

From Rotten Meat to Spoiled Rice

Public Questions ‘Unchecked’ Food Trade In Kashmir



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over the last week, Jammu and Kashmir has been rocked by a series of disturbing food safety scandals — from the seizure of rotten, foul-smelling meat in several parts of the Valley to the discovery of spoiled rice stored in an FCI warehouse. The back-to-back discoveries of rotten meat making its way into Kashmir’s markets has sparked outrage and a wave of uncomfortable questions directed at the authorities.

While the Food Safety Control Department has now swung into action, questions linger over why the problem was not detected earlier. Market insiders allege that similar consignments have been arriving for years, some stored in unhygienic warehouses and sold to unsuspecting customers.

Public anger is swelling as citizens demand to know how such a dangerous trade could continue for so long without detection. The concerns are direct and | [More on P10](#)

Tip-offs Spark Major Raids

As the administration intensifies its crackdown on the circulation of rotten meat in Kashmir, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the operation was triggered by continuous tip-offs over time, enabling the department to piece together the supply chain. The department said it is holding the names of all involved to avoid alerting the network, with Commissioner Smriti Sethi revealing that each | [More on P10](#)

KASHMIR CLERGY RAISE ALARM

Prominent religious leaders in Kashmir have urged the public to exercise extreme caution while purchasing and consuming meat products, after Food Safety officials reportedly seized large quantities of rotten and | [More on P10](#)

J&K Bans Synthetic Food Colours In Ready-to-Eat Dishes

Violators To Face Up To 3 Months Jail, ₹3 Lakh Fine

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibited the use of synthetic food colours in prepared or ready-to-eat food items, citing serious health risks.

In a public notice issued by the Commissioner of the Food & Drug Administration, Drugs & Food Control Organisation, J&K, Civil Secretariat, J&K, the department said recent analytical reports from the National

Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, found that samples of kebab, biryani, pickles and chicken tikka were unsafe due to the presence of synthetic colours like carmoisine, tartrazine and erythrosine.

“In terms of Regulation 3.1.2 and Appendix A of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, use of synthetic food colours is prohibited in prepared food items such as | [More on P10](#)

J&K Arms Licence Case

Sanction Decision Against 8 IAS Officers Likely In 6 Weeks: Centre

KO Correspondent

Jammu: Deputy Solicitor General of India has informed High Court of J&K and Ladakh that formal decision for granting sanctions for prosecution against eight IAS officers for alleged irregularities in arms licences in the erstwhile J&K state “should not take more than six weeks.”

As soon as the hearing in a Public Interest Litigation started before a Division Bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Deputy Solicitor General of India Vishal Sharma shared a copy of the status report dated July 10, 2025, filed on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, which was taken on record by the court.

He submitted that vide three separate communications dated May 27, 2025, July 4, 2025 and July 25, 2025, proposals for grant of sanction

for prosecution against the concerned IAS officers including Pandurang Kondbarao Pole, M. Raju, Yasha Mudgal, Jatinder Kumar Singh, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Niraj Kumar, Prasanna Ramaswamy G and Ramesh Kumar.

As a consequence, he submitted that the matter is being examined by the Ministry and the action as per the existing rules upon due consideration of the documents and comments received from CBI/J&K Administration, shall be taken.

Upon being pointedly asked by the Bench as to the precise time that the authorities would require to reach a final and formal decision for granting sanctions, he submits that in every likelihood the said process should not take more than six weeks.

“Be that as it may, he submits that he would furnish a specific affidavit/status report in this | [More on P10](#)

Lifestyle Pressure Fuels Household Debt Crisis In Kashmir

Irshad Mushtaq

Srinagar: Asif Ahmad still rolls up his sleeves before every cup of tea, as if he’s bracing for work. Even in his small living room in Srinagar’s Rainawari, where the kettle whistles softly, his body carries the weight of the past year.

It has been nearly twelve months since his daughter’s wedding, a celebration that left him with memories, a few fading photographs and a mountain of debt.

He borrowed 8 lakh from a bank and another 2 lakh by pawning the family’s last gold ornaments. The flowers withered in two days. The band stopped playing before midnight. The guests went home full and smiling. But the bills stayed.

Today, Asif pays back 16,000 every month from his 34,000 salary. With no savings left, stress is his only constant companion.

“I had to,” he said, his eyes on the floor. “If I hadn’t, people would’ve said I didn’t do



DEBT IS BECOMING A WAY of life in Kashmir, as families spend beyond their means to meet social norms.

enough for my daughter.”

That sentence, in one form or another, is repeated across the valley. Beyond personal choice, it is a social commandment.

From the old neighbourhoods of Srinagar to remote hamlets in South Kashmir, families are taking on loans to

meet expectations they never set, and often cannot afford.

A modest household now feels obliged to serve twenty dishes at a wedding feast. A young man buys a 1.6 lakh motorbike on installments to keep up with his friends. A schoolteacher takes a personal loan to redecorate her

drawing room so her in-laws “won’t gossip.”

And when a layoff, an illness, and a late salary comes, there is nothing left to fall back on.

“Beyond an economic issue, it’s emotional and cultural,” said Dr. Huma Wani, a sociologist studying family pressures. “In our society, simplicity is sometimes mistaken for failure, and extravagance, even if financed by debt, is celebrated.”

The data backs the anxiety. According to the Reserve Bank of India, household debt in Jammu and Kashmir has risen steadily over the past five years. Personal loans, gold loans and credit card use are climbing. Bankers in Srinagar and Anantnag say weddings are the single biggest reason people apply for personal loans.

In rural areas, where banks are harder to reach, people turn to informal moneylenders. In one South Kashmir village, a family borrowed 5 lakh for their son’s marriage from a local lender. By the time they | [More on P10](#)

PM Modi Dials Putin, Invites Him To India

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to Russia President Vladimir Putin amid Trump tariff blitz and invited the Russian President to visit India later this year.

Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi wrote in a post, “Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin. I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to hosting President Putin in India later



this year.”

During the conversation, Prime Minister Modi extended an invitation to President Putin to visit India later this year for the 23rd Annual Bilateral Summit. The visit, once finalised, is expected to provide fresh momentum to trade, defence, and energy

cooperation between the two countries.

The diplomatic push was preceded by high-level engagements in Moscow. On Thursday, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Putin at the Kremlin, extending Modi’s invitation in person — an offer the Russian | [More on P10](#)

Trump Freezes Trade Talks

US President Donald Trump, in his latest salvo, has ruled out the possibility of trade negotiations with India until the issue of tariffs is resolved. And the

White House trade adviser has called the imposition of an additional 25 per cent duty on India a “national security issue”. Asked whether he expects increased trade negotiations with India since he has announced 50 per cent tariffs | [More on P10](#)

J&K Govt Halts Reservation Policy Review Report

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has refused to disclose the cabinet sub-committee report on the rationalisation of existing reservation policy in the Union Territory, citing provisions under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

In its reply to an RTI application filed by Taffazul Bilal, the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has disclosed that the information sought is under examination and cannot be disclosed.

It has invoked Section 8(1)(i) of RTI Act to prohibit disclosure of the information. The provision exempts disclosure of cabinet papers, including records of deliberations by the Council of Ministers, secretaries, and other officials.

It further reasoned that the report qualifies as third-party information under section 11 of the RTI Act, the provision which makes it mandatory for the Public Information Officer (PIO) to consult that third party before disclosure. The third party can object, and their

views must be considered before a final decision is made.

The PIO of Law department has also stated that disclosure of such information may undermine public interest.

“It is also informed that the disclosure of such preliminary or unfinished information may lead to confusion, misinterpretation and misinformation, thereby undermining larger public information,” the PIO said.

The department has also refused to disclose information about whether legal vetting and if pending, tentative timeline for its completion.

The PIO has again invoked Section 8(1)(i) of the RTI Act to decline information about legal vetting of the panel report.

In December last year, the J&K government formed a three-member cabinet sub-committee headed by Minister Sakina Ittoo for rationalisation of existing reservation policy.

The CSC finalised its report on June 10 this year. Later, the cabinet referred the report to the Law department for legal vetting. (KNO)



No ‘Unlawful Activity’ Proven

HC Upholds Acquittal In 2012 UAPA Poster Case

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a government appeal against the acquittal order passed by a special NIA court in favour of an accused facing trial in a case related to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in south Kashmir.

The special NIA court, Anantnag acquitted Ghulam Mohammad Lone of a village in Srigufwara on February 20 last year in a case registered against him under UAPA on September 8, 2012 following investigation into the pasting of posters by proscribed terror outfit, Hizbul Mujahideen, threatening the | [More on P10](#)

Court Denies Bail To Accused In Counterfeit Currency Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Baramulla district on Friday rejected bail plea of an accused who has been arrested by police in connection with a case involving alleged counterfeit currency.

“The accusations against the accused are grave and serious in nature. The offences U/s 178 to 180 of BNS pertain to counterfeit currency, which poses a

direct threat to the economic security and integrity of nation,” Sub Judge Baramulla, Iram Haneef Khan, said while rejecting bail application of the accused, Irfan Ahmad Bhat arrested in connection with a case (FIR: 42/2025). “The material collected by the investigating agency so far including the seizure of fake currency notes to the tune of Rs. 1,47,500 (Rupees One Lac Forty-Seven | [More on P10](#)



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IIT-Guwahati Develops Sensor To Turn Air Exhaled From Mouth Into Voice Commands

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, and Ohio State University, USA, have developed an underwater vibration sensor that enables automated and contactless voice recognition. The sensor, they said, offers a promising alternative communication method for individuals with voice disabilities who are unable to use conventional voice-based systems. The findings of the research have been published in the journal Advanced Functional Materials. According to Uttam Manna, Professor, Department of Chemistry, voice recognition has become an integral part of modern life of late. "It helps users in operating smart devices including mobile phones, home appliances and other devices through voice commands. However, for the people with voice disorders, this technological development remains inaccessible. "Recent studies show that a noticeable percentage of children and young adults aged between 3 and 21 experience some form of voice disability, underscoring the significant need for more inclusive communication technologies," Manna said. To address the limitation, the research team found a solution

by focusing on the air exhaled through the mouth while we speak, a basic physiological function. In cases where individuals cannot produce sound, attempting to speak generates airflow from their lungs. When this air flows over a water surface, it produces subtle waves. The research team developed an underwater vibration sensor which can detect these water waves and interpret speech signals without depending on audible voice, thus creating a new pathway for voice recognition. Manna explained that the developed sensor is made from a conductive, chemically reactive porous sponge. When placed just below the air-water interface, it captures the tiny disturbances created by exhaled air and converts them into measurable electrical signals. The team used Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), a type of deep learning model, to accurately recognise these subtle signal patterns. This setup allows users to communicate with devices from a distance, without the need to generate sound. "It is one of the rare designs of material allowing to recognise voice based on monitoring the water wave formed at air and water interface because of exhaling air from mouth. This approach is

likely to provide a viable solution for communication with those individuals with partially or entirely damaged vocal cords," Manna said. On a lab-scale, the working prototype costs Rs 3,000, he said. "With research exploring potential industry collaboration for bringing the technology from lab to real world use, the cost of the final product is expected to reduce," he said. The research team now plans to get clinical validation for the device. Further, the team plans to collect more datasets from individuals with voice disabilities who can articulate different words necessary for operating home appliances and other voice-commanded smart devices. "Using these datasets, the research team will be able to refine the developed model for recognising specific words or phrases when exhaled air is directed over a water surface. "This development holds potential beyond voice recognition. Other than hands-free operation of various devices, the developed sensor can also be used in exercise tracking and movement detection. "Additionally, its proven durability, remaining stable after extended underwater use, suggests potential applications in underwater sensing and communication," Manna said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and DOB has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Mohammad Maqbool Mir, dob 15-08-1958 while my correct name and DOB is Mohmad Maqbool Mir , Correct DOB 15-07-1952. Now I have applied for the corection of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Center Jammu/Srinagar within seven days. A fter that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohmad Maqbool Mir
S/o Ghulam Mohmad Mir
R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of a Pesticides Licence under the name and style "M/s Lone Pesticides, Palhallan". If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Lone
S/o: Abdul Gaffar Lone
R/o: Palhallan, P/o Pattan, District Baramulla
Mobile: 7889605862
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Faisal Anjum, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Hajam, R/o Iqbal Colony, Khrew, lost my wallet on 06 August 2025 while travelling from Lal Chowk to Khrew.

The wallet contained:
• Aadhaar Card
• Driving Licence
• University ID
• ATM Card (in my name)
• Credit Card (in my father's name: Ghulam Mohammad Hajam)
• Cash of approximately 400
If found or misused, please inform the nearest police station or contact me at 9797968339.
fko

اڙنيابت بومي زينگير

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب مرتضیٰ خورشید ولدخورشید احمد میر ساکنڈو پورہ تہجر ادا جرائی لیگل ہیر اڈیشنٹ سرفٹیکٹ بخت خود

اشہتار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیر اڈیشنٹ سرفٹیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا والد خورشید احمد میر بھٹا پٹن ڈیٹھ سرفٹیکٹ مورخہ

29-06-1996 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بنڈ ہیں

مرتضیٰ خورشید پسر خورشید احمد میر 32 سال دکانداری پرمستوفی جنید خورشید۔۔ 29 سال پرنسٹیٹ ملازم Contractual emp. 34 سال دختر متوفی۔۔ اس کے علاوہ متوفی کی بیوہ حمیدہ بیگم نے نکاح قائ کیا ہے جو اپنے دوسرے شوہر کے گھر آباد ہے سرفٹیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا اعتراض ہو تو بعد مشہتر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکوفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاعب تحصیلدار FKO

اڙ وقت تاعب تحصیلدار احمدیل با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ در چا دل عنوان:- درخواست منجانب عبدال المجید کھورو ولد عبدل اھد کھورو ساکنڈو متیخ دوپگاہ تحصیل و تر کام ضلع بارہمولہ ہر ادعاطی سرفٹیکٹ

اشہتار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض RBA سرفٹیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل متیخ پھچیل دوپگاہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنبہ بنڈ ہیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے

عبدال مجید کھورو ولد عبدل اھد کھورو 70 سال مزدوری محبوبہ بیگم زوجہ عبدال المجید کھورو 60 سال گھریلو کام مہصر ح مجید دختر عبدال مجید کھورو 22 سال زیر تعلیم انصار یں مجید دختر۔۔ 28 سال۔۔ سائل مذکورہ RBA سرفٹیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہں ہے اور کنبہ کی سالہ آمدنی 120000 رو پیے تک ہے سرفٹیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا اعتراض ہو تو بعد مشہتر اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حد اکوفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاعب تحصیلدار FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

CORRIGENDUM

E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 31 of 08/2025 published vide Nos: 2025_PHE_283356_1,3&4 are hereby cancelled due to technical reason and shall be tendered afresh in due course of time.

No: PHE/MRD/1535-39
DIPK-4993/25
Dated: 08-08-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION DOORU

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NIT NO 15 OF R&B/Dooru/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ EED/HD/ 1684-89 DATED: 06-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K .Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited e-tenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Tracking hut at Dedibal .	32.05 (27.21+4.84)	1100	64100	6 months	5452-C.O on Tourism	AAV and BEE class only

Position of AAA ; Accorded Position of TS: Accorded

The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06/08/2025	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 07/08/2025	(9:00 Am)
		To 19-08-2025	(06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 07/08/2025	(9:00 Am)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 19/08/2025	(06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	20/08/2025	(11:00 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.	

