SEP 12: One of India's leading leather exporters, Mirza International Group, has come under the scanner of the Income Tax Department. In a coordinated crackdown, the department launched simultaneous raids on over 45 locations linked to the company across Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, and Kolkata.

According to sources, a large cache of documents, laptops, and mobile phones has been seized during the raids. These materials are expected to provide crucial evidence related to tax evasion and financial irregularities.

In Kanpur, multiple teams of the department remained active for several hours, conducting extensive searches at various premises, including Civil Lines, Parvati Bangla Road, Gwaltoli,



Jajmau, and Mall Road. Raids were also carried out at five tanneries and the Euro Footwear factory located in Unnao. Employees were reportedly stopped at the gates and not allowed to enter during

the operation.

Mirza Group and its associated industrial units are spread in Sadar area. These include Unit One in Akrampur Industrial Area, Unit Two in Magrawara Nehru-

agh and Mirza Group Mirza International Unit in Lucknow Bypass Dahi Industrial Area. Apart from this, two to three units are associate units with co-partnership. Sources said that on Thursday, a

joint team of Income Tax Department along with police force reached all the industrial units with dozens of vehicles to conduct raids at around 6:30 pm.

As soon as the Income Tax team reached Mirza Unit One, Two, Three, they closed the gates of all the units. Apart from Mirza Group factories located in Akrampur, Magrawara and Dahi Industrial Area, the team also took action against Olive and Gym Pack, associate factories of Mirza Group located in Akrampur.

The investigative teams thoroughly examined finished goods, packing materials, export orders, Input Tax Credit (ITC) records, and documents related to raw material procurement at the tanneries.

The raids continued till late night but no official statement has been released yet by the Income Tax Department. UNI

A New Dawn of Tax Reforms: PM Modi's Next-Gen GST Reforms Usher in a Simpler, Stronger India

Services Tax (GST) system since its introduction in 2017. Dubbed the "Next-Gen GST Reforms", the new policy package aims to simplify tax structures, reduce the burden on consumers, boost economic growth, and usher in a more transparent, inclusive, and business-friendly tax regime. Set to take effect from September 22, coinciding with the auspicious festival of Navratri, the reforms are already being hailed as a "historic turning point" in India's tax and economic landscape.

Well taken as a reform rooted in people's needs Prime Minister Modi described the initiative as a "double dose of support and growth for New India."

"This reform will ease the lives of our farmers, youth, women, small business owners, and the middle class. It simplifies the tax code, reduces rates on essentials, and ensures India marches ahead with confidence," PM Modi declared. He further

added that the move reflects the government's commitment to empower ordinary citizens, promote ease of living, and improve domestic demand—a critical engine for sustainable economic expansion.

Explained as a slab simplification from complex to clear, one of the standout features of the new regime is the rationalization of tax slabs. The old four-tier GST system (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) has been collapsed into a streamlined three-slab structure:

- **5% - For essential items and mass consumption goods (food, medicines, etc.)**
- **18% - A new, consolidated "standard" slab combining former 12% and 18% brackets**
- **40% - For luxury and sin goods (tobacco, high-end vehicles, private jets, etc.)**

By collapsing and consolidating these slabs, the government intends to eliminate confusion, reduce litigation, and encourage compliance among small and medium enterprises.

Further explanation into a simpler language is the immediate benefits for the Common Man. The reforms directly touch the lives of ordinary Indians. The following consumer goods now see significant GST rate reductions:

- **Shampoos, soaps, and sanitary products - Down from 18% to 5%**
- **Small cars and entry-level motorcycles - Cut from 28% to 18%**
- **TVs under 40 inches and budget smartphones - Shifted from 18% to 12%, and now into the new 5-18% hybrid bracket**
- **Educational tools and materials - Most made tax-free or capped**

at 5%

These adjustments are expected to lower prices across the board, especially for the lower-income and middle-class segments. For households preparing for festival season, the savings could be substantial.

As far as the impact on our industry as a whole is that this move will boost the MSMEs and 'Make in India' products. India's backbone - the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector will be the major beneficiary of these reforms. Under the new provisions:

- **Thresholds for GST registration have been raised**
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC) has been made faster and more automated**
- **Compliance windows have been widened with quarterly filing for small businesses**

■ **Penalty provisions have been softened, reducing fear and friction**

The government also announced new incentives for GST-compliant manufacturers, particularly in textiles, electronics, auto parts, and agro-processing. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman praised the package as "pro-poor, pro-growth, and pro-jobs", noting that Make in India will gain new momentum through lower input costs and faster refunds.

Keeping in view the transparency part of the reforms, Modi government is also rolling out a robust digital backend, called GST 2.0, built on AI-driven compliance, blockchain-backed invoices, and real-time monitoring. This is expected to:

- **Curb tax evasion**
- **Speed up refunds**
- **Improve data quality for policy decisions**

Shreyanka Patil Returns After 11 Months, Ready to Roar Again

■ Ashish Pant

GUYANA: Shreyanka Patil was in tears before Barbados Royals' opening game of the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) on Sunday. But, unlike on the many occasions she has broken down in the last year, these were tears of relief. After 11 months of being stuck in what felt like an unending loop of injuries, the 23-year-old was finally back, playing competitive cricket.

Patil bowled three wicketless overs of her offspin for 33 runs against Guyana Amazon Warriors. Not great, but in the larger context, the numbers didn't matter. Patil was just "grateful to be back on the field, playing cricket".

It's been a torrid year-and-a-half for Patil. To the extent that she had doubts about whether she would play cricket again. There were times she thought of just taking a long break to decide if she wanted to do something else. The injury cycle began in July last year during a women's Asia Cup game against Pakistan when she fractured the fourth finger of her left hand. She recovered and was part of India's T20 World Cup side in October.

Patil played the entire tournament, but soon after, she developed Grade

3 shin splints in both legs. That kept her out of the game for three to four months. Just when she got through all the hoops and began training, the issue reappeared and pushed her comeback further away.

"Initially, I was fine: 'okay, I'm getting better, I'm doing well, I'll be back on the field soon,'" Patil said in an interaction facilitated by FanCode, the official broadcaster of the WCPL. "But once I started getting injured again and again, I was like, 'what's happening?'"

"I didn't know how to face my parents, especially my dad. I didn't know how to communicate with my close ones. I was kind of blank at that time."

That wasn't the end of Patil's agony. After the shin splints, she got a stress reaction in her wrist. She recovered and was part of a bowlers' camp with the India team earlier this year. On the first day, after finishing all her tests, she fractured a thumb during a fielding session. In July this year, she was initially named in the India A T20 squad for the three-match series in Australia, but was later ruled out.

"I used to go back to my room, cry, take out my anger and just... I didn't know how to express my feelings because that was my first time not

playing cricket for such a long period" Patil was prepared to "maybe miss one tournament", but having to sit on the sidelines for close to a year almost broke her.

"I wasn't sure how long I was going to miss cricket. I thought it was going to be about four to five months," she said. "Then I had to miss a couple of tournaments. And then they [at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru] said maybe a little longer. Whenever they said that, I used to break down because missing games is something I don't like."

"I used to go back to my room, cry, take out my anger and just... I didn't know how to express my feelings because that was my first time not playing cricket for such a long period. I did get mentally affected."

Before the series of injuries, Patil's career graph had been on the upswing. She was 20 when she made her debut for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in WPL 2023. The same year, she became the first Indian to play in the WCPL and, soon after, she made her India debut in T20Is and ODIs, in December 2023. At WPL 2024, Patil won the Purple Cap for the most wickets in the season as RCB lifted their maiden trophy.

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'I am always prepared' - free of IPL shackles, Dube the bowler makes an impact

■ Shashank Kishore

DUBAI: Since IPL 2023, Shivam Dube has been a casualty of the Impact Player rule that has greatly limited opportunities for allrounders to showcase their dual skills. Over the past three seasons, Dube's bowling numbers read: 3-0-47-1.

