

The Bottle They Never Wanted: Inside Kashmir's Nano Urea Controversy

After uproar in Kashmir's farm belt, Centre tells states to stop fertiliser bundling

Dr. Waseem Ahmad

Srinagar: At his farm in south Kashmir's Shopian district, Mohammad Yousuf was loading sacks of fertiliser onto his wooden cart when the dealer handed him a small plastic bottle.

"He said I had to buy this nano urea, or I wouldn't get my



usual DAP," Yousuf said. "When I asked why, he told me it was a government rule."

It wasn't.

Kashmiri farmers like Yousuf say they're being pressured to buy nano urea, a newer, liquid fertiliser, alongside their regular, subsidised fertilisers like DAP, urea, or MOP.

The practice, often called "tagging," has become widespread in recent months, with retailers reportedly refusing to sell subsidised fertilisers unless nano urea is purchased along with them.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture has now stepped in. After receiving a growing

number of complaints from Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry issued clear directions to all states: stop tagging immediately.

Fertilisers are essential commodities under the Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), the Ministry noted, and cannot be bundled or sold conditionally

with other products.

Nano urea, developed by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO), is marketed as a more efficient and eco-friendly alternative to traditional urea.

A 500ml bottle claims to do the job of a full 45kg bag.

It's light to carry and easy to spray. Yet, the | [More on P6](#)

KASHMIR'S 'ROTTEN' MEAT CRISIS DEEPENS

Over 3 Tonnes Seized, Grand Mufti Issues Fatwa

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In an intensified crackdown on the sale and supply of unsafe meat and poultry, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Kashmir has seized and destroyed more than 3.5 tonnes of decomposed and unlabelled meat across multiple districts over the past few days. The large-scale revelations have now prompted religious intervention, with the Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir issuing a fatwa against the consumption of such meat.

In a strongly worded statement, Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, on Wednesday issued a fatwa against the sale and consumption of suspected haram (forbidden) meat products in the Valley, warning the public



against items such as momos, kebabs, and frozen meat of uncertain origin.

Addressing the people through a formal video message, the Grand Mufti thanked the public for supporting his previous appeal and reiterated the religious obligation of consuming only halal (permissible) meat, clearly stating that "earning or eating haram is not permissible | [More on P6](#)



Kashmiri farmers harvest hybrid apples in an orchard in Pulwama. Photo by Faisal Bashir

SC To Hear J&K Statehood Case on Aug 14

Agencies

New Delhi: A plea seeking the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood is likely to be listed for hearing in the Supreme Court on August 14.

Advocate Soayib Qureshi, said the case is likely to be listed for hearing on August 14. "We have prayed for a time-bound direction for restoration of J&K's statehood," he said, adding that the matter has not been listed for hearing tomorrow.

The case was mentioned on August 5 by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran. Sankaranarayanan informed the court that the hearing was listed for August 8 on the Supreme Court website and requested that it not be removed from the cause list. The CJI had agreed to the request.

The petition has been filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a lawyer and | [More on P6](#)

'No One Will Be Spared,' Says Food Minister

High-Level Meeting Today on Rotten Meat Scandal

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma on Thursday said that culprits involved in smuggling rotten meat into Kashmir won't be spared, and blanket ban would be imposed on the entry of illegal packed food items entering the valley. | [More on P6](#)

Pandemic Absence No Valid Reason To Deny Promotion: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: To penalise an employee for absence during such a period like pandemic, particularly when the leave was duly sanctioned, is not only legally untenable but also violates the principles of equity and humane administration, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said.

"This Court also takes judicial notice of the fact that



the COVID-19 pandemic constituted an extraordinary public health emergency, wherein employees across the spectrum were affected physically and psychologically," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri said while hearing a petition filed by a Senior Assistant in the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, challenging an order dated | [More on P6](#)

Ready To Pay Personal Price: PM Over Trump Tariffs

Says No Compromise On Farmers' Interest

KO Web Desk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India will never compromise the interests of its farmers, fishermen and dairy farmers, asserting that he would be ready to pay any price.

"For us, farmers' interest is the foremost priority. India will never compromise the interests of farmers, fishermen and dairy farmers. I believe, personally, I will have to pay the price, and I am ready for that," Modi said.

He was addressing a three-day global conference to mark the birth centenary of late renowned agri-scientist M S Swaminathan.

Paying his respects to MS Swaminathan, the architect of the Green Revolution, the Prime Minister said, "Building on the legacy of food security, the next frontier for our agricultural scientists is ensuring nutritional security for all."

His remarks come against the backdrop of the US



FOR US, FARMERS' INTEREST IS THE FOREMOST PRIORITY. India will never compromise the interests of farmers, fishermen and dairy farmers. I believe, personally, I will have to pay the price, and I am ready for that,"

announcing a further increase in the tariff on Indian goods, including agricultural products, to 50 per cent.

Donald Trump yesterday announced an extra 25 per cent

tariff on Indian exports as 'penalty' for New Delhi continuing to import Russian crude oil. Earlier, US had imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Indian exports on July 20.

With the total tariffs on Indian exports to the US rising to 50 per cent, the Ministry of External Affairs responded that the US targeting India over Russian oil imports is "unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable".

"We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India. It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest," it said, stressing that India "will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests".

Ties between India and the US have | [More on P6](#)

'Longest Encounter In Decades' Kulgam Operation Enters 7th Day



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The longest encounter in decades between security forces and terrorists hiding in the deep Akhal forests of South Kashmir's Kulgam district entered

its seventh day on Thursday.

Three security force personnel were injured in a fresh fire-fight on Thursday, officials said.

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma reviewed | [More on P6](#)

'Have Not Slept In 7 Days' Locals Call For Relocation

Amidst the ongoing anti-terror operation in Kulgam, which entered its seventh day on Thursday, locals from the Akhal village have called for their relocation from the area, citing severe hardships. The residents claimed they were unable to sleep due to the relentless firing and were now running out of food as well. "We have been facing severe difficulties for the past seven days. Firing and bombs go on during the night. There is a | [More on P6](#)

How 40,000 Forest Rights Claims Were Denied In Kashmir

Over 85% of tribal land claims have been rejected in J&K, raising questions about due process and the misuse of a law meant to protect forest dwellers.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: On a hot August morning in Rajouri, 62-year-old Ghulam Nabi stood at the edge of a forest his family has grazed cattle in for generations.

In his pocket was a rejection slip that said he had no right to the land.

"I never thought one paper could wipe out a lifetime," he said. "They didn't even come here. They just crossed my name."

His is one of nearly 40,000 stories like this across Jammu & Kashmir.



Since the Forest Rights Act (FRA) was extended to the region, 46,090 claims have been filed, over 85% of them have been denied. That includes

32,727 individual claims and 7,197 community claims.

J&K now ranks among the worst regions in India for implementing the law.

Activists say these rejections are a rejection of people's history, rights, and way of life.

"This is a burial, not implementation," said Dr. Shaikh Ghulam Rasool, head of the Forest Rights Coalition, J&K. "These decisions aren't about legality. They're about erasing people who've lived in forests for centuries."

The FRA, passed in 2006, was meant to fix colonial-era laws that treated forest dwellers as trespassers. It gave them the right to their traditional land and resources.

Under the law, village councils or | [More on P6](#)

Forfeited Books: Police Launch Valley-Wide Raids

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day after the Jammu and Kashmir government ordered the forfeiture of 25 books accused of promoting secessionist ideologies and inciting violence, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday launched valley-wide searches of bookstores to ensure compliance with the ban.

Police teams visited several bookstores in Srinagar, Sopore, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam and other towns, verifying inventory and removing any listed titles that had been declared as "forfeited" under Section 98 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

Officials said that the searches are being conducted as a preventive measure to

ensure that no banned material remains in circulation or reaches the public domain. "Bookstore owners have been directed to cooperate and immediately report any stock of the listed books."

The government on Wednesday announced the forfeiture of 25 books identified as promoting anti-national narratives, vilifying security forces and glorifying terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The move was taken in light of intelligence inputs and investigative reports pointing to the literature's role in radicalizing youth and promoting discord.

Books by authors such as Arundhati Roy, Piotr Balcerowicz, Hafsa Kanjwal, Christopher Snedden, Mohammad Yosuf Saraf and Essar Batool | [More on P6](#)

NIA Court Frames Charges Against 2

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing efforts to dismantle the financial and logistical support system of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, the NIA court in Srinagar has framed charges in a high-profile terror funding case.

"Charges have been framed against two accused Shabir Ahmad Bhat of Kakapora and Javid Ahmad Yatoo of Pampore, while criminal proceedings have also been initiated against absconding Pakistan based LeT handler Sumama alias Babar alias Ilyas, who is also an accused in the case," said a statement.

"The investigation was conducted by Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK). The case pertains to a criminal conspiracy by handlers | [More on P6](#)



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ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in High secondary school Examination class 12 th under Rollno .5212313. Reg No:- NI3481030007 Session:- Annual Regular 2016 .Faculty Science. through the Jammu and kashmir Board of School Education .Due to the error committed by the concerned school /parent my Father's name has been recorded with the Board as NISSAR AH KHAN while as actual my Father's name is NISSAR AHMAD KHAN

Now i have applied for correction /rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar if anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before office of the Assistant / Deputy Secretary, Certificates - KD -undersigned within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained . This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under :-

Name:- Zaid Un Nissar Khan
S/O:- Nissar Ahmad Khan .
M/N:- Zubaidah Begum
D.O.B:- 01.12.1999 .
Roll No.5212313 .
Session Annual Regular 2016
R/O:- Udiporta . Tehisll . Langate .Distt Kupwara .



FKO

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in name and in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04C 8250- Whereas an application has been recieved by one LAY-AQET HUSSAIN WANI S/O MANZOOR AHMAD WANI address WATA MAGAM BUDGAM wherein he claimed that the name and has been wrongly recorded in the Registration Certificate as LIYAQAT HUSSAIN. Which needs to be changed as LAYAQET HUSSAIN WANI. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 3 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on the electricity bill bearing ID No.: 0206050002383 from Abdul Rheem Bhat, S/o Asad Bhat, R/o Astaan Mohalla, Yarigund, Khowsa, to Mansoor Ahmad Paray , S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Parray, R/o Astaan Mohalla, Yarigund, Khowsa. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file it in the office of the PDD Sub Division, Lawapora, within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Mansoor Ahmad Parray
S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Parray
R/o Astaan Mohalla, Yarigund, Khowsa

BMG_R

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email:- kash.flori@jk.gov.in

Sub: CANCELLATION OF e-TENDER

The e-Tender Notice invited vide e-NIT No. 08 of 2025 dated: 21.02.2025 with regard to "Out-sourcing of entry ticketing system of Rani Bagh Anantnag" issued under endorsement No.DOFK-GSOTNDR/11/2024/E-7593648/e-NIT-08 dated: 21.02.2025 is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)

No: DOFK-GSOTNDR/11/2024/E-7593648/e-NIT-08
DIPK-4936/25
Dated: 07/08/2025

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN PROJECT H S BUGH

Phone/Fax No: +91-9131-465044Email Id: cdpohsbugh@gmail.com

Subject: - The Tentative /Revised merit list for the post of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker)
(PUBLIC NOTICE)

The Tentative /Revised merit list at Annexure-A of 2nd meritorious candidate for the post of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) at H S Bugh -B ward No.06 is published for calling of objections from the general public/desirous candidate. The said post was advertised vide this Office Notice No: - 05 of CDPO HSB of 2024 Dated:- 24-12-2024and the tentative selection list of candidates was published through Department of Information vide this office No: - CDPO /POSHAN /HSB/2025/461-68 Dated:- 03-07-2025 for calling of objections from general public and one objection from 2nd meritorious candidate was received against the qualification of previously selected top meritorious candidate namely Zuhra Fayaz D/o Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh R/o H S Bugh ward No.06 in which complainant has stated that tentatively selected candidate is Post Graduate which was verified and found correct and the candidature of top meritorious selected candidate has been cancelled as Post graduate candidate is not eligible for the post of Sangini (AAWW) as per H R Policy of Government.now the 2nd meritorious candidate namely Rafiya Jan D/o Gh.Mohi ud Din Parrayis tentatively enlisted for calling of objections. The objections should reach to this office within a period of ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice.After the date of expiry, no objection will be accepted/entertained.