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU [Tender Inviting Authority! (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower.
- MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.
- The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding 18%GST .
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through 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 PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
- Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
- The tenders shall be opened and allotted to 1st lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/ available on Beams.
- 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 vendors.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial 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 bid.
No:EED/HD/1684-89
DIPK-4990/25 Dt:08/08/2025

Er Farooq Ahmad Khan
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division DOORU

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 08 of 2025-26 Dated: 05. 08 .2025

For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited on two cover system by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on Percentage basis from approved and eligible suppliers/dealers / firms with J&K State UTI , PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following work:-

S No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (in Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
01	Procurement of spares for Rough Cutter and Debris Blower and Allied items for the financial year 2025-26 at RSGC, Srinagar	14.00	28000/- in shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	Rs 1500 /= Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar in favour Secretary RSGC	Full financial year	Firms Registered with GST in Mechanical Or Mechanical Suppliers Or Electro Mechanical Contractors/ Firms Or Authorized Service Centres for Turf Machines and equipments

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Obtained

Special conditions:-

- No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must Upload Proof of EMD and Tender Processing Fee.
 - The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.
 - Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2025-26 /PAN/GST registration with latest receipt for the month of July 2025 OR 1st Quarter (i.e. April 2025 to June 2025). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
 - The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Cost of Contract pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR within 03days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
 - The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc. if any found during e- NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the estimate.
 - However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from 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	From 05-08-2025 to 18-08-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	05-08-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	18-08-2025 upto 04:00 pm
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	19-08-2025 at 12:15 P.M in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

General Conditions:

- The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any avoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.
 - The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value in addition to EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non-responsive.
 - The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.
 - The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.
 - The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.
 - The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ down loaded should be used for filling the item rate/ Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - Un-balanced Bid: In case of un-balanced bids, the intending bidders shall have to upload an additional performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR along with price bid, as per following scale. The performance security shall be released after successful completion of work.
- | S No | Below %age of un-balanced Bid viz-a-viz advertised cost | Additional performance Security to be deposited on quoted bid by LI |
|------|---|---|
| 01 | Upto and including 15% below | NIL |
| 02 | >15% upto and including 20% below | 5.00 % of advertised cost |
| 03 | >20% upto and including 25% below | 10.00 % of advertised cost |
| 04 | >25% upto and including 30% below | 15.00 % of advertised cost |
| 05 | >30% below | 20.00% of advertised cost |
- The Contractor is bound to supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard/ defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.
 - The date of start of supply shall be reckoned within 3 days from the date of issue of LOI /allotment.
 - In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 10% of the allotted cost shall be imposed.
 - No advance payment shall be paid to the Service/ contractor.
 - The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 5 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment.
 - All disputes and differences between the parties arising out any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be referable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties
 - The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, etc
 - The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.
 - The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement
 - All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.
 - Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.
 - The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be upto the period of not less than six Months.
 - The contractor is require to take and furnish colored Geo Tagged photographs on the stage based/ Videography files of all construction activities before during and after completion of Supplies/ Work. All the cost of such photographs/ Videographs etc shall be deemed to have been included in the rates quoted against various items and nothing external shall be paid for the above and no bill should be processed without Geo tagged Photographs.
 - No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar

No: RSGC/EE/2025-26/104-06
DIPK-NB-1535/25
Dated: 08/ 08 /2025

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SKUAST-K Organizes Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir organized Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect and Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan Programme.

The programme was organised as a pre-event of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme that will be launched by the Prime Minister of India on 12th August 2025 across the country.

The programme was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, Shantmanu.

The programme was attended by Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir along with Director Education SKUAST-K, Director Extension SKUAST-K, Deans of various Faculties/Colleges, Officers of the university, SWOs and students from various Colleges of the University.

During the Yuva Samvad programme, the students debated on various topics of Youth Connect for policy making.

Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, initiated the process of taking a pledge as a precursor of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme. He gave an overview of dif-

ferent steps that need to be undertaken for becoming a developed nation by 2047. He appreciated the efforts of SKUAST-Kashmir under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai for their efforts in conducting different activities under Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme.

Professor SA Gangoo, Dean Students Welfare, presented an overview of the activities conducted since the last ten days as pre-events of the National Programme that will be launched on 12th August 2025 the National Level.

Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir apprised the participants about how SKUAST-Kashmir has prepared and implemented a road map for playing a lead role in development of the nation. He appreciated the efforts of DSW, SWOs, students for organizing a marathon of activities.

On the occasion, various students were felicitated for their performances in slogan writing, Yuva Samvad, Poster Presentation and debate competition.

The Programme was organised at different Faculties/Colleges by their concerned Faculty Coordinators and SWOs.

Admin Finalizes Arrangements For Raksha Bandhan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Aadil Fareed on Friday visited Shankaracharya Temple to review the arrangements for the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

The festival is scheduled to be celebrated on August 09, 2025 with great religious and cultural significance.

During the visit, ADC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Dy SP of Traffic, DFO Urban, Executive Engineers of PHE, City Roads, SMC, KPDCL, Tehsildar South, Chief Sanitation Officer and other concerned.

While taking review on the spot, ADC directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees expected to visit the historical Shankaracharya Temple on the top of Zabarwan hills and other religious sites.

He assessed various arrangements including supply

of water & electricity, sanitation, traffic management and other logistical aspects to ensure smooth and safe celebrations for devotees.

Aadil emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to facilitate the devotees in a hassle-free manner and ensuring all arrangements in place well before the festival.

ADC instructed for ensuring hassle-free traffic movement for the devotees for their convenience and adequate facilities at the designated place for parking of the vehicles. He also stressed on ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water at the venue so that devotees may not face any inconvenience.

He asked the Health department to deploy a Medical team at the venue with the availability of all emergency medicines and first aid facilities. He also instructed the stationing of an ambulance to handle any medical emergency.

Satish Sharma Inspects Food Facilities, Vendors In Srinagar

Assures Strict Action Against Adulterated Meat Hoarders



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, on Friday led a comprehensive inspection drive in Srinagar as part of the government's intensified campaign to ensure food safety and quality standards across Jammu and Kashmir. The inspection covered Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns, fair price shops, hotels, restaurants, and street food vendors.

He was accompanied by Director FCS&CA, Dr. Owais Ahmad, along with senior officials from the Food Corporation of India, Food Safety Department, and Legal Metrology Department.

Sharma began at the FCI godowns, reviewing storage infrastructure, handling procedures, and sanitation standards. He stressed that every stage of grain handling—from unloading to distribution—must strictly follow prescribed norms. He ordered regular internal audits, pest control, ventilation, and accurate stock records to prevent wastage and pilferage.

At several fair price shops, Sharma interacted with shopkeepers and Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries, checking registers, verifying stock availability, and inspecting commodity quality. He called for transparency in ration

to maintain constant vigilance, especially in sensitive areas, and to conduct round-the-clock surprise inspections of high-risk establishments. He also instructed supply chain tracking to identify and dismantle networks involved in the

THOSE INVOLVED IN THE STORAGE, USAGE, or trade of adulterated meat are putting lives at risk. This is not a minor violation—it is a criminal act,”

distribution and warned that any irregularities would lead to license suspension and legal action.

In light of recent reports on adulterated and unsafe meat in Kashmir, Sharma carried out surprise inspections of hotels, restaurants, and street vendors. These checks examined meat sourcing, storage, kitchen hygiene, and freshness of raw materials.

He denounced the dumping of spoiled meat in abandoned locations to evade penalties, calling it a dangerous tactic that will not shield offenders from action. Enforcement squads were directed

adulterated meat trade.

The Minister urged citizens to remain alert and report unhygienic practices, noting that safeguarding public health requires community participation. Reiterating the government's zero-tolerance policy towards food adulteration, he pledged that the enforcement drive will continue intensively across all districts of the Union Territory.

"We are committed to eradicating unsafe food products from our markets and ensuring that every citizen has access to safe, quality food," he said.

Rotten Meat Seizure Sparks Public Outcry

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The recovery of thousands of kilograms of adulterated and rotten meat in the past few days has triggered alarm across Kashmir, with residents urging authorities to launch a sustained crackdown on restaurants, dhabas, and other food outlets to ensure public safety.

Locals said the issue is not new, but the scale of recent seizures highlights the gravity of the problem. They fear that a large amount of such meat and food products might have already made their way into kitchens and eateries.

"We read about huge quantities of rotten or chemically treated meat being seized, but what about the stock that goes unchecked? That's what is frightening," said Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar's downtown area. "Our health is at stake, and we expect the Food Safety Department to take daily action, not just occasional raids."

Over the past week, enforcement teams have recovered several consignments of stale and adulterated meat, some stored in unhygienic conditions or treated with harmful

substances to improve appearance and delay spoilage.

"The recovery of such huge quantities in just a few days means the network is vast," said Shabir Hussain, a shopkeeper in Pulwama. "It is not enough to seize and destroy the meat. The people behind this must face strict legal action so that others think twice before indulging in such practices."

Hoteliers across Kashmir said their sales have gone down due to the recent incidents. They cautioned against unfair targeting. "If someone is doing anything wrong, people look with doubtful eyes towards everyone. Proper monitoring is necessary, but those who are following all protocols shouldn't be made scapegoats," one hotelier said.

Health experts warn that consumption of adulterated meat can lead to a host of serious illnesses.

Dr. Sameer Ahmad Dar, a public health specialist, speaking to KNO, said contaminated or chemically treated meat can cause severe food poisoning, diarrhoea, vomiting, and fever in the short term. In the long run, it increases the risk of liver damage, kidney problems, typhoid, parasitic infections, and

in some cases even cancer, he said.

"The immune-compromised, elderly, and children are especially vulnerable," Dr Dar added.

Residents allege that many restaurants, roadside dhabas, and barbecue stalls buy cheaper meat of dubious quality to maximise profits. "Some outlets serve meat that is days old and kept in poor storage conditions. The taste is different, but not everyone notices until they fall ill," said Irshad Ahmad, who eats outside frequently.

Public health activists said there is an urgent need for consistent and transparent food safety inspections. "Authorities should not only check slaughterhouses but also randomly inspect restaurants, dhabas, marriage halls, and street vendors," said advocate Bilal Lone. "The results of these inspections should be made public so people know which outlets maintain hygiene and which don't."

A senior Food Safety official said intensified drives are underway. "We are carrying out raids in multiple districts. Any adulterated or unhygienic meat is being seized and destroyed on the spot. We are also prosecuting the offenders under food safety laws," the official said.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER
8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand... but... did I clean it enough? Wash it again! Is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN, myths and stigma, distress associated with OCD

KASHMIR: Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research
In collaboration with: HIPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust)
is initiating a **Free 8 weeks Group Therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of consulting clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.
You do not have to fight your battles alone.
There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HIPVT
Building: Five Floor, Dares, Kadal Chowk, Srinagar
9070806160

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

CORRIGENDUM 04 FOR DATE EXTENSION

Name of work: - Restoring Functionality through Repairs / Maintenance of Bore well Schemes No. 72 (under PR-1) (Cluster-1) of Department of Agriculture in district Pulwama, under Implementation of National Mission on Saffron.

Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS / 2025-26/ 14 Date:02-07-2025. (Tender Id: - 2025_PWDJK_280311_1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	06-08-2025 upto 06:55 PM	18-08-2025 upto 06:55 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	07-08-2025 at 02:00 PM	19-08-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/ 1801-04
DT: 07/08/2025

DIPK-4975-25
DT: 08/08/2025

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

HIGHWAY STATUS
• Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
• Mughal Road - (Open)
• Srinagar-Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
14 Safar
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:14
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:29
ISHA	9:00

This Day In History

- 48 BC- Caesar's civil war: Battle of Pharsalus - Julius Caesar decisively defeats Pompey at Pharsalus and Pompey flees to Egypt.
- 378- Battle of Adrianople: Goth army defeats Roman forces under Emperor Valens
- 681- Bulgaria is founded as a Khanate on the south bank of the Danube, after defeating the Byzantine armies of Emperor Constantine IV south of the Danube delta.
- 1173- Construction of the Tower of Pisa begins, and it takes two centuries to complete
- 1655- Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell divides England into 11 districts
- 1810- Napoleon annexes Westphalia as part of the First French Empire.
- 1831- 1st US steam engine train run (Albany to Schenectady, NY)
- 1842- US-Canada border defined by Webster-Ashburton Treaty
- 1848- Austria & Sardinia sign cease fire
- 1849-Hungarian Republic crushed by Austria & Russia
- 1855- Battle of Acapulco during Mexican Liberal uprising
- 1859- Otis Tuft patents the first passenger elevator in the US
- 1910- Alva Fisher patents electric washing machine
- 1920-Bulgarian & allied Peace of Neuilly-sur-Seine goes into effect
- 1942- Mahatma Gandhi & 50 others arrested in Bombay after passing of a "quit India" campaign by the All-India Congress
- 1945- US drops 2nd atomic bomb "Fat Man" on Japan destroys part of Nagasaki
- 1953-Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah arrested
- 1965- Singapore separates from the federation of Malaysia and gains its independence
- 1972- There is widespread and severe rioting in Nationalist areas of Northern Ireland on the anniversary of the introduction of Internment
- 1973- USSR launches Mars 7
- 1974- Richard Nixon resigns US presidency, VP Gerald Ford swears oath of office to become 38th US president
- 1976- USSR launches Luna 24, last Lunar flight to date from Earth
- 1990-12 Arab leaders agree to send pan-Arab forces to protect Saudi Arabia
- 1990- Russian spacecraft Soyuz TM-10 launches
- 1995- South Africa celebrates the first National Women's Day

From KO Archives

Abdullah Defends NC's Tie-Up With NDA

BANGALORE- Chief Minister and National Conference Supremo Farooq Abdullah today defended his party's tie-up with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) saying its aim was to bring in a stable government at the Centre. Abdullah, who is here to attend the Janata Parivar's unity rally, told reporters that there was no political party in the country that was communal and disapproved of branding any party as a communal one.

Referring to Kargil conflict, he said Pakistan should stop pushing infiltrators into Indian territory and desist from claiming any territory in Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. (PTI)

(Kashmir Observer, August 09, 1999)

China Occupies 38,000 sq km of Indian Land Since 1962

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: At the end of the Sino-India 1962 conflict, China was in "illegal occupation" of approximately 38,000 sq km of Indian territory, the government informed Parliament on Friday.

In a written response to a query in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh also said, "There have been several initiatives taken bilaterally with China over the years to address the outstanding boundary question." The Ministry of External Affairs was asked whether the gov-

ernment of India has any data on the "territories that were occupied by China during the Sino-Indian War of 1962".

And, also whether any diplomatic efforts or overtures have been made with China since 1962 to reclaim such territories that were lost during the war; and the extent to which the aforementioned talks have progressed.

"At the end of the 1962 conflict, China was in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory," Singh said.

Following the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua to New Delhi in June 1981, India and China held "eight rounds" of formal border negotiations from December 1981 to November 1987, led at secretary level, he added.

During the official visit of the then prime minster Rajiv Gandhi to China from December 19-23, 1988, the two sides announced the creation of India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question. The Joint Working



Groups met for a total of "15 rounds" between 1989 and 2005, Singh said.

He further informed Parliament that during the then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's official visit to China from June 22-27, 2003, the two sides announced the appointment of Special Representatives to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement.