In a way, this limitation has been a factor in Dube's hunger to contribute with the ball, and continue to upgrade his skill sets. To that end, the work he has put in at training, especially with his bowling, has been noticeable.

On Wednesday, India didn't need to hand Dube the ball. Suryakumar Yadav did, and Dube picked up three wickets across two overs. There was a seam-up that nipped away to nick off Asif Khan, a nip-backer that trapped Dhruv Parashar, and a slower delivery that had Junaid Siddique slogging to mid-on.

"The captain and the coach told me earlier itself that I will bowl [at the Asia Cup] and that they are confident about me," Dube said at the press conference after India's demolition of UAE. "My bowling coach [Morne Morkel] has told me a lot of things. I was preparing for this for a long time, that I will get an opportunity to bowl and when it comes, I'll be ready. What happened today is because of that preparation."

Dube admitted that while his role with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the IPL has largely been that of a power-hitter, he has used the time away to gather plenty of bowling miles. Even if it doesn't instantly result in him bowling as many overs as he would like to.

"The answer lies in your question itself," Dube said when asked about the Impact Player rule. "The scheme of an allrounder has been reduced. Because of that, in the IPL,

there wasn't a necessity for me to bowl. But, from my side, I was always prepared. Every match, I was ready to bowl. I was working really hard before the IPL also. I spent two months working on my fitness and bowling."

That effort seems to be paying off. Dube credited Morkel for fine-tuning his action and approach. The two have been in each other's ears constantly at training. Two days ago, Morkel had even stated the importance of having someone of Dube's abilities prep in a manner that gives him the confidence to bowl in pressure situations.

"At the England series [in January-February], he told me a few things," Dube said. "He told me to bowl from outside [wider of the crease] and to bowl slower [from a certain angle]. I have been working on that for a long time. He told me a few things about my bowling run-

up too. Because of those two-three things, my bowling is getting better. My pace is also improving and I am getting confidence. "Today's start was very important. As an allrounder, I am always prepared for four overs of bowling. Whenever I get an opportunity to bowl three-four overs, I am ready for it. I will try and do what the team needs."

There aren't just bowling tweaks that Dube has been working on. Between IPL 2025 and now, he has worked a lot on his batting too, back at home in Mumbai. One of the aspects he identified was working on improving against the short ball bowled at high pace and into his body. The Asia Cup opener was his first competitive outing since the IPL ended in May (barring three middling games at the Mumbai T20 League where he captained ARCS Andheri).

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A New Dawn of Tax Reforms: PM Modi's Next-Gen GST Reforms Usher in a Simpler, Stronger India

■ HT Business Desk

In a bold and sweeping move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the most comprehensive overhaul of India's Goods and

(Read full story from **Headline Today Business Desk on Page No 10**)

Next Generation Reforms under GST – The Right Reform at the Right Moment

GST Reforms in Mining Sector to Boost Housing and Small-scale Enterprises

The 56th meeting of the GST Council held in New Delhi under the chairpersonship of the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman made recommendations relating to changes in GST tax rates, to provide relief to individuals, common man, aspirational middle class and measures for facilitation of trade in GST. The new GST rates and slabs for items related to mining sector will have a positive impact on housing industry and small-scale enterprises.

Under the new rates, Marble and travertine blocks and Granite Blocks will now attract GST rate of 5% compared to the earlier rate of 12%. This reduction in GST rates will benefit the housing sector as these marble and granite are used largely in housing industry. Granite and marble extraction are happening in States like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka.

In addition to this, reduction of GST rates on Sand lime bricks or Stone inlay work will help lower the construction cost of low-cost housing, especially in rural areas. The GST rates of such items are also being brought down to 5% from 12%.

GST rates of Milk cans made of Aluminium; Table, kitchen or other household articles of copper as well as Aluminium will also see GST rate reduced from 12% to 5%. Since such utensils, milk cans and household articles made of Aluminium/Copper are everyday essentials, the reduction in GST rate will increase demand due to reduced retail price. This will also enable households to save money on essential utensils and enjoy healthier and more durable alternatives to plastic. MSMEs engaged in production of such utensils will also benefit from higher demand and wider markets for such products.

Further, GST rates on Brass Kerosene Pressure Stove have been reduced from 12% to 5%. This reduction will support rural/low-income families by making the basic cooking tools cheaper, thereby ensuring energy access for all.

GST rates for handicrafts of Brass, Copper/Copper alloys electroplated with nickel/silver and handicrafts of Aluminium are also brought down to 5% from the earlier 12%. Since most of these items are produced by artisans and small-scale enterprises, lower GST will help their competitiveness and expand the customer base for such products. Since handicraft art ware represents India's heritage, the GST reduction will also help in promoting Indian Culture & 'Make in India'.

With reference to recommendations on GST rates on services pertaining to the Ministry of Mines, reduction of GST rates for Supply of Multimodal transport of goods within India from 12% to 5% (with restricted credit) will benefit the mining and mineral industry, particularly iron ore which involves long distance movements.

Shuhaib T/Durgesh Kumar



■ Sanjay Kumar Agrawal

On the occasion of the 79th Independence Day, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, while highlighting the significance of the rollout of Goods and Services Tax (GST), also emphasized the importance of undertaking the next generation of reforms in GST, keeping the interests of the common man, farmers, middle class, and MSMEs to the fore. These reforms, recently approved by the 56th GST Council, is a watershed moment in the evolution of India's indirect tax system.

Through this article, I seek to highlight the underlying principles behind these reforms, the broad architecture within which they have been conceived, and the vision they embody for a more stable, equitable, and growth-oriented tax regime. The exercise of GST reforms rests on three interlinked pillars: Structural reforms, Rate rationalisation and Ease of living for taxpayers.

In designing the structural reforms, careful attention was paid to bring down the number of rate slabs to reduce the tax uncertainty. Ideally, the goods and services should be charged at standard rate, with some goods in the nature of common man use items to fulfil daily necessities of life being charged at lower 'merit' rate. Also, items in the nature of 'sin' goods or luxury goods should be charged at higher 'special' rate.

In a study of the past disputes, it was found that majority of disputes on classification and rate were related to food sector and automobile parts. The classification of food items is a problematic area due to multiple similar food products in the market. From the debate over caramelised versus salted popcorn to disputes relating to Malabar parathas, flavoured milk, rava idli mix, fryums, and papad, the sector has been riddled with tax ambiguities. A case in point is the increasingly popular baklava, which could be considered as a sugar confectionery or a bakery product depending on what one perceives of the food product. The reforms, therefore, envision a single tax rate for the

food sector, eliminating confusion and ensuring clarity.

The automotive sector too has seen disputes, particularly in the classification of auto components. Often such disputes have travelled upto the Supreme Court, but still the ambiguity on their classification persists. A uniform rate across this sector will bring enormous relief, enhancing industry confidence and reducing litigation.

One of the most persistent issues is the inverted duty structures (IDS), where inputs are taxed at higher rates than finished goods, resulting in accumulation of 'Input Tax Credit'. Such inversions are sometimes unavoidable as finished goods are of such nature or usage so as to be taxed at merit rate instead of standard rate. Whereas the inputs are of nature as to find application in multiple segments of the industrial sector. Subjecting such inputs to merit rate to correct inversion has its own complications. However, wherever feasible, inversions have now been corrected—particularly in cases where the raw material is predominantly used in one sector, as in the case of the fertilizer industry.