ANNEXURE- "A" (Sangini (Anganwadi Workers)

S. No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage/W/O	AWC/ward	Qual.	DOB	Max Marks	Marks Obtained	%age
1	Rafiya Jan	Gh.Mohi ud Din Parray	H S Bugh-B-06	12th	12-02-2001	500	374	74.80%
2	Asmat Mushtaq	Sameer Ahmad Sheikh	H S Bugh-B-06	12th	04-04-1997	500	347	69.40%
3	Rohi Jan	Ishfaq Hameed Sheikh	H S Bugh-B-06	12th	15-11-1992	750	446	59.46%
4	Suhaila Ashraf	Aamir Majeed Parray	H S Bugh-B-06	12th	15-01-1993	750	413	55.06%
5	Sabreena Akhter	Ishfaq Ahamd Parray	H S Bugh-B-06	12th	15-05-1989	750	404	53.86%
6	Rifat Aara	Sartaj Ahmad Sheikh	H S Bugh-B-06	12th	15-02-1992	750	377	50.26%

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project H S Bugh

No: - CDPO /POSHAN /HSB/2025/606-13
DIPK-4921/25
Dated: -07-08-2025

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Lateef Ahmad Bhat S/o Sonaulah Bhat R/O Bomai , Tehsil Zainger for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self who was Born on 23/05/2016 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

fko

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MODERN INSTITUTE OF LEARNING SHEIKHPORA

Ref. No. MIL/05/SKP/25

Dated: 08.08.2025

LIST OF MANAGING BODY

S. No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	NISSAR AHMAD BHAT	GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT	SHEIKH-PORA	10th Pass	Business	Member/Parent
02	GHULAM NABI SOFI	MOHAMMAD RAMZAN SOFI	SHEIKH-PORA	8th Pass	Business	Member

Note: Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the worthy Deputy Commissioner Office Baramulla within seven days from the date of publication of List managing body.

Chairman
Modern Institute of Learning
Sheikhpora

fko

IN THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE BANDIPORA

CORAM IQBAL AHMAD AKHOON UID NO. JK001181

Date of Application: 04/07/2025

Date of Order:

In the case of:
UT through SHO P/S Bandipora FIR No. 38/2013 u/s 379, 201 RPC
V/S

1. Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Ward No. 02 Bandipora.

Proclamation Order

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused person namely Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Ward No. 02 Bandipora.

Whereas in the above titled challan in case FIR no. 38/2013 u/s 379, 201 RPC, the accused person has been arrayed as accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with report that the said accused could not be found.

From the statement of the tameel as well as conduct of the accused this court is satisfied that the said accused person has absconded and is concealing himself, to avoid the service of the said warrant.

As such proclamation is hereby made that the accused person is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of publication of proclamation, failing which proceeding U/s 88 JK CrPC shall be initiated against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today on 4-7-25

DIPK-4944/25
dated: 07-08-2025

Chief Judicial Magistrate
Bandipora

Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.24/EE/R&B/BM/CS/3278-85 of 2025-26

DATED:05.08.2025

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of 04 Storeyed Office Building of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina.	70.63082/-	1600/-	1,41,262/-	365 days	Capex Budget	"AAY"

Position of AAA: Accorded by Superintending Engineer Procurement Circle KPDCI Bemina, Srinagar vide order No.SI/Proc/KPDCI/35 of 2025 Dated: 11.03.2025

Position of funds: Available
Project Authority: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.08.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06.08.2025 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	06.08.2025 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	18.08.2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.08.2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan under M.H-0059** in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority)(The Date of **Treasury Challan** should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3. Unbalanced bid:

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv.cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on quoted bid by L1
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	>30% below	20%

The bidder declared as L1 has to Provide additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the break up given above at the time of allotment.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

No: EE/R&B/BM/CS/3278-85
DIPK-4917/25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

از نیابت ہمہامہ باجلاس عبدالمجید ڈار صاحب نائب تحصیلدار ہمہامہ

مضمون۔ درخواست از جانب سنجے رازدان ولد شعیب لعل رازدان ساکن ہاؤسنگ کالونی اوپورہ تحصیل ضلع بگرام بمراد ابرائی لیگل ہیر (Legal Heir) سرفیکٹ

اشہار بمراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام

مجاہد میر جعفر خان الصدق میں مائل نے ایک درخواست نسبت ابرائی لیگل ہیر سرفیکٹ دفتر ایش چٹل کی ہے جو کہ پرکاروانی ہے جس کی نسبت پٹوانی حلقہ کے پورٹ طلب کی ہے جس کے مطابق ساکن کا پٹا آرین رازدان ہے رازدان سنجے رازدان مودثر 19-05-2025 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے مائل نے فوٹو منٹ کا پی ماحولر بھی ہے حتیٰ کا منٹ کی تفصیل پڑھ رہا ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام و صولیت	رشتہ روادختی	عمر	پیشہ	کیثیت
1	سنجے رازدخان	والدہ	52 سال	سرکاری ملازم	شادی شدہ
2	سنجے رازدخان	والدہ	50 سال	کمرے کا کام	شادی شدہ
3	اودس رازدخان	بھائی	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	غیر شادی شدہ

اس کے علاوہ راکھی دارخان جا بڑھیں ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو سرفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اور دفتر میں چٹل کریں بعد کر دے مینا کو منی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

تقریر الصدور

نائب تحصیلدار ہمہامہ

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in name and address in data to the Registration Certificate No.JK04C 8250- Whereas an application has been recieved by one HAFEZAH BANOO W/O FAROOQ HUSSAIN SHAH

address 044, Masjid Sharaf Khansahib Budgam wherein she claimed that the name and Address has been wrongly recorded in the Registration Certificate as HAFEZA FAROOQ D/O HAKIM ALI MOHAMMAD Address ZALOOWA CHADOORA BUDGAM, Which needs to be changed as HAFEZAH BANOO W/O FAROOQ HUSSAIN SHAH address 044, Masjid Sharaf Khansahib Budgam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in High secondary school Examination class 12 th under Rollno .5212313. Reg No:- NI3481030007 Session:- Annual Regular 2016 .Faculty Science. through the Jammu and kashmir Board of School Education .Due to the error committed by the concerned school /parent my Father's name has been recorded with the Board as NISSAR AH KHAN while as actual my Father's name is NISSAR AHMAD KHAN

Now i have applied for correction /rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar if anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before office of the Assistant / Deputy Secretary, Certificates - KD -undersigned within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice.after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained . This is published for the information of the general public .The correct particulars be recorded as under :-

Name:- Zaid Un Nissar Khan
S/O:- Nissar Ahmad Khan .
M/N:- Zubaidah Begum
D.O.B:- 01.12.1999 .
Roll No.5212313 .
Session Annual Regular 2016
R/O:- Udiporta . Tehisll . Langate .Distt Kupwara .

fko

NOTICE

I Javeed Ahmad Guree F/o Zainab Javeed R/o 11 Bul Bul Lanker Nawa Kadal, Srinagar have changed my daughter's name From (old name) Laiba Javeed to (New Name) Zainab Javeed. In future she will be known as Zainab Javeed. I intend to change the Above said Name on Aadhar. If anybody has any objection he/she may file the same to the office of the Concerned Authority within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his Date of Birth certificate as Ifhaam, while his correct name is Ifhaam Mukhtar Wani. Now, I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Municipal Council, Shopian, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Mukhtar Ali Wani
S/o Ali Mohammad Wani
R/o Heerpora, Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar card as Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/o Abdul Rehman Bhat, while my correct name is G.H. Mohd Bhat S/o Abdul Rahman Bhat. Now, I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the concerned Aadhaar office Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

G.H. Mohd Bhat
S/o Abdul Rahman Bhat
R/o Sugoo Handhama Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar Card as Tazima Jan, while my correct name as per Domicile Certificate is Tahzeema Akhter. Now, I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the concerned Aadhaar office Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Tahzeema Akhter
W/o Late Abdul Hamid Dar
R/O Sedow Shopian

fko

JLNM Hospital Faces Equipment Shortage, Substantial Funds Remain Unspent

Agencies

Srinagar: The JLNM Hospital at Rainawari in Srinagar, is facing a critical shortage of essential medical equipment required for routine patient care, even as substantial funds remain unutilized.

Insiders said that the persistent lack of basic instruments has left patients, attendants, and the medical staff exasperated.

Multiple patients and their attendants said that they have been waiting for months to undergo necessary medical tests and procedures because basic instruments such as forceps and scissors are simply not available. "We have been forced to delay important biopsies and other procedures for weeks," said one patient's relative.

"Doctors say their hands are tied, as they are not allowed to independently arrange or purchase even these basic items needed for our treatment," they said.

The situation is especially baffling given that the hospital reportedly has eight crore rupees available under the Hospital Development Fund (HDF). However, hospital sources said that the procurement of equipment does not fall within the hospital's direct authority.

Instead, the Jammu and Kashmir government has created entities like the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (MSCL) for centralized procurement of essential equipment. Yet, it appears that procuring smaller, basic items may not always be a top priority for these agencies.(KNO)

Dubai Businessman Alleges ₹5 Crore Fraud By City Based Trader

Agencies

Srinagar: A Dubai-based businessman, Anil Bhagwandas Karamchandani, on Thursday held a press conference to expose what he called a shocking case of financial fraud involving a Srinagar-based businessman who allegedly cheated him of 5 Crores under the guise of a property deal in Dubai.

Karamchandani, a Mumbai based entrepreneur residing in the UAE, alleged that he was lured into the scam by Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Rasool Dar, who operates under the banner of

"FM Group" at Humhama in Budgam. According to Karamchandani, Mukhtar posed as a politician and philanthropist and presented himself as a man of great influence and wealth.

"In 2025, Mukhtar Ahmad offered me a supermarket property in Dubai while claiming his own commercial building was under construction. Believing him, I transferred 5 Crores as an advance. However, after sometime, I was shocked to discover that he had sold the same property to someone else and returned to Srinagar," Karamchandani said.(KNT)



Amira Kadal Footbridge Nearing Completion: Officials

‘Shop Relocation Completed, Soil Testing Underway’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The construction of the Amira Kadal pedestrian footbridge in Srinagar is nearing completion, with officials confirming that work on one side of the bridge has been finalized and preparations are underway to start construction on the other side.

Officials said the relocation of shops has been completed and soil testing is underway for final concrete laying on Lal Chowk side.

An official from Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) said the work on the bridge is almost completed.

He said now the pending portion is on the opposite side where the shop relocation has been done. "Soil testing is completed and we will soon begin laying the concrete base," he said.

He added that once this last phase is initiated, the bridge is

The footbridge, located at the busy Amira Kadal area of Lal Chowk, is being constructed under the Srinagar Smart City project and aims to decongest pediatrician movement and improve connectivity."



The footbridge, located at the busy Amira Kadal area of Lal Chowk, is being constructed under the Srinagar Smart City project and aims to decongest pediatrician movement and improve connectivity."

expected to become operational soon. "We are working on it and hopefully, it will be functional soon," he said.

Notably, the footbridge, located at the busy Amira Kadal area of Lal Chowk, is being constructed under the Srinagar Smart City project and aims to decongest

pediatrician movement and improve connectivity.

Earlier in February this year, KNO had reported that nearly 40 % of the work had been completed, including the installation of pillars and girders. The remaining delay was largely due to pending shop relocations on one end of the bridge.

Meanwhile, the project, estimated at Rs 7.17 crore, was initially scheduled for completion by May 2024. However, shifting commercial establishments caused delays. With the relocation now completed and infrastructure work progressing, authorities are confident the bridge will soon be thrown open to the public.