MP HC: Ideal Hindu Wife Upholds Dharma Even if Deserted

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Rejecting a petition for divorce filed by a man, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has extolled his wife who continued to live with her in-laws after he abandoned her, and said an "ideal Indian wife" remains rooted in her "dharma" in such a situation. The conduct of the wife in the present case reflected the "Hindu ideal of the woman as Shakti - not weak, but submissive and powerful in her endurance and grace", said a bench of Justices Vivek Rusa and Binod Kumar Dwivedi in the judgement passed on August 5.

The petitioner, a constable with the Special Armed Force who got married in 1998, is living apart from his wife since 2006. After a local court rejected his divorce petition on the ground 'cruelty', he moved the Indore bench of the High Court.

But the HC found the grounds cited in the plea "very shallow and hollow in nature", and noted that the woman, despite his absence,

remained committed to her in-laws. "She is serving them with care and affection, as she would have, if her husband was present, thereby reinforcing her moral stature," the judges said.

"She does not use her sufferings for gain of sympathy, instead she channeled it inward, reflecting the Hindu ideal of the woman as Shakti - not weak, but submissive and powerful in her endurance and grace.... Even when she is left alone, she does not forsake the Mangalsutra, the Sindoor or the symbols of her marriage status as her marriage to her is not a contract, but a Sanskara - an indelible sacrament," the bench said.

"As per Hindu concept, marriage is a sacred, eternal and indissoluble union, an ideal Indian wife, even when deserted by her husband, continues to embody strength, dignity and virtue. Her conduct is rooted in dharma, cultural values and sanctity of marital bond....Despite the pain of abandonment, she remains rooted in her dharma as a wife," said the High Court.



Israel's Security Cabinet Approves Plan To Take Military Control Of Gaza

Press Trust Of India

Tel Aviv- Israel's Security Cabinet has approved Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to take military control of Gaza City as part of a five-point aim primarily to "disarm" Hamas, a decision that triggered fears of further escalation in the nearly two-year war in the enclave.

The controversial decision to take control of Gaza City came amid massive anti-government protests across Israel demanding an immediate end to the war and ensuring immediate return of over 50 hostages held captive by Hamas for the last 22 months.

"A decisive majority of Security Cabinet ministers believed that the alternative plan that had been submitted to the Security Cabinet would neither achieve the defeat of Hamas nor the return of the hostages," Netanyahu's office said.

It is not immediately clear what the alternative plan was.

The plan cleared by the Security Cabinet featured five principles.

These are: disarming of Hamas, return of all the hostages, the demilitarisation of Gaza, Israeli security control in Gaza and establishment of a civil administration that is neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority.

Netanyahu's office said the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) will prepare for taking control of Gaza City while distributing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population outside the combat zones.

Earlier, Israeli Armed Forces' Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Eyal Zamir, cautioned against full military conquest of Gaza City and said it would be a "trap".

Israel launched the war in Gaza after Hamas attacked Israeli cities on October 7, 2023 killing about 1,200 people. Hamas also took 251 people as hostages and over 50 of them are still in its captivity.

Israeli military operations have killed over 60,000 Palestinians since then, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry.

Gaza has been reeling under a massive humanitarian crisis largely due to scarcity of food and medicines. The

World Health Organisation said last month that Gaza's malnutrition rates have reached "alarming levels".

Ahead of the Security Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu told a group of visiting Indian journalists that Israel doesn't want to annex or occupy Gaza and its sole aim is to destroy Hamas and hand over the strip to a transitional government.

The prime minister also said that Israel wants to take control of Gaza's security.

Asked about the food crisis in Gaza, Netanyahu said over two million tonnes of food were sent to Israel, but the supplies were "interdicted".

"Our plan is not to occupy or annex Gaza. Our goal is to destroy Hamas and get our hostages back, and then handover Gaza to a transitory government," Netanyahu said.

The Israeli Security Cabinet's decision drew sharp reactions from families of the hostages as they feared that taking control of Gaza City would further delay the possibility of the release of the hostages.

The families of the hostages have been demanding an immediate end to the war.

Iraq Dismantles Terror Cell Plotting Attacks On Arba'een Pilgrims

Trans Asia News

Baghdad: Iraqi security forces have dismantled a terrorist cell linked to Israel that was plotting attacks on Arba'een pilgrims, arresting two dozen suspects, according to the governor of Karbala.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, the governor of Karbala, Nasir Jassim al-Khattabi announced that "22 terrorists" planning attacks on Arba'een pilgrims were arrested during a "highly precise and secret" intelligence operation, under the direct supervision of the Karbala Investigation Court.

The suspects, who "admit-

ted their affiliation with the Daesh terrorist group," were reportedly planning to "detonate explosive devices along pilgrimage routes, target security forces and Hussaini mourning processions," and also poison Arba'een pilgrims.

The suspects had also plotted to strike a Hussainiyya—a Shi'a congregation hall, located on the road between Karbala and Najaf.

According to the statement, some of those arrested were in contact with foreign actors, including an individual with direct ties to Israel and networks supporting terrorism.

Al-Khattabi stressed that

security efforts are ongoing to protect the pilgrims and ensure safe environment during the upcoming religious events.

Arba'een marks the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam. It brings together millions of people from across the world who undertake an 80-km walk between the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala.

Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in southern Iraq in 680 AD, while resisting the much larger army of the despot Umayyad ruler of the time, Yazid.

'Will Advice Modi On How To Deal With Trump': Netanyahu

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: Amid ongoing US-India tensions, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he has some "advice" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on dealing with US President Donald Trump—but added he would share it privately, as both Modi and Trump are his "terrific friends."

Speaking to visiting Indian journalists, Netanyahu called the basis of the US-India relationship "very solid" and urged them to find common ground.

He stressed that a resolution would also benefit Israel given its close ties with both nations.

Earlier this week, Trump announced an extra 25 per cent tariff on Indian exports as a 'penalty' for continuing to import Russian crude oil - doubling it to 50 per cent on Indian goods. India has condemned the "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" move by the United States.

Netanyahu also highlighted the growing India-Israel partnership, particularly in



Earlier this week, Trump announced an extra 25 per cent tariff on Indian exports as a 'penalty' for continuing to import Russian crude oil - doubling it to 50 per cent on Indian goods. India has condemned the "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" move by the United States.

defence, intelligence sharing, counterterrorism, and high technology, revealing Israeli military equipment had "performed well" in recent Indian operations.

Netanyahu also expressed a personal wish to visit India soon, saying, "I miss India," and emphasised that both nations are well-placed to build on their strategic, economic, and technological momentum.

SC Stays MP HC Order In Saif Ali Khan Family Property Dispute



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- The Supreme Court on Friday granted an interim stay on a Madhya Pradesh High Court order remanding a decades-old property dispute involving the royal estate of Bhopal's last Nawab, Hamidullah Khan, to the trial court for fresh adjudication.

A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Atul Chandurkar issued notice on a plea of Omar Faruq Ali and Raashid Ali, descendants of the elder brother of Nawab Hamidullah Khan, against the high court's order of June 30.

The petitioners have challenged the high court's decision to set aside a February 14, 2000, trial court judgment that upheld the exclusive rights of Nawab's daughter Sajida Sultan, her son Mansoor Ali Khan (former India cricket captain), and their legal heirs, actor Saif Ali Khan, Soha Ali Khan, Saba Sultan, and veteran actress Sharmila Tagore, over the estate.

The high court said the trial court's ruling was based on a 1997 Allahabad High Court verdict which was later overturned by the Supreme Court in 2019.

However, instead of applying the 2019 precedent and deciding the case conclusively, the high court remanded the matter for re-evaluation.

Senior advocate Devadutt Kamat, appearing for the petitioners, said the high court remand order was contrary to the procedural norms outlined under the Civil Procedure Code (CPC).

The case has its origins in civil suits filed in 1999 by members of the Nawab's extended family, including the late Begum Suraiya Rashid and her children, Mahabano (also deceased), Niloufar, Nadir, and Yawar, as well as Nawabzadi Qamar Taj Rabia Sultan, another daughter of the Nawab.

The plaintiffs sought partition, possession, and equitable settlement of the Nawab's private estate.

The trial court ruled in favor of Sajida Sultan, stating the estate was not subject to Muslim Personal Law and had devolved upon her under constitutional provisions.

Following the Nawab's death in 1960, the Government of India issued a 1962 certificate recognising Sajida Sultan as both the ruler and rightful heir to the personal estate under Article 366(22) of the Constitution.

NEWS MAKERS

Delhi Cafe Bars Couple in Salwar-Kurta; CM Orders Probe

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has directed officials to initiate an investigation and take necessary action after a video showing a couple being denied entry to a restaurant over Indian attire began circulating on the internet.

"A video of a ban on Indian dress at a restaurant in Peetampura has come to light. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has taken a serious note of it. The officers have been directed to launch an investigation and take urgent action (in the matter)," Delhi Tourism and Culture Minister Kapil Mishra said in a X post on Friday.

"This is 'unacceptable' in Delhi," Mishra said, citing the video of the incident posted by a social media user on X.

The alleged incident took place at a restaurant on the Pitampura metro premises on August 3. In the video, a man in a T-



shirt, accompanied by a woman in a 'kurta-salwar,' can be seen complaining about allegedly being denied entry for wearing Indian clothing.

The couple also alleged misbehaviour by the restaurant staff.

Press Trust of India

Gurugram: The family of a 15-year-old boy who walked 150 km with a severed arm allegedly to escape forced labour said they need financial help to take care of the victim, who is being treated at PGIMS in Rohtak, Haryana.

"My brother has lost his arm from the elbow...we are staying here (Rohtak) with a lot of difficulties. We will file the complaint, but first of all, we need immediate financial help to take care of my brother," Jitender Kumar, brother of the victim, told PTI on Thursday.

The teenager from Bihar, allegedly confined to a room and forced into labour at a

dairy farm in Haryana's Jind district for some time, walked for over 150 km with a severed arm before being rescued in Nuh district on Tuesday.

In Nuh, two teachers and police helped him and arranged medical care, food and

My brother has lost his arm from the elbow...we are staying here (Rohtak) with a lot of difficulties. We will file the complaint, but first of all, we need immediate financial help to take care of my brother

clothes for him. Later, his family members reached Nuh and took him to PGIMS.

At the hospital, the doctors operated on him and had to amputate his arm from the

elbow as the injury sustained by him while at the dairy farm could have worsened. His father and brother are with him and are seeking compensation.

The boy, from Bihar's Kishanganj district, had told the

police that he was recruited under false pretences and promised a monthly wage of Rs 10,000, but he was confined to a room and was denied food and wages.

At the dairy farm, he was made to operate a motorised fodder chopper, which he says, caused the injury that severed his arm.

Following the accident, he alleged that he was given medication that rendered him unconscious. When he woke up, he was in a dispensary, with a small amount of money in his possession.

After falling asleep again, he woke up to find his money and clothes missing and was allegedly asked to leave by a dispensary staff member.

The boy then began walking home toward Bihar, nearly 1,000 km away, before being spotted near Tauru in Nuh district by two government school teachers.

Sakeena Takes Stock Of Developmental Issues



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Friday chaired a meeting to review various issues pertaining to overall development of DH Pora Constituency.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir ul Shafi Khan; Chief Engineer KPDCI; Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; Executive Engineers of PHE and PDD of Kulgam district, CMO Kulgam and other district officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of various issues pertaining to DH Pora Constituency. She also discussed tourism-related projects and identification of unexplored scenic spots in DH Pora belt.

The Minister emphasized upon the officers to tap the tourism potential of DH Pora and its surrounding areas like Aharbal, Kongwattan, Kounsarnag and Panchan Pathri areas, known for their pristine beauty, rich biodiversity and trekking routes. She called for exploring the area Panchan Pathri for developing trekking trails and other adventure tourism related activities.

The Minister asked the officers to conduct capacity building and training of local youth in tourism related aspects like tourist guides, home stays, eco-tourism and other associated areas. She stressed on promoting eco-tourism, heritage

trails and rural homestays, in collaboration with local youth and community stakeholders. "Tourism can become a strong pillar for economic upliftment and employment generation for this region if developed sustainably," she asserted.

She called on the officers to look into the feasibility for developing Paragliding, Zip line, Hot Air balloon and other recreational amenities in the area.

The Minister also called for improved sanitation facilities, wayfinding signage, mobile connectivity and safety measures to encourage longer tourist stays and a more fulfilling visitor experience. She asked for developing the parking places in key tourist destinations of DH Pora Constituency and installing sign-nages for facilitation of visitors.

During the meeting, the Minister also took stock of issues related to electricity and other essential sectors in the district. She directed the Chief Engineer KPDCI to look out for the issue of inflated electricity bills in various far flung areas of DH Pora Constituency.

The Minister also gave directions for renovation of Mini Secretariat building at DH Pora to make it functional and shift government offices to building at the earliest for public good. She also directed the concerned departments to expedite pending works, improve road connectivity to key destinations and ensure timely implementation of eco-friendly infrastructure.

Budgam Man Cultivates 'Nadru' Outside Kashmir's Lakes



Agencies

BUDGAM: In a first-of-its-kind achievement in Kashmir, a young farmer from Beerwah, Budgam, has successfully cultivated Nadru (Lotus Stems) on his wetland outside the traditional habitats of Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake and Wular Lake.

Tariq Ahmed, a resident of Warihama Beerwah, has grown lotus stems on a patch of wet-

land in his locality, marking a significant breakthrough in the area's agricultural innovation.

"I thought of doing something innovative so that lotus can be grown outside the polluted lakes," Tariq told reporters. "If people study more about this, it can become a good source of income and create jobs."

According to him, the experiment was carried out without any institutional support. "I brought the saplings from Srinagar on my own. No department supported me in this effort," he said, urging authorities to assist farmers, who wish to replicate such initiatives.

Experts believe the success could pave the way for the large-scale cultivation of Nadru in other wetlands of the Valley, reducing dependency on produce from lakes that are facing pollution and environmental challenges—(KNO)

IGP Kashmir Reviews Security Arrangements For I-Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone V.K. Birdi-IPS chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the overall security scenario and arrangements regarding the celebration of Independence Day and related events.

The meeting was attended by IGP Security J&K, IGP Railways, IG BSF Ftr Hqrs, IG CRPF Srinagar, JD SIB Srinagar, all range DIsG of Kashmir Zone, DIsG of, IR Kashmir, Armed Kashmir, CID Kashmir, Traffic Jammu, SSB Srinagar, RPF Srinagar, CRPF KOS, CRPF South/North Srinagar, ITBP Srinagar, all district SSSP of Kashmir Zone, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSSP of Traffic City Srinagar, Railways Kashmir, Traffic Rural Kashmir, CID SBK, APCR Srinagar, CID CIK, Security Kashmir, DC SB Srinagar, GSO (I) 15 Corps, CO's of SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar, JKAP 5th Bn, SP PC Srinagar and other officers, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

At the outset of the meeting, IGP Kashmir was briefed by officers on the security arrangements and deployment

plans established to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of upcoming events.

Birdi directed all participating officers to make sure that the necessary preparations are completed well in advance.

During the meeting, the IGP assigned specific responsibilities to various officers, issuing clear instructions to execute their tasks with precision and thorough planning. Additional directives were provided regarding key logistical arrangements to facilitate the seamless execution of the events.

IGP Kashmir instructed the officers to strengthen security checkpoints, particularly during night hours, at vulnerable locations and along the city's entry and exit routes. He emphasized the need for strict vigilance against elements that pose a threat to peace and security. He also underscored the importance of maintaining a high level of alertness and increasing area domination within their respective jurisdictions.