In sectors with a large presence of MSMEs, the impact of inversions is even more pronounced. For example, the textile industry, which employs over 45 million people, is highly diverse—ranging from hand-spun and handwoven products to large-scale mills. Fabrics by its nature is subject to merit rate of duty of 5%. There is no inversion in the natural fibre segment of the textile sector. However, in man-made-fabrics segment, there is inversion. Correction of inversion in the entire value chain is not possible due to revenue implications. However, care has been taken to ensure that inversion occurs at stages that do not unduly burden MSMEs thereby safeguarding employment and liquidity in this labour-intensive sector. To strike a balance, inversion stage has been pushed to a point where manufacturing stream transition from Chemical/ petrochemical sector to textile sector. Also, to provide comfort at this stage also, a very strong push has been given by Central Tax administration to streamline the refund process in IDS.

While on the drawing board, rate rationalisation was seen as exercise to reflect the aspirations of the common man and the middle class. Accordingly, the rates on items of mass consumption as well as aspirational goods were brought down to 'merit' rate, thereby enhancing affordability to a wider population and thus boosting demand also. Together, these principles form the very rationale of the rate rationalisation exercise, anchoring it firmly within the broader vision

of inclusive and growth-oriented reform.

A significant aspect of these reforms is that they indirectly hint towards the robustness of the Indian economy. The timing is right also because the Government has got the fiscal space vacated by the levy of compensation cess on most of the items. Post July 2022, the collection from compensation cess is not accruing to the states and going in repayment of the loan taken to bridge the deficit in collections during COVID pandemic. Now the repayment is almost over and therefore fiscal space is created to boost the GST collection accruing to States and Centre. The decision to reduce the tax rate on cement from 28% to 18% signals the shift from the deep-rooted philosophy of revenue concern only. For the GST Council, the interests of common man have taken precedence, over absolute numbers in taxes in short term, going by the economic philosophy that putting money in the hands of common man results in rapid economic growth and ultimately robust tax collections.

The third pillar is centred around the guiding principle to simplify taxpayers' interactions with the GST system at every stage. Reforms in this area target registration and refunds, ensuring that taxpayers face fewer procedural hurdles and reduced working capital blockages.

Such simplification is particularly important for MSMEs and small taxpayers. By making compliance less burdensome, the reforms encourage voluntary participation in the GST ecosystem and enhance trust between taxpayers and the administration.

India, already the world's fourth-largest economy, is today reaping the dividends of robust domestic demand. In the face of a dynamic and uncertain global economic outlook, strengthening domestic resilience has become imperative. These reforms can help India cushion itself against external shocks while sustaining its growth momentum and bolstering India's capacity to engage with the world from a position of strength.

At their core, these reforms seek to contribute to the larger national vision of building an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The simplification of tax processes, rationalisation of rates, and stability in policies together create a tax ecosystem that is inclusive, growth-oriented, and sustainable. These policy level changes are designed to strengthen crucial sectors and stimulate economic activity.

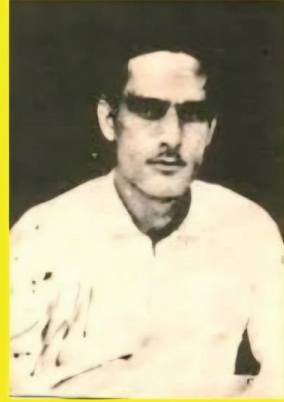
The author is a Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) (Views are personal) PIB

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**Athar Nafees and The
Poetics of Creative Paralysis
In 'Woh ishq.....'**

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ONE SHELF, MANY WORLDS
ENGLISH, URDU AND KASHMIRI



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HT Saturday – LitStream

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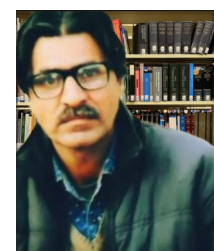


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Athar Nafees and the Poetics of Creative Paralysis in 'woh ishq...'



Professor Mohammad Aslam

Introduction

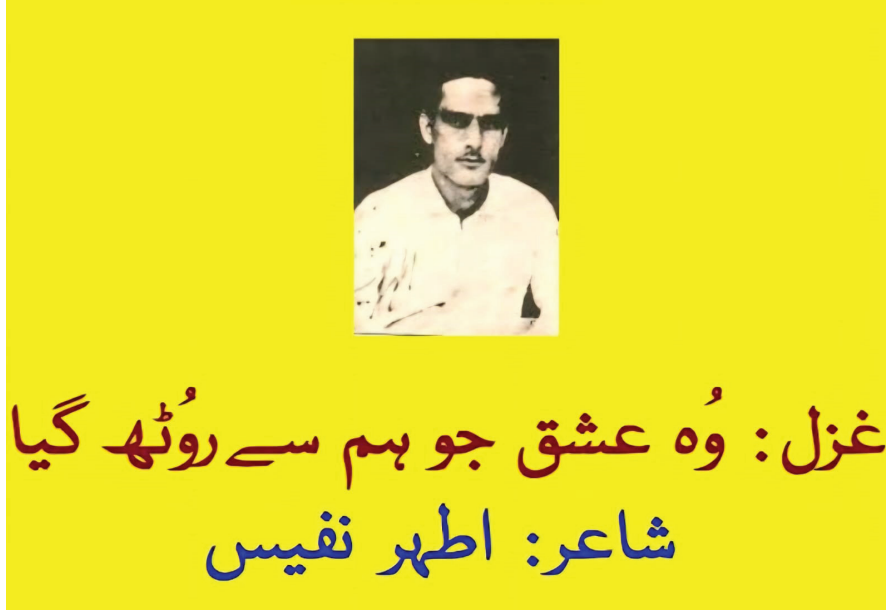
Creative Paralysis (also called Writer's block) isn't anything new that we don't know about. History is replete with instances when writers of all categories have experienced moments when they found themselves facing an existential crisis, unable to write anything. Although a tempo-rary phase, they got blank and bereft of any idea or any igniting force to write. Wikipedia explains this phenomenon in these words: "Writer's block is a non-medical condition, primarily associated with writing, in which an author is either unable to produce new work or experiences a creative slowdown...[It] has various degrees of severity, from difficulty in coming up with original ideas to being unable to produce work for years... Writer's block has been an acknowledged problem throughout recorded history and many experience it... [T]he term writer's block [was] coined by the Australian psychiatrist Edmund Bergler [in 1947]...All types of writers, including full-time professionals, academics, workers of creative projects, and those trying to finish written assignments, can experience writer's block."

Creative Paralysis, or writer's block, seems to be a frustrating experience for the writer, leaving them isolated and cast away from their environment. According to Wikipedia, great writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Joseph Mitchell, and Herman Melville faced this affliction (It's said that Melville stopped writing novels for many years after writing his classic epic Moby Dick). The Romantics attributed the failure to write to some power that didn't want them to write any more. Many writers, therefore, stopped writing once they faced this issue. Arthur Rimbaud, a 19th-century French poet, gave up writing after producing the bulk of his work at the age of 20.

One of the Urdu poets of the last century, Athar Nafees, seems to have suffered from this mal-ady. Born in 1933 at Aligarh (India), he migrated to Pakistan in 1948. Athar Nafees (full name, Kunwar Athar Ali Khan, Nafees was his nom de plume) died at the age of 47 in 1980.

The following ghazal from Nafees became a heartthrob for millions of Urdu lovers when it was sung by a famous Pakistani female singer for the first time in 1973. Since then, the song has attracted thousands of listeners. Even now, the singer has a huge fan following on social media as she has sung the song many times at different occasions. Nafees's ghazal beings with "woh ishq jo hum se rooth gaya ab is ka haal batayen kyan" (What can I say about the muse that has forsaken me?) Here is the poem, both transliterated and translated:

woh ishq jo hum se rooth gaya ab is ka haal batayen kyan
koi mehr nahi koi qehar nahi phir sachha shair sunaein kya
ik hijar jo hum ko la-haq hai taa der usay dohrayen kyan
woh zeher jo dil mein utaar liya phir is ke naz uthayen kya
phir ankenh lahoor se khaali hain yeh sham-men bujhnay wali hain
hum khud bhi kisi ke sawali hain is baat pay



hum sharmayen kya
ik aag gham tanhai ki jo saaray badan mein phail gayi
jab jism hi sara jalta ho phir daman dil ko bachayen kya
hum naghma sara kuch ghazlon ke hum soorat gar kuch khwaboon ke
be jazba-e-shoq sunaein kya koi khwab nah ho to batayen kya

What can "I say about the muse that has forsaken me?