Officials said the project is not just about creating a crossing but about building a vibrant public space with improved aesthetics and walkability for the heart of Srinagar's commercial hub.

SKUAST Wins ‘Excellence In Agri-Incubation Leadership Award’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has won the prestigious 'Excellence in Agri-Incubation Leadership Award' during 2nd Sustainable Agriculture Summit 2025 held at Indian Habitat

Centre, New Delhi.

The award was presented by Union Ministers Ramnath Thakur and Ramdas Athwale to Naveed Hamid, Chief Executive Officer, SKUAST K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Centre in presence of Director MNRE, GoI, Suman Chandra; (Retd.) Former Secretary, Govt. of Delhi and Govt. of Goa, Dr

Jayadev Sarangi; CEO- Crop Protection Business-Godrej Agrovet Ltd, Rajavelu; Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta India, Dr K C Ravi; General Manager & Regional Head SIDBI, Dr Rajendra Prasad and Head TIC (Technology Innovation Centre) IPL Biologicals Limited, Dr Vimala Prakash, besides CMD, IRFC, Manoj Kumar Dubey (IRAS).

HUMBLE REQUEST

My elder son, Mohammad Numaan, a student of Class 3rd at Legends School of Education, lost his Cochlear Implant device during a school picnic at Harwan Garden. This device is his only source of hearing, and its loss has deeply affected his ability to communicate and engage with the world around him.

I humbly request that if anyone finds the device, please return it at the earliest. Your kind gesture can make a life-changing difference for my son.

Please contact: Mohammad Hanief
(Father of Mohammad Numaan) Mobile: 9622301057

From Office of the Advocate
Muneer Ahmad Dar

In the case of

1. Ghulam Nabi Mir S/o Mohammad Mir
2. Mohammad Yousuf Mir S/o Mohammad Akbar Mir
3. Abdul Majeed Mir S/o Assadullah Mir
All residents of Pattan Tehsil Pattan
4. Fayaz Ahmad Khan S/o Jan Mohammad Khan
R/o Khore Sherabad Tehsil Pattan

Caveators/Applicants

V/s
General Public

Non-Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko Sd/advocate

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF
CIVIL JUDGE SENIOR DIVISION – PATTAN

In the case of:

1. Abdul Rashid Yatoo S/o Ab Gani Yatoo R/o Dandoora Pattan (Caveators)

Versus

Public At Large (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of:

Caveat application under Section 148-A CPC

1. That the Caveators reasonably apprehend that the Non-Caveators may file suit/application/appeal or other legal proceedings before this Hon'ble Court against the Caveators and may get some interim ex-parte order in their favour by misleading this Hon'ble Court.

That there exists a civil dispute between the Caveators and the Non-Caveators and as such, there is every likelihood that the Non-Caveators may file any suit/ application/appeal or other legal proceedings before this Hon'ble Court and may obtain an interim ex-parte order against the Caveator.

In the premises, it is as such prayed that in the event of Non-Caveators approaching this Hon'ble Court with a suit/application/appeal or other legal proceedings, the Caveators may be given reasonable opportunity of being heard by putting them on notice before any order is passed in the matter by this Hon'ble Court.

Caveators Through Counsel
Adv Aaman Habib

FKO

آہ! ذیشان رسول نائیک نہ رہے!

زمین رورہی آسمان رورہا ہے

کہ مٹی میں یہ نوجوان سورہا ہے

بہ چشم پُر نم اور انتہائی دُکھ کے ساتھ یہ خبر دی جاتی ہے کہ

نوخیز نوجوان اور جواں سال ذیشان رسول نائیک ولد غلام رسول نائیک ساکن ایچھ گام بڈ گام

میں 5 اگست 2025ء بمطابق ۱۰ صفر المظفر ۱۴۴۷ھ بروز منگل بجلی کرنٹ لگنے کے

المناک واقعے میں واصلِ حق ہوئے۔ اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَ اِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُوْنَ ۝ مرحوم نیک سیرت،

ملنسار اور اعلیٰ اخلاق و کردار کا مجسمہ تھے۔ اللہ سبحان و تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ

مقام عطا کرے اور مغفرت فرمائے۔ آمین


مرحوم کے ایصالِ ثواب کے لئے فاتحہ خوانی بتاریخ 8 اگست 2025ء بروز جمعہ

المبارک اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ ایچھ گام بڈ گام میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ اِنِّ شَاءَ اللّٰہ

(مستورات اور عزیز واقارب سے گزارش ہے کہ اپنے ساتھ میوہ جات، مشروبات نہ لائیں۔)


سوگواراں

7006327085




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

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 

RAILWAYS


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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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

**HIJRI**
CALENDAR
13 Safar
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 13
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5: 27
Magrib	7:30
ISHA	9: 00

This Day In History

- 1220- Sweden is defeated by Estonian tribes in the Battle of Lihula
- 1303- Crete earthquake strikes with estimated magnitude of 8, triggering a major tsunami that damaged the Lighthouse of Alexandria and swept ships 2 miles inland in Egypt
- 1509- Emperor Krishnadeva Raya is crowned, marking the beginning of the regeneration of the Vijayanagara Empire in Southern India
- 1549- Henry II of France declares war on England and orders the siege of Boulogne
- 1567- Duke of Alba's army enters Brussels, Belgium
- 1570- Peace of Saint-Germain-and-Laye, more freedom for Huguenots
- 1576- Cornerstone laid for Tycho Brahe's observatory in Uraniborg, Denmark, when built becomes the world's most advanced research institution
- 1605- The city of Oulu, Finland, is founded by Charles IX of Sweden.
- 1647- The Irish Confederate Wars and Wars of the Three Kingdoms: Battle of Dungans Hill - English Parliamentary forces defeat Irish forces.
- 1700- Denmark & Sweden sign peace treaty
- 1703- Vienna-based newspaper Wienerisches Diarium (later called Wiener Zeitung) prints 1st edition; publishes daily for almost 320 years
- 1709- 1st known ascent in hot-air balloon, Bartolomeu de Gusmao (indoors)
- 1758- British troops occupy & plunder Cherbourg
- 1786- Jacques Balmat and Michel Paccard are 1st to climb to top of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe
- 1814- Peace negotiations begin in Ghent, Belgium
- 1816- Bavaria joins Holy Alliance
- 1831- Battle of Hasselt - Dutch army drives out Belgians
- 1853- Russian fleet appears at Nagasaki, Japan
- 1854- Smith & Wesson patents metal bullet cartridges
- 1863- American Civil War: Tennessee's "military" Governor Andrew Johnson frees his personal slaves. Celebrated as a holiday by Tennessee African Americans (early 20th century)
- 1864- Comet C/1864 NI (Tempel) approaches within 0.0964 AUs of Earth
- 1864- Union troops/Florida occupy Fort Gaines, Alabama
- 1868- Earthquake destroys the city of Arica, Chile
- 1876- Thomas Edison is granted the patent for Autographic Printing (US Patent 180,857)
- 1911- The millionth patent is filed in the United States Patent Office by Francis Holton for a tubeless vehicle tire.

از نیابت یومی

عنوان: درخواست مخائب فیاض احمد ذوالدغلام حسن ذار ساکنہ بھر زلوری بمراد عطاگل RBA سرفہ کیبیت بکن اولادان عدنان فیاض وفاقی فیاض واقراف فیاض

اشہار ہرغاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض RBA سرفہ کیبیت ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے بھیاں ہے کہ ساکن بھر زلوری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور بھئی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

فیاض احمد ذوالدغلام حسن ذار	سرکاری ملازم	45 سال
عطیہ بیگم زوجہ فیاض احمد	گھر بیو کام	40 سال
اقراف فیاض دختر	زیر تعلیم	18 سال
فاقیہ فیاض دختر	زیر تعلیم	17 سال
عدنان فیاض پسر	--	11 سال

سائل مذکورہ RBA سرفہ کیبیت حاصل کرنے کا خواں ہے اور بھئی کی مہوار آمدنی 65992 روپے تک ہے سرفہ کیبیت زیر بحث اتراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر آدراپنے عذریا اعتراض عدالت حد ا کو پیش کرنا ہوگا کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کو بھئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

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KO VIEW

Tourism After Tragedy

Over three months after the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed lives of 25 tourists and a local horseman, tourism is slowly returning to normal in Kashmir. But the sector is far from regaining its pre-April 22 glory. Official data from the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department confirms what many in the Valley feared: tourist arrivals have dropped by more than half in the first six months of 2025 compared to the same period last year. The arrivals have dropped steeply after the terrorist attack. The figure has plummeted to just 7.5 lakh this year from over 15.6 lakh visitors in the first half of 2024. The decline is more visible among foreign tourists where the numbers have dropped by 41 percent, while domestic footfall has seen an even sharper dip of 52 percent.

The sharp downturn has followed a strong tourist inflow in the first quarter of the year, which saw over 5.25 lakh arrivals, signaling what many believed would be another record-breaking year. But the Pahalgam attack changed that trajectory overnight. Hotels reported mass cancellations. Tour operators were left scrambling. And an air of uncertainty once again settled over an industry that had been showing real signs of resilience.

What makes this particularly painful is how far Kashmir had come. The years 2023 and 2024 witnessed steady growth in tourist arrivals, fuelled by improved infrastructure, sustained promotional campaigns, and a relatively calm security climate.

In 2024, foreign tourist numbers had surged by 64 percent, and domestic tourism was already at an all-time high. This, for once, had changed, the headlines around Kashmir. They were not about conflict, but about culture, beauty, and welcome.

The April attack has threatened to unravel all that. And it did initially. But the situation has been steadily on the way up since then. There is also a concerted effort from the administration to reframe the narrative. At a recent event in Srinagar, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah spoke not just of restoring numbers, but of redefining the experience Kashmir offers. For example, adventure tourism, he said, holds the key. It has to be about nature, culture and cuisine, which together create a memorable experience that keeps tourists coming back.

And it is perhaps experiences like these that are not just bringing back tourists after Pahalgam attack but also, may be, inspiring others to come. This is why nearly two lakh tourists have still visited the Valley after the attack. And they came not because they were ignorant of what transpired at Pahalgam but in spite of that. This act of trust is not just reassuring, it is a foundation we should build on.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Let Stress Spark Growth

Stress doesn't have to break us. It can build a better future, if we guide our youth with purpose.

Irshad Mushtaq

Stress is everywhere in Kashmir. It hides in crowded homes, empty pockets, and uncertain futures. Young people carry it without knowing how to let it go. It shows up as anger, distraction, or dangerous choices.

But stress is also a signal. It tells us what needs to change. When used right, it can push us to grow.

Many chase money, thinking it's the answer. It isn't. Skills, learning, and honest work bring peace. Money follows effort. Never the other way around.

Our society must shift from pressure to purpose. Make it normal to help others. Smile more, teach something, and share stories of struggle and growth. Young minds absorb what they see.

Distractions are loud, so our example must be louder. We must show that patience and effort matter.

Stress will remain, but how we carry it can change everything.

A positive mindset won't come from sermons. It comes from daily acts of reading a page, finishing a task, showing up. These small wins stack up and they give youth something better to believe in.

Kashmir has always survived storms. It's time to teach the next generation how to rise with strength, not sink in worry.

Let's build that future. Together.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Law Meets the Classroom

The Supreme Court's mental health guidelines may be India's first systemic response to a crisis Kashmir has long endured in silence. The burden is now on schools, families, and us all.



Naziya Rashid Kakroo

Education has always carried an extra weight in Kashmir.

Along with books, students carry burden and brouhaha. In classrooms disrupted by discord and in families grieving invisible wounds, the idea of learning as liberation feels distant.

For far too many young Kashmiris, school is a pressure cooker, than a space of growth.

We rarely say it out loud, but it's all around us: stigma, breakdowns, and boys who suddenly leave coaching classes, the girls who stop speaking at home.