Furthermore, IGP Kashmir reviewed the security measures implemented for the protection of highways, railway tracks, and railway stations across the Valley.

Rotten Meat Destroyed In Jammu Amid J&K-Wide Crackdown

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Jammu on Friday destroyed nearly 800 to 1,000 kilograms of expired packed meat, continuing the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir-wide crackdown on unsafe and unhygienic meat and dressed chicken. The expired stock was found stored at a cold storage facility and later destroyed in coordination with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

A senior officer from the Food Safety Department said the action formed part of a larger drive launched across the Union Territory to check the supply and sale of rotten meat and decomposed chicken. "This is part of the exercise being conducted across J&K. In Jammu, close to a thousand kilograms of expired meat and chicken were recovered and destroyed with the help of JMC," the officer stated.

The latest seizure follows an earlier operation this week in the Kashmir Valley, where over 3,500 kilograms of rotten meat and decomposed dressed chicken were confiscated and destroyed. The intensified action comes amid rising public concern and religious sermons in local mosques, urging authorities to take decisive measures to curb the menace.

Officials acknowledged



WE CANNOT YET DETERMINE FOR HOW LONG THIS malpractice has been going on, but our focus remains on identifying and ending it,"

public support for the campaign, stressing that the primary aim is to ensure hygienic and safe food reaches consumers. "We cannot yet determine for how long this malpractice has been going on, but our focus remains on identifying and ending it," the officer said.

While some of the expired meat in Jammu was recovered from cold storage units, in other cases, large quantities were found abandoned — believed to have been dumped by those involved in the illegal trade to avoid detection.

Asked about the commercial supply chain behind the seized products, the officer

said investigations are still in the preliminary stage, and no confirmed linkages have yet been established. "Restaurant unions have distanced themselves from this, but inquiries are ongoing to trace the source," the officer added.

On the question of whether such supplies are still entering the Valley, the official maintained there is no confirmation. "These supplies do not come through regular channels. We monitor food once it reaches food business operators (FBOs), but a coordinated effort with other departments is necessary to check them at entry points," he said.

J&K Has Only One AYUSH Drug Testing Lab: GoI



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has said that Jammu and Kashmir has one government-approved drug testing laboratory dedicated to AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) products, as part of the nationwide framework to ensure quality, safety and efficacy of traditional medicines, including those distributed in rural areas.

The information was shared in response to a question by MP Adv. Priya Saroj in the Lok Sabha and answered by the

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav on Friday.

According to the Ministry of AYUSH, the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs Rules, 1945 govern the regulatory mechanism for AYUSH drugs. It mandates manufacturers to follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and conform to the quality standards prescribed in respective pharmacopoeias.

According to the reply, a copy of which lies Kashmir Observer, the regulatory system involves regular collection of samples from manufacturing

units and sale outlets by Drug Inspectors, which are then tested in government or approved private laboratories. If a drug is found substandard or unsafe, legal action is taken under the Act to remove the product from circulation.

While Jammu and Kashmir has one government-run AYUSH drug testing lab, the UT does not currently have any private AYUSH labs approved under Rule 160 A to J of the Drugs Rules, 1945.

The government has also taken steps to strengthen pharmacovigilance systems and encourage GMP compliance among small and medium-scale AYUSH drug manufacturers in rural and semi-urban areas through financial and technical assistance.

These efforts are part of a broader initiative to promote safe and effective traditional medicine practices across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

99.6% Coverage Achieved In J&K Under PMGSY: Centre

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have recorded remarkable success in rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), achieving near-total coverage of sanctioned habitations.

According to official data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a copy of which lies Kashmir Observer, a total of 2,140 habitations were sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir and 65 in Ladakh under PMGSY since its inception.

"Of these, 2,132 habitations in J&K and 64 in Ladakh have been connected with all-weather roads, taking the overall connectivity achievement in both Union Territories to 99.6%. The remaining 9 habitations (8 in J&K and 1 in Ladakh) are expected to be completed under the ongoing implementation of PMGSY Phase IV," the reply reads.

This achievement is significant, given the challenging geographic and climatic conditions in both UTs—ranging from high-altitude terrain, snow-bound areas, and difficult road-building conditions, it added.

PMGSY, launched as a flagship rural infrastructure programme, aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations based on population criteria and strategic importance. In the case of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh,

many of the connected villages fall in tribal and remote areas that had remained isolated from mainstream development for decades.

The government has now launched PMGSY-IV, which came into effect on September 11, 2024, to address the remaining gaps in road connectivity, particularly focusing on habitations that have become eligible due to population growth as per the 2011 Census. This phase also emphasizes connecting backward, marginalized, and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe-dominated areas, especially in Aspirational Districts and LWI-affected zones.

In line with this, the Ministry of Rural Development has ensured that convergence is being achieved between PMGSY-IV and other inclusive rural development initiatives to maximise the impact on ground.

In Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, this integrated approach is expected to bring the remaining habitations into the national road grid, enabling better access to healthcare, education, markets, and administrative services for rural citizens.

The near-complete success in these two Union Territories stands as a testament to the government's commitment toward inclusive growth, regional balance, and last-mile infrastructure delivery—even in the most difficult and strategically important regions of the country.

INDIA Bloc Meeting:

Farooq, Mehbooba Raise Issue Of Statehood Restoration



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday reiterated the demand for restoring J&K's statehood during a meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) held in New Delhi.

The meeting, hosted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, was attended by representatives of 25 opposition parties.

National Conference (NC) Patron Dr Farooq Abdullah expressed concern that the promise of restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood remains unfulfilled. He said that the continued Union Territory status has curtailed the region's access to political representation and governance autonomy.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti said the Union government's failure to honour political commitments made to Jammu and Kashmir has widened the gap between the youth and mainstream democratic institutions.

The gathering also discussed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various states. Rahul Gandhi delivered a presentation alleging irregularities in the ongoing revision process, claiming that manipulative methods had been used to influence voter registration figures in states like Karnataka and Bihar.

The INDIA bloc announced that it will stage a protest march to the Election Commission's office in Delhi, demanding prompt action on electoral roll management and stronger institutional accountability.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR J&K START-UP AWARDS

Recognizing Innovation | Rewarding Excellence | Celebrating Entrepreneurship

No. JKEDI/CIIBM/46 of 2025

Dated: 07-08-2025

The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir is pleased to announce the J&K Start-up Awards, as a part of its ongoing efforts to foster a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial and startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir, as envisaged under the J&K Start-up Policy 2024-27 and the Operational Guidelines notified thereunder. These awards aim to recognize outstanding startups, mentors, and incubation centers across the Union Territory that have demonstrated exceptional innovation, impact, and potential.

Award Categories:

- J&K Top 3 Start-ups of the Year
- J&K Top 3 Women Start-ups of the Year
- J&K Top 3 Emerging Start-ups of the year
- J&K Top Social Start-up of the year
- Top 2 Start-up Incubation Centers of J&K
- Top 2 Start-up Mentors of J&K

Attractive Cash Awards & Recognition:

- 1st Prize: ₹50,000
- 2nd Prize: ₹30,000
- 3rd Prize: ₹15,000

All the winners will also receive Certificates of Recognition

Eligibility:

- The startup should be recognized under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.
- The entity must have all applicable trade-specific registrations (like FSSAI, MSME, GST Registration, etc.)
- Audited financial statements (balance sheet, profit & loss account) for the last three financial years. In case, the startup is less than three (03) years old, all available financial statements are required. Startups which are less than a year old and do not have audited financials, will be exempted from this requirement.

Selection Process:

1. Applications will be screened by a Screening Committee constituted vide Government Order No. 29-JK (IND) of 2024 Dated: 23-02-2024.
2. Screened/shortlisted applications will be reviewed/approved by the Start-up Task Force Committee constituted vide Government Order No. 29-JK (IND) of 2024 Dated: 23-02-2024.
3. Shortlisting/Selection of eligible start-ups shall be in accordance with the criteria/procedure laid down in the Operational Guidelines of the JK Start-up Policy 2024-27.

Note: Startups that have already applied in pursuance of notification issued under No.DIP/J-1153-P dated 08.08.2024 read with notification dated 11.09.2024, need not apply again.

Application Process: Online
Apply through the J&K Startup Portal (www.startupjk.com)

Key Dates:

Application Start Date: 09-08-2025
Application Deadline: 25-08-2025

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE IN J&K!

DIPK-NB-1559-25
DT: 08/08/2025

Sd/
Director, JKEDI

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KO VIEW

A Climate Boost
for Kashmir

Rs 860 crore in climate and afforestation support may sound like another budget entry. But in Jammu and Kashmir, where glaciers are melting, rains have turned unpredictable, and wetlands are vanishing, it reads more like a lifeline.

The figures, shared in Parliament, reveal a steady flow of support: 312.69 crore in 2022–23, 370.55 crore in 2023–24, and 180.18 crore this year under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

The purpose is clear: to restore forests, safeguard biodiversity, and offset the ecological cost of development. In a fragile Himalayan environment, such measures are survival strategies.

There are encouraging signs. Srinagar is now among just 25 cities in India to record a more than 40% drop in PM10 levels compared to 2017–18. Jammu, too, has seen cleaner air. These improvements under the National Clean Air Programme show what targeted funding can achieve when paired with local commitment and monitoring.

But the challenge, and the opportunity, is how this momentum is sustained and scaled. Kashmir's environment is under constant stress from deforestation, unregulated construction, sand mining, and climate-driven disasters.

The 860 crore allocation is significant, but in a place where nature's damage often outpaces restoration, every rupee must work harder.

That means climate funding cannot vanish into poorly monitored projects or cosmetic plantation drives. Global experience offers lessons.

In Nepal, community-led forest management has turned degraded slopes into thriving green belts. In Bhutan, climate funds have been tied to measurable biodiversity gains and transparent audits. In Scandinavian countries, urban air funds are directly linked to citizen-led monitoring networks.

For Kashmir, three principles could guide the wise use of this money.

First, make projects community-driven. When locals are trained, employed, and empowered to protect forests or monitor pollution, the work lasts longer than when left to distant contractors.

Second, tie funding to measurable outcomes: the number of native trees surviving after three years, water quality in specific wetlands, and air quality data made public monthly.

Third, integrate technology. Satellite monitoring of forests, drones for tracking illegal mining, and AI-based pollution forecasting can make oversight cheaper and sharper.

The world is watching Himalayan states like Kashmir, because what happens here is a warning for other fragile mountain ecosystems.

The funds now on the table are a rare chance to future-proof an environment that sustains millions.

The Meat Betrayal

The spoiled food scandal has shaken a meat-loving society to its core, exposing deep rot in enforcement and sparking an unprecedented public outcry for justice.

Ansar Hussain Dar

Kashmir is finally waking up to the reality of what it has been fed.

The revelation that tonnes of rotten meat have found their way to local markets has struck a nerve in a place where meat is not just food but a cultural staple.

People are linking the sudden rise in stomach ailments, unexplained fevers, and other health issues to a scandalous supply chain that has been operating in plain sight.

The anger is raw, the mood restless. Beyond bad meat, this is about a deeply rotten system that allowed it to happen — one that is supposed to guard public health but instead moved only when the stench became too strong to ignore.

The scandal has become a symbol of a wider decay in governance, a reminder of how reactive enforcement has replaced preventive protection.

In mosques across the valley, the Friday sermon took on a sharper tone. Imams called the sale of rotten meat a sin against both God and community, urging worshippers to demand justice and reject complacency.

On social media, hashtags turned into a rallying cry, flooded with photos of questionable meat, videos from frozen food shops, and sharp-edged posts asking why this trade was allowed to run unchecked.

Government officials, facing growing pressure, promised swift action and uncompromising penalties, though few were convinced that this time would be any different.

This food fury stems from a deep sense of betrayal.

Meat in Kashmir is central to weddings, Eid feasts, winter stews, and everyday meals. People trust their local meat stores the way others might trust their grocer or baker, as custodians of tradition and taste. That trust now feels broken.

For weeks, the story has dominated tea shop conversations, bus rides, and family dinners, with many wondering aloud if they too had unknowingly fed their children the same spoiled meat.

This was clearly not a one-day lapse. It was a chain, from transporters to suppliers to market sellers, that went unchecked for months, perhaps longer.

The system's failure was not about missing a single truckload. It was about the absence of constant oversight.

Meat is perishable, vulnerable to heat, storage lapses, and long transit. In any well-run system, such a product is monitored at every stage.

But checks have become rare, enforcement more ceremonial than constant in Kashmir.

By the time inspections were carried out, the damage had already been done.

Why did this happen under official noses? The answer lies in the slow erosion of regulatory vigilance.

Market inspections, once feared by traders, have turned sporadic and predictable. Licensing and renewal processes are often reduced to paperwork without field verification. The few enforcement drives that happen are usually in response to a public complaint or viral post, never as a routine safeguard.

This reactive approach has made it possible for entire consignments of unsafe meat to pass



“The scandal has left an aftertaste far more bitter than spoiled meat. It has exposed the fragility of a food system people took for granted, the gaps in enforcement that can turn a basic necessity into a public hazard, and the ease with which corruption or negligence can slip past under watchful eyes that choose not to see.

into the daily food chain without challenge.

The consequences are not abstract. Health data from the valley shows a steady rise in gastroenteritis cases and food-borne illnesses in recent years.

While not all of it can be directly linked to meat, the pattern is worrying enough to demand stronger control.

Public health is not negotiable. It cannot depend on chance inspections or social media exposes.

This food scandal has triggered a rare collective demand for a stricter sense of accountability. People are asking for a system that doesn't simply punish after the fact but prevents the crime in the

first place.

That means year-round market checks, unannounced inspections, cold chain monitoring, and transparent reporting of results. It also means creating a paper trail that cannot be manipulated.

Calls for justice are now coming from every corner. Civil society groups want the traders involved blacklisted and their licences revoked permanently. Kashmir clergy is pressing for moral accountability alongside legal action.

On the streets, the mood is unforgiving. There is talk of boycotts, community-led inspections, and naming and shaming those caught in the trade.

Online, the demand is sharper still: lifetime bans, criminal charges, and jail time for everyone in the chain, not just scapegoats.

For many, this is also a moment of reflection on consumer responsibility. Some say the habit of blind trust must end, that customers should demand to see storage facilities, ask for proof of sourcing, and be willing to walk away from a shop that refuses transparency.

Others fear this is too much to expect from ordinary buyers in a place where price and availability often trump quality checks.

The scandal has undoubtedly left an aftertaste far more bitter than spoiled meat. It has exposed the fragility of a food system people took for granted, the gaps in enforcement that can turn a basic necessity into a public hazard, and the ease with which corruption or negligence can slip past under watchful eyes that choose not to see.

Meat in Kashmir is a matter of trust, health, and cultural pride. Losing that trust is dangerous. Restoring it will take more than words from pulpits or podiums.

It will take a permanent shift in how this trade is policed, from slaughterhouse to shop counter, every single day.

Until then, the taste of this scandal will linger.

The author works as
Multimedia Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Kashmir's Environmental Emergency

In this Open Letter to M.Y. Tarigami, Chairperson of the House Committee on Environment & Climate Change, Kashmir's leading climate activist urges urgent legislative action to stop the ongoing destruction of the valley's rivers, wetlands, and farmlands.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat



For two decades, I have used the Right to Information Act (RTI) to track environmental damage in Jammu and Kashmir. I have filed hundreds of applications, gathered thousands of pages of documents, and shared the findings with the press and the public. The pattern is always the same: laws are clear, violations are blatant, penalties are imposed, and the destruction continues.

