

Rotten Meat Scandal Revives Kashmir's Appetite For Traditional Food

Irshad Mushtaq

Srinagar: The word "fresh" is suddenly heavy with meaning in Kashmir's summer markets. Customers lean closer to sniff cuts of mutton. Butchers are peppered with questions they never used to hear: When was this slaughtered? Where did it come from?

The trigger is the

now-infamous "rotten meat scandal," in which sacks of decomposed mutton were seized from a cold storage in Srinagar.

What might have been dismissed as a routine food safety raid has, instead, hit a nerve, reviving a public debate about how the valley abandoned its centuries-old fresh food traditions and whether it can win them back.



6 OUTRAGE OVER DECOMPOSED MUTTON HAS PUSHED KASHMIRIS to demand tougher food laws and a return to the fresh, local eating that once kept the valley healthy and proud.

"This isn't just about one storage unit or a few corrupt sellers," said Nazir Ahmad, a wazwan chef from Srinagar. "It's about how we lost the discipline our elders lived by: buy fresh, eat fresh, waste nothing."

For most of the 20th century, freshness in Kashmir was non-negotiable. Families knew their butcher

and their chicken seller by name. Meat was bought in the morning and cooked before sunset. Fresh vegetables came from the fields of neighbours. Freezers, if they existed at all, were for rare ice cream or left-over wazwan curry.

Those habits have eroded. Over the past decade, frozen mutton and industrially farmed broiler chicken have

replaced much of the local supply, their journeys stretching hundreds or even thousands of kilometers.

Along the way, experts say, nutrients are lost and harmful extras, like antibiotics, preservatives, even water injections to inflate weight, slip in.

Doctors say they are seeing the fallout.

"When food | More on P10

Over 11,600 Kg Unsafe Meat Seized In Week-Long Raids

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In one of the biggest food safety crackdowns in recent years, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have seized over 11,668 kilograms of unsafe meat across the Union Territory, in just over a week, while Srinagar Police have identified a key suspect and his another aide for their alleged involvement in this racket, officials said on Monday.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Kashmir, Smiti Sethi said a total of over 11,668 kilograms of unsafe meat has been seized across J&K so far, with intensified raids underway to purge markets of manipulation and health hazards.

She said until the market improves, the drives will continue. "We are following proper procedure and once the process is complete, details will be made public," Sethi said.

Moreover, the large-scale seizures came amid a government crackdown following multiple raids in recent weeks—ranging from the destruction of 1,200 kg of rotten meat in Srinagar's



Zakura to the disposal of thousands of kababs and Gushtaba found laced with prohibited colouring agents in other districts.

Additionally, health experts at the meeting, including SKIMS and GMC Srinagar heads, warned of chronic illnesses linked to food adulteration and urged the public to avoid buying meat from unverified vendors. Also, the authorities have appealed to citizens to report violations via the helpline "Dial 104" rather than resorting to vigilante actions.

Srinagar police identify 2 key suspects | More on P10

20 Quintals Of Meat Seized In Kupwara

In a major action against food safety violations, the Food Safety Department Kupwara, in coordination with the Revenue Department and local police on Monday seized and destroyed nearly 20 quintals of frozen food items, including cow and buffalo hooves. Officials said that the products were being stored and sold in violation of established food safety norms. The seizures were made during surprise checks at several | More on P10

6 WE ARE FOLLOWING PROPER procedure and once the process is complete, details will be made public."

LS Passes New Income Tax Bill In Just 3 Min

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Income Tax Bill (No.2) 2025 - a major legislative move to replace the 63-year-old law governing income taxation for individuals and corporations - was passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday in just three minutes, without any debate.

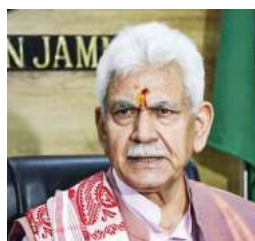
The Bill, which streamlines TDS, exemptions and other compliance-heavy provisions as also allows individuals to claim refunds without | More on P10

'LG's Office Not An Extension Of The Govt' Centre Defends LG's Power To Nominate 5 MLAs In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has submitted to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court that the Union Territory's Lieutenant Governor can nominate five members to the J&K Legislative Assembly without the government's "aid and advice".

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has submitted to the Jammu and



Kashmir High Court that the powers granted to the Union Territory's Lt Governor to nominate five members to the legislative

assembly were necessary for inclusivity and adequate representation of all communities.

The MHA, in an affidavit, said the LG's powers were discretionary and were necessary for inclusivity and adequate representation of all communities, asserting that the LG's office was not an extension of the government.

The affidavit was filed in response | More on P10

Air India to Suspend Delhi-Washington Flights

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Air India will suspend flights between the national capital and Washington D.C. from September 1, mainly due to non-availability of multiple Boeing 787 Dreamliner planes as the legacy aircraft fleet is undergoing retrofit. The Tata Group-owned airline, which currently operates five weekly flights from Delhi to Washington using the Dreamliner, on Monday (August 11, 2025) said the decision has been taken on account of a combination of operational factors to ensure reliability of its overall route network.

"The suspension is primarily driven by the planned shortfall in Air India's fleet, as the airline commenced retrofitting 26 of its Boeing 787-8 aircraft last month. This extensive retrofit programme, aimed at significantly enhancing customer experience, | More on P10

CM Omar Orders Food Check Posts, Labs At J&K Entry Points

Says Those Playing With Public Health Must Face the Law

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday directed officials to take exemplary punitive action, including initiating criminal proceedings, against those found storing or selling unsafe food.

Omar chaired a high-level meeting here to review the ongoing food safety enforcement campaign in the wake of recent seizures of unsafe meat and meat products, particularly in the Kashmir valley.