Everyone knows someone who couldn't take it anymore. Everyone hears the same hush: don't say it was depression, don't tell anyone, we don't talk about these things.

This is what makes the Supreme Court's judgment in Sukdeb Saha v. State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors., delivered on July 26, so important.

For the first time, mental health has been affirmed as part of the constitutional right to life and dignity under Article 21. For the first time, India's education system has been told, clearly and firmly, that the wellbeing of a student is a legal duty.

The Court issued 15 binding guidelines for all educational institutions across the country, including schools, colleges, and coaching centres.

These include mandatory trained counselors, trauma-informed care, anonymous grievance redressal, safety protocols, and the ban on humiliating or segregating students based on performance.

It's a long-overdue attempt to replace punishment with care. These measures in a place like Kashmir are urgent.

The valley's students have grown up under an accumulation

of stress. Years of political uncertainty, internet blackouts, loss, and lockdowns have created a generation that appears calm, yet inwardly fractured.

The trauma often shows up as fatigue, self-doubt, or numbness. But when left unspoken, it festers. Suicides among young Kashmiris are rising. In most cases, there are only shock, and a silence that follows.

Within this context, mental health is still framed through shame.

Seeking therapy is viewed as spiritual weakness. Depression is dismissed as laziness. Emotional breakdowns are seen as failures of faith, character, or family values. Religious misreadings and cultural

If we want to honour this judgment, we must act now. We must ensure that no more students in Kashmir, or anywhere, are left carrying battles they cannot name, in systems that refuse to see them.

baggage combine to erase the medical reality of psychiatric illness. Worse, students are often made to believe that asking for help will bring dishonour to the family name.

Inside many institutions, there is hardly any space for these conversations, counselors, and mechanisms for students to safely report bullying, burnout, or trauma.

The absence of trained professionals, the casual cruelty of performance-based labels, and the lack of emotional literacy means that students are left to cope alone. This silence is fatal.

The Court's judgment recognizes that mental distress is not an isolated issue, but a systemic failure. It redefines the idea of a nurturing institution: one that listens, protects, and affirms a student's dignity regardless of marks or merit.

It goes beyond academics to address the toxic culture of comparison, perfectionism, and isolation that education often breeds.

It even extends to coaching institutes, those unregulated zones where students are drilled, not developed.

For Kashmiri students, especially those studying outside the valley, these protections matter even more.

Many face discrimination, alienation, and stereotyping in classrooms across India. The guideline for inclusive and non-discriminatory mental health practices directly addresses such marginalisation. Confidential re-

exist, students hesitate: held back by stigma, fear, and the absence of safe, anonymous systems.

This is why the Court's clarity matters. The judgment gives legal weight to what has long been ignored. It draws a clear line: dignity, care, and emotional wellbeing are rights. And violations are institutional responsibilities.

What the judgment also demands is a cultural shift. Parents must stop measuring worth in percentages. Schools must stop rewarding silence. Success must stop being defined as survival.

Until families, teachers, and institutions understand that a student's mental health is as vital as their academic result, we will keep losing them to despair, shame, and to a system that forgets they are human.

The formation of a National Task Force, as the Court recommends, could bring consistency and accountability.

But change will not begin in Delhi. It must start in Kashmiri homes, classrooms, and corridors. Teachers must be trained, budgets must reflect priorities, and communities must unlearn what they think they know about mental health.

Beyond policy, this is about redemption. After years of looking away, India's highest court has offered us a chance to look inward.

If we want to honour this judgment, we must act now. We must ensure that no more students in Kashmir, or anywhere, are left carrying battles they cannot name, in systems that refuse to see them.

In the words of the Court, education is meant to liberate. Let us begin by freeing our children from silence.

The writer is pursuing a PhD in Law at the University of Kashmir. She can be reached at naziya.rashid82@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Raids Aren't Enough, Fix Kashmir's Food System

The dark underbelly of Kashmir's food chain was exposed yet again on Thursday when nearly 1,000 kilograms of rotten meat was dumped in Srinagar. This follows the shocking seizure of 1,200 kilograms of decaying meat in Zakura just days ago.

That meat was only hours away from reaching dinner tables across the valley.

Behind every packet of spoiled meat is a system failing to do its job. What was meant to be cooked and served in restaurants, street stalls and hotel kitchens was instead found reeking of disease.

Beyond expired food, it was a public health emergency disguised as dinner.

Thankfully, the Food Safety Department and activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat acted swiftly and stopped a potential disaster. But the fact that such large quantities of rotten meat made it this far tells us that the real threat isn't just what's on our plates. It's what's happening behind closed doors.

How many more such consignments have gone unnoticed? How often have we eaten without knowing what we're really consuming?

Kashmir's love for meat is well-known. In just nine months, we consumed over 220 lakh kilograms of mutton, 4.4 kg per person annually, far above the national average of 2.8 kg.

With such high demand, street food culture has boomed. From Khayam Chowk's smoky tujj to Haz-

ratbal's crispy aloo munjje, these foods are part of our identity.

But in this appetite for flavour, hygiene has been forgotten. We don't ask if the meat is fresh. We don't care how many times the oil has been reused. We've normalised risk.

Last year, a dead rat was found floating in oil at a Hazratbal food stall. Public outrage followed, then quick action. Yet nothing really changed. Hundreds of street vendors still operate without checks, training, and care.

We are long past the point of relying on reactive measures. Surprise inspections must become routine, not rare headlines. Every vendor must be licensed and trained in basic food safety. There should be health screenings

for food handlers and real consequences for violations.

The public also needs tools, like WhatsApp helplines, reporting numbers, and awareness campaigns, to play a role in this fight to secure clean food.

Our street food culture deserves pride, but not at the cost of our health. These recent seizures should not be forgotten by next week. They should mark the beginning of a new food safety culture in Kashmir driven by vigilance, not luck.

Sincerely,

Kaisar Ahmad Malla
Health Worker, GMC Baramulla.

A School Called Saniya

After escaping years of abuse, a young Kashmiri woman turned her home into a classroom, giving hope to children who had little of it.

Gowher Bhat

The first children arrive just after dawn. They take off their shoes outside a modest single-storey house with a rusted tin roof in village Chewakalan, settle on the floor with their notebooks, and wait for the woman they call Apa.

Inside, Saniya Bashir places a kettle of tea on the stove, straightens her dupatta, and enters the room carrying a whiteboard marker.

“What is respect?” she asks the group of girls and boys, aged between seven and fourteen. Hands shoot up, and someone answers: “It’s when no one yells at you.”

Saniya nods. “Good. It’s also when you don’t forget your own worth.” At 32, she speaks from experience.

Just five years ago, Saniya was invisible, a woman surviving an abusive marriage in the outskirts of

sometimes physical – began weeks after her wedding. Her husband ignored her, in-laws dismissed her, and the absence of children became another reason to ridicule her.

“I was always reminded I was nothing,” she says. “They said a woman without a child is like an empty house. They made sure I felt that emptiness every single day.”

For years, she endured it: the yelling, the isolation, and the sense of being reduced to someone’s failure.

Like many women in rural Kashmir, she hoped patience would be rewarded. She cleaned, cooked, complied. She prayed harder, and blamed herself.

Saniya’s story is far from uncommon.

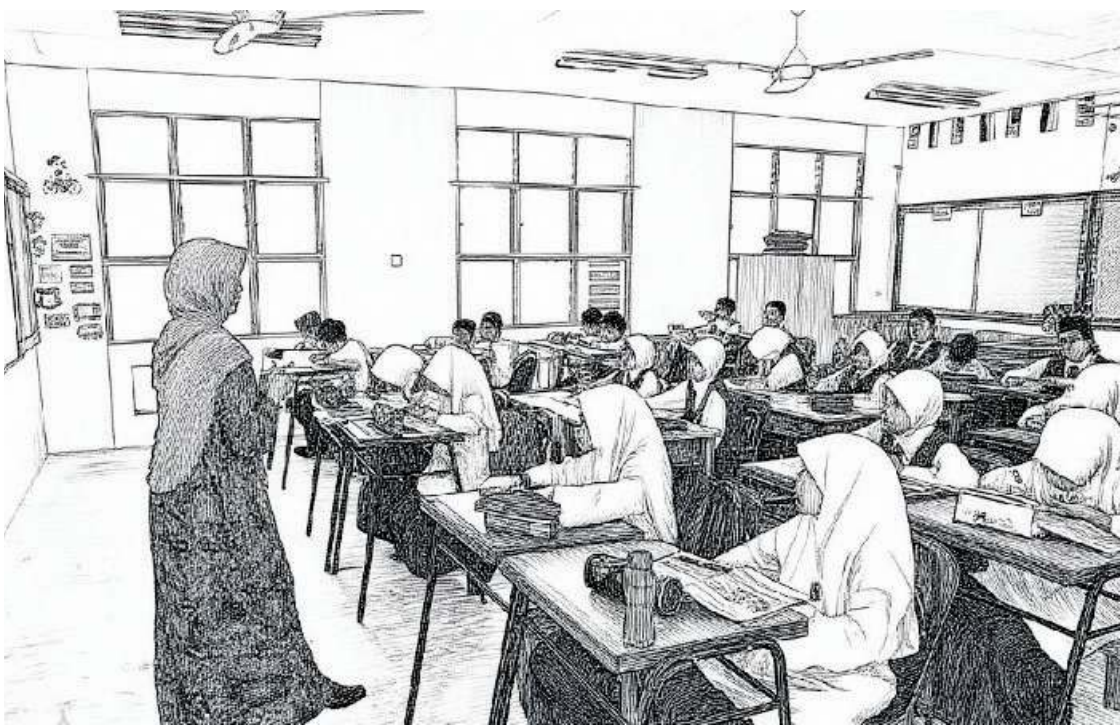
According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), one in three married women in Jammu and Kashmir reports some form of spousal abuse. In villages like Chewakalan, such suffering is often absorbed silently, passed off as marital adjustment.

Saniya’s turning point didn’t come with a dramatic fight or intervention. It arrived one morning in silence.

She looked at her reflection and saw someone she no longer recognized: a woman alive in body but hollow in spirit. “I knew I had to leave,” she says. “I just didn’t want to die slowly.”

She left with nothing. Her parents, reluctant but supportive, took her back in. And for the first few months, she did what many survivors do: she vanished.

“I didn’t open the curtains, and



Representational Photo

went silent,” she recalls. “I didn’t want pity.”

Then one afternoon, a neighbour asked her to help her daughter with schoolwork. Within a week, Saniya was teaching five children in her living room. She didn’t charge anything, and had no plan.

“But I had knowledge,” she says. “That was something they couldn’t take away from me.”

She holds a postgraduate degree in Urdu literature, a diploma in computer applications, and a B.Ed. She speaks with clarity, switches between Kashmiri, Urdu, and English with ease, and has developed her own teaching material tailored to students who often fall behind in overcrowded public schools.

Within months, word spread. Today, more than 40 children from Chewakalan and nearby hamlets of

Pulwama attend her classes every week, often before or after school hours.

Most can’t afford private tuition. Some parents offer eggs or lentils in gratitude. Others bring firewood. Saniya accepts what they can give, but asks for nothing.

What makes her classes different, parents say, isn’t just the quality of teaching. It’s the atmosphere. “She talks to our daughters about strength,” says one mother. “She teaches them what schools don’t: how to speak up.”

For the girls in her class, Saniya is a revelation. “She told me I can become a doctor,” says Shazia, 13. “No one ever told me that before.”

She begins each day with an affirmation: “I am worthy.” Some children write it in their notebooks, others whisper it under their

breath.

Education in Kashmir remains deeply uneven. Government schools are often under-resourced and overburdened. Access to quality private education is limited in rural belts like Pulwama, especially for girls.

According to recent education data, dropout rates among Kashmiri girls spike after middle school, largely due to social pressures and affordability gaps.

Saniya’s work, though informal, is slowly closing that gap in her village.

“Her students are performing better in school now,” says a local teacher. “And more importantly, they’re more confident.”