In Srinagar's uptown, stormwater pumps built to keep the city dry during rains now run even in the heat of summer. They are pumping untreated sewage — faecal sludge, kitchen waste, industrial runoff — straight into the Doodh Ganga stream.

This stream is not a remote watercourse. It is a primary drinking water source for over half a million people and the lifeline of Hokersar Wetland, a Ramsar site recognised for its ecological value under international law.

Connecting stormwater pumps to sewerage lines is illegal under the Water Act of 1974, the Solid Waste Management Rules of 2016, and the Wetland Rules of 2017. Yet the practice goes on.

In 2021, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to pay ₹41.47 crore in environmental compensation. In 2022, it imposed another 35 crore in penalties, plus 1 crore in March that year. The Municipal Council Chadoora was also fined 1 crore.

These are unprecedented fines for the state. And still, untreated sewage continues to flow into the stream and wetland.

The same disregard plays out in the mining of Karewas and riverbeds in Pulwama and Budgam.

Karewas are ancient clay plateaus that store water, feed orchards, and preserve a fragile ecosystem.

Over the last several years, NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd., a construction firm working on the Srinagar Ring Road, has carved them up for clay and sand, paying a fraction of the legally due royalties. The company has also extracted boulders and gravel from the Rambiar, Romshi, Shali Ganga, and Sukhnag streams on a massive scale.

In 2022, after my petitions, the NGT banned NKC from mining in Pulwama and Budgam. The company simply moved to Beerwah, where locals counted about 200 truckloads a day being hauled from the Sukhnag stream between October 2022 and December 2024.

These operations were carried out without environmental clearance or public auction. Instead of stopping them, the administration issued “disposal permits” and “short-term permits” - in effect legalising the plunder.

In October 2024, the NGT formed a multi-agency committee of the central environment ministry, pollution control authorities, and the J&K fisheries department to inspect the site.

By January 2025, it had ordered an immediate halt to mining in Sukhnag and summoned the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam for approving 163 illegal permits.

While daytime operations have stopped, night-time mining with heavy machinery continues in Qumiroo, Sail, Kangripora, and nearby villages, reportedly with the knowledge of mining officials.

Elsewhere, in Shali Ganga, NKC's mining was halted three years ago. The company shifted upstream into Raithan Forest Range, gouging out water sources in Kachwari Hill, Draggar, and Watrad villages.

Even after a 80 lakh penalty was announced in the Assembly by the mining minister, credible sources indicate the

money has not been recovered.

Waste management, the third major front of destruction, has also collapsed into malpractice.

Over the past decade, the central government has spent about 2,500 crore under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) for rural sanitation. In many villages, toilets built under the scheme discharge directly into irrigation channels and streams. Waste segregation sheds have been con-

structed next to water bodies.

This violates national solid waste management rules, the Swachh Bharat guidelines, and the Water Act. It also ensures that pollution is built into the system, not cleaned out of it.

These are long-running, large-scale violations that threaten public health, agriculture, water security, and biodiversity.

The links are direct: sewage in the Doo-

dh Ganga means contaminated drinking water for half a million people. Mining in the Karewas destroys orchards and natural water storage. Sand extraction from riverbeds increases the risk of floods and damages fish habitats. Waste dumped into streams poisons irrigation channels and farmlands.

Officials cannot claim ignorance. They have been shown RTI documents, court orders, site photographs. They have been fined by the NGT. They have heard repeated appeals from citizens and environmentalists.

Still, they have allowed contractors to keep working, often by issuing the very permits that make illegal activity appear lawful.

The House Committee on Environment and Climate Change must act now.

It must investigate these violations, hold accountable the officials and contractors involved, enforce the environmental laws already in place, and ensure that mining, sewage disposal, and waste management follow legal norms.

The committee should visit these affected sites, from Srinagar's pump stations to the mined-out riverbeds of Budgam, and hear directly from the communities living with the consequences.

I am ready to provide the documentary evidence: the RTI replies, the NGT orders, the photographs. What I cannot provide is more time.

Every day of delay means more sewage in our streams, more clay stripped from our Karewas, and more sand dug from our rivers.

The cost will not be measured only in crores lost to corruption, but in poisoned water, collapsing ecosystems, and lives diminished by disease and scarcity.

Kashmir's environmental collapse is not inevitable. It is being permitted, and it can still be stopped.

The author is an Acumen Fellow
and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir
RTI Movement. He can be reached at
bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Vanishing Neighbourhoods

Once a source of strength and comfort, neighbourhood bonds in Kashmir are breaking down as modern life pushes people apart.

Umair Ul Umar

Growing up in Kashmir, the neighbourhood was a lively network of relationships that made life richer, safer, and warmer. The streets I knew were filled with faces that felt like family.

Every neighbour had a role: sharing joy, shouldering burdens, and turning even the simplest days into moments of connection.

Our homes were modest, but hospitality was boundless. I remember the smell of Nun Chai and freshly baked Kulchas greeting unexpected guests, and the hum of conversations that went late into the night.

When illness struck, neighbours came with prayers, hot meals, and hours of company. Weddings were community affairs: women gathered to cook rice, men helped prepare the intricate wazwan, and everyone pitched in - setting up tents, carrying chairs, and exchanging stories.

It was a collective celebration where no one counted the cost or asked for favors in return.

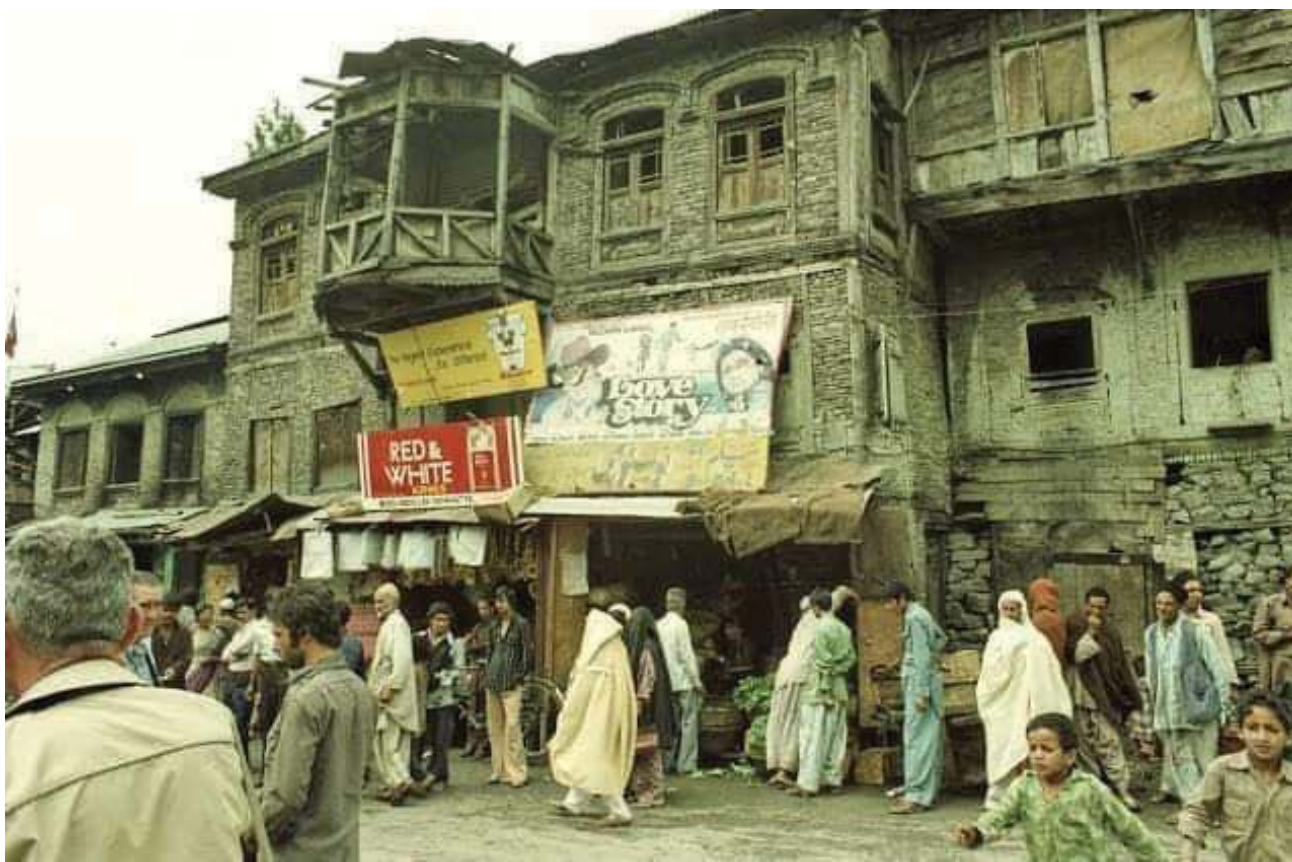
One vivid memory stands out from my childhood. Guests arriving a day before a wedding were not left to fend for themselves but welcomed into neighbours' homes as family. It felt as if the entire neighbourhood was the host.

Sadly, that spirit of togetherness has faded in recent years.

Last year, at a wedding in Dalgam, I was struck by the openness of homes without high fences or locked gates. It felt like stepping back in time to the Kashmir I once knew, where courtyards were shared spaces and neighbours greeted each other like close relatives.

A few years ago, visiting villages in Tral, I saw children running barefoot along streams, elders sitting on wicker chairs with salted tea in hand, and streets alive with easy conversation.

More recently, in Lolab, Kupwara, neighbours welcomed me with warm smiles and



open doors. These gestures were part of daily life, deeply woven into Kashmiri identity.

Eid-ul-Azha mornings hold a special place in my memories. The call, "Please come, we need help with the sacrifice," would echo through the lanes.

Neighbours gathered without hesitation to lift the animal, share the meat, and share the faith. There was no pride or distance, only trust and community.

Paddy planting season was another time

of togetherness. Neighbours arrived with smiles, ready to stand knee-deep in muddy fields to help.

After long hours of work, they shared a meal called Kaad, a feast where the food was less important than the gratitude and the bond it represented.

Today, the faces in the neighbourhoods have changed, but so has the nature of our connections. Most neighbours don't even know each other's names. The tradition of

Kaad has all but vanished, along with much of that shared spirit.

Electricity and TVs arrived, but they fragmented the communal experience. I recall how only a few homes had battery-powered TVs, and the whole mohalla would gather under one roof to watch shows like Alif Leila.

Children, men, and women packed into a single room, eyes wide with wonder. Doors were open, and so were hearts.

Modern life brought bigger homes, higher

boundary walls, and a preoccupation with individual privacy. The once-open doors have shut tight. Visits now need appointments, and conversations happen in measured tones. Instead of warmth, there is suspicion or silent rivalry.

If one neighbour builds a new floor, others feel pressured to renovate in competition. We have developed a strange fear of happiness in others, where another's success can feel like a threat.

The children growing up in this new Kashmir live in a different world. Born into homes with smartphones and fast internet, many have never experienced the joy of playing cricket in narrow alleys, plucking mulberries from neighbours' trees, or being gently scolded by an elder next door.

Their social lives exist online, separated from the fabric of community that once taught empathy and resilience.

Why did this happen?

Progress itself is not the enemy. Kashmiris have always embraced change when it brings hope. The loss lies in abandoning the values that grounded that progress: trust, humility, and care.

Years of trouble and trauma have pushed us inward, making us guard our hearts and homes fiercely. Yet healing requires connection.

Our elders often say, "Crying is lighter when shared." That truth holds more weight now than ever.

Modernity must arrive, but it cannot erase the neighbours who once shaped our lives. It cannot steal the stories, the simple kindness, and the deep bonds that gave Kashmir its soul.

When we lose our neighbours, we lose ourselves.

The author can be reached at umairulumar77@gmail.com

When One Channel Was Enough

Before endless choices and noisy screens, our families gathered around a single flickering TV, finding stories that spoke to our lives with honesty, warmth, and respect.

Syed Majid Gilani

There was a time in Kashmir when watching a film on television was an event that brought everyone together.

I remember how Hindi films from the late '70s to the '90s had a simple charm that felt close to home. Those stories spoke gently but deeply, with grace and emotion that touched the heart.

Films like Anand, Bawarchi, Chupke Chupke, Masoom, and Sparsh felt like reflections of real life, told with dignity and respect for the audience. Watching them, you learned about kindness, patience, and love, all without anything that felt forced or exaggerated.

Even as the '90s brought new hits like Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, Maine Pyar Kiya, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, these stories stayed true to their roots.

Families in Kashmir could watch together without discomfort. There were no bold or crass scenes, no unnecessary glamour or cheap tricks. Actors wore modest clothes, and the romances were tender, not explicit. It was entertainment that respected our values and spoke to the heart.

The songs from those films still echo in our memories. Whether from Masoom, Saath Saath, Ram Teri Ganga Maili, or Sajjan, those melodies carried feelings that never faded.

Every week, shows like Chitrahaar and Rangoli brought those songs into our homes, making them part of our routine. Even today, many young singers on reality shows pick these timeless tunes, proving their lasting beauty.

I recall how the dialogues were simple, yet they stuck with us. They didn't need to be pretentious to become part of our daily conversations. This was a connection built on emotion, not hype.



Back then, we had only one television channel: Doordarshan. Most homes had black-and-white sets, sometimes old and small, but it was enough.

We never felt shortchanged. Whatever was on that one channel was enough to bring meaning into our evenings.

I remember those moments when the broadcast would suddenly stop, and the screen would show the message: "Rukawat ke liye khed hai..." Sorry for the interruption.

Sometimes, strong winds would misalign the rooftop antenna. Someone would climb up, while the rest of us shouted from below, "Haan, thoda aur... bas, wahi rakh!"

When the picture finally returned, it felt

like a small victory. The family would gather close again, grateful for those flickering images that united us.

Sunday evenings at 5:30 were sacred. The whole family would wait eagerly for the film to start. Sometimes the movies were slow, artistic, or symbolic, not always easy for young minds to grasp. Yet, we watched patiently, giving respect to whatever was on screen.

Weekday evenings had their own rhythm. The regional telecast began with Butraat, a programme full of useful advice on farming and horticulture, vital for many families in Kashmir countryside.

Then came the news: the Kashmiri bulletin at 7:30, followed by the Urdu bulletin

at 7:45. Beyond updates, they were part of our daily life, watched and trusted.

We also had weekly serials in Kashmiri and Urdu: Aalav, Harud, Hazar Daastan, Jum German.

Those stories echoed our culture and language. Missing an episode was a small setback, but thankfully there was often a morning repeat.

Electricity was never certain. Frequent power cuts meant a sudden blackout during a film or serial was a moment of real frustration.

We hadn't grown addicted. Rather, we had waited an entire week for that one show. Losing it to the dark felt like losing a precious moment.



Looking back, the technology was limited, and the screens were small. Yet, those films and serials filled our hearts. They never tried too hard to impress, but spoke simply and sincerely.

National TV serials had a special place too. Shows like Udaan, Fauji, Circus, Nukkad, Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi, Waggle Ki Duniya, Dekh Bhai Dekh, Shriman Shrimati, and Gul Gulshan Gulshan gave us characters who felt familiar. They lived simple lives, faced everyday challenges, and taught lessons about honesty, patience, love, and sacrifice.