The chief minister emphasised that offenders posing risks to public health must be prosecuted under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. He also called for criminal proceedings against the most serious violators.

"The grave problem appears to have remained unchecked and unnoticed for too long. The unscrupulous elements have played with the health and



lives of people. This has to stop and those deliberately involved in playing with public health must face the law," Omar said.

"I appreciate officials for launching the drive and exposing the dangerous rot in our food chain. There can be no compromise on public health and the drive will continue. There will be an audit of the departments concerned

and the mechanism to stop import, sale and use of the unhygienic meat and other food items," he added.

To tighten quality control, the chief minister ordered the establishment of entry-point check posts and testing laboratories at Lakhanpur and Qazigund to screen mutton, chicken, and other perishable items entering Jammu and

Kashmir.

He also directed that Food Testing Laboratories be set up at every district headquarters, instead of limiting such facilities to Jammu and Srinagar, thereby significantly enhancing the government's enforcement capacity.

No meat should be sold and used without proper clearance, the chief | More on P10

Kulgam Anti-terror Operation Enters Day 11

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The anti-terror operation in Kulgam entered its 11th day on Monday as security forces doubled down to flush out the terrorists hiding in the natural caves and dense foliage of the forest.

"The operation is still in progress. The security forces are trying to draw out the terrorists who are apparently hiding in cave-like structures," an official said.

The terrorists are highly trained in jungle warfare and are taking advantage of dense foliage to evade detection by drones.

Two army soldiers have been killed, while nine others have been injured | More on P10

Search Op Intensifies In Kishtwar

Security forces intensified their search operation in Bhagna forest in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar on Monday after terrorists managed to escape from | More on P10

A New Chapter in Renal Care at Paras Health - Srinagar

We are proud to introduce a leading light in Nephrology & Urology

Dr. Aadil Beigh

Director - Nephrology, Kidney Transplant & Interventional Nephrology
MBBS, MD, DNB (Nephrology)
Fellowship in Interventional Nephrology

Areas of Expertise:

- > Interventional Nephrology
- > Dialysis Vascular Access
- > Kidney Transplant
- > Critical Care Nephrology
- > Hemodialysis (IHD, HDF, CRRT)
- > Peritoneal Dialysis
- > Diabetic Kidney Diseases
- > Glomerular Kidney Diseases
- > Geriatric Nephrology



Dr. Yaser Ahmad

Director - Urology
MBBS, MS (General Surgery)
DNB (Genito Urinary Surgery)

Areas of Expertise:

- > Endo-Urology
- > Female Urology
- > Uro-Oncology
- > Andrology
- > Reconstructive Urology
- > Kidney Transplant



Consultation Fee Rs. 500 Only

Empanellment with Aayushman Bharat Scheme, TPA, ECHS, CGHS and other Insurance Companies.

Timing : 09:00 AM to 5:30 PM | With Prior Appointments only.

Call Now: 80 80 80 80 69

ECI Moves To De-register 12 Inactive J&K Parties

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India has begun the process to deregister 12 political parties in Jammu and Kashmir. These parties, identified as Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs), have not contested any elections for six consecutive years since 2019, failing to meet the required criteria for active participation in the electoral process.



Following this, the Commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to issue show-cause notices to these parties, providing them an opportunity to respond during a hearing. The final decision on their deregistration will be made by the Election Commission based on the CEO's report.

Last week, the ECI deregistered three parties—the All Jammu & Kashmir Republican Party, Indian | More on P10



79th Independence Day Celebrations

DC Presides Over Patriotic Singing Contest Finale

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a part of the 79th Independence Day celebrations, a Divisional Level Event Competition was organized at the Government College of Education M.A Road here on Monday which brought together participants from various Schools, Colleges, and Government Departments across Kashmir Division.

The competition event featured a range of activities including patriotic song and dance performances, quizzes, essay writing, and speeches reflecting the rich history and sacrifices that led to India's independence.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo was the Chief Guest on the occasion and attended the Valedictory function of Divisional Level Event Competition.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the efforts of the participants and organizers for their enthusiastic participation and highlighted the importance of celebrating the nation's Independence Day with unity and pride. He emphasized the role of such competitions in fostering patriotism and promoting cultural heritage among the youth.

The DC on the occasion urged the participants to become ambassadors of drug free society and communicate the message of the documentary to their family, friends and other sections of society.

During the event a documentary on drug abuse was released that highlighted the possible ways of returning to normal from the menace of drugs, its addiction. The documentary also showcased healthy and productive lives and the life changing effects of addiction recovery through creative arts, fitness, and nutrition and community services.

Earlier, the Principal host College and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz welcomed the participants and also underlined the importance of such events in the backdrop of 79th celebration of independence.

Later, the winners from each category were awarded prizes and certificates as a token of recognition for their talent and dedication.

The event also featured addresses from other dignitaries, cultural showcases, and a reaffirmation of the commitment to the nation's progress and development.

Dr. Zarabi's Vision Will Guide Us For Generations: Dir NIT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Monday mourned the sudden demise of Dr. M.J. Zarabi, former Chairman of the Board of Governors, and expressed heartfelt condolences to his family.

The entire NIT Srinagar community, including teaching, administrative, non-teaching staff, and scholars, led by In-Charge Director Prof. (HAG) Roohi Naaz, Registrar, Deans, HODs, and HoCs, gathered near the Main Fountain Park for a condolence meeting. A two-minute silence was observed, and prayers were offered for the departed soul.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, paid rich tributes to Dr. Zarabi, describing him as a visionary leader and a guiding force for the Institute.