The same room where she once stayed hidden is now filled with students. There’s no signboard, but the voices of children learning.



Saniya’s work, though informal, is slowly closing that gap in her village. “Her students are performing better in school now,” says a local teacher. “And more importantly, they’re more confident.”

“She changed our kids,” one father says. “Now they want to learn, not just get by.”

When asked whether she’ll remarry, Saniya smiles. “People bring proposals. But I’m building something else now.”

She wants to expand the school, introduce computer classes, and maybe train other women to teach.

A few months ago, she started recording short video lessons using her phone. Some have reached students as far as Shopian and Tral.

Her home still has no signboard, but most in Chewakalan know the way.

The children file out after their lesson. Saniya stands at the door, offering each of them a sweet.

“I used to believe my life had no future,” she says, her voice steady. “Now, every day, I get to help shape someone else’s. That’s what brought me back to life.”

The author is a Pulwama-based educator and writer.

Healing in Hiking

A Kashmiri health worker recounts how the mountains reshaped his understanding of healing.

Abid Mohi-ud-Din

For most of my adult life, I’ve worked as a health professional. I’ve seen people walk into clinics with their shoulders sagging under weight that doesn’t show up on scans.

It’s stress, anxiety, and addiction caused by work, family, and often by a strange emptiness that settles in people who no longer feel connected to anything outside their screens.

To break this lifestyle jinx, seven years ago, I began walking into the mountains of Kashmir. At first, it was an escape. Now, it’s something closer to devotion.

I’ve trekked to over 50 alpine lakes since 2018. Each one sits more than 3,000 meters above sea level, deep inside the folds of the Himalayas.

Some took ten hours to reach, others required days. Along the way, I crossed snow bridges that collapsed beneath my boots, tiptoed across ridgelines whipped by wind, and slept under stars so sharp they felt near enough to touch.

I used to think this type of journey was about endurance. But over time, it became an act of listening, paying attention, and healing.

This kind of healing is rare in Kashmir carrying its own burdens of strife, memory, and longing. But I found it in the high altitudes.

Most people know the postcard Kashmir: shikaras on Dal Lake, apple orchards in bloom, a line of poplars brushing the sky. Fewer know that this valley is home to more than 200 alpine lakes, many of them unnamed and unreachable except on foot.

These are places where time slows down, water turns turquoise in the morning and steel grey by afternoon, and where silence doesn’t feel empty.

The trek to Gangbal Lake was one of my early tests. Tucked beneath Mount Harmukh, the lake mirrors the peak so perfectly it feels like you’re standing inside a painting.

Gangbal is sacred for many,



I’ve met teenagers who swapped cigarettes for trekking poles, who now wake up early to train for a climb. I’ve watched confidence return to faces that once looked lost.

and I understood why the moment I stood on its rocky edge. You walk for hours, sometimes through aching cold, and then there it is: still and vast, holding the mountain like a secret.

Later, I made it to Kaunsarnag, nearly 4,000 meters above sea level. This lake is wild, veiled in mist, and its surface changes with the wind.

The hike is brutal, long and punishing. Still, when you arrive, it feels like a place to learn something about yourself.

Barafsar, Kashmir’s highest known alpine lake at 4,513 meters, took everything out of me. I had to keep moving through deep snow and technical trails, unsure if I’d even make it.

When I reached it, I wept from the overwhelming calm that wrapped itself around everything.

I keep going back to the mountains for offering a medicine that no prescription has ever matched. I’ve spent years counseling patients with anxiety, addiction, sleeplessness. Most of them spend too much

time indoors, their phones never far from reach. They want relief. Many reach for substances, like alcohol, drugs, and anything that offers a high.

What I found is a different kind of high: the moment your heart races from a steep climb, and then steadies as you stare across a valley filled with clouds.

The taste of snowmelt on your tongue and the sound of wind moving through birch trees remind your body what it means to be alive.

A 2022 study by the Indian Council of Medical Research found that over 26% of Kashmir’s youth suffer from some form of substance abuse. That number should scare us. It scared me. And it convinced me to bring more young people into the wild.

I’ve met teenagers who swapped cigarettes for trekking poles, who now wake up early to train for a climb. I’ve watched confidence return to faces that once looked lost.

It’s not just the youth who benefit, even professionals feel-

ing burned out, distracted, and stuck, find themselves again on a weekend trek. I’ve met 60-year-olds who outpace me on the trail.

There’s something about being far from the noise that returns us to our better selves.

Still, these places are fragile. I’ve seen wrappers floating in glacial streams, plastic bottles tucked beneath rocks. Once, I found a shampoo sachet on the edge of a pristine lake. It had been there for months. This is vandalism.

If we keep doing this, we will lose what we came to admire.

So I tell everyone: carry your trash home, avoid soaps near water, and step lightly. These lakes give us joy, clarity, strength. The least we can do is protect them.

As I write this, I’m planning my next journey. Lake number 51. I don’t know yet what I’ll find there. What I do know is this: trekking in Kashmir changed my life. It reminded me that there’s still beauty left in the world, and that healing is possible.

For anyone reading this, I hope you go find your own trail. And when you do, let the mountains show you what they showed me.

The author is a health professional and mountain explorer based in Kashmir.

A Civil Servant of Rare Grace Is Gone

From SOS-style appeals to saving a historic mosque, the former Kashmiri bureaucrat’s life was built on listening first, acting silently, and never looking for credit.

Ansar Hussain Dar

Ghulam Ahmad Peer’s last social media post was a condolence. Like many before it, it carried his familiar tone, measured and mindful.

For years, he used his modest online presence to amplify voices in pain: appeals for healthcare, community welfare requests, and obituary posts.

His words were brief, often unsigned, but they stayed with those who read them.

Then, he went silent.

That silence turned eternal on the afternoon of August 3, 2025.

G.A. Peer, 73, a retired Indian Administrative Service officer and former Commissioner Secretary to the Jammu and Kashmir government, died following complications from motor neuron disease.

The tributes that poured in were unusually personal for a civil servant. He was not just remembered for his titles but for how he carried them.

In his native village of Seer Hamdan in South Kashmir’s Anantnag district, neighbours called him a noble man. They said he belonged to a time when dignity was the norm in public office, not an exception.

Across the political spectrum, leaders and colleagues described him as a model administrator. “A committed and principled officer,” said Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo. “His legacy will continue to inspire generations of civil servants.”

At the Directorate of School Education Kashmir, where he once served as Commissioner Secretary, a condolence meeting was convened. Director Dr. G.N. Itoo described him as “a man of rare dedication, humility, and intellect.”

Peer’s civil service career began in 1977 and spanned more than four decades. He served in roles as varied as Deputy Commissioner, Director of School Education, and Commissioner Secretary for



Education and Health.

Known for his calm demeanor and strong ethical standards, he was widely respected in Kashmir administrative circles.

But his career was not without peril.

In the early 1990s, as militancy surged across the valley, Peer’s role as a senior government officer made him a target. In his memoir *Curfewed Night*, Peer’s son, the journalist and author Basharat Peer, recalled how the family faced the heat of the moment/movement.

Suspensions lingered, and the family was urged to leave their native place, but Peer stayed.

He never called himself brave. His colleagues did that for him.

“He didn’t make noise,” said Sadiq Sheikh, a former official who worked under Peer. “But he moved things, listened to people, and tried to fix what he could.”

Even in retirement, Peer remained involved. He joined the Group of Concerned Citizens, a collective of public figures and professionals advocating for dialogue and good governance in Jammu and Kashmir. He offered guidance to younger officers, comment-

ed on policy drafts, and continued helping people steer the system he once served from within.

One such story, shared by a former district officer, involved the protection of a 200-year-old mosque in Bijbehara.

Local residents had approached Peer to prevent its demolition. He issued directions immediately and alerted the archaeological authorities. The mosque still stands.

“He never looked for credit,” said the officer. “He just did what needed to be done.”

Peer’s death has touched many beyond the bureaucracy.

His elder son, Basharat, is Global Ideas Editor at Time. Wajahat, his other son, is an anthropologist teaching in the U.S. It was Basharat who shared the news: “My beloved father... left us... after a brave, dignified battle...”

As the condolences keep coming, perhaps the truest one is this: he is missed by the people he once served. And that, for a civil servant, may be the most meaningful tribute of all.

Some of these mourners recall how the man lived with modesty, and when approached with requests, even as a former secretary, he replied with the same careful attention he once gave as an officer.

“It is rare to see a bureaucrat remembered like this,” said Naeem Akhtar, a former minister and colleague. “Not for power or policy, but for presence.”

G.A. Peer was that rare officer who never looked past the people waiting outside the gate.

And in a place like Kashmir, where trust in power is often worn thin, his life is a big reminder that it’s possible to serve with both strength and grace.

The author is a Multimedia Editor at Kashmir Observer.

ED's Conviction Rate In PMLA Cases Over 92% In Last 5 Yrs: Official Data

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The conviction rate secured by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in money laundering cases over the last five years has been more than 92 per cent, an official data said.

According to the data accessed by PTI, various special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) courts delivered judgments in 41 cases registered under the said law between January 2020 and July 2025, out of which conviction

orders were passed in 38 instances leading to the conviction of 98 accused.

The conviction rate is calculated by using the formula of taking the total number of cases in which the accused have been convicted as a percentage of

total cases decided on merits on the issue of money laundering, according to officials and the data.

Hence, the conviction rate secured by the ED in money laundering cases over the last five years comes to 92.68 per cent

(38/41X100) in about five years, they said.

The ED has been regularly targeted by political parties in the opposition, claiming its actions were biased and that its conviction rate was "poor".

A report prepared by the

agency for the 2024-25 financial year said while the legal framework under the PMLA provides for a "structured mechanism" for prosecution, the timely completion of trials continued to face several "systemic" and "procedural" hurdles.

The report released in May said a "primary challenge" in this context was that prosecution of money laundering cases was "intrinsically" linked to the progress of the investigation or trial of the corresponding predicate or primary offence.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

The Bottle They Never

product remains unsubsidised, and its performance in Kashmir's varying soil and climate zones is still being tested.

"This is a new product. And we don't know how to use it or if it even works here," said Imtiyaz Ahmad, a farmer from Budgam. "Still, they're forcing us to buy it, or else we're denied our main fertiliser. That's unfair."

Government officials agree.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently confirmed that no one can force a farmer to buy nano fertiliser. "Such practices are against the law," he said, urging state governments to ensure full compliance and take action against violators.

Despite these instructions, farmers say enforcement on the ground has been weak. Dealers continue to bundle nano urea with subsidised fertilisers, often misleading farmers by claiming it's mandatory.

Some have even pointed to unverified "verbal orders" from district agriculture offices.

State-level officials admit challenges in monitoring every dealer. "There are thousands of retailers across the valley," said one officer, requesting anonymity. "We've issued notices, but we need more inspections and stronger penalties to stop this."

According to the FCO, dealers found guilty of such coercion can face cancellation of licences and legal action. Yet many farmers say they fear speaking up, worried they may lose access to future supplies.

The issue doesn't end with nano urea. The Centre has flagged concerns over the unchecked sale of bio stimulants - plant growth enhancers such as seaweed extract, amino acids, and humic acid.

These products, too, are often marketed aggressively without sufficient scientific backing. The government has asked states to evaluate their use and halt unnecessary promotion until more data is available.

Kashmir's agriculture sector is already under strain. Rising input costs, unpredictable weather, and weak extension services have made farming more difficult.

For small and marginal farmers, being pushed into buying high-priced or unfamiliar products adds to their burden.

"The trust between farmers and the system is breaking," said Dr. Parvez Mir, an agricultural economist based in Srinagar. "We need transparency in input sales, better awareness about new products, and protection from exploitative practices."

Farmer unions are now demanding a full audit of fertiliser distribution in the valley. They want errant dealers penalised and clear guidelines issued to stop the misuse of government schemes.

For farmers like Yousuf, the message is simple.