Those stories never overwhelmed with loud music or exaggerated drama. Children and elders could watch side by side without awkwardness.

The absence of obscenity mattered. Those stories had boundaries and stayed within them. Decency was respected, and that gave the shows a kind of gentle strength.

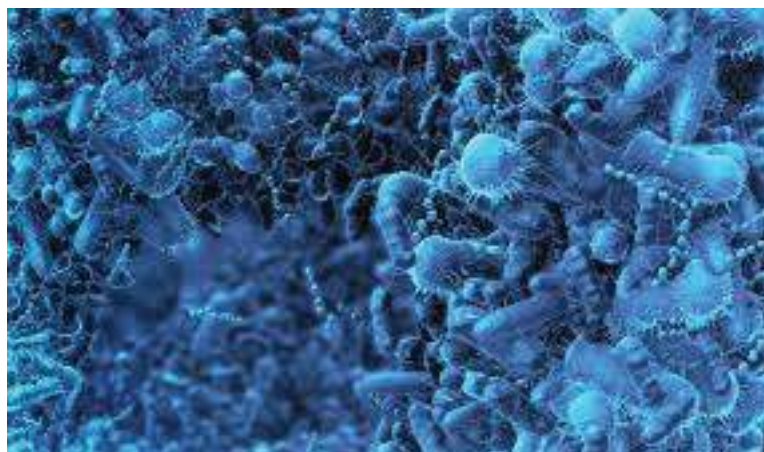
Looking back, the technology was limited, and the screens were small. Yet, those films and serials filled our hearts. They never tried too hard to impress, but spoke simply and sincerely.

Perhaps that's why they remain part of us, not because they were flawless, but because they were honest.

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

Press Trust Of India

The pigs ingested the smart capsule, which detected the light emitted by the engineered gut bac-



By improving control over how an engineered bacteria behaves inside a living organism, the technology could boost the precision of diagnoses and therapies that make

"This approach highlights the potential for integrating synthetic biology and optoelectronics for digital health monitoring and controllable intervention," they wrote.

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The registrar Death BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining death of Azizi Begum w/o Abdul Abdul Aziz Lone R/O Seru Guwla Dangerpora with verified date of Death 08/02/1975 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar
Sariwampora

fk0

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TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores)

E-Tendering NIT No. 22-BRU of 2025-26/2745-52 Dated:- 06-08-2025

Executive Engineer PW(R&B)Division BEERWAH on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, invites percentage rate bids(EPC Mode) in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments(must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal).

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.jk-tenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Documents (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion For Construction work	Class of contractor
1	Design, Construction of Bridge on NallahSukhnag at Beerwah on Magam Beerwah road (2x35 Mtr. Span) on EPC MODE (ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MODE) The job includes designing part to be Vetted by Design Directorate/NIT or any other equivalent Authority including soil investigation, Foundation, Sub-structure (Foundation, abutments dirt wall, return wall, approach slab), superstructure (Steel Truss girderalong with deck slab, Drainage spouts, wearing Coat, Providing & Fixing of suitable bearings etc.)duly approved by the department including Site Clearance, Construction ofDiversion for Traffic by way of required number of rows of 36"/48" RCC Spun Pipes grouted with Concrete between the Pipes, edge walls as required laying of GSB G-II, 75 WMM 50mm BM 25mm SDBC with 6mm seal coat for a width of 7.0 mtr,De-launching of bailey bridge(storage at designated place as directed by EIC), dismantling of Abutments and piers,Construction of approachesup-to 250 mtr or as per requirement at site by way of earth cutting, filling, Construction of protection works i.e. R/ walls, Edge walls, B/walls,laying of pipes, Crash barriers laying of GSB, WBM G-II, incl. Macadamization, including Shifting of Utilities Like PHE Pipe Lines Electric Poles including Material Cost(Complete Job) on EPC MODE (ENGINEERINGPROCUREMENTANDCONSTRUCTIONMODE).	611000/-	722.09	803 Years	11AAY Class Only

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06.08.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07-08-2025 from 11.00 A.M.
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting	09.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Central Kashmir
4	Bid submission Start Date	10-08-2025 from 10.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission End Date	29.08.2025 upto 4.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Central Kashmir
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

M.H Account = (RIDF-XXX).

Position of AAA= Accorded

2. Bids must be accompanied (at cost) of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ E-Challan (Under MH- 0059 PWD) In favour of Executive Engineer R&B, Division Beerwah (tender inviting authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan/ Receipt) (Refer Govt. No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-65 DT 07-06-2018) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG (The Date of EMD should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Central Kashmir (Tender receiving authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ BG in the shape of Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Central Kashmir within 15 days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

5. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.

6. 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 Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Central Kashmir (Tender Borewells) at the time and place specified in the tender document.

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

8. The earnest money/Performance security shall be forfeited, if-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

9. All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated vide letter No. CE/RBK/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018

N0: 2/45-52
DIPK-4962/25

Dated: 08/08/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division BEERWAHA



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Indian Textiles, Jewellery At Risk Of 50% Trump Tariffs



Reuters

NEW DELHI- US President Donald Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff on goods imported from India this week, citing New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil. The new import tax, effective 21 days after August 7, will raise duties on some Indian goods to as high as 50% - among the highest levied on any U.S. trading partner.

While some sectors like smartphones, pharmaceuticals and energy are currently exempt from any reciprocal tariffs, other items like gems and jewellery, textiles and some auto components, which make up a large part of Indian exports to the U.S., will take a hit.

Below are some of the largest exports to the U.S. from India.

SMARTPHONES

Apple Inc suppliers Foxconn Hon Hai, Tata Electronics, Pegatron Corp and Wistron Inc are the largest exporters from India to the U.S., shipping smartphones and other products worth nearly \$7 billion in 2024. In the first six months of 2025, the companies have already exported goods worth \$11 billion, commercially available customs data showed.

Smartphones are currently exempt from tariffs, in a win for Apple that is gearing up to launch iPhone 17 next month and has gradually increased manufacturing in India as it diversifies from China. Most

iPhones sold in the U.S. are now made in India.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Zydus Lifesciences, Hetero Labs, Lupin, Aurobindo Pharma and Sun Pharmaceutical are top exporters of drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients to the U.S.

In 2024, they shipped goods worth \$3.6 billion and from January to June 2025 they have already exported drugs worth \$3.7 billion to the U.S. The sector is currently exempt from tariffs as generic medicines are crucial for affordable healthcare.

GEMS & JEWELLERY

The United States is the largest market for India's gems and jewellery sector, accounting for goods worth \$10 billion last year, making up nearly 30% of its total global sales.

Diamond and gem manufacturers Shree Ramkrishna Exports, Gia India and Kiran Gems are the largest exporters to the U.S. India's Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council has warned that the tariffs could bring the industry to a standstill, especially with competing manufacturing hubs such as Turkey, Vietnam and Thailand being taxed at lower rates.

TEXTILES

India's textile industry is already receiving panic-stricken calls from customers after Trump announced the additional 25% tariff.

Apparel and textile companies like Shahi Exports, Welspun, Indo Count Industries, Trident and Gokaldas Exports are top exporters that are likely to take a hit with tariffs rising to 50%.

In 2024, the companies exported goods worth over \$2 billion and in the first half of 2025 shipped products of about \$1 billion to U.S. clients including Walmart, Target, Costco and Gap.

CS Pushes For Faster Reforms To Boost Ease Of Doing Business



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a meeting to review implementation of compliance reduction and deregulation reforms recommended by the National Task Force, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, to ensure Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) across the country.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forest; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Law and Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, among others.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the progress on key reform areas. He directed all the departments to ensure time-bound and full compliance with the agenda set by the Task Force.

Emphasizing the urgency and importance of the exercise, he asserted that there is

no scope for laxity or delays and administrative heads must regularly monitor the status of implementation to ensure that reforms are grounded effectively. He further stressed the need to upload the evidentiary proof of compliance across all priority areas without further delay, underscoring that these reforms are critical to improve the overall ease of doing business.

The Chief Secretary called for mission-mode implementation of regulatory changes. He directed the Industries & Commerce department to complete all documentation and reporting requirements promptly by assisting the departments in implementing them smoothly.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, informed the meeting that 434 reform points spanning various departments have already been successfully implemented. However, few specific reform points were returned by the Task Force with observations for further refinement. He assured that as the nodal department, Industries & Commerce is proactively addressing these gaps and will

ensure timely compliance uploads for the pending areas in coordination with the respective Departments.

Providing further insights, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Kumar Manhas, outlined several key reform areas identified for immediate action. These included adoption of flexible zoning regulations in master plans to facilitate mixed land use in development projects, simplification and digitization of the Change of Land Use (CLU) process and rationalization of minimum road with norms for industrial units in rural areas.

The reform points that came under discussion also spanned around amendment of building regulations to minimize the land loss in industrial and commercial plots, removal of restrictions on women working in hazardous sectors, review of working hour limits under factory laws, lifting restrictions on business hours for commercial establishments and provision for fire NOCs through third-party empanelled agencies along with few others.

National Handloom Day celebrated

Overwhelming Response To Trainee Product Sale At Numaish Gah

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Buoyed by the overwhelming response to Trainee Product Sale, organised as part of National Handloom Day, Department of Handicrafts and Handlooms, Kashmir, is organizing a Gandhi Shilp Bazaar at Kashmir Haat, also known as Numaish Gah, from August 20-27, later this month.

A large number of visitors turned up at Kashmir Haat on Wednesday to buy handicrafts and handloom products made by trainees in various training centres of the department on nominal rates, on cost-to-cost raw material basis.

The vibrant hand-knotted woollen carpets of Massive Carpet Scheme centres were sold out in a jiffy, with sales of almost ₹5.00 lakhs recorded. "In view of the huge response, the department decided to organize a bid-based auction of trainee products made in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, where both silk and woolen carpets will be sold to the highest bidder," a spokesman of the department stated.



The district departmental stalls also recorded impressive sales with many buyers making purchase of Crewel, Sozni embroidered Shawls, Zari embroidered ladies' suits and pherans, Chain Stitch, Tapestry, Namda products and other papier mache and willow wicker souvenir and decor items.

The spokesman added that the Department also organized a LIVE Demo of Kani weaving and the rare art of hand-spinning of Pashmina, through its School of Designs wing. "The National Handloom Day also gave us an opportunity to give traction to Srinagar city's unique distinction of having been notified as a Craft City by World Craft Council and UNESCO City under its Creative Cities Network," he added.

The Trainee Product Sale will run through August 10, the spokesman said, adding another high-profile Gandhi Shilp bazaar is being hosted at Kashmir Haat from August 20 to 27, which shall provide a wonderful opportunity to local buyers to bring home exquisite and authentic handmade products and becoming part of 'Be Vocal for Local' campaign.

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Sitharaman Withdraws Income Tax Bill In LS; New Bill To Be Introduced On Aug 11

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday withdrew the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, and the government will come out with an updated version of the legislation after incorporating changes suggested by the Select Committee.

A new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

The updated version of the I-T Bill, according to sources, will incorporate most of the recommendations of the Select Committee.

"To avoid confusion by multiple versions of the Bill and to provide a clear and updated version with all changes incorporated, the new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced for the consideration of the House on Monday," sources said.

The Select Committee, chaired by Baijayant Panda, had suggested a host of changes in the Income Tax Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13.

Soon after its introduction in the Lower House, the Bill, which will replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961,



was referred to the Select Committee for scrutiny.

The 31-member Select Committee had made some suggestions on the Bill.

They also favoured continuing tax exemption on anonymous donations made to religious-cum-charitable trusts in the new law, besides suggesting that taxpayers be allowed to claim TDS refund even after the ITR filing due date without paying any penal charges.

The government in the new Bill has exempted non-profit organisations (NPOs) from taxing anonymous donations received by purely religious trusts. However, such donations received by a religious trust that may also have other charitable functions, like running hospitals and educational institutions, will be taxed as per law, as per the Bill.

India Negotiating Trade Deals with US, Other Nations: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India is negotiating trade agreements with several countries, including the US, and stressed that many nations are keen to engage with New Delhi on the trade front.

He also exuded confidence that India's exports in 2025-26 will exceed last year's figures.

In 2024-25, India's goods and services exports touched USD 825 billion. "We are in dialogue with many countries -- Oman, the European Union, the US, Chile, Peru, New Zealand. Many others want to start engaging with India.

"So today the world recognises the strengths of India, recognises our demographic advantages... 1.4 billion people bring aggregate demand, huge domestic market... why else do you think everybody is vying to do trade or have a better market access (in India)," Goyal said here at the BT India@100 event.

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement since March. For the next round of talks, a US team is scheduled to visit India from August 25.

These talks assume significance as the US has imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods. A 25 per cent duty came into effect on August 7, with the remaining 25 per cent set to be implemented from August 27.

The commerce minister said India has recently inked trade agreements with several countries, including the UAE, Mauritius, Australia, EFTA (European Free Trade Area), and the UK.

Asked how India will deal with the current global trade order and penal tariffs of the US, he said, "I do not see any



de-globalisation. I see countries restructuring their trade routes and their trade partners and I am quite confident this year, India will do more exports than last year."

He added that the Indian economy is growing faster and the world is looking up to India.

"The whole world recognises us as the fastest growing large economy. We are contributing 16 per cent in the global growth, our inflation is amongst the lowest in the world compared to other emerging market economies... our macro economic fundamentals are the best," Goyal said, adding, "India today is stronger, much more confident, much more respected".

India is growing at 6.5 per cent and "we will of course have trading arrangements with whom we have complementarities".

These remarks assume significance as US President Donald Trump had remarked that India is a "dead economy".

On the global trade, he said international trade always finds new pathways and "what we are seeing today is possibly a churn that was bound to happen over every few years. Over every few years, new countries come up, some countries go down and this is part of history of nations".

Zomato Ropes In Shah Rukh Khan As Brand Ambassador

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Online food delivery platform Zomato on Friday said it had roped in Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador.

Khan had recently appeared in Zomato's latest campaign 'Fuel Your Hustle', which celebrates the quiet grind behind some of India's most celebrated names, Zomato said in a statement.

"Through the campaign and this association, Zomato aims to resonate with every individual who truly believes in hard work and consistency and reinforce its commitment to supporting their journey with food," it added.

Khan inspires millions to keep showing up and fuelling their ambition, said Zomato Marketing Head Sahibjeet Singh Sawhney.

"His influence transcends generations and borders and is a reminder for India to keep at it," Sawhney said, adding that his journey, from humble beginnings to global icon, mirrors the grit and persistence that the company believes in.

On the association, Khan said, "Zomato's story is one of hustle, innovation and a love for bringing people closer to what they cherish most - great food. It's a journey that resonates with me deeply, and I am thrilled to be part of a brand that has become a household name across India."

This collaboration will see Shah Rukh Khan featured prominently across Zomato's multi-platform marketing initiatives, including television commercials, digital campaigns, print and outdoor activations, the statement said.

Cabinet Approves Rs 12,000 Cr Under PM Ujjwala Yojana For FY26

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Union Cabinet on Friday approved a subsidy of Rs 12,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for 2025-26, benefitting 10.33 crore households.

PMUY was launched in May 2016, to provide free LPG connection to adult women from poor households across the country. As on July 1, there are about 10.33 crore PMUY connections in India.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 9 refills per year (and proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg cylinder) to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) during FY 2025-26 at an expenditure of Rs 12,000 crore," an official statement said.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirement.