What good verse would come out when there's neither emotion nor pain?

Shall I have to bear for long the void that's afflicted me?

Shall I cradle the pain that I've harboured in my heart?

Once again, the eyes are visionless; they're losing the light,

Shall I feel shy as I myself rely on somebody else?

The fire from the sorrow of loneliness has engulfed the whole body

Shall I save the heart's periphery when the entire body is in flames?

I'm a singer of some ghazals; I weave some dreams.

Shall I sing without fervour of ardour? What dreams to talk about when there are none?

The poet has used the royal "hum" (we) in the entire poem. However, I have used "I" instead to make it more specific.

Summary of the Poem

The poem expresses the deep anguish of a poet who feels abandoned by his muse. He feels emotionally hollow. The speaker grapples with creative paralysis, questioning the value of verse born without genuine feeling. There's a haunting sense of emptiness, loneliness, and inner turmoil—described as a fire consuming the body and the light in the eyes. The poet, once a dreamer and singer of ghazals, now finds himself passionless and unable to dream, highlighting the painful disconnect between inspiration and expression.

Analysis of the Poem

I find the poem very personal and autobiographic in the sense that the poet seems to talk about his own life, torments that he is believed to have faced because of his prolonged illness (see below). 'woh ishq' is a kind of elegy on

the creative paralysis that the poet is feeling after being abandoned by the muse (ishq). The poem highlights the complex relationship that exists between inspiration, emotion, and artistic expression, which are necessary to propel the poet to produce genuine poetry. The very first line of the poem—"woh ishq jo hum se rooth gaya ab is ka haal batayen kya" (What can I say about the muse that has forsaken me?) conveys that the poet is feeling alienation from both self, and art. "ishq" is actually 'love' that is very often used for a 'beloved', but given the situation here, it is appropriate to call it "the muse" that has abandoned the poet and left him blank and wanting for the poetic expression. He is beset with creative desolation as is revealed in Line 2, "koi mehr nahi koi qehar nahi phir sachha shair sunaein kya" (What good verse would come out when there's neither emotion nor pain?). This is an acknowledgment that genuine poetry arises from emotional intensity—joy or pain—which the poet is lacking in at the moment. In Lines 3 and 4, the poet is lamenting this loss. He says that he has to bear this loss for a long time and continue to live with the emptiness ("void") and "the pain" that has afflicted his heart. In the next couplet, he is also talking about his "visionless eyes" and dependence on "somebody else". Was he feeling like John Milton in "On His Blindness"? Milton lost his eyesight and had to rely on his daughter for writing his verse.

In the next four lines, the poet is mourning the loss, and in the last couplet, we find a repetition of the same idea as expressed in Line 2, that is, without any fervour and dreams, no genuine poetry is possible. The vivid images of "void", "flames", "visionless eyes...losing their light", "the sorrow of loneliness", and "the heart's periphery" all manifest a lack of inspiration in the poet, as well as his spiritual and existential trauma. He clearly indicates that poetry devoid of genuine feelings of passion or pain becomes hollow.

The poet's Creative Paralysis or Block has rendered him isolated and as a castaway in the same manner in which a famed Caribbean poet, Derek Walcott, finds himself in 'The Castaway'. In-voking the image of Robinson Crusoe (the famous fictional character in Daniel Defoe's novel of the same name), Walcott feels himself dry of any vision, despite viewing the huge sea before him. He says:

The starved eyes devours the seascape for the morsel

Of a sail.

The horizon threads it infinitely.

The "morsel/Of a sail" refers to an abandoned sailor who is looking for a small rescue boat. Symbolically, the poet is looking for some inspiration (or source) that would trigger creativity in him. The predominant theme of 'The Castaway' is isolation, as it is in 'woh ishq'.

The structure of 'woh ishq' is worth noting. The use of rhetorical questions in almost every line manifests the narrator's restlessness and self-introspection. It seems the poet is struggling from within and trying to figure out if an artistic creation is possible without emotional vitality. The overall impact is one of growing uneasiness, where doubt becomes both subject and form.

The use of various images and symbols demonstrates the poet's desperation and emptiness at the loss of emotions and pain, the usual sources of genuine poetry. He can't always use what Walcott says in 'The Castaway', "the dead metaphors", that is, the much-used ideas and images that have become clichés now. In this regard, "light and vision", "fire and flame", and "ghazals and dreams" signify the poet's lamenting on the absence of emotions and feelings that would sustain his poetic form—the ghazal ("Ghazal was his first love, though he penned free verses too"—rekhta.org). At a deeper level, the poet is lamenting the loss of inspiration and analysing the conditions for writing authentic poetry. He seems to suggest that without emotions and creativity, good poetry is impossible. He is facing a psychological void as he doesn't get new metaphors (mehr and qahar). About this poem, a blogger, Sam Ullah Rafiq, writes: "Athar Nafees is best known for his ghazals, which became super popular and were sung by famous artists. His most famous work is definitely the ghazal, "Wo ishq jo hum se rooth gaya" (That love which grew angry with me). It's an amazing piece that talks about heartbreak and what's left after a love is over. It really connected with people, and its popularity proves how good he was at capturing the feelings everyone has. The opening lines of that ghazal set a mood of sadness and reflection, making you think about how a relationship changes after it falls apart." I think Nafees had fallen apart as he was living a life of loneliness and desolation.

Did Nafees ever suffer from Creative Paralysis or Writer's Block? It seems that he was, as he remained bedridden for a pretty long time before his death. "Athar was a deeply private person. Nafees never married and was known for his quiet, solitary nature. This personal journey of a quiet life and a sense of displacement became a defining feature of his work. It shaped his poetry with themes of profound loneliness and heartfelt longing," Rafiq writes. His poetic collection was published just five years before he died in 1975.

One may feel that 'ishq' in the poem is about lost love. For that, we need to know if he was in love with any woman and why he decided to live a lonely life. My reading of the poem, however, convinces me that Nafees had, due to prolonged illness, felt a vacuum, a block that had made him creatively disabled to write as he wanted to write. I haven't been able to see any of his biographies that would shed complete light on his life. Therefore, to me 'ishq' is not any 'love' but the 'muse' or creativity that he had lost and which he is lamenting through this ghazal.

From Acne to Infertility: The Alarming Rise of PCOS and PCOD in Young Women



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Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) are the most common reproductive hormonal disorders affecting women during their reproductive age. Although these conditions are often used interchangeably due to common symptoms, they are actually different in terms of severity, impact on health and treatment approaches. It is important to understand and know the differences for early detection, prevention and treatment. PCOS and PCOD are increasingly prevalent among young women around the world. Recent studies indicate that globally about 13% of women aged 15-45 years have PCOS, while in India, 17.4% of college-going girls aged 18-25 years are affected. This highlights the gravity of the issue and why we must take action. Symptoms like persistent acne, irregular menstrual cycles, excessive hair growth, sudden weight gain, and dark skin patches are often seen as minor or lifestyle-related problems. Many young women do not speak about these issues because they feel shy or simply do not know they could be signs of something more serious. If not addressed, these conditions may lead to infertility or other long-term health problems. Sadly, many young women remain undiagnosed for years.