"We just want to buy what we need, no more, no less," he said, holding up the half-used nano urea bottle. "We're already struggling. Don't make it harder for us."

SC To Hear J&K

academician and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist.

The petition argues that the continued delay in restoring statehood violates the principle of federalism, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

The petitioners have submitted that no steps have been taken to lay out a clear timeline or implement the Supreme Court's December 2023 directive that 'restoration of statehood shall take place at the earliest and as soon as possible'.

The plea is listed for hearing at a time when political momentum around the issue is building.

The Congress party has launched a full-fledged campaign for restoration of statehood. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to all political parties, including BJP, to bring a bill in the Parliament during the ongoing monsoon session to restore J&K's statehood. (KNO)

Over 3 Tonnes

under any circumstance."

Without naming any particular brand or vendor, the top cleric cautioned that many food items available in the market might be sourced from dubious channels and may not comply with halal standards. He advised the public to avoid purchasing frozen meat, kebabs, and momos, especially when the source of the meat or the method of slaughter is unknown.

"Buy only from trusted shops, where the slaughtered animal is visible and the halal process is verified," Mufti Nasir said, adding that people should not buy meat that has been packaged or transported in a suspicious manner.

He advised people not to buy items made from meat — whether frozen or processed — that has been seized from certain individuals or about whom there are suspicions.

The Grand Mufti also demanded strict legal action, including invoking the Public Safety Act (PSA), against individuals or businesses found involved in selling haram meat. He urged the administration to tighten inspections, particularly at entry points like Lakhanpur, to prevent the entry of potentially spoiled or illegally slaughtered meat into Kashmir.

"It is the duty of the Food and Drug Control Department and Public Health officials to check all incoming supplies and protect people from consuming haram, unknowingly," he emphasized.

In a direct appeal to religious leaders, Mufti Nasir urged imams and khateebes across Jammu

and Kashmir to address the issue during Friday sermons, highlighting the importance of halal consumption in Islamic teachings.

According to officials, the seized consignments were either being transported or stored without proper cold-chain logistics or identification, raising serious health and hygiene concerns. "The meat was in a decomposed condition, packed without any temperature control. In many cases, we couldn't even open the packages due to the foul smell," said FDA Commissioner Smiti Sethi.

The raids — conducted in Srinagar, Pulwama, Central Kashmir, and other parts of the Valley — have exposed the disturbing scale of illegal meat trade. In Lasjan alone, officials confiscated over 500 kilograms of rotten meat allegedly meant for restaurants and hotels. In another alarming instance, nearly 2,500 kebabs processed with frozen meat and unpermitted food colour were seized and destroyed on the spot in Srinagar's Safakadal and Parimpora areas. Additionally, 150 kilograms of meatballs (Gushtaba) and 250 kilograms of deteriorated meat from Nagbal, Ganderbal were also destroyed.

In another shocking revelation, large quantities of rotten meat, including both chicken and mutton, were discovered dumped under the Nowgam-Lasjan Bypass in Srinagar on Wednesday morning. The foul-smelling meat, estimated to weigh over 600-700 kilograms, was found in sealed packets in marshy land beneath the highway, triggering serious public health and safety concerns.

Officials from the Drug and Food Control Organization, including Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Mr. Yameen, visited the site and confirmed the meat had been illegally dumped and was unfit for consumption. "Each packet weighs around 5 kg, with several slabs weighing 20 kg. The total quantity runs into hundreds of kilograms," he said, adding that the meat would be safely disposed of.

This incident follows a disturbing pattern. Nearly 600 kg of buried rotten meat was found in Kakapora. Prior to that, large recoveries were made in Zakoora and other areas on Wednesday. In one case, over 1200 kg of spoiled meat was seized.

"This is just the beginning," said Sethi, confirming that cold storage units and meat hubs are now under close surveillance, though specific facilities have not yet been named due to the sensitivity of ongoing investigations. Samples from the seized meat have been sent for laboratory analysis, with legal action to follow under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The crackdown, described as one of the largest in recent years, has triggered widespread concern among the public and stakeholders in the meat industry. Several traders are reportedly dumping meat consignments in open areas or even water bodies to evade detection. "This is a panic response. They know we're closing in," Sethi added.

Residents, too, are stepping up. Public complaints about foul smells and suspicious movements were key to identifying storage points. "People have turned into whistleblowers. We are grateful for their cooperation," said the FDA Commissioner.

As public trust erodes and awareness grows, officials say the crackdown will continue in the coming days. Meanwhile, consumers are being urged to buy meat only from licensed vendors, check for quality markers, and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

The spate of recent discoveries has sparked outrage and raised serious questions. Who are the individuals or syndicates behind this illegal supply chain? Are they operating under a government-issued license? Why is such meat not intercepted at Lakhanpur, Lower Munda, or Qazigund checkpoints, which serve as key entry points into Kashmir?

Experts Advise Against Eating Out

Following the seizure of rotten meat from different areas of Kashmir, health experts and dieticians have raised serious concerns about meat safety in local eateries and urged the public to exercise caution.

Dr. Nadeem Ahmad, a senior health officer, warned that consuming stale or poorly stored meat can cause food poisoning, gastrointestinal infections, and long-term digestive issues.

"Such incidents reflect regulatory lapses. Until accountability is ensured, people should avoid eating meat at restaurants and dhabas," he said.

Echoing similar concerns, dietician Shazia Maqbool said that the source and storage conditions of meat in commercial outlets are often questionable. "Poor refrigeration, lack of hygiene, and unethical sourcing are widespread. Home-cooked food is a safer choice, especially for children and the elderly," she advised.

Earlier this week, Food Safety Department teams destroyed a large cache of decayed meat at Zakura Industrial Estate. The meat, reportedly headed to local markets, was foul-smelling and unfit for consumption.

The incident has triggered public outrage and alarm, with experts urging surprise inspections, license cancellations of defaulting suppliers, and more transparency in the meat supply chain.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has also demanded stricter food safety enforcement, stating that public health must not be sacrificed for profit.

Civil society groups and consumer forums have called on people to report dubious meat-selling practices and ask for hygiene disclosures from food outlets.

"It is better to err on the side of caution," Dr.

Nadeem stressed. "Until the supply chain is verified as safe, avoid eating meat outside."

'No One Will Be

Sharma said, "Health Minister Sakina Itoo and Agriculture Minister Javed Dar took separate meetings with stakeholders today. A high-level meeting will be held on Friday to devise a strategy to prevent the rotten meat from entering into Kashmir."

Sharma said that law enforcing agencies, including J&K Police, will be involved, to act against the accused involved in this illegal trade. "We are going to act tough and no one will be spared. It's a big Mafia and it will be dealt with an iron fist."

Pertinently, officials on Thursday said that during the past few days the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) seized and destroyed over 35 quintals (3,500 kg) of decomposed and unlabelled meat across Kashmir.

The seized consignments, as per officials, were either being transported or stored without proper labelling or cold-chain logistics.

"The meat was in a decomposed condition, packed without any identification or temperature control. In many cases, we could not even open the packages due to the foul smell," Smiti Sethi, Commissioner, FDA Kashmir said.

"The crackdown has sparked panic among those involved in the trade. The illegal suppliers are now dumping meat consignments in open areas and even water bodies to evade detection, Sethi added.

"This is just the beginning. We are committed to ensuring that only safe and legal food reaches the public," she said

Ready To Pay

been uneasy in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, India's counterstrike after the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that left 26 innocents dead. Trump has repeatedly claimed that he brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, a claim denied by the Narendra Modi government. "We had said from day one that our action was non-escalatory. No leader in the world asked us to stop Operation Sindoor," Prime Minister Modi said during the Operation Sindoor debate in Parliament. Tariff hikes have followed these claims.

Trump's tariffs also play out against the backdrop of the pause on talks on an India-US trade deal. Washington DC was pushing for more access to India's agricultural market, a move New Delhi has resisted to safeguard farmers.

Kulgam Operation

the security situation and counter-terrorism grid in South Kashmir, where he was also briefed on the ongoing operation.

"The operation has entered its seventh day and is going on," the officials said.

They said three security forces personnel were injured in the fresh firefight on Thursday morning. The total number of injured security forces personnel has now risen to seven, the officials added.

They said the security forces were using all means, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists in the difficult terrain in the forest area.

Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter which began on Friday last after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

After an initial exchange of fire between the two sides on Friday last, the operation was halted for the night, but the cordon was strengthened, and additional reinforcements were rushed to the area, officials said.

Firing resumed on Saturday last, during which two terrorists were killed, the officials said.

The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorists has not been ascertained so far, they added.

This is the longest anti-terror operation in the Kashmir valley so far this year.

The army commander, Northern Command, reviewed counter-terrorism grid in south Kashmir, where he was briefed upon the security situation, operational readiness and ongoing operations, the army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

The army said Lt Gen Sharma complimented all ranks for their steadfastness and resilience enabling Indian Army's resolute commitment in ensuring peace and security in the region.

Locals Call

shortage of ration in our homes now," Mubarak Khanday, a villager living close to the encounter site, said.

Emphasising that the women and children in the area are terrified, Khanday claimed that they have developed 'psychological problems' due to the continuous firing and explosions, he added.

Appealing to the government to make arrangements for their relocation, Khanday said, "We have not slept for seven days. Children are awake, and they cry. There is a shortage of medicine and rations."

He further noted that the nomadic population living in the area have also run out of food grains. "The Gujjar people called us...they have no ration," Khanday said.

However, locals were grateful to village officials like the numberdar and the chowkidar for taking care of the village. "The numberdar was giving ration to people from his home, but now he too is facing a shortage," Khanday mentioned.

Sheikh Mehboob, a village official, urged the government to address the ration shortage and provide drinking water in the village.

"We are facing a shortage of water and medicines. We request that the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department arrange water for us. While the security forces are doing their job, the ongoing firing is causing problems for the elderly and children," Mehboob said.

He thanked the deputy commissioner and the SSP for making arrangements for an ambulance for the locals.

Sheeraza Akhtar, another local, appealed to the Kulgam deputy commissioner to extend help to the villagers.

"We appeal to the deputy commissioner. We are poor and are facing shortages. Please help us as we are facing so many problems. Many people have left and some houses are empty. Please relocate us from here," Akhtar said.

The counter-terror operations were launched in the forests of the Akhal area on August 1 following a tip-off about the presence of terrorists in the area.

So far, two terrorists have been killed while several security forces personnel have sustained injuries. Security forces are using technical surveillance gadgets, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists hiding in the forest.

This is the longest anti-terror operation in the Kashmir valley, so far, this year.

Pandemic Absence

24 November 2022, "whereby she was denied promotion to the post of the Head Assistant and superseded by her juniors."

"Many were absent from work not by choice, but due to circumstances beyond their control," the court said, adding, "To penalise an employee for absence during such a period, particularly when the leave was duly sanctioned, is not only legally untenable but also violates the principles of equity and humane administration."

The court found that the denial of promotion to the petitioner— Baseer -Ul- Haq Hussami—on the basis of uncommunicated adverse Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs), amounts to a gross violation of the principles of natural justice.

"It is a settled position in law that any material adverse to the interest of an employee, if relied upon to deny promotion or other career advancement must be duly communicated so as to enable the employee to make an effective representation," the court said, adding, "The failure of the respondents (authorities) to communicate such ACRs deprived the petitioner of this vital procedural safeguard and renders the entire process unsustainable in law."

Further, the court held that Executive Order (No. 415 dated 05.10.2020), which imposes conditions materially affecting the service rights and legitimate expectations of employees, required proper publication, either in the Official Gazette or through another effective mode of communication.

"In weighing the equities of the case, we are persuaded that the petitioner has suffered substantial prejudice due to administrative lapses, entirely beyond her control," the court said.

Granting the relief sought would not only vindicate her individual rights but also affirm constitutional values of fairness, equality, and accountability in public service, the court said.

"It would serve as a necessary reminder to the executive of the importance of maintaining transparent and just administrative practices."