"Dr. Zarabi's tenure as Chairman was marked by

strategic vision, academic rigour, and genuine concern for institutional growth. His contributions to NIT Srinagar and the advancement of microelectronics in India are invaluable. We stand with his family in this time of grief and will continue to carry forward his vision," Prof. Kanaujia said.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Roohi Naaz said, "Dr. Zarabi's wisdom and vision will guide us for generations. His contributions have left an indelible mark on this institution and the field of microelectronics."

She said as Chairman of the Board of Governors at NIT Srinagar (November 2014 – November 2017), he brought deep technical expertise and strategic vision. He meticulously conducted 9 Board meetings and displayed remarkable foresight and a genuine commitment to the Institute's growth," Prof. Roohi Naaz said.

City's Smallest Mosque Stands Tall At Regal Market

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid the crowded streets and the constant bustle of Lal Chowk, a small yet significant religious landmark quietly stands in Regal Lane – the Srinagar's smallest mosque.

Built in 1968 and rebuilt in 2014, this three-storey structure can accommodate only 24 people at a time. The mosque's ground floor serves as a washroom and ablution area, while the upper two floors are dedicated to prayers. Despite its modest size, the mosque holds a special place in the hearts of Regal Lane's traders, who have been looking after it for decades.

"This mosque may be small in size, but in terms of blessings and community spirit, it's huge," a shopkeeper at Regal Market said.

"We ensure it's clean, the prayer mats are in good condition, and it's always ready for worshippers. It is our shared responsibility."

The 2014 reconstruction was a collaborative effort by local traders, who contributed funds, materials, and labor. "We did not rely on outsiders. Everyone here pitched in what they could. Some gave money, others offered materials, and many helped physically in the work," recalled another trader from the lane.

Given its small capacity, the mosque fills up quickly during prayers and in the holy month of Ramadan, with worshippers often praying in shifts.

"For traders, this mosque is a blessing. We work long hours, and being able to step away from our shops for a few minutes to pray gives us peace of mind," the shop keeper said.

Over the years, the mosque has also caught the attention of visitors exploring Lal Chowk. Many are surprised to find a functioning mosque of such compact size, tucked between busy shops. (KINS)

CM Omar Reviews Srinagar Master Plan, Building Bye-Laws



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a meeting to review the master plans for the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu, alongside the Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL) for Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) Mandeep Kaur, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Jammu, Commissioners of Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Corporation, Vice Chairpersons of Srinagar and Jammu Development Authorities, and other

senior officials concerned.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the Srinagar Master Plan-2035, Jammu Master Plan-2032, and the Unified Building Bye-Laws-2021. Commissioner Secretary H&UDD gave a comprehensive presentation on the master plans, highlighting their strategic vision, projected urban growth patterns, infrastructure requirements and policy interventions.

The Unified Building Bye-Laws were also discussed, particularly those related to permissible land use for residential, industrial, public and semi-public spaces, as well as other technical provisions aimed at streamlining urban development.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasised that master plans must be realistic, implementable and re-

flect ground realities, rather than existing solely as vision documents.

He directed that the plans should take into consideration views of all stakeholders and it should be environmentally sustainable and capable of addressing future urban challenges while preserving the cultural and ecological identity of both cities.

"These master plans must shape the future growth of our two major cities for decades. It is vital that they are not just visionary, but also practical in execution, ensuring tangible benefits for citizens," the Chief Minister said.

He also directed all concerned departments to incorporate on-ground assessments, public feedback and inter-departmental coordination to ensure the successful implementation of the plans.

2 J&K Police Officers Dead In Srinagar Accident

LG Manoj Sinha Expresses Deep Grief

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR- Two police officers died, while another one was injured in an accident, on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway here, an official said on Monday.

Three sub-inspectors travelling from Srinagar to Jammu after performing Amarnath Yatra duty met with an accident at Tengan in Lasjan area of the city, the official said.

The injured police officers were rushed to a hospital where two of them were declared brought dead.

The deceased have been identified as Sachin Verma and Shubham, while the injured officer has been identified as Mastan Singh, he said.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed deep grief: "Anguished by a tragic road accident in Nowgam, Srinagar. It is deeply saddening that two PSIs Sachin Verma and Shubham Seth have lost their lives. We will never forget



their exemplary service to the nation. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firm with them during this hour of grief," he shared earlier today.

Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma also condoled the loss: "Deeply pained by the tragic loss of PSI Sachin Verma and PSI Shubham Seth,

who lost their lives in a road accident at Tengan, Lasjan while travelling from Srinagar to Jammu. My heartfelt condolences and eternal gratitude to their families. May their souls rest in peace," he said.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident, and register an FIR in this regards

Narparistan-Fateh Kadal Road In Shambles

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Narparistan road near Tiny Tots School in Fateh Kadal, Srinagar, has fallen into severe disrepair, sparking outrage among locals who say its condition is causing daily hardships and posing serious safety hazards. Residents describe the stretch as a vital link now marred by deep potholes, uneven surfaces, and scattered debris—problems they attribute to years of official neglect. They say that for the last three years not a single layer of macadam has been laid, making driving or even walking on the road hazardous.

According to locals, the poor drainage has compounded the problem, leaving the road nearly impassable during rains. Water-logging, runoff, and incomplete drainage work have worsened the damage, while in dry weather thick clouds of dust engulf the area, making it difficult for pedestrians and two-wheeler riders to breathe. Public transport operators and private vehicle owners report frequent damage to vehicles, with travel times nearly doubling due to the road's poor state.

Locals say they have lodged multiple complaints with the Srinagar Municipal Corporation's Roads Division, and their local MLA, but no action has been taken. They allege that despite repeated appeals, authorities have ignored their plight. Residents maintain that the road's bad condition has persisted for over three years right outside their homes, causing immense suffering. They say they approached the City Roads Department many times, submitted written requests,



and even contacted the grievance cell, but no concrete measures have been taken so far.