Understanding PCOS and PCOD

PCOS is a hormonal disorder affecting women of reproductive age where ovaries produce unusually high levels of male hormones (androgens). This disrupts normal ovulation and is one of the leading causes of infertility. Women with PCOS may experience irregular or absent menstrual cycles, acne, excessive hair growth other than normal (called hirsutism), weight gain (around the abdomen), and thinning hair on the scalp. On the other hand, PCOD happens when the ovaries release an excessive number of underdeveloped eggs due to lifestyle factors and stress. Although PCOD shows similar symptoms to PCOS, the key difference lies in pathophysiology. The hormonal imbalance is milder, and it does not involve the same degree of endocrine dysfunction as PCOS. In PCOD, women usually ovulate, though the menstrual cy-



cles may be irregular, whereas in PCOS, ovulation is often absent with severely irregular menstrual cycles (oligomenorrhea). Complete absence of periods (amenorrhoea) in PCOS is common, while in PCOD, cycles are usually delayed but often present.

PCOS and PCOD: Symptoms to watch for;

PCOS and PCOD have similar symptoms but the latter may be milder. PCOS is characterized by irregular (oligomenorrhea) or absent menstrual cycles (amenorrhoea), excessive facial and body hair growth that differs from normal body hair (hirsutism), persistent acne around the jawline and chin, and weight gain especially around the abdomen. Women with PCOS are also at higher risk of developing other health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, and cardiovascular disease. In contrast, PCOD tends to be less severe with milder symptoms and less risk of metabolic complications.

Diagnosis and Treatment

There is no single definitive gold standard test that can diagnose PCOS or PCOD and therefore diagnosing requires a combination of medical history, physical examination, laboratory tests, and ultrasound imaging. Medical history includes menstrual history and familial history of PCOD/PCOS or diabetes. Physical examination involves evaluating signs and symptoms of hyperandrogenism such as acne, facial hair, hair thinning, BMI assessment

clinically. This cannot be considered a cause-effect relationship but rather a progression of the condition.

Impact on Reproductive, and Mental Health

PCOD and PCOS have substantial impact on women's health and if not addressed can lead to long term health complications including reproductive, cardiovascular, and mental. Anovulation due to PCOS is a leading cause of infertility in women of reproductive age. Without ovulation, the endometrial lining can thicken excessively, potentially leading to endometrial hyperplasia or endometrial cancer in some cases if left untreated. The mental and emotional health consequences are also significant, with many women experiencing low self-esteem, depression and anxiety, body image issues such as acne, facial hair, and weight gain. Apart from this, there may be additional health complications associated with PCOD/PCOS.

Role of Diet, Lifestyle, Stress and Risk factors

Diet and lifestyle play a key role in managing PCOS and PCOD. Lifestyle interventions are the first-line therapy for PCOD/PCOD particularly for PCOD. Health life-style interventions include healthy eating behaviour and exercise to maintain weight. Diet emphasizing low glycaemic index foods, high fibre, lean proteins, and adequate micronutrients can improve insulin sensitivity and hormonal balance. The main aim is to prevent abdominal obesity which is the main cause of hyperandrogenism and IR and regular exercise at least 250 minutes of moderate aerobic activity per week, helps reduce weight, improve insulin sensitivity, and regulate menstrual cycles. Stress management techniques such as mindfulness, yoga, and counselling can mitigate the negative effects of chronic stress on hormonal balance. Quality sleep is also important, as proper sleep hygiene helps regulate cortisol and insulin levels, reducing the severity of PCOS/PCOD symptoms. There are certain risk factors which place younger women at higher risk of developing PCOD/PCOS which include family history of PCOS or diabetes, abdominal obesity, poor dietary habits, irregular menstrual cycles. Identifying such factors aids in early diagnosis and timely interventions which are vital in preventing long-term complications.

Treatment approaches

Lifestyle interventions remain

the first-line therapy for managing PCOS/PCOD and improving both reproductive and metabolic outcomes. However, Pharmacological therapy is employed in addressing severe complications such as fertility issues, severe hirsutism, and severe endocrine complications. Psychological support through counselling, cognitive-behavioural therapy, meditation, etc are found to improve emotional and mental health.

Awareness and Prevention Methods

Awareness remains the cornerstone in understanding the distinctive feature of PCOS and PCOD and is essential to address the growing prevalence of PCOS and PCOD. Many women do not know that acne and irregular periods could be symptoms of PCOD/PCOS. Public awareness campaigns are needed to educate adolescents and young women about early symptoms, such as acne, irregular cycles, and weight changes. School and college awareness programs focusing on menstrual and reproductive health can promote early recognition and encourage early medical consultation. Screening of high-risk women with a family history of PCOS, obesity, diabetes can prevent long-term complications. Promotion of healthy lifestyle through Eat Right from adolescence can be critical in providing awareness and in reducing the risk and complications of PCOS/PCOD.

Key Insights

PCOS and PCOD affect up to 20% of young women, causing acne, hirsutism, irregular cycles, weight gain, and infertility. The most important thing is to recognize early symptoms and timely intervention. Lifestyle changes are the first-line interventions, followed by individualized medical therapy in severe cases. Psychological care is essential to support affected women, improving confidence, self-esteem and overall quality of life. Awareness and education empower women in self-assessment and seek timely care reducing the long-term impact of these conditions. Public education, preventive strategies, and multidisciplinary care are essential to combat the rising prevalence of these conditions and support young women in achieving optimal health and fertility.

"Behind every hidden acne, there could be a silent struggle. It is time we understand and act before it takes away a young woman's dream of motherhood"

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Education in Kashmir: Beyond Classrooms and Credentials



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Education in Kashmir is not just about classrooms, exams, or jobs. It is about dignity, resilience, and hope in a society that has witnessed decades of turbulence. In a land known for its poets, saints, and scholars, education has always been more than a means to livelihood — it has been a way of preserving culture, shaping identity, and imagining a better tomorrow.

A Legacy of Learning

From traditional maktabas and madrasas to the oral transmission of poetry, stories, and philosophy, Kashmir has nurtured a culture of knowledge for centuries. Modern schools and colleges added new opportunities, yet the respect for learning runs much deeper in Kashmiri households than mere pursuit of certificates. Every parent's dream is to see their child study often with the hope that education will secure a more dignified life.

Present Challenges

Yet, despite this strong cultural foundation, the education system in Kashmir is struggling. Schools and colleges face repeated disruptions due to political unrest, curfews, or weather-related closures. Rural areas still lack adequate infrastructure, trained teachers, and reliable connectivity. The pandemic exposed a sharp digital divide, leaving thousands of students without access to online learning.

The quality of teaching is another concern. Many teachers work with commitment, but systematic training, modern pedagogy, and motivation remain limited. The curriculum is often exam-driven, focusing on rote memorization rather than creativity or critical thinking. This disconnect produces graduates who struggle to find meaningful employment, especially as local industries do not absorb the growing number of degree holders.

Girls' education has improved, but pockets of resistance remain, especially in rural belts where safety, travel, and financial issues still pose barriers. Mental health is another silent crisis. Students growing up amid uncertainty often carry unspoken trauma, which affects their learning and



behaviour in classrooms.

What Needs to Change

For education in Kashmir to be transformative, it must move beyond token reforms and focus on continuity, equity, and relevance.

1. Ensure continuity of learning: Community learning centres, radio-based lessons, and offline educational packets can keep learning alive during disruptions.

2. Strengthen rural education: Investments must prioritize remote villages with better infrastructure, qualified teachers, and digital facilities.

3. Teacher empowerment: Teachers should be given continuous training and incentives to work in difficult areas. They must also be equipped to provide

psychosocial support to children.

4. Curriculum rooted in context: Local history, Kashmiri language, environmental knowledge, and traditional crafts should be integrated into formal education so that students feel connected to their culture while preparing for modern challenges.

5. Skill and livelihood linkages: Vocational training in horticulture, tourism, IT, and handicrafts can provide alternative career paths for youth. Education must be tied to employability.

6. Mental health support: Every school should have access to basic counselling services. A child cannot learn effectively while carrying the weight of trauma.

The Role of Community

Education cannot be left to

schools and government alone. Families, local leaders, poets, and artists must see themselves as partners in shaping the younger generation. Parents can encourage reading habits at home, while communities can create safe learning spaces during unrest. The youth themselves should be treated not only as beneficiaries but as active participants — leading peer learning, social projects, and awareness campaigns.