Forfeited Books:

were among those banned.

Police have warned that any continued sale or possession of these banned publications would attract legal consequences.

Meanwhile, Srinagar Police in a statement issued to KNO, said that in compliance with Order No. Home-ISA/223/2025-11(7655892) dated August 5, 2025, raids were conducted in various bookshops for search and forfeiture of banned books across the district under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The objective of the operation was to identify, seize, and forfeit any literature that propagates or systematically disseminates false narratives, promotes secessionist ideologies, or otherwise poses a threat to the Sovereignty and Unity of India, a police spokesman said.

"These measures have been undertaken as part of a broader effort to counter subversive and anti-national content that could incite unrest or undermine National Integrity. The searches were conducted in a peaceful manner, and due legal process was followed," police said.

Srinagar Police remains committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that no material or content which endangers the security or integrity of the Nation is allowed to circulate among the general public, police said, adding that further action, if warranted, will be taken under law, as per the findings of the ongoing investigation.

NIA Court Frames

and commanders of the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from across the Line of Control (LoC), who, in close coordination with Pakistani nationals based in Gulf countries and other foreign territories, have been channeling terror funds into Jammu & Kashmir," it reads.

It added these funds were being routed through a well-organized network using couriers camouflaged as pilgrims, expatriates, and

businessmen, thereby camouflaging illicit financial flows under the guise of religious and commercial travel.

"During the course of investigation, it was established that Shabir Ahmad Bhat was in constant and secure communication with the Pakistan-based LeT handler Sumama, using encrypted messaging applications. While in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, Shabir, on the instructions of the handler, received large sums of Saudi Riyals from known LeT conduits in Madina. Additionally, he coordinated with other Kashmiri residents who had travelled for Umrah, instructing them to collect money from specific individuals whose identities and locations were shared by him," it reads.

The statement reads upon returning to Kashmir, these couriers handed over the funds to Shabir Ahmad Bhat, who then converted the foreign currency into Indian rupees and further distributed the funds among active terrorists and their families, as per directions from the LeT handler.

"The investigation also revealed the pivotal role of another accused Javid Ahmad Yatoo in facilitating and establishing contact between Shabir Ahmad Bhat and the LeT handler in Pakistan. His involvement was instrumental in enabling the functioning of this trans-national funding module," it added.

The statement added the framing of charges in this case marks an important milestone in the sustained efforts of Counter Intelligence Kashmir to identify, expose and dismantle terror funding networks operating under the radar.

It reads that two more individuals – Mohammad Ayoub Bhat of Budgam and Mohammad Rafiq Shah of Srinagar have also been recently arrested in the case.

"The investigation led to the seizure of electronic devices, bank statements, transaction logs, and other documents which expose a deeply embedded and covert hawala infrastructure used to fund terrorism," it added.

The statement reads these recoveries have further corroborated the existence of a well-structured, underground financial network sustaining terrorism in the region. "Arrests of additional co-conspirators are likely as the investigation continues to unfold".

How 40,000 Forest

Gram Sabhas were supposed to verify claims. Final decisions were to be made by District Level Committees after proper checks.

But in J&K, this process is being upended.

Claims are being rejected without hearings, checking facts, and giving people a chance to appeal.

Worse, Gram Sabhas, meant to support claimants, are being "misused to reject them", even though they aren't legally allowed to do so.

"The law meant to empower villagers is now being used against them," said Zahid Parwaz Chowdhary, convener of the coalition. "It was supposed to remove bureaucracy, not hand everything over to it."

The biggest problem, many say, is that the Forest Department, meant to be a neutral body, is running the whole show.

In most of India, the Tribal Welfare Department handles FRA claims. But in J&K, it's the Forest Department that controls the process, even though it owns the land in question.

"It's like being judged by the person you're filing a case against," said lawyer Naveed Bukhtiyar. "This breaks every principle of natural justice."

Peer Sheikh Ghulam Mohideen of the J&K RTI Movement said it plainly: "Nowhere else in India is this allowed. It's unique to J&K, and deeply unfair."

Many claims are being thrown out for lacking old documents, like land records from before 2005, ration cards, or official certificates. But people who live in remote forests or move with the seasons often don't have such papers.

The law actually allows other types of proof, like testimonies, satellite images, village-level verification, but these are being ignored.

"This isn't about paperwork," said Dr. Rasool.

"It's about keeping people out."

There are also reports of forest officials interfering in Gram Sabha meetings or even holding them without proper attendance. That's illegal, say activists.

What's worse, most claimants are never told why they were rejected.

There's no formal notice, legal help, and way to appeal. "You go to the office, and they just point at a list with your name struck off," said a young man from Uri.

On August 4, the Forest Rights Coalition issued a statement asking the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Lieutenant Governor of J&K to step in. They want all rejections stopped, every case reviewed properly, and the Forest Department removed from the process.

They're also asking for an independent body, one with tribal elders and legal experts, to oversee claims.

They argue that what's happening violates India's Constitution, including the right to equality, dignity, and movement.

It also goes against global agreements like the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which India has endorsed.

"The law was meant to correct historic injustice," said Chowdhary. "Here, it's being used to erase people from their own land."

For herders like Ghulam Nabi, the loss is deeply personal.

"I don't have old papers," he said. "But I have trees that remember me."

Webbing, Insects Found In Rice Sacks At Sumbal Depot

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Residents of Sumbal in North Kashmir's Bandipora district have raised concerns after spotting signs of infestation in rice delivered by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

The rice, which was brought in from Punjab, is suspected to be contaminated and unfit for consumption.

Local complaints began after sacks of rice arrived at the FCI depot in Sumbal. "When some of the sacks were opened, those present noticed unusual webbing and the presence of insects," the locals said.

They also expressed concern that such rice could pose health risks if distributed.

Following these complaints, unloading of the rice was stopped at the depot. The rice stock in question had been transported from various locations in Punjab, including Pathankot and other areas of

the state.

An official at the Sumbal FCI depot stated, "We stopped unloading the rice. When the sacks were opened, webbing was visible, which indicates insect activity. The stock is inactive, but the rice is still affected."

The depot authorities have informed the Food Safety and Standards (FSL) team and reported the matter to the FCI's higher offices. The FSL team has taken samples for testing to determine whether the rice can be used for distribution.

"We will wait for the FSL report. If it says the rice is not safe, we will not distribute it. It should be removed from circulation and handled accordingly," the official added.

This incident follows a recent case in Khargpura, where 1,200 kilograms of spoiled meat were seized from a processing facility. The meat case had already raised concerns among residents about **FOOD HANDLING** and supply practices—(KNO)

CS Reviews Issues Facing J&K Varsities



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to strengthen the higher education in J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the issues confronting various universities operating across the Union Territory.

The meeting aimed at accelerating the resolution of pending matters hampering the academic and infrastructural growth of these institutions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Principal Secretaries of the Finance, Public Works (R&B), and Agriculture Production Departments; Secretaries of Health and Rural Development; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners concerned; Managing Directors of JPDCL and KPDCI; Director General, Budget and other senior officials.

Vice Chancellors of all the major universities in J&K, both academic and agricultural, also participated.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of timely intervention and seamless coordination between universities and line departments. He emphasized that institutions of higher learning deserve the utmost seriousness in addressing their issues, given their critical role in shaping the educational and innovation ecosystem of the UT.

He directed the Higher Education Department to document all innovative practices, including research projects, patents, start-ups and other unique academic initiatives, being undertaken across these institutions. Such documentation, he said, would help in knowledge sharing and replication of successful models elsewhere in the UT.

In a significant push for human resource development, the Chief Secretary also urged

the universities to design crash courses for capacity building of government employees across departments. He further directed for mapping of all skill development and vocational courses being offered, to help align academic offerings with market and governance needs.

The ACS, Higher Education, provided an overview of the key issues affecting the universities. He also highlighted the problems that have already been addressed through inter-departmental coordination.

Taking a university-wise assessment, the Chief Secretary engaged directly with each Vice Chancellor to understand institution-specific bottlenecks. These included issues related to land transfers, creation of academic and non-teaching posts, allocation of additional funds, infrastructure augmentation, delays in ongoing construction works and other operational challenges.

The Chief Secretary issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments for resolving these issues in a time-bound and mission-mode manner, underscoring the need for expedited action.

The participating universities included University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Cluster University Srinagar, Cluster University Jammu, Central University of Kashmir, Central University of Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kashmir / Jammu.

The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting by reiterating the government's commitment towards strengthening the higher education and research infrastructure in the UT. He directed all the stakeholders to ensure continuous engagement and monitoring to overcome any hurdle faced by these vital institutions.

Police Arrests Drug Peddler In Awantipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Awantipora on Thursday said to have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substances from his possession.

A Police team at a checkpoint established at Toll Plaza Awantipora, intercepted a vehicle (Toyota Etios) bearing registration number JK01AB-2289 driven by Akib Ahmad Wani son of Maqsood Ahmad Wani resident of Zafra Colony Srinagar, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

During the search, 08 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the crime has also been seized, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 169/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been initiated. "Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace," police said.

IVF Clinics Spark Outcry In Kashmir Over Lack of Regulation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A growing number of patients in Jammu and Kashmir are voicing serious concerns about unregulated IVF centres, alleging high consultation charges, unverifiable visiting doctors, and misleading claims of guaranteed success.

With the region witnessing high rates of infertility, dozens of fertility clinics have mushroomed, often promoting "renowned" specialists from Delhi, Punjab, or abroad. But many locals question the authenticity of these claims. "They say the doctor is from AllMS or abroad – but where is the proof?" said Shakeela Bano, who has been seeking treatment for seven years. "All my savings are gone."

Health experts warn that the absence of regulation allows clinics to exploit vulnerable couples. "Poor people are duped by false advertisements," said Bashir Ahmad Bhat, a healthcare expert. He urged both regulation and public awareness to combat deceptive practices.



6 THEY ADVERTISE TOP EXPERTS, but who verifies their credentials? All I earned is gone now." – Shakeela Bano, IVF patient

The outcry extends to other specialties too – from oncology to orthopaedics – with patients claiming that clinics use the same marketing playbook: prestigious affiliations, weekend "celebrity doctors," and promises of 100% success.

Many have appealed to Health Minister Sakina Itoo, seeking urgent intervention to verify doctors' credentials, cap

consultation fees, and crack down on false advertising.

According to KNO, Dr. Mohammad Salim Khan, President of the JK Medical Council, said clinics are expected to follow existing laws, and district health authorities are responsible for monitoring them. "We oversee doctors' registration and professional conduct," he added.

Centre Flags 3,360 MW Hydropower Capacity In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is home to several key hydropower projects that contribute significantly to the region's and the country's energy grid, the Union Ministry of Power informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik said that as of August 2025, the total installed capacity of hydropower plants (HEPs) in the region stands at 3,360 megawatts (MW), operated under the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

Major contributors include Baglihar-I and II in Ramban (450 MW each), Dulhasti in Kishtwar (390 MW), Salal-I & II in Reasi and Udhampur (690 MW), Uri-I (480 MW) and Uri-II (240 MW), Sewa-II in Mahska (120 MW), Kishanganga in Bandipora (330 MW), and Lower Jhelum and Upper Sindh-II with 105 MW each.



All projects, the ministry said, were developed after securing necessary environmental clearances from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), ensuring adherence to ecological and sustainability norms.

Regular environmental and ecological impact assessments are conducted for these hydropower plants to minimize any potential harm to local ecosystems, Naik added.

However, given their location in the Himalayan upper

reaches above 1,500 metres, many of these projects are prone to geological and climatic vulnerabilities. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has flagged certain HEPs in J&K as vulnerable and has advised developers to implement Early Warning Systems (EWS) for timely detection and response to natural hazards.

These measures aim to safeguard both the infrastructure and local communities, especially in the face of extreme weather or disaster events.

Tourism To Boost Jobs For Gurez Youth: CM Omar



Observer News Service

GUREZ: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reiterated the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, saying the region must regain its state status "as soon as possible."