The residents also accused local NC MLA Shamima Firdous of ignoring repeated calls for help. Kashmir Observer tried to contact her on her official phone, but a respondent said she was

in a meeting. Hours later, when another call was made, the same reply was given. Frustrated and feeling abandoned, the residents are now demanding immediate repairs to prevent further deterioration and ensure safe passage for commuters and pedestrians alike.

- 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
- BIJBERHA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|--------|
| FAJR | 4:17 |
| ZUHR | 12: 36 |
| ASR | 5:25 |
| Magrib | 7:25 |
| ISHA | 8:54 |

This Day In History

- 1099 - Battle at Ascalon: Godfried of Broth leading the Crusaders beats Egyptians Fatimid army
- 1121 - Battle of Didgori: the Georgian army under King David the Builder wins a decisive victory over the famous Seljuk commander Ilghazi
- 1164 - Battle of Harim: Nur ad-Din defeats the Crusader armies of the County of Tripoli and the Principality of Antioch.
- 1323- Treaty of Nöteborg between Sweden and Novgorod (Russia) regulates the border for the first time
- 1492- Christopher Columbus arrives in the Canary Islands on his first voyage to the New World
- 1499- First engagement of the Battle of Zonchio between Venetian and Ottoman fleets
- 1549- French troops conquer Ambleuse, in the Pas-de-Calais, and kill all the English prisoners.
- 1588- Commander of the English fleet Lord Howard of Effingham calls off chase of the Spanish Armada off coast of Scotland
- 1588- Medemblik surrenders to Spanish army
- 1676-1st war between American colonists & Indians ends in New England
- 1687- Charles of Lotharingen defeats Turkish leaders
- 1687- Battle of Mohacs: Ottoman invaders of Hungary routed by forces of Holy Roman Emperor under Charles of Lorraine
- 1759- Battle of Kunersdorf - Russian-Austrian army overpowers Prussians
- 1831- Netherlands & Belgium sign peace treaty
- 1865- Joseph Lister performs 1st antiseptic surgery
- 1877- Thomas Edison invents Edisonphone, a sound recording device
- 1898- Peace protocol ends Spanish-American War, signed
- 1908- Henry Ford's company builds the first Model T car
- 1914- France and Great Britian declare war on Austria-Hungary
- 1914- Russian troops take East-Prussia & occupy Marggrabowa
- 1918- WW I: Allies defeat Germans at the Battle of Amiens - the last great battle on the Western Front

From KO Archives

‘Meri Zaban Khuli To Toofan Aayega’

SRINAGAR- The chief minister Farooq Abdullah today lashed out at successive governments in New Delhi for ignoring the state of Jammu and Kashmir, while assuring the opposition parties of free and fair polls through-out the state.

"The government of India did not allow J&K to develop as an industrial state," the chief minister said, "for the reasons better known to them." Even our power projects are not being funded. We do not intend to beg all the time," he said in a defiant tone at a press conference here today.

"Hum zaher pey rahay ham. Agar hum zaban kholein gay to toofan aaye go" (We are swallowing poison. If we open our mouths it will spark commotion), Dr. Abdullah said after a reporter asked why the state was spending huge sums on a golf course when the state was pissing through worst financial crisis.

The chief minister claimed that he would seek co-operation of Arab and other developed countries for "funding my pending projects."

(Kashmir Observer, August 12, 1999)

SC's Big Order: Remove Stray Dogs from Delhi-NCR

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court has ordered that all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR be moved to shelters, warning of strict action against individuals or organisations obstructing the process. The decision follows a surge in dog bite cases—35,198 in the first half of 2025—and 49 rabies deaths in the region.

Following the Supreme Court's big order, the Delhi government said it will ensure its timely implementation.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan called the situation “grim” and directed civic bodies in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, and surrounding areas to start the relocation immediately, prioritising vulnerable localities. Authorities have been told to identify an initial target of 5,000 dogs and complete the transfer within six weeks.

“NCT Delhi, MCD, NMDC shall at earliest start picking up stray dogs from all localities from more particularly vulnerable localities and cities. How to do it is for the authorities to look into and if they have to create a force, do it earlier. However, this should be the first and foremost exercise to make all localities free of stray dogs,” the

bench said. Calling it a “serious situation”, the court affirmed, “There should not be any compromise in undertaking any exercise”.

“If any individual or organisation comes in the way of picking stray dogs or rounding them up, we will proceed to take action against any such resistance,” the court added, while adjudicating a case it had taken on its own last month.

The court rejected proposals for stray dog adoption, citing risks of re-abandonment, and ordered that none of the captured dogs be released. Shelters must have trained staff for handling, sterilisation, and vaccination, along with CCTV monitoring to prevent escapes. A helpline for reporting dog bites must also be set up.

The bench stressed that rabies vaccine availability be publicly documented, with regular updates on stocks and treatments. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that earlier relocation efforts were stalled by activist-led stay orders, but warned, “We cannot sacrifice our children just because of a few dog lovers.”

The court took up the case suo motu after media reports highlighted the stray dog menace, with the aim of making Delhi-NCR’s streets “absolutely free” of stray dogs.

China To Build Xinjiang-Tibet Rail Link ‘Near’ LAC With India: Report



Press Trust Of India

Beijing. China is set to build the most ambitious rail link connecting Xinjiang province with Tibet, part of which will “run near” the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, according to a media report.

Work is expected to get underway this year on one of the world's most ambitious rail projects with the launch of a state-owned company to oversee the construction and operations of a line that will link Hotan in Xinjiang and Lhasa in Tibet, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The Xinjiang-Tibet Railway Company (XTRC) had been formally registered with 95 billion yuan (USD 13.2 billion) in capital and wholly owned by China State Railway Group to build the project, the report said, quoting the state-run Shanghai Securities News.