A Roadmap for Renewal

Policy interventions must focus on long-term stability. A Kashmir-specific teacher policy, investment in rural schools, scholarships for poor students, and public-private partnerships for skill development are essential. Equally important is protect-

ing education from disruptions — making it a “sacred space” where children can learn, regardless of the politics outside.

Conclusion: Education as Healing

In Kashmir, education has the power to heal wounds and open doors. It can restore a sense of normalcy to children whose lives are otherwise marked by uncertainty. It can also equip youth with the skills to build both their own futures and that of their homeland.

If nurtured with sincerity, education will not just produce degree holders but citizens with courage, compassion, and creativity. For Kashmir, that is not a luxury it is the only path forward.

White Coats, Fewer Jobs: The Medical Saturation Crisis in Kashmir



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The medical profession has always been held in the highest esteem in Kashmir, seen as a pathway to respect, financial stability, and social recognition. For decades, parents have nurtured the dream of seeing their children wear the white coat, believing it ensures a secure and dignified life. However, the current reality presents a far more troubling picture. The field of medicine in Kashmir has reached a dangerous level of saturation, with a staggering number of graduates competing for a very limited number of opportunities. A recent recruitment drive for just twenty Junior Resident posts in a medical college drew nearly six hundred MBBS candidates, a ratio that starkly highlights how overcrowded the profession has become. Reports further suggest that Jammu and Kashmir now produces over a thousand MBBS graduates every year, far outpacing the number of available posts and postgraduate seats.

This imbalance has been steadily growing over the years. On one hand, the number of medical colleges across India has multiplied, particularly private institutions offering seats through management quotas or the growing trend of sending students abroad for MBBS. Parents, determined to fulfill the dream of making their children doctors, often spend their life savings on these costly routes. Yet, once the degree is completed, the graduates return home to face the same reality: too many doctors and too few jobs. With government hospitals advertising only a handful of posts and postgraduate specializations equally competitive, the mismatch between the number of graduates produced and the positions available has created a bottleneck that leaves many young doctors unemployed or underemployed.

The roots of this crisis lie not only in the unchecked expansion of medical education but also in social expectations. In Kashmir, medicine continues to be viewed as the most prestigious profession, often leaving students and their families blind to other viable career paths. Many young people with different talents and aptitudes are pushed into this field, adding to the over-



crowding and creating frustration when opportunities do not materialize. At the same time, healthcare infrastructure in the region has not expanded at a pace that matches the production of graduates. While new hospitals and medical colleges have been established, they are far too few to absorb the thousands of MBBS doctors entering the market each year, resulting in a severe supply-and-demand imbalance.

The consequences of this oversupply are both financial and emotional. Families invest enormous sums—sometimes running into lakhs of rupees—to secure medical seats through management quotas or overseas admissions, hoping for a secure future in return. When employment opportunities fail to materialize, these investments become a crushing burden. For students, the disappointment is equally devastating. After years of gruel-

ing study, rigorous training, and immense sacrifice, many are left facing unemployment or underemployment. This often leads to stress, anxiety, and even depression, as young doctors struggle with feelings of burnout and disillusionment. What was once considered a noble and secure profession has, for many, become a source of wide-spread frustration and despair.

Moving forward, it is crucial to rethink the way medicine is approached as a career in Kashmir. Parents must recognize that forcing children into this path without merit-based admission through NEET can be deeply counterproductive. If a student qualifies on merit, pursuing medicine remains a justified and valuable choice. But if not, pushing them through costly private seats or foreign admissions often sets them up for a future of intense competition and limited

prospects. Students should also be encouraged to explore other fields—engineering, law, business, public health, biotechnology, research, and entrepreneurship—which are equally respectable and vital for the progress of society.

At a policy level, several reforms are urgently needed. Admissions to medical colleges must be regulated in proportion to the demand for doctors. Rural healthcare postings and fellowship programs should be expanded to absorb more graduates. Research, biotechnology, and public health initiatives must be promoted to create alternative tracks for young doctors. Equally important, private sector investment in healthcare must be encouraged to generate more jobs and reduce overdependence on the government sector.

At its core, the problem of medical saturation in Kashmir

is not merely about numbers; it is about misplaced expectations and shortsighted decisions. The warning signs are already here, visible in the overwhelming crowds of young doctors competing for just a handful of posts. Unless parents and students begin to make career choices with foresight, and unless policymakers expand opportunities in proportion to the graduates being produced, the crisis will only deepen in the coming years. Medicine is a noble calling for those who are truly suited for it, but it cannot be the default option for everyone. To safeguard the future of our youth and the stability of our society, we must guide them toward paths where they can thrive, contribute, and find dignity in diverse ways. The dignity of work is not confined to a white coat alone—our youth deserve the freedom to shine wherever their true potential lies.

All of a Sudden



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"Why is the whole Campus gloomy?" She asked her friend immediately on alighting from the bus.

"You don't know....?" The whole environment was weird.

"No, my dear. Not at all."

"Yesterday, Tasneem was drowned in the Aharbal waterfall."

They were both overwhelmed with sorrow, their hearts weighed down by the news. In a desperate attempt to deny the reality, the first girl started searching for Tasneem in the central block of the University as if she were hiding somewhere there.

Tasneem, a bright and ambitious research scholar at the University, had completed her Master's in Urdu literature with distinction. Her topic was 'The Feminine Characters in the Urdu Literature'. She was not just a colleague but a close friend of the first girl, who admired her intelligence and determination.

"Why did God take such a pious, beautiful and industrious girl away? Sometimes I doubt His sagacity and justice," the first girl said, her voice trembling with emotion and fear.

"A man is unable to find answers to such abstruse secrets of life. At times, I feel that He, too, is confused and unjust."

"Poor girl...! What all did she plan for her future? I shall do this, I shall do that, I shall launch a tirade against the decadence that has infiltrated our society. I shall dedicate my whole life to bettering the fate of our women, as well as to refurbishing the moral fabric of our society. While listening to her, you felt that the Creator had granted her a boon of long life. And see, she is gone... evaporated in thin air."

This vast campus was spread out over many acres of land on the banks of Dal Lake, adjacent to the famous shrine known locally as Hazratbal Dargah, abounding in apple trees. The campus, generally bubbling with life, was unexpectedly calm and quiet. During April and May, the trees were adorned with apple blossoms, ushering in romance, frolic, and gaiety. Furthermore, the beautiful chirping belles clad in multi-coloured dresses would add grace and glory to the already beautiful campus. Sometimes, an air force pilot would hover over the girls sitting under the trees in the garden just for fun. But it was altogether different today. The whole campus had turned into a wasteland.

"God knows what must have happened to Rizwan. He was so fond of her," the first girl said.

"Oh dear, don't talk of him. He was accompanying us. He watched

drowning Tasneem like an idiot and didn't move an eyelid. Remember, he used to boast about himself as an athlete. In previous years, he had won several awards in swimming. And lo...Tasneem was drowning; she was waving with both her hands and calling for help, yet he kept looking at her and did nothing," the second girl replied.

"I wasn't feeling well yesterday....usual female problem. That is why I couldn't accompany you on the excursion. You must have seen everything that happened. Isn't it?"

"Yeah, I was there, witnessed everything that happened with my own eyes," the second girl replied in a voice choked with emotion.

"What is destined is bound to happen. Perhaps it was the will of the Almighty," the first girl tried to console her. Yet she was looking at her friend with curiosity as if wishing, "You must relate all that occurred yesterday."

The Second girl understood her intent. She mustered her courage and started relating the story.

Early in the morning we boarded the university buses at the Exchange Square. The buses started competing with one another to reach their destination. All the students began to chirp like birds. You could not hear anything."