Markets Tank On Tariff Jitters, Foreign Fund Exodus; Sensex Dives Below 80k

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark index Sensex tumbled nearly 1 per cent to slip below the 80,000 level on Friday as growing concerns over the impact of the additional US tariff and unabated foreign fund outflows unnerved investors.

Deep losses in market heavyweights Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel also added pressure on equities, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 765.47 points or 0.95 per cent to settle at 79,857.79. During the day, it tumbled 847.42 points or 1.05 per cent to 79,775.84.

As many as 2,507 stocks declined while 1,521 advanced and 145 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 232.85 points or 0.95 per cent to 24,363.30.

Extending losing streak for the sixth consecutive week, the BSE benchmark dropped 742.12 points or 0.92 per cent, and the Nifty declined 202.05 points or 0.82 per cent.

"The Indian equity market exhibited downward movement, closing at a three-month low amid growing concerns over the impact of US tariffs on Indian exports.

"Fls remained net sellers, intensifying the pressure on domestic indices. The pessimism was broad-based, with realty and metals bearing the biggest brunt," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

"Selling intensified, with the Sensex ending below the psychological 80k mark, as analysts believe that once the stiff tariff penalty on Indian goods by the Trump administration comes into effect, India's growth could be hit going ahead," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

However, NTPC, Titan, Trent, ITC and Bajaj Finserv managed to be in green territory.

Cabinet Approves Rs 30,000 Cr Subsidy To Compensate Oil Firms For LPG Losses

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Cabinet on Friday approved Rs 30,000 crore LPG subsidy to state-run oil companies -- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) -- to compensate for losses incurred from selling LPG at below cost over the past 15 months.

The compensation to oil marketing companies (OMCs) will be paid in 12 tranches, as per an official statement.

The international prices of LPG were at high levels during 2024-25 and continue to remain high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the increase in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, leading to significant losses for the three OMCs.

Despite the losses, public sector oil marketing companies have ensured continuous supplies of domestic LPG in the country at affordable prices.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved compensation amounting to Rs 30,000 crore to the three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPCL & HPCL) for the under-recoveries incurred on sale of domestic LPG," the statement said.

China Welcomes PM Modi's Planned Visit To Attend SCO Summit

PTI

Beijing- China on Friday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to the Tianjin Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be held later this month, describing the event as "a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results."

PM Modi is expected to travel to China later this month, after a gap of over seven years, to attend the annual summit of the SCO, people familiar with the matter in Delhi said this week.

"China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said while responding to a question on reports about Modi's visit to China to attend the Tianjin summit to be held from August 31 to September 1.

"We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results, and the SCO will enter a new stage



of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productivity," Guo said.

Guo said that leaders of over 20 countries, including all member states of the SCO and heads of 10 international organisations, will attend relevant events.

"The SCO Tianjin Summit will be the largest summit in scale since the establishment of the SCO," the spokesperson added.

Modi is expected to embark on a visit to Japan around August 29, and after concluding the trip, he

will travel to the Chinese city of Tianjin for the SCO summit.

There is no official confirmation yet on Modi's two-nation visit to Japan and China.

Modi last visited China in June 2018 to attend the SCO summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India in October 2019 for the second "informal summit".

However, the relationship came under stress due to the eastern Ladakh border face-off.

The military standoff in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 and the clashes at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted

in a severe strain in ties.

The face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21 last year.

In the last few months, both sides revived the Special Representative dialogue on the boundary question and other dialogue mechanisms.

The decision to revive various dialogue mechanisms was taken at a meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi at Kazan in Russia on October 23, 2024.

The Modi-Xi meeting came two days after India and China firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok.

The two sides also took a number of initiatives to rebuild the ties, which included the resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and New Delhi restarting issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals.

Both sides are also discussing modalities to resume direct flight services between the two

countries.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval visited China in the last two months to attend the SCO meetings.

China is the current chair of the SCO.

It is not immediately clear whether PM Modi and President Xi will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

It is expected that Russian President Vladimir Putin will be among the top leaders who will participate in the SCO summit.

The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus, is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

It was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Terrorist Attacks Were 'Frequent' During UPA Regime: Amit Shah

Slams Opposition for opposing 'Op Sindoor'; says India is different under PM Modi's rule

Agencies

Srinagar:Asserting that terrorist attacks were 'frequent in India during the UPA regime,' Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed opposition parties for opposing 'Operation Sindoor.'

Addressing a public meeting in Bihar Shah said, "India is different under the Narendra Modi ji's regime. Our soldiers killed terrorists in their hideouts. But the RJD and Congress leaders are opposing Operation Sindoor."

The Union Home Minister lashed out at opposition parties for objecting to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, asserting that infiltrators have "no right to vote".

He also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "indulging in politics over the SIR exercise" in the state. "Names of infiltrators must be removed from the voters' lists. They have no right to vote. But the RJD and the Congress are opposing SIR in Bihar because the names of infiltrators are being deleted from the lists," he added.

He also asserted that the NDA will form the government in the coming assembly polls.

"The RJD did nothing for Bihar. Lalu ji, as central minister, sanctioned Rs 1,132 cr for railway infrastructure in Bihar, while our govt provided Rs 10,066 cr in FY'26," he claimed.

Shah also alleged that the RJD "encouraged hoodliganism" during its rule in the state.(KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Public Questions

piercing: Who slaughtered these animals? Why is such meat being supplied in bulk? How long has this been happening under the radar? And why has the Food Safety Control Department never probed this matter thoroughly until now?

"It's frightening to think how much of this meat might already be in people's kitchens," Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Dargah said.

"We have a right to know why no one stopped this earlier. How many people fell sick because of this? Accountability is a must,"he added.

Insha Rashid, a university student, expressed her concerns, saying, "I eat out a lot, and it's terrifying to think that the food might be Haram. "Why is all this coming to light only now, all of a sudden? If people weren't tipping off the officials, would they really have been able to seize all this rotten meat? There seems to be a lot that has gone unnoticed for years."

Public health experts warn that consumption of such meat poses serious health risks, including bacterial infections and food poisoning. "This isn't just a matter of law enforcement—it's a public health emergency," one senior doctor said.

Dr. Sameer Ahmad Dar, a public health specialist said contaminated or chemically treated meat can cause severe food poisoning, diarrhoea, vomiting, and fever in the short term. In the long run, it increases the risk of liver damage, kidney problems, typhoid, parasitic infections, and in some cases even cancer, he said.

"The immune-compromised, elderly, and children are especially vulnerable," Dr Dar added.

Residents allege that many restaurants, roadside dhabas, and barbecue stalls buy cheaper meat of dubious quality to maximise profits. "Some outlets serve meat that is days old and kept in poor storage conditions. The taste is different, but not everyone notices until they fall ill," said Irshad Ahmad, who eats outside frequently.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma said on Friday that no one would be allowed to sell adulterated, rotten meat or improperly dressed chicken in the Union Territory. "Samples will be taken from every food outlet — from five-star hotels to roadside eateries — and those involved in flooding markets with such items will not be spared," Sharma told the Kashmir News Observer.

He said a high-level team was being formed to devise a comprehensive strategy to tackle the issue. "Just yesterday, we had a meeting with the Health Minister and Agriculture Minister. We took feedback from the poultry sector and food department as well. Whoever is found involved, wherever they are, they will face the consequences," he asserted.

Food Safety Department officials have, over the past week, raided several locations, recovering large quantities of unfit-for-consumption meat. In Srinagar, similar chicken meat was seized only two days ago. While traders claimed the spoilage was due to inadequate cold storage, officials questioned how such meat could remain safe without proper refrigeration, warning of serious health risks.

In a related incident, officials seized a large quantity of foul-smelling, rotten rice from a Food Corporation of India (FCI) warehouse in the Sumbal area of Bandipora district. Reports said the rice had been transported from Punjab to the Valley. Sharma clarified that the rice had not yet entered the Public Distribution System and was spoiled in transit. "A team checks at least three times, and if something is spoiled, it is returned. An investigation is underway to find out how this happened," he said, assuring that strict action would follow.

Tip-offs Spark

raid leads to the next link in the chain.

Sethi said that upon taking charge, she began receiving scattered reports. "We traced the reports one by one and launched targeted raids," she said.

The Commissioner said the raids, which began at a single location, have now expanded to multiple districts, including Ganderbal, Pulwama, Anantnag and Pampore and more.

"Each raid is taking us further up the chain. This is not an isolated incident but a continuing supply pattern we are uncovering," she added.

On the delay in revealing names of those involved, Sethi clarified it is a "deliberate strategic move". "We are not hiding anything, but revealing names prematurely could alert others in the network. We want to catch them all," she said.

She added that proper records are being maintained, and once the full network is exposed, names and actions taken under the FSSAI Act will be made public. "This is about ensuring accountability without giving anyone a chance to escape," the Commissioner said.

The crackdown has also reached Jammu, where around 800 kg of meat and chicken were destroyed in a single raid on Thursday, she said.

The FDA has already seized and destroyed over 3,500 kilograms of decomposed and unlabelled meat, indicating the presence of a deeper, organised network.

Earlier, officials said the meat was being stored and transported without proper cold-chain logistics or labelling, which poses a serious threat to public health. (KNO)

Kashmir Clergy

foul-smelling meat from certain establishments.

In a series of statements and sermons, clerics warned people against eating momos, kebabs, tikkas, and other meat dishes from unauthorised or unverified outlets. They stressed the need to ensure that meat is sourced only from animals slaughtered according to Islamic halal procedures and from suppliers whose authenticity is beyond doubt.

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Molvi Muhammad Umar Farooq Friday expressed deep shock and anguish over the recent revelations that over 3,500 kilograms of rotten, unlabelled, and possibly unlawful meat was seized by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) from various locations in Kashmir.

Mirwaiz said that feeding people haram or harmful food is zulm—a grave injustice. Such actions are a betrayal of public trust and a violation of both divine commandments, societal contract, and law. Those involved must be held fully accountable and strictly penalized and punished as per law without delay.

"This incident has deeply shaken the trust of people. It is shocking that such large-scale malpractice was allowed to go on and unchecked for so long, raising serious questions about the role of regulatory authorities. Where was the administration all this time? How could this go unnoticed? We do not know for how long this has been going on, but its scale and extent suggest a deep and disturbing failure of oversight," Mirwaiz said while delivering his Friday sermon at the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar.

Mirwaiz said that there are growing concerns within the community about the actual nature of the seized meat—with doubts being raised whether it was even from permissible animals or worse, carrion (maytah), which is strictly prohibited in Islam.

"These are not merely health violations; they are violations of our religious boundaries and our shared values as a society," he added.

"While we ask for accountability from authorities, this crime is a wake-up call for us as individuals and society too. It has brought forth the moral and ethical decay in our society, where greed and profiteering have become the sole driving force, even by stooping to such levels. And this should be a matter of concern for all of us as a society and as our claim to being Muslims.

Shia cleric Aga Syed Hadi also raised questions over how certain meat-based food items are being sold at unusually low rates, casting doubt on the quality and source of the meat used. He also questioned the authorities on how such consignments managed to go unchecked before even entering the Valley.

Maulana Masroor Ansari, a prominent Shia leader also voiced strong objections to the lack of scrutiny over the source of such food items, blaming this negligence for a rise in health issues among the public in Kashmir. He urged both the authorities and consumers to remain vigilant, stressing that unchecked supplies of substandard meat and other products pose serious risks to community health.

Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, a day after issuing a fatwa against the consumption of such meat, said the authorities must verify if the meat being sold is fresh, halal, and not from prohibited animals.

"People have the right to know the truth

— whether the meat they are eating is fresh or expired, halal or from prohibited animals such as donkey or pig. The recent seizure of rotten, foul-smelling meat is deeply alarming, yet authorities have not clarified which animal it came from."

"Critical questions remain unanswered,"he said.

"Who slaughtered these animals? Why is such meat being supplied in bulk? And for how long has this dangerous trade continued unchecked? Why has the Food Safety Control Department never investigated this matter in depth until now?"

Lifestyle Pressure

repay the last installment, they will have paid over 9 lakh, enough to host the wedding twice.

A 2023 report by the Centre for Financial Accountability found that more than 60 percent of rural households in Jammu and Kashmir had taken short-term loans in the past three years. Most of those loans went toward "social obligations", like weddings, home renovations and ceremonial gifts.

"The value of a wedding here is no longer measured in blessings, but in Instagram photos," said a wedding photographer in Baramulla, who asked not to be named to avoid offending clients. "People rent luxury cars for a day and borrow jewelry just for the pictures."

The financial backdrop makes this cycle even harsher. Youth unemployment hovers around 18 percent, among the highest in India. Private-sector jobs remain scarce, and government hiring, once the valley's economic safety net, has slowed. Many families survive on a single income, stretched thin over food, schooling and rising utility costs.

Behind closed doors, some cut back silently: fewer vegetables in the kitchen, delayed medical checkups, stalled school fees. But in public, the performance continues.

Still, there are exceptions.

In Ganderbal, a young couple married in a mosque with just close family present. The wedding cost 47,000, an amount the bride's father had saved over two years.

"There were whispers," the groom said, "but three years later, we own our home and we don't owe anyone."

Their marriage is stable and their finances are healthy. The celebration was small, but the life built after it is secure.

As for Asif Ahmad in Rainawari, the debt will take years to clear. If he could relive his daughter's wedding day, he said, he would still hold on to the joy, but he might think harder about the spending.

"I just wish," he said, "we could celebrate without making it a competition."

8 Days On, Kulgam

the hiding ultras.

Seven security forces personnel have suffered injuries during the course of the operation, the officials added.

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.

When the firing resumed on Saturday, two terrorists were killed. The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been ascertained so far, the officials said.

This is the longest anti-terror operation in the Kashmir valley so far this year and one of the longest ever in J&K.

J&K Bans Synthetic

Wazwan, Biryani, pickles, and other meat-based preparations (ready-to-eat). The presence of such prohibited synthetic colours poses a serious risk to public health," reads the public notice.

The notice added that violations were punishable under Section 59 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with imprisonment of up to three months and fines up to Rs 3 lakh.

The department has advised all Food Business Operators (FBOs) engaged in manufacturing, preparing, processing, selling, or

serving ready-to-eat food, especially meat-based products, to strictly avoid using synthetic food colours.

The Commissioner of the FDA, through the notice, has urged cooperation from all stakeholders "to ensure that only safe, wholesome food reaches the consumer."

PM Modi Dials

leader accepted with gratitude. Doval also met Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu, who pledged to expand cooperation with India to promote a "more just and sustainable world order."

Doval's trip, aimed at preparing ground for Putin's visit and strengthening energy and defence ties, came as US President Donald Trump announced the tariff hike, penalising India for continuing to import Russian oil. Despite the external pressure, New Delhi signalled its intent to maintain robust engagement with Moscow.

During the meeting, Doval reiterated New Delhi's commitment to continue cooperation on all fronts with Russia in spite of outside pressure.

On behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Doval extended an invitation to President Putin to visit India later this year, which Putin has accepted with gratitude, they added.

Prior to meeting Putin, Doval held talks with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu, who said Russia is committed to further active cooperation with India to form a more just and sustainable world order and ensure the supremacy of international law.

Doval arrived in Moscow on Wednesday to hold crucial talks on bilateral energy and defence ties and to prepare the ground for President Putin's visit to India later this year.

Earlier, terming calls to "force countries to sever trading relations" with Russia as "illegitimate," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had said, "Sovereign countries have the right to choose their own trading partners."