“This ambitious project aims to establish a 5,000 km plateau rail framework centred on Lhasa by 2035,” Hubei-based Huayuan Securities said in a research note on Friday.

The project's registered capital represents initial funding, not total project costs. For example, the 1,800km Sichuan-Tibet Railway required an estimated 320 billion yuan (USD 45 billion) to build, according to the report published on Saturday.

“Parts of the route will also run near the China-India Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border between the two countries, giving it defensive importance in a frontier area with less infrastructure than the rest of China,” the report said.

China's mega infrastructure project in the route, the Xinjiang-Tibet highway, also known as G219 highway, was built through the disputed Aksai Chin area, which was a major flashpoint in the 1962 war.



Worsening Death Toll For Press

Israeli Strike Kills Journalists In Gaza

Associated Press

Jerusalem. Israel's military targeted an Al Jazeera correspondent with an airstrike Sunday, killing him, another network journalist and at least six other people, all of whom were sheltering outside the Gaza City Hospital complex.

Officials at Shifa Hospital said those killed included Al Jazeera correspondents Anas al-Sharif and Mohamed Qureiq. The strike also killed four other journalists and two other people, hospital administrative director Rami Mohanna told The Associated Press. The strike also damaged the entrance to the hospital complex's emergency building.

Both Israel and hospital officials in Gaza City confirmed the deaths, which press advocates described as retribution against those documenting the war in Gaza. Israel's military later Sunday described al-Sharif as the leader of a Hamas cell — an allegation that Al Jazeera and al-Sharif had previously dismissed as baseless.

The incident marked the first time during the war that Israel's military has swiftly claimed responsibility after a journalist was killed in a strike.

It came less than a year af-

ter Israeli army officials first accused al-Sharif and other Al Jazeera journalists of being members of the militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. In a July 24 video, Israel's army spokesperson Avichay Adraee attacked Al Jazeera and accused al-Sharif of being part of Hamas' military wing.

Al Jazeera called the strike “targeted assassination” and accused Israeli officials of incitement, connecting al-Sharif's death to the allegations that both the network and correspondent had denied.

“Anas and his colleagues were among the last remaining voices from within Gaza, providing the world with unfiltered, on-the-ground coverage of the devastating realities endured by its people,” the Qatari network said in a statement.

Al-Sharif reported a nearby bombardment minutes before his death. In a social media post that Al Jazeera said was written to be posted in case of his death, he bemoaned the devastation and destruction that war had wrought and bid farewell to his wife, son and daughter.

“I never hesitated for a single day to convey the truth as it is, without distortion or falsification,” the 28-year-old wrote.

Three-Quarters Of UN Members Support Palestinian Statehood

Associated Press

PARIS: Three-quarters of UN members have already or soon plan to recognize Palestinian statehood, with Australia on Monday becoming the latest to promise it will at the UN General Assembly in September.

The Israel-Hamas war, raging in Gaza since the Palestinian militant group's attack on October 7, 2023, has revived a global push for Palestinians to be given a state of their own.

The action breaks with a long-held view that Palestinians could only gain statehood as part

of a negotiated peace with Israel.

According to an AFP tally, at least 145 of the 193 UN members now recognize or plan to recognize a Palestinian state, including France, Canada and Britain.

Here is a quick recap of the Palestinians' quest for statehood: On November 15, 1988, during the first Palestinian intifada, or uprising against Israeli rule, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat unilaterally proclaimed an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

He made the announcement in Algiers at a meeting of the ex-

iled Palestinian National Council, which adopted the two-state solution as a goal, with independent Israeli and Palestinian states existing side-by-side.

Minutes later, Algeria became the first country to officially recognize an independent Palestinian state.

Within a week, dozens of other countries, including much of the Arab world, India, Turkey, most of Africa and several central and eastern European countries followed suit.

The next wave of recognitions came in late 2010 and early 2011, at a time of crisis for the Middle East peace process.

Pezeshkian Warns Against US Hegemonic Schemes In Caucasus

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian says regional countries must remain vigilant and cautious in the face of possible schemes by the United States to pursue its hegemonic goals in Caucasus.

In a phone conversation with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday, Pezeshkian warned that the US may use a project on the construction of a transportation corridor in the Caucasus region to achieve its objectives under the guise of economic investment or promotion of peace.

He said the project must preserve Armenia's sovereignty and prevent any foreign military and security intervention.

“It must be ensured that this corridor will truly be a path of peace and development and not a tool for materializing the hegemonic goals of foreign powers.”

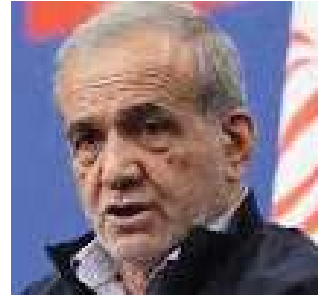
“The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a harbor of peace, stability, and security in the region, welcomes any agreement that leads to the promotion of peace, notably among the regional countries,” Pezeshkian said.

Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a US-brokered peace agreement on August 8 during a meeting with US President Donald Trump after decades of tensions over the long-disputed region of Karabakh.

The region has always been internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani troops retook the region a 24-hour offensive in September 2023.

Iran is acutely aware of longstanding UK and US ambitions to extend their influ-



ence from the Caucasus into Central Asia—a strategy that seeks to dominate the three smaller regional states while isolating Iran and Russia.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on August 10 that Tehran welcomes any peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“We call for the maintenance of the full sovereignty of all countries in the region over their territories and defend the territorial integrity of all regional countries. We also defend international borders and do not accept any change to them.”