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the National Tribal Festival in Gurez valley, Omar said it has been a long time since the Supreme Court urged the Centre to act swiftly on the matter.

"When the court gave its verdict on Article 370, two critical points were made—one was to hold assembly elections within a stipulated timeframe and the other was about restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest," Omar said. "A lot of time has

passed since that ruling. We want Jammu and Kashmir to become a state again as soon as possible."

The Chief Minister, who was in Gurez for the inauguration of various tribal and adventure activities, said such festivals not only encourage cultural exchange but also unlock tourism potential in far-off border regions.

"I hope events like this tribal festival will draw more visitors to Gurez. People from places like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu came here and got to experience a different culture for the first time. That's the beauty of such festivals—they help us appreciate the cultural richness and diversity India is known for," he said.

Touching upon the broader scope of tourism in border ar-

reas, Omar said peace along the Line of Control (LoC) is essential for promoting tourism in regions like Gurez, Tangdhar, Keran, and Machil in Kashmir, and similar locations in Jammu.

"Border tourism will not only generate employment but also improve the economic conditions of the residents in these remote areas. We will push for it whenever there is peace along the borders," he added.

Earlier in the day, Omar flagged off a rafting expedition in the Kishanganga river, calling Gurez a future hub for adventure tourism. "With its pristine natural landscape and riverine beauty, Gurez is poised to become a premier destination for adventure seekers," he said.

Addressing the gathering at the festival, Omar described tribal communities as the "living soul" of India's cultural mosaic. "Such festivals enhance the spirit of unity and respect across regions and communities," he remarked.

He also held a public interaction in Dawar area, where locals presented their concerns. The chief minister assured them that their grievances would be addressed promptly.

Tribal groups from various states showcased their traditions, music, and cuisine at the festival, offering visitors a glimpse into the rich tapestry of India's indigenous heritage.



Jammu Airport Records 1.61 Million Passengers In 2024-25

Observer News service

JAMMU: Jammu Airport has seen a significant surge in air traffic, with a total of 1.61 million passengers travelling through the airport during the year 2024-25.

The data was revealed in response to a question raised by Jugal Kishore, a Member of Parliament, in the Lok Sabha.

The response was provided by Murlidhar Mohol, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. He said scheduled Indian operators have connected Jammu to several major cities, including Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Srinagar, and Leh. These routes saw a total of 188 weekly aircraft

movements, which include both arrivals and departures.

The increase in air travel has been a major boost for both local and tourist traffic, enhancing Jammu's connectivity to various parts of the country, the minister said.

According to KNO, the government said that air connectivity is expected to play a crucial role in supporting its economic growth, tourism, and overall infrastructure development.

"The rise in the number of weekly aircraft movements indicates a strong demand for travel from Jammu, and the continued expansion of these routes will likely contribute to even higher passenger traffic in the coming years," the minister said.

J&K Receives 200 Electric Buses Under PM-EBus Sewa Scheme: GoI

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir has been allocated a total of 200 electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, as part of the government's plan to modernize and expand urban transport services across the country.

The details were provided in response to a question raised in the Lok Sabha, which was answered by Tokhan Sahu, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, launched on August 16, 2023, aims to deploy 10,000 electric buses nationwide to enhance city bus services through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. This will not only help reduce carbon emissions but also contribute to the growing demand for sustainable urban transportation.

The 200 buses allocated to Jammu & Kashmir will be part of the larger initiative to improve public transport systems, and they will be operational once the associated infrastructure, such as depots and charging stations, is ready. These buses are expected to be deployed soon, once the groundwork related to the Behind-the-Meter (BTM) power infrastructure and grid integration readiness is completed.

While Jammu & Kashmir is set to benefit from the eBus initiative, the state has not yet participated in the funding and procurement aspects of the scheme. No funds have been sanctioned to the state thus far, as it awaits the finalization of deployment logistics.

The scheme includes not just buses but also the necessary charging infrastructure and depot readiness, for which city authorities in J&K are working closely with distribution companies (DISCOMs). The Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (PMEC) is overseeing the entire process to ensure timely implementation and progress across the states, including Jammu & Kashmir.

As the state prepares for the deployment of these electric buses, it is expected to boost eco-friendly transport options for residents while also addressing urban transportation challenges in the region.

Govt Pushes Forward Construction Of Turtuk-Hanu Road



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has provided an update on the ongoing construction of the Turtuk-Hanu Road in the Union Territory of Ladakh, a crucial project for both the local population and army personnel.

The road, which connects Turtuk and Hanu, spans a total of 77.35 km. Currently, work on Package-I (0.00 km to 4.031 km) and Package-III (72.35 km to 77.00 km) has been completed, with the project funded under the Special Development Package of Ladakh at an estimated cost of Rs. 59.65 crore, reads a reply tabled in the Lok Sabha, a copy of which lies in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The major remaining stretch, Package-II, covering 68.32 km, was approved in May 2025 under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme, with an estimated cost of Rs 229.52 crore.

While the pace of construction has raised concerns, the Ministry acknowledged that

there have been delays in certain segments of the road. These delays are primarily due to the challenging terrain, weather conditions, and the complex nature of the project in the hilly region.

To address the issues, the Ministry has taken active measures to expedite construction, including better coordination with local agencies and streamlining resource allocation.

Furthermore, under the CRIF scheme, guidelines have been established ensuring that projects in hilly areas such as Ladakh are completed within 36 months.

With the necessary approvals in place and measures to accelerate work, the road is expected to be completed in the near future, enhancing connectivity for the local people as well as security forces deployed in the area.

The Turtuk-Hanu Road is part of the government's larger effort to improve infrastructure in Ladakh, which is strategically important and vital for the development of the region—(KNO)

Gill To Lead North Zone In Duleep Trophy After Stellar England Tour

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Test skipper Shubman Gill was on Thursday named captain of the North Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, beginning August 28.

Gill, who scored a remarkable 754 runs in the five-Test series -- the second-highest ever by an Indian in a single series after Sunil Gavaskar's 774 in 1971 -- is expected to play in North Zone's opening clash against East Zone before leaving if picked in India's squad for the Asia Cup.

India begin their campaign against UAE on September 10, followed by the marquee clash against Pakistan (September 14) and then will conclude their Group A campaign by taking on Oman (September 19).

The 25-year-old Gill, who took



over Test captaincy following the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin, was one of the standout performers on the

England tour.

Gill led from the front, amassing 754 runs in the series -- the second-highest by an Indian in a single Test series after Sunil

Gavaskar's 774 in the 1971 tour of the West Indies -- as India levelled the series 2-2 for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

Gill's appointment as North Zone skipper means he will be back in the domestic fold less than four weeks after an energy-sapping two-month overseas tour one in which all five matches went into the fifth day.

North Zone will face East Zone, while Central will take on North East Zone in the season-opening Duleep Trophy matches in Bengaluru on August 28.

The final is scheduled for September 11 -- overlapping with India's Asia Cup campaign, set to begin September 10 in the UAE.

In the event Gill or teammates Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana get selected in the national squad for the Asia Cup, the se-

lectors have named Shubman Rohilla, Gurnoor Brar, and Anul Thakral as backups.

Gill will lead a 15-member squad that includes strong names like India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, and Anshul Kamboj, who made his Test debut in the fourth Test against England.

Jammu and Kashmir has the largest representation, with five players making the squad, including senior opener Shubham Khajuria and pacer Auqib Nabi, who was the second-highest wicket-taker in the previous Ranji season with 44 wickets in eight matches at an average of 13.93. Other J&K players in the squad include Kanhaiya Wadhawan (wicket-keeper), Sahil Lotra and Yudhvir Singh Charak.



REAL KASHMIR FC COACH ISHFAQ AHMAD discusses tactics in practice as a group of Kashmiri players listen intently. The Snow Leopards have won one and lost one in the ongoing 2025 Durand Cup. They lost 2-1 to Indian Navy FT in the opener before bouncing back against TRAU FC with a 2-1 win. Real Kashmir will next play on August 10 against NEROCA FC.

Sultan Warriors Baramulla Storm Into WPL 2025 Final

In a thrilling first semifinal of the Wular Premier League 2025 on Thursday, Sultan Warriors Baramulla defeated Sky Star Cricket Club in a highly competitive match played at Sheikh-ul-Alam Ground, Tarzoo.

Ankit Agarwal emerged as the star of the day with his all-round performance. He was declared Player of the Match, Game Changer and Super Sixer, sweeping almost all the top awards. His powerful batting and tight bowling played a major role in taking his team to victory.

The match witnessed an impressive crowd turnout, with cricket lovers cheering throughout. The tournament has now moved a step closer to the grand final. These matches of WPL are played under the banner of sports association Tarzoo SAT. (Observer News Service)

Dembélé, Yamal Nominated For Ballon d'Or

Paris Saint-Germain forward Ousmane Dembélé is among the contenders to win the Ballon d'Or award.

The 30 men's and 30 women's nominees were revealed Thursday by France Football magazine, with the winners to be announced at a ceremony in Paris on Sept. 22.

The 28-year-old Dembélé was inspirational in leading PSG to its first Champions League title after years of falling short and helped the French club complete a treble. He scored a career-high 35 goals overall for PSG last season. Teenage star Lamine Yamal, whose mesmerizing performances lit up the Champions League and helped Barcelona win the Spanish league title, is among the other men's nominees.

Dembélé was one of nine PSG players nominated for the men's award, including goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, forward Désiré Doué and inspirational winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. The other men's nominees include Egypt striker Mo Salah and prolific Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappé. (AP)

Budgam's District Level Swimming Meet Showcases Aquatic Talent



Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam, under the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone, conducted its Inter Zonal District Level Swimming Competition for Boys across all age groups on Thursday.

The event was held at the Foundation World School, Budgam, and witnessed participation from young swimmers representing various zones of the district. The competition aimed to foster

sportsmanship, discipline, and excellence in aquatic sports among students.

The entire event was efficiently coordinated and smoothly executed under the supervision of the DYSSO team, reflecting the department's continuous commitment to promoting grassroots sports in the district.

The Department extended heartfelt thanks to the management of Foundation World School for their support and excellent infrastructure, which contributed immensely to the success of the event.

District Level Cycling Event For Boys Held At Boulevard Road

Younis Paray

SRINAGAR: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar organised its District Level Inter-School Cycling Event for boys of all age groups at Boulevard Road here on Thursday. The event witnessed participation from over 200 students representing both government and private institutions from across the district.

Clad in professional sports outfits, the young cyclists brought life to the thrilling event which was flagged off by DYSSO Srinagar Ghulam Hassan

Lone. The event was held in the presence of senior DYSS officials and escort teachers, with a dedicated squad of bike riders ensuring safety across the route.

The race commenced from Nehru Park and concluded at the scenic Nishat Park, where the most meritorious participants were awarded and felicitated with refreshment packs as a token of encouragement and appreciation.

As per the schedule, Friday will witness the girls' cycling event, promising yet another day of spirited competition and celebration of young talent in Srinagar.



Player Auction Held For Le Panga Kabaddi League In Sopore



Observer News Service

SOPORE: In a display of sportsmanship and community spirit, the player auction for the Le Panga Kabaddi League Nowpora took place at DK Restaurant, Nowpora Kalan in Sopore on Thursday. The event was organised by the Sports Forum Nowpora Kalan Sopore in collaboration with the District Kabaddi Association Baramulla.

The auction featured participation from 14 teams, marking the beginning of an exciting sport-

ing journey aimed at reviving traditional games.

Co-Chairman Mohd Syed Baba (former Chief Sports Officer, J&K) and Chairman Irshad Rasool Mir (MLA Sopore) are at the helm of the initiative, along with Jalal Qadir, President of the Sports Forum Nowpora. The event also received support from former Chairperson MC Sopore, Masrat Kar.

Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Organising Secretary, ensured the smooth conduct of the auction, while Shahawaz Dar continues to guide the initiative as Patron.

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