Tasneem, as was her habit, took an English novel out of her satchel and began reading. Rizwan, who was up to some trick, chose to sit next to her. He didn't like the book in her hand because he wanted to take this opportunity to talk his heart out to Tasneem but she did not pay heed to him. Hence, he adopted his wicked ways. "Excuse me, Tasneem, whenever I see you, you have a book in your hand. There are other things to do apart from studies in life. This is no time to read books. At least, keep the book in your bag today."

She smiled and closed her book just to please him. "Yes, come out with what you want to say?"

"Why didn't you attend the prize distribution function on Sunday last?"

"I didn't expect any prize, so why should I have gone there. I am not interested in athletics. Anyway, was there anything special?" Innocence was writ large on her face.

"I understand that you weren't one of the contenders but you could have cheered up others. Do you know I won three prizes this year too? Two in the swimming and one in the long jump event."

"Must have been those grotesque bronze medals." She burst out into a hearty laughter and continued in her satirical tone, "You can collect a number of them from an antique dealer in the flea market."

"Are the gold medals so rare? You think I am not capable of winning a gold medal?"

"No...No...I didn't mean that. Don't take it to your heart. I was just joking. I was not aware that you had won a gold medal."

"Tasneem, believe me, I felt something was missing, somebody to cheer me up and encourage."

"Oh I see. You should have contacted one of your politician friends. He could have arranged a truckload of cheerleaders."

"Rizwan, you always ignore us. Had you informed us in time, all of us would have come and that too without payment," Shelka, who was sitting on Tasneem's right side, butted in.

Roshi, sitting in front of her, chimed in, "Don't ever believe him. If he has his way, he will make us cheer for him with a promise of feasting us. Later, he will make us pay for the feast too." She made everyone around her burst into laughter. Roshi was deeply in love with Rizwan but he did not care a fig about her. She had gradually grown jealous of Tasneem.

On reaching Pampore, we all started singing. Many students showcased their talent. They imitated Mohammad Rafi, Manna Dey, Mukesh, Kishore, Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhonsle. We were clapping all the way to encourage them. Our bus echoed with songs.

Surprisingly, Somnath stood up and started speaking at the top of his voice. "Please stop for a while. I am going to tell you some jokes."

He was greeted with roaring laughter. He looked like a jokester - short-statured, roly-poly, sunken eyes with round Gandhian spectacles balanced on the nasal bridge. The oily, well-groomed hair gave him the look of an old-time Brahmin. He recited the first joke.

The bus was filled with loud laughter.

Then came the second joke.

Again, there was a roar of laughter.

He narrated another joke and was again greeted with cheers and laughter. Then he went back to his seat. In a few minutes, this otherwise shy boy had turned the whole atmosphere into cheerfulness.

Some people are born to bring good cheer to others' lives for which they are ready to go to any extreme.

At around twelve o'clock, we reached Ahrabal. All the students picked up their tiffins and baskets and sat down on the greens forming small groups at a fair distance from the waterfall. The waterfall looked majestic. Water fell in cascades over rocks and boulders from great height, frothing into white foam at the bottom. In the background, you could see the vast blue sky and a chain of purple mountains. Due to the water falling from great heights, a deafening noise was produced, as if many machines were working simultaneously. Only Wordsworth could have described it better.

We had tea and snacks immediately thereafter, played some games for a while and finally had our lunch. As the tiffins opened, the surroundings became fragrant with the aromatic, spicy Kashmiri cuisine. On one hand were Gushtabas, Ristas, Seekh Kebabs, Yakhni, roasted chicken, while on the other hand were Roghan Josh, Qaliya, Kofta, Dum Aloo, Nadru (Lotus roots) and Saag (Collard greens). All the dishes were quickly laid on

sheets spread over the ground. We shared one another's food. Watching this sight, no one could ever imagine that human beings are divided into sects and classes.

Lunch finished, and after some rest, another session of singing started. Roshi sang two ghazals of Mehdi Hasan while Tasneem sang a poignant ghazal written by Jigar Moradabadi. Other students also sang some film songs but God alone knows why all of them chose sad songs that made the environment depressing. My heart was filled with fear, suspicion and anxiety. I asked myself, "Why had they all chosen heart-rending songs? Couldn't they sing songs of cheer and merriment?"

Sharp came the reply from inside, "Sorrowfulness is the other side of happiness. In fact, Pain is the reality of life. Why try to escape it?"

"Don't know why we make these few moments melancholic which we could have spent in good cheer," I again analysed the situation after a thoughtful pause and realised, "The truth is that the emotions in these sad songs give us real happiness. That is why we crave to listen to these nostalgic songs."

Meanwhile, the sun began to set in the west. The shades of mighty chinar were becoming longer and longer. The waterfall had turned greyish, though it produced white froth with the same ferocity. All the students were busy playing games. They enjoyed cutting the currents with their hands and throwing water on one another. Some of them tried to hop from boulder to boulder notwithstanding the flowing water underneath.

The second girl who was narrating the incident suddenly stopped. Tears welled up in her eyes. She could not proceed to describe the incident. Her voice crackled, and tears started flowing down her cheeks. After some time, she mustered up her courage and spoke again.

In the meantime, screams were heard from all sides accompanied by wailing and sobbing.

"Help...help...help...! All the students were shouting and looking expectantly at one another. Their faces were downcast with despair and desperation."

Tasneem was flowing with the current of water, trying to catch hold of a boulder. The poor girl was waving with her hands for help as if saying, "Save me, somebody save me, this current is engulfing me." This was her language of symbols because she could not utter a word under the pressure of the fast-flowing current.

All the students were frightened at the sight of the flowing currents. They stood transfixed and paralysed on the bank of the river. Despondently, they were looking at one another. Nobody dared jump into the river to save Tasneem. Frightened Roshi was often looking at Rizwan.

All of a sudden, a thud was heard as something fell into the river. Nobody could believe their eyes.

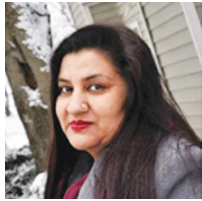
Somnath had jumped into the river. He was trying to make contact with Tasneem and catch hold of her arm. Somnath, a reticent and diffident student who had learnt to swim on the banks of the river Jhelum but never dared to swim across the river, was now fighting with the strong currents of the river. He caught the middle finger of Tasneem's right hand and was trying to take hold of her arm. In so doing, he lost the finger too. The water current carried them further apart. Yet Somnath did not give up. He was trying hard to make up for lost time. He made a renewed effort to draw near Tasneem. On reaching near her, he caught hold of her left arm. Tasneem was totally exhausted by the time, so she could not pull her body towards Somnath. Incidentally, the water intake had made her body heavy. Somnath made another effort to grab the waist of Tasneem in his arms in order to pull her towards him. Abruptly, a strong current of water came and washed them further away into the whirlpool waiting with its mouth open like a crocodile. In no time did both of them vanish into the watery grave.

While narrating the story, both girls reached the arts block of the university where hundreds of students had gathered to pay homage to the departed souls. Those who had witnessed the tragedy themselves were all in grief and tears. Their speeches were often broken as a result of emotional hiccups. Bishamber Nath, a union leader from the administrative office, who had only heard about the incident and not witnessed himself, came up on the stage. He narrated the story as if he had seen the tragedy himself. His eyes were wet. His demagoguery moved the audience. However, while delivering his lecture, he failed to control his emotions as his provocative trait got the better of his rationality. He uttered the following words which stirred the otherwise poignant atmosphere. "Somnath's supreme sacrifice is a great example of secularism in our society."

His statement sent shock waves through the audience. I felt that he had abused the innocent souls who had left us. Nobody could believe that Somnath had done this act of chivalry to set an example of secularism in society. How could he decide in a fleeting moment to uphold the traditions of secularism? He had just seen a poor girl drowning and waving for help, and instantly jumped into the river without much thinking. He had done so as his emotions took over his rational self, just to save a human life. It was humanity that had overwhelmed him. In reality, the statement of the union leader had pierced the innocent souls of the departed with hurtful words.