Iran-Armenia ties strategic, constructive: Pezeshkian

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian said “strategic” ties between Iran and Armenia have always been constructive and based on good neighborliness and respect for the territorial integrity of each country.

He said Tehran and Yerevan firmly oppose any attempt to disrupt deep-rooted mutual relations.

The Iranian president said Tehran has always prioritized common interests in regional relations, particularly with its neighbors.

Iran is also confident that neighboring countries also pursue a similar approach as one of their fundamental priorities, he said.

India Added to UK's ‘Deport Now, Appeal Later’ List For Foreign Criminals

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India is among the countries being added to an expanded UK government list of countries where foreign criminals will be deported once they are sentenced before their appeals are heard as part of measures to crack down on rising migration to the country.

In an announcement on Sunday, the UK Home Office confirmed that the scope of its “Deport Now Appeal Later” scheme will be nearly trebled from eight countries to 23, with foreign nationals from these countries to be deported to their home countries before they can appeal against that decision.

Foreigners who have had their human rights claim refused will have a chance to take part in their UK appeal hearing remotely from overseas using video technology.

“For far too long, foreign criminals have been exploiting our immigration system, remaining in the UK for months or even years while their appeals drag on. That has to end,” said Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

“Those who commit crimes in our country cannot be allowed to manipulate the system, which is why we are restoring control and sending a clear message that our laws must be respected and will be enforced,” she said.

The list of countries covered under the remote hearing scheme, revived in 2023 by then Conservative home secretary Suella Braverman, included Finland, Nigeria, Estonia, Albania, Belize, Mauritius, Tanzania and Kosovo.

Now, India will be added along with Angola, Australia, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Uganda and Zambia.

Raut to Shah: Where is ex-VP Dhankhar?

Press Trust Of India

Shiv Sena-UBT leader Sanjay Raut has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking to know the whereabouts of former vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar, claiming that attempts to reach him have been unsuccessful.

Dhankhar resigned as vice-president on July 21, the first day of the Monsoon session of Parliament, a development which came as a surprise for many.

“There has been no information about the whereabouts of our (former) vice president. What is his current location? How is his health? There is no clarity on these matters. Some members of the Rajya Sabha attempted to contact him but were unsuccessful,” Raut said in his letter to Shah dated August 10. The Shiv Sena-UBT leader shared the letter on X on Monday.

“What exactly has happened to our (former) vice president? Where is he? How is his health? Is he safe? The nation deserves to know the truth about these questions

Raut said rumours are circulating in Delhi that Dhankhar has been confined to his residence and is reportedly not safe.

“There has been no communication with him or his staff, which is a matter of grave concern,” he said. “What exactly has happened to our

(former) vice president? Where is he? How is his health? Is he safe? The nation deserves to know the truth about these questions,” he said.

Last week, Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray asked about Dhankhar's whereabouts. “Where is the former vice-president now? This is the issue that should be discussed,” he said at a press conference here on Thursday.

Raut, a Rajya Sabha member, said some of his colleagues from the Upper House are considering filing a writ petition of Habeas Corpus in the Supreme Court as they are genuinely worried about Dhankhar.

“Before knocking on the doors of the Supreme Court, I thought it to be prudent to seek this information from you. I hope you will understand my sentiments and provide genuine information regarding Shri Dhankhar's current whereabouts and his safety and health,” Raut said.

Robbers Loot Gold Worth Rs 10 Crore, Rs 5 Lakh In Cash From MP Bank

Press Trust Of India

Jabalpur: Five people looted 10 kilograms of gold valued at Rs 10 crore and Rs 5 lakh in cash from a bank in Khitola area of Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Monday, a police official said.

The heist took just 18 minutes, the official said, adding the accused came on two motorcycles and entered the facility wearing helmets.

“As per the calculations of ESAF Small Finance Bank, the robbers looted 10 kilograms of gold (worth around Rs 10 crore) and Rs 5 lakh in cash. Further calculations are under way,” Jabalpur Range Deputy Inspector General of Police Atul Singh told PTI.

“The bank branch did not have a security guard. There were six staffers at the time of the incident. The robbers entered it at 8.50 am and came out around 9.08 am. They fled on motorcycles. We have scanned CCTV cameras. They did not have weapons in their hands. One of the robbers had a firearm tucked under his belt,” Singh said.

The DIG also pointed out that the staffers notified the police 45 minutes after the incident following discussions with senior officials at the lender.

“Had they informed us in time, the robbers would have been caught. Efforts are on to nab the accused,” Singh added.

According to sources, the bank started its day at 8 am instead of its usual opening time of 10.30 am due to the ongoing festive season.

As per the calculations of ESAF Small Finance Bank, the robbers looted 10 kilograms of gold (worth around Rs 10 crore) and Rs 5 lakh in cash. Further calculations are under way

Statehood Petition Listed For Hearing On Aug 14

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Supreme Court is set to hear the petition seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood on August 14.

According to the cause list issued by the Apex Court registry, the statehood petition is listed for hearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India. "The case is listed for hearing on August 14 before a bench headed by the Chief Justice of India," advocate Soayib Qureshi told KNO over phone from New Delhi.

The case was mentioned on August 5 by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran.

Sankaranarayanan informed the Court that the hearing was listed for August 8 on the Supreme Court website and requested that it not be removed from the cause list. The CJ had agreed to the request. However, the case was not listed on Au-

gust 08.

The petition has been filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, a lawyer and academician and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist.

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

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

The plea is listed for hearing at a time when political momentum around the issue is building. The Congress party has launched a full-fledged campaign for restoration of statehood. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to all political parties, including BJP, to bring a bill in the Parliament during the ongoing monsoon session to restore J&K's statehood—(KNO)

Illegal Land Mutation

Former Patwari, Officials Booked By ACB

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said to have registered a case against the then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan and others for illegal mutation of land records.