Trump Freezes

on the country, Trump told reporters at the Oval Office on Thursday: "No, not until we get it resolved."

A US negotiating team is due in Delhi on August 25 for trade talks, but that is now up in the air.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro slammed India's "abject refusal to stop buying Russian oil".

Navarro, while talking to reporters at the White House on Wednesday, said it is important to understand that the "rationale for the India tariffs is very different from the reciprocal tariffs".

"This was a pure national security issue associated with India's abject refusal to stop buying Russian oil," he said. "Every American needs to understand the math of this because it is related to the trade situation."

"You start with the fact that India is the maharaja of tariffs, it's the highest tariffs in the world charging on American products and it's got a high non-tariff barrier so we can't get our products in," he said.

The US sends a lot of dollars overseas to India to buy their products in an "unfair trade environment", he claimed.

"India then uses American dollars to buy Russian oil. Russia then uses those American dollars that come from India to finance its armaments, to kill Ukrainians, and American taxpayers are then called upon to pay for the weapons that have to defend Ukraine against Russian armaments paid for by American dollars that came from India," Navarro said.

He said that it has "got to stop... That math does not work. The President understands the connection between economic security and national security so that was the bottom line there," he added.

HC Upholds

electd panches and sarpanches to resign or face dire consequences.

Hearing the appeal by the Union Territory of J&K against the acquittal, the division bench of the high court said it is evident that for an act to be termed as "unlawful activity", it must be one which is intended to or supports any claim to bring about the cession of a part of the territory of India or the secession of a part of territory of India from the Union or which incites any individual or group of individuals to bring

about such cession or secession.

"The act or action may also fall within the term 'unlawful activity' as if it disclaims, questions,

disrupts or is intended to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India or which causes or is intended to cause disaffection against India," Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Sanjeev Kumar said in their eight-page order passed on July 31.

The order said the writings on the offending posters were only aimed at and intended to intimidate elected panches by threatening that in case they do not resign from their positions they would be killed.

"Such words in writing cannot be said to be intended to bring about cession or session of part of the territory of India from the Union nor does it disclaim, question, disrupt or is intended to disrupt any sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. These words can also be not understood to cause or intended to cause disaffection against India," the court said.

Going by the plain definition of the term "unlawful activities", it said the act attributed to the accused does not fall within the purview of the term of "unlawful activity" under Section 2(o) of the Act.

The order said the ingredients of Section 13 of the UA(P) Act were thus not made out.

"The trial Court should have discharged the respondent of the charge and instead framed an appropriate charge under the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC). We could have remanded the matter back to the trial Court for framing such a charge, but having regard to the fact that respondent has already faced the ordeal of trial for more than eight years and, therefore it would not be appropriate to do so.

"For the foregoing reasons, we do not find any merit in this appeal and the same is, accordingly, dismissed," the court said.

The court also said that it is abundantly clear that the offence with which the respondent was charged by the trial court has not been proved by any cogent evidence.

"Other than the statement of (PW-6) Prosecution Witness-6 that the specimen writing taken by the police in the presence of Executive Magistrate is similar to the writing on the offending posters, there is no material connecting the respondent with the preparation and affixing of the offending posters on the electric poles in the town," the HC said.

Court Denies Bail

Thousand and Five Hundred Only) from the possession of the applicant/accused, prima facie connects the accused/applicant with the alleged offences," the court said.

The court noted that as per prosecution, investigation remains in progress, and that there is every possibility that more persons involved in the "racket" may be unearthed during the investigation. "Granting bail at this juncture in considered opinion of this court impedes or prejudice ongoing investigation and may enable the accused to temper with evidence or influence potential witnesses," the court said.

Earlier APP in opposition to bail application contended that the offences under Sections 178, 179, and 180 of the BNS are exceptionally grave, striking at the very foundation of the nation's economic integrity and public trust.

The APP said while Section 178 of BNS pertains to counterfeiting coin or government stamps, punishable with imprisonment up to seven years, Section 179 of BNS addresses using as genuine a counterfeit coin or stamp, facilitating the circulation of fake currency, also punishable with imprisonment up to seven years. Similarly, he said, Section 180 of BNS involves possession of counterfeit coin or stamp, indicating intent to perpetrate economic harm, carrying a punishment of up to seven years. "The punishments associated with these offences clearly depict the gravity that the legislators intended to attach with these offences," the AAP said.

The alleged involvement in counterfeiting Indian currency constitutes a direct assault on the economic stability of the nation, particularly in the sensitive region of District Baramulla, where such activities could exacerbate societal unrest, the AAP added.

Sanction Decision

regard," the court observed and adjourned it to October 9.

National Code Against Age Fraud Policy Set For Cabinet Approval

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The draft National Code Against Age Fraud in Sports (NCAAFS) 2025, which mandates penal action against violators and calls for AI-based bone assessments to accurately determine an athlete's age, is set to become a policy soon with the sports ministry planning to send it for cabinet approval next week.

The NCAAFS was posted online for public feedback in March this year and a Sports Ministry source told PTI that the process is now complete.

Age fraud has been a massive problem in Indian sports at the youth and junior levels, where overage athletes have often been caught competing despite provisions for medical examination.

The revised code requires all aspiring as well as registered athletes to submit three mandatory documents for age verification -- birth certificate, Aadhar Card/Voter ID/Passport/PAN card and School Leaving Certificate/Matriculation Certificate.

The document verification will then be done by Sports Au-



thority of India (SAI) and the National Sports Federations (NSFs). The ministry has not been maintaining a record of age fraud incidents so far.

The NCAAFS of 2010, which was the guiding force on the issue till now, did not call for penal action against violators. However, the revised code recommends a two-year ban for the athletes in case it's their first offence.

A second violation would lead to a lifetime ban and "registration of FIR under provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and other legal provisions."

After successful age verification, the athlete's age will be permanently recorded in a dedicated database.

The code has the provision for a one-time Amnesty Programme, which will allow exist-

ing athletes to self-declare their correct age to SAI or respective NSF, within six months of the policy's implementation.

Age discrepancies will be addressed through medical examinations -- the traditional TW3 method (an estimation of bone age on basis of bone development), MRI scans, and general physical and dental examination.

"Advanced AI-based technolo-

gies (such as BoneXpert) may be introduced in a pilot phase to enhance accuracy and efficiency," the code states.

BoneXpert analyses X-ray of a child's hand automatically, without any interference from a human, to determine bone age.

The code also has a whistleblower mechanism, where age fraud complaints can be lodged anonymously for Rs 5,000 and if found accurate, the Sports Ministry would not only reimburse the fee but also pay the accuser Rs 2,000 for reporting the violation.

The athletes dissatisfied with the medical examination reports would be able to file appeals within 15 days of the assessment to SAI Regional Director or a three-member committee of their respective NSF.

An unfavourable verdict would remain challengeable at a Central Appeals Committee (CAC), headed by SAI Director General. The decision of the CAC will, however, be binding, as per the draft.

The NSFs would be required to submit compliance report with the provisions biennially and their funding would be linked to it.

Youngest Cyclist From DPS Srinagar Shines In 13 KM Cyclothon



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A young DPS Srinagar student successfully completed the challenging

13-kilometer race in the Under-14 category of the "Pedal Through Paradise" Cyclothon 2025. The cyclist, Noor-u-Sabba from UKG-F, competed against hundreds of other cyclists to finish the course.

The cyclothon, organised by the J&K Police in collaboration with the Fit India Movement, saw over 3000 participants cycling from the Police Golf Course to Harwan and back. Set against the scenic backdrop of Dal Lake, the event brought together participants aged 5 to 60.

"Despite being one of the youngest participants in the event, our spirited rider showcased extraordinary determination, boundless enthusiasm, and remarkable endurance—proving that age is no barrier to courage and perseverance," DPS Srinagar said in a press release.

Speaking at the event, ADGP Anand Jain highlighted the importance of such initiatives in inspiring young people to lead active, drug-free lives and contribute to nation-building.

Chairman Vijay Dhar and Principal Shafaq Afshan expressed immense pride in the young achiever.

Zone BK Pora Hosts Inter-School Girls' Athletics Meet

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: Under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone, the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Zone B.K. Pora, organised the Inter-School Zonal Level Athletics Competition for Girls (U-17 and U-19) at the Open Ground Gowherpora on Friday.

The event was formally inaugurated by Peer Javaid Hassan (PEM, HS Chattergam), the overall incharge of the competition, in the presence of other zonal officials. The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of government and private school students, showcasing exceptional sporting spirit



and competitive energy. The competition aimed to promote physical fit-

ness, sportsmanship, and to identify budding talent for higher-level athletic events.

Inter-School District Level Girls Cycling Held In Srinagar

Younis Paray

SRINAGAR: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar organised a District Level Inter-School Cycling Race for girls across all age groups on Friday. Following the successful boys race on Thursday, the Friday's event at at Boulevard Road was held early in the morning with over 90 girls participating.

The race was flagged off by DYSSO Srinagar Ghulam Hassan Lone at Nehru Park. The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including the ZPEOs, nodal officer and senior officials from DYSS Srinagar.

The cyclists were escorted and guarded by bike



marshals throughout the route, which concluded at the Botanical Garden. Top-performing girls were felicitated with medals and refreshment packets.

The organisers ensured the availability of all medical facilities and maintained

strict vigilance over the participants to ensure their safety during the entire event.

The race highlighted the growing enthusiasm among young girls in Srinagar towards sports and fitness, and it ended on a positive and energetic note.

Mixed Martial Arts Day Organised By DYSS Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag on Friday organised Mixed Martial Arts Day featuring Judo, Wushu and Taekwondo competitions. The event witnessed energetic participation from 120 boys across various age and weight categories.

Participants impressed spectators and officials alike with their exceptional skills, discipline and sportsmanship. Winners were felicitated for their remarkable performances, while all participants were commended for their dedication and spirited display.



The event was enriched by the expertise and guidance of seasoned martial arts professionals, including Wasim Raja Tantray, Umar Jan Shah, Talib Hussain Shah, Aadil Ahmad Bhat and Shahid Ul Haq Gaine.

Meanwhile the DYSSO Anantnag on Friday began its two-day selection

trials for U-15 boys and girls in volleyball at MS Bondaiga. On the opening day, 27 boys from various zones showcased their skills, leading to the selection of a 12-member team for the upcoming Provincial Level U-15 Volleyball Championship. Trials for girls will be held Saturday at the same venue.

BCCI Invites Tenders For Player Verification Services

The BCCI has invited proposals for verification services for player registration and set August 22 as the last date to submit documents. "BCCI invites proposals from reputed entities to acquire the rights and obligations to provide services that entails the provision of verification services for player registration, through a tender process," the Board said in a media release.

BCCI has issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) which provides the detailed terms and conditions governing the submission and evaluation of proposals.

"The RFP will be made available on receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs one lakh plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax," the Board said. (PTI)

Pakistan Batter Haider Ali Suspended Amid Rape Investigation

Pakistan batsman Haider Ali is under criminal investigation in England, his country's cricket board said while Greater Manchester Police said an arrest has been made following a rape allegation.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said an investigation "involving cricketer Haider Ali" stemmed from "an incident that reportedly occurred during the Pakistan Shaheens' recent tour of England."

The PCB did not specify the nature of the investigation into the 24-year-old Ali.

Greater Manchester Police told The Associated Press that on Monday they received a report of a rape and that "we have arrested a 24-year-old man."

"It's alleged that the incident occurred on Wednesday 23 July 2025 at a premises in Manchester," the police statement added. "The man has since been bailed pending further enquiries."

Police in Britain typically do not name suspects at this stage of an investigation.

The Shaheens team represents Pakistan in second-tier international cricket. Their 15-day tour started on July 22.

The PCB suspended Ali "effective immediately, pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation."

Ali has played two one-day internationals and 35 T20s for Pakistan since making his international debut in 2020. (PTI)

11 ISL Clubs Urge AIFF To Bring Situation To SC's Attention

Eleven Indian Super League clubs on Friday urged the AIFF to urgently bring the "current situation" of Indian football arising out of the uncertainty over ISL's future to the attention of the Supreme Court before which a case relating to the constitution of the national federation is pending.

The ISL clubs, in a letter, said that they will have no option but to seek judicial recourse independently if the All India Football Federation does not act on their request. Out of the 13 ISL clubs, Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal did not sign the letter.

The development came a day after the AIFF proposed the Super Cup in September to ensure sufficient competitive matches for the clubs after ISL organisers FSDL put a "pause" on the league due to uncertainty over the renewal of Master Rights Agreement (MRA) it signed with the national federation in 2010.

Following a directive from the Supreme Court, the AIFF has been asked not to negotiate new terms of the MRA (with FSDL) until a final judgment is delivered in the AIFF draft constitution case.

The clubs said they were "somewhat surprised that the matter has not already been brought to the Court's attention, given its gravity and implications for the sport."

The clubs made it clear that they will approach the Supreme Court on their own if the AIFF does not act on their request. (PTI)

Lewandowski To Miss Game Due To Hamstring Problem



Robert Lewandowski will miss Barcelona's friendly match on Sunday because of a hamstring problem, the Catalan club said Friday.

Barcelona will host Italian club Como in the traditional curtain-raising Joan Gamper Trophy game before its La Liga campaign starts Aug. 16 against Mallorca.

"The striker is unavailable for Sunday's game and his recovery will determine his return," the team said in a statement.

Lewandowski scored 42 goals total in 52 appearances last season to help Barcelona win the La Liga title. His 27 league goals was second only to Kylian Mbappe's 31.

The 36-year-old Poland international is beginning his fourth season at Barcelona. (AP)

Manchester United Unveils State-Of-The-Art Training Base

AP

MANCHESTER: Manchester United opened its new "world class" training complex Friday that it hopes will help return the fallen giant to the top of European soccer.

A 50 million pound (\$67 million) revamp of the club's Carrington training base has been completed in time for the start of the new Premier League season as the storied club aims to bounce back from its worst campaign in the modern era.

"The big thing that I like the most is now there's going to be no excuses," defender Diogo Dalot said.

United has gone 12 years since last winning the Premier League title in 2013 and last season re-



corded its lowest finish when placing 15th.

It also suffered a club record 18 losses in the Premier League and amassed its lowest points total, 42, as it failed to qualify for any European competition.

"It's what we're going to do on the pitch that obviously will determine what we do and where we put the club back on top," Dalot said.

But he added that the new training center meant players had

"everything that you need to be on your best shape mentally and physically."

State-of-the-art performance and rehabilitation equipment has been installed, including altitude training facilities. Sleeping pods, oxygen chambers and cryotherapy treatment facilities are to be added imminently.

The project was funded by minority owner Jim Ratcliffe as part of the British billionaire's \$1.3 billion investment in the storied club last year. "I hope it helps take Manchester United needs to go," he said.

Ratcliffe, who has also outlined plans to rebuild the club's iconic Old Trafford stadium, said he had quickly made a decision to "invest

significantly in the creation of a world class performance environment for staff and players to reflect our ambition and vision for Manchester United."

"The club has to compete at the highest level. That's appropriate to the brand and the size and the history of the club," he said. "So whilst a world class training facility won't take us to that place alone, it is one of the key ingredients in the modern world."

As well as performance equipment, the redesign of the campus, led by architect Foster + Partners, includes facilities like a barber shop, a Formula 1 simulator and pool table, with a padel court due to be installed at the request of players.

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