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My Battle With Inches



By Lily Swarn

"In small proportions we just beauties see ; and in small measures life may perfect be" Ben Jonson. Life and beauty is all very well, but how about 'small' me? The bane of my existence at teen age, was a boon as a junior school brat. My small frame got me the first bench in class, without having to fight for it. The tall and lanky girls, who ended up as back benchers, emerged as the willowy, model -look-alikes, as time passed, my tiny existence, was often put to evil uses, to smuggle out notes, from under the teachers hawk eye, or to hide

amongst the bushes, while stoning the school mango trees, for the raw "ambis", easily leading the queues and lines, for everything automatically and standing right in front of the assembly, did have other charms. It made one learn up one's lessons diligently, since the fear of being hauled up, in front of the school, was terrorizing. If you are standing, right under the nun's nose, you simply cannot, make an effort, to be invisible! As we, the ugly ducklings with long, tied-up, thick, black braids, slowly emerged into the 'swan', category, my lack of height, started worrying, my raging hormones.

The good lord, seemed like "the big bad guy", who robbed me of those precious inches. Well, it had its value. Men were more protective and indulgent of this petite, diminutive and elfin creature. Some-body was always willing to take down, bottles and boxes from the higher shelves!

One could play the helpless, dumb damsel without much effort- and then, hey presto! One fine day, I discovered my mother's, rather impressive line up of stilletoes, and kitten heels. This was the boost, my vanity had been in search of. I preened and pranced, tottered and, crashed, till I walked regally. The joy, of look-ing people in the eye, and not having to be ever looked down upon, was a novelty. There was no look-ing back then. My personal hoarding of high heels, of various shapes and heights began in earnest. One could walk into a room, with style and elan. One could go clickety click in a silent hall ; one could get lodged in the wet grass in a formal party and get embarrassingly stuck! The sensible, though dowdy fashion of platforms and wedges, saved my aching calves and heels. My small feet were tortured and twisted for years, as I played second fiddle to 'miss vanity'. It took a sensible

daughter to din some sense into my pea -brain. She put her foot firmly down, explaining clearly and crisply that, we love you just the same, even if you do not let your legs be tortured. Her stern advice, opened up uncharted vistas of joy as I ran around in sports shoes, without caring the proverbial 'damn'. Stubby and squat, might well be adjectives, but so are liberated and blithe. Humming "bada hua toh kya hua, jaise ped khajoor", etc suited me. If Hitler and Napoleon could conquer the world as little men, I have hope yet in the "little women", category. The oft quoted stuff about " all good things come in small packages", suits me fine, for a valuable thing can be kept safely, if its not huge ! "uchi addi de sleeparaan waali, kanni jhumke, paraandi pa ke kaali, ve mundeyaan nu lai gayi lut ke ", is left ringing in the corridors of colleges and universities. Only an occassional high heel diva day

for me now, as I agree with ever green "life is too short to wear high heels". I am lying through the skin of my teeth, of course !

Lily Swarn's Book " A Bejewelled Tiara" on Love And Peace recently published by Authors Press is now available on Amazon

International Beat Poet Laureate India 2023 -2024 ,Caesar Vallejo award for liter-ary excellence by UHE ,Lily Swarn, internationally acclaimed ,multilingual poet, novelist, es-sayist, columnist, gold medalist, university colour holder, radio show host, Peace and Human-ity ambassador .

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SHORT STORY | TRANSLATIONS

One Man Army

"Shazia, quickly serve breakfast, I am getting late for office."

"I am coming Baba, I am preparing the tiffin for children, their school van is about to come."

Shazia replied sweetly, bending her neck slightly, and Shahbaz waited for breakfast.

"Papa... Papa... wake up, we are getting late for school."

Shahbaz, who was sleeping comfortably under a blanket, heard the innocent voice of his daughter Nazma. He woke up startled from his dreams. He looked at the clock on the wall, it was already 9 in the morning.

"Oh my God... what will happen now?"

He got up in frustration. He could not decide what to do first. Should he go to the washroom to freshen up or to the kitchen to make breakfast, because the school van was about to come.

"Daughter, you get your younger brother ready, I will prepare breakfast for you."

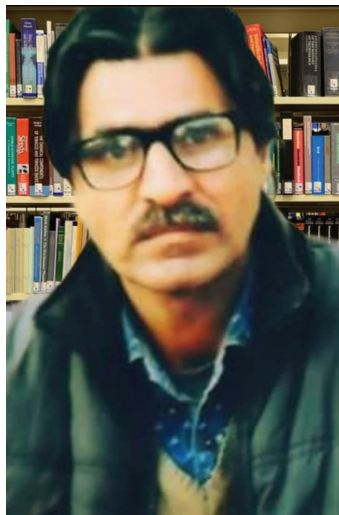
He rushed to the kitchen and started making breakfast quickly.

"Come, daughter, have breakfast."

"No Papa, the van is here, we are leaving... bye..."

Saying this, the daughter held her younger brother's hand and left for school without eating. Shahbaz sit on the sofa holding his head, feeling broken inside.

A little later he freshened up,



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prepared breakfast for his sick mother, gave her medicine, and then got ready for office. Because of being late, his boss scolded him. He tried to work but his mind was disturbed.

At lunch break, when food was served to him in the canteen, he remembered his children who had gone to school without breakfast and without lunch. His fatherly love overwhelmed him. His eyes filled with tears and he lost his appetite. He ate only a few bites

and left, cursing himself.

Yesterday had been a holiday. His wife spent the whole day taking care of him and the children. She cooked different dishes, washed clothes, ironed them, and by evening was tired, sitting in front of the TV. Later, when a guest came, Shahbaz went outside to welcome him and signaled his wife to prepare tea. After the guest left, he suddenly started shouting at his wife for no real reason.

"You sit in front of TV all day.

You have no respect for yourself or for me."

He went on scolding. She kept crying and asking what her fault was. Finally, her patience broke. Crying, she left for her parents' house. Shahbaz, full of anger, did not even try to stop her.

The next day at office, Shahbaz's colleague Rajeev was talking on the phone about taking his mother to the doctor. This reminded Shahbaz that his own mother was a BP patient who needed medicines many times a day and sometimes insulin injections. All this care was done by his wife. His wife also took her to the doctor when needed. At the same moment, the wall clock struck two. He remembered his children return from school at two. Who would give them lunch, when they had skipped breakfast too?

His heart ached, his eyes welled up, and he decided to take half-day leave. But before he could go, the peon called him to the boss's cabin.

The boss asked about an important file that Shahbaz had not completed. He had no answer. The boss got angry. Ashamed, Shahbaz returned to his desk and worked hard. After two hours, he completed the file and gave it to the boss.

"Very good," the boss said after checking the file. "Sit down, Shahbaz. You look very worried. What is the matter?"

"Sir, my wife is not at home. I have to take care of my mother's medicines, cook for my children, and I am disturbed..." Shahbaz's eyes filled with tears.

"Where is your wife? Is everything okay?"

"Yes sir, she is at her parents' home."

"No Shahbaz, I can tell something is wrong. Tell me clearly."

Finally, Shahbaz told the whole truth. He explained how he got angry over a small matter and shouted at her.

The boss listened and then asked, "Do you have a cook at home?"

"No sir."

"A maid? A washerman? A caretaker for the house? Someone to raise your children and look after your sick mother?"

Shahbaz stayed silent.

"Why are you silent? Answer."

"No sir, there is no one."

"Then who does all this work?"

"My wife, sir."

"Exactly. Without any salary, like a one-man army, she manages all household responsibilities. And over such a small matter, you fought with her. Maybe she didn't even hear you properly."

"Yes sir, I think so too," Shahbaz said, ashamed.

He took out his phone with trembling hands...

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