A spokesman in a statement said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau registered a formal case FIR No. 17/2025 u/s 5(1) (d) r/w section 5(2) of J&K PC Act, Svt. 2006 & section 120-B RPC at P/S ACB Jammu against Aslam Din, then Tehsildar (Settlement) Jammu (now expired), Mohd Iqbal Zargar, then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan (now retired as Naib Tehsildar) as well as beneficiaries Mohd Rashid S/O Imam Din R/O Jalalabad Sunjwan Jammu, Mohd Mushtaq S/O Bashir Ahmad R/O Sunjwan Jammu and others, on the outcome of verification conducted into the allegations of illegal and fraudulent tampering of the revenue record of original owners in order to confer undue pecuniary benefit upon beneficiaries and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves.

"The verification conducted revealed that mutation No. 689/Jeeem was attested under section 121 of J&K Land Revenue Act covering land under khasra Nos. 918, 970, 994, 1024, 1623 & 1623 min at Village Sunjwan, Tehsil Bahu, District Jammu on

27.03.2010 by then Tehsildar (settlement) Jammu. The land measuring 15 Kanals 14 Marlas was registered on the name of beneficiary Mohd Rashid and land measuring 69 kanals was registered on the name of beneficiary Mohd Mushtaq & others," the statement reads.

Financial Commissioner, Revenue J&K vide order dated 26.09.2017 set aside the impugned mutation No. 689/Jeeem dated 27.03.2010 in question and directed to restore the entries which were existing prior to attestation of said mutation. Further, as per Land Revenue Act, the attestation of mutation u/s 121 Land Revenue Act could be made only by settlement officer but in the instant case, the mutation was attested by then Tehsildar, Settlement which was beyond his powers, the statement reads.

"The mutation in question was entered by then Patwari Halqa, Sunjwan namely Mohd Iqbal Zargar when he was not posted in the said Patwar Halqa. The said mutation No. 689/Jeeem dated 27.03.2010 was also attested in violation of Para-9 of standing order No. 23-A, as the same mutation No. 689/Jeeem has already been attested in the year 2008 in the same village (i.e., two mutations having same serial nos. 689/Jeeem were attested in the years 2008 & 2010 in the same village)," the spokesman said, adding that further investigation is going on.

Residents Demand Reopening Of Tourist Destinations In Budgam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The inhabitants of prominent tourist destinations in Budgam including Doodhpathri, Yousmarg and Tosamaidan here have appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir administration to reopen the prominent sites, citing severe economic distress following their closure in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The administration as had ordered the shutdown of several tourist spots across the Valley for security reasons after the Pahalgam attack.

However, locals say the prolonged closure of these three meadows, which draw thousands of visitors each summer, has crippled the local economy.

Many service providers, including pony handlers, guest-house owners, taxi operators and shopkeepers, depend entirely on the tourist season for their income.

"We have taken loans to run our seasonal businesses. With no tourists, we have no earnings and the banks are pressuring us to pay our EMIs,"

said Abdul Rashid from Raiyar Khansahib.

"Our families survive on what we earn in these few summer months. If the place stays closed, we will be left with no way to feed our children," said Ghulam Nabi, who runs a tea stall near the main meadow.

Former MLA and Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) Chairman Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has supported the demand, urging the government to consider a phased reopening with adequate security measures in place.

"Tourism is the economic backbone of these areas. Keeping these destinations closed for too long is pushing our youth into financial desperation. The government must act and reopen them with proper safety arrangements," Yaseen said.

Although officials have reopened 16 closed destinations in phases, no timeline has been announced for Doodhpathri, Yousmarg, or Tosamaidan.

According to KNO, locals said that missing the summer season will deepen the financial crisis for hundreds of families who rely on tourism for survival.

Health Minister Warns Against Food Adulteration, Vows Action

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, on Monday vowed strict action against food adulteration and the mixing of harmful chemicals in consumables, warning that the government will not spare anyone found endangering public health.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, Itoo described the menace as a "serious health concern" that has reached alarming proportions. She said health experts are increasingly linking the rise in cancer, liver ailments, tumours, and sudden heart attacks—particularly among young people—to the widespread consumption of adulterated food.

"Some people are playing with our health by giving us food items that are adulterated and laced with harmful chemicals. This is not only unethical but life-threatening," she said.

Health officials revealed that Jammu & Kashmir currently has around 51,000 ac-



tive registered cancer cases, in addition to a growing number of patients suffering from chronic liver diseases, tumours, and cardiac complications. Itoo expressed concern over the growing incidence of sudden heart attacks among otherwise healthy young individuals. "We often hear of such deaths and used to wonder why they were happening. It now seems adulteration and chemical contamination in food could be one of the major reasons," she noted.

To address the crisis, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a high-level meeting attended by three concerned ministers and top officials. The meeting approved a multi-pronged action

SOME PEOPLE ARE PLAYING WITH OUR HEALTH BY GIVING us food items that are adulterated and laced with harmful chemicals. This is not only unethical but life-threatening,"

CS Reviews Implementation Of SASCI, SNA SPARSH Programmes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), SNA SPARSH and various revenue augmentation initiatives in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by concerned Administrative Secretaries and senior officers of the Finance Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the potential of the SASCI scheme, an interest-free loan facility being extended to all the States and Union Territories over and above their normal borrowing limits, setting an ambitious target of securing around Rs 2,000 crore for J&K under the scheme.

It was informed that 27 departments have already submitted their project proposals,

which have been duly uploaded by the Finance Department.

The meeting also deliberated on key sectoral reforms in Transport, Mining, Urban Planning and modernization of land records, aimed at boosting the infrastructure and governance efficiency.

Taking stock of the Aadhaar-based payments being made to the beneficiaries of various government schemes, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to achieve full saturation across all beneficiary-oriented programmes. He directed the departments to seek guidance from the central ministries, particularly in cases where benefits are provided in kind rather than cash.

Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D Vaidya, informed the meeting that Aadhaar penetration in J&K has seen a remarkable rise from just over 50% to 97%, with most of the schemes already

achieving 100% coverage.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the UT's revenue performance, including collections from power and water utility provisioning, GST revenue, motor spirit tax, stamp duty and other tax and non-tax sources. Stressing the importance of plugging revenue leakages, he called for strict checks on input tax credit theft, improved e-way bill compliance and enhanced enforcement mechanisms.

He directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to accelerate the installation of smart meters and improve billing efficiency to maximize revenue realization.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the administration's commitment towards leveraging the financial assistance schemes effectively while ensuring robust revenue generation mechanisms to support the UT's development priorities.

‘Worm Infections Cause Tiredness, Malnutrition In Children’

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Medical experts in Jammu & Kashmir have warned that children suffering from worm infections often feel persistently tired due to malnutrition and anaemia, which can impair their physical and cognitive development.

However, they stressed that such infections are easy to control if diagnosed early and treated promptly. Doctors said parents must closely monitor their children's growth, behaviour, and overall health, as untreated worm infections can stunt healthy development, cause poor nutrition, and reduce a child's ability to concentrate and learn.

They, however, said treatment is simple, safe, effective, and free of charge, adding that a single dose of deworming medicine can drastically reduce the number of worms in each child.

Dr Shabir Ahmad Dar, a child specialist, said worm infections can lead to many health problems, including anaemia, abdominal distention (swelling), severe abdominal pain, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, malnourishment, tissue damage, and impaired mental and physical growth.

"Deworming boosts nutrient absorption, enhances immunity, improves concentration, reduces anaemia risk, and prevents digestive issues," he explained.

Dr Shahzada Akhter, another physician, said the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends deworming every six months in regions where such infections are prevalent.

"Deworming improves immunity, reduces chronic illnesses caused by worms, enhances school performance, and even increases work potential later in life," she said. "The main reason behind the rising prevalence of anaemia in children is helminthic infection."

Helminthic infections, she noted, are caused by parasitic worms that compete for nutrients, impair iron absorption,

cause blood loss, and trigger inflammation.

The doctor dismissed the misconception that deworming should not be done in winter, saying it is effective in all seasons when given at regular intervals. According to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), about three-fourths (73%) of children aged 6-59 months in India are anaemic, which is up from 43% in NFHS-4. This includes 25% with mild anaemia, 44% with moderate anaemia, and 4% with severe anaemia.

In Jammu & Kashmir, the figures are even higher, with 74% of children in this age group being anaemic, even among those whose mothers have 12 or more years of schooling.

Doctors urged parents to combine regular deworming with good hygiene practices and balanced nutrition to protect children from worm infections and ensure healthy growth. —(KNO)

Fan Facility In Classrooms Out Of Bounds For 30% JK Students



Agencies

SRINAGAR: As Jammu and Kashmir faces the music of scorching heat, at least 30 percent of school students bear the brunt of unavailability of fans and lights in the classroom.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) in a report said, "70 percent of students reported that their schools have working fans and lights in the classroom."

The report further said that 75 percent of students reported that their schools have separate functional toilets for boys and girls.

It also states that 69 percent students reported that their schools provide adequate sports facilities to all students "70 percent Students reported that their schools have working fans and lights in the classroom," reads the report.

The MoE in a report also said that 73 percent Students reported that their schools have clean drinking water available.

"60 percent Students reported that their schools have functional laboratories for grade IX students," it reads.

MoE further said that the school facilities play an important role in the teaching-learning process.

"The figures illustrate the availability of essential school facilities like sports facilities, drinking water, functional fans and lights, science lab, and

separate functional toilets. Instances where availability is below 50 percent need targeted interventions," it reads.

The report also said that "Most students shared that their schools are equipped with basic facilities such as functional toilets, clean drinking water, and proper ventilation through working fans and lights in classrooms."

"Access to sports facilities is also reported by many students. However, the availability of functional laboratories for Grade IX students is relatively lower in comparison," MoE said.

The report further said that ensuring consistent access to all essential infrastructure is important to create a more enabling environment for learning.

Pertinently, KNO in previous week reported that a segment of students in Jammu and Kashmir, are pessimistic about their ability to achieve their future goal while a huge number of students in schools are reeling under stress, anxiety, isolation or loneliness.

MoE had said, "A segment of students reported feeling stressed, unhappy, or isolated, and some also expressed reluctance to attend school."

"Some students mentioned difficulty in talking to someone when feeling upset, while a few shared concerns about the pressure of excessive activities," it reads—(KNO)

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE WASEEM MUSHTAQ
CHAMBER NO. FFX-2, DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX MOOMINABAD
BATMALOO, SRINAGAR

IN THE CASE OF: 1. Mr. Nisar Ahmad Mir S/O Late Ghulam Nabi Mir R/O Nawakadal Srinagar

....CAVEATOR

VERSUS

PUBLIC AT LARGE (NON-CAVEATOR)

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat Petition in terms of Sec 148(a) of CPC
Caveat Petition for providing right of prior audience to the caveators before passing any order if the non-caveator or any other person choose to file any suit, appeal, writ petition or proceedings against the caveators on the ground of distorted fact/misrepresent and crooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief order at irreparable loss and inconvenience of the caveators. It would be proper that caveators are given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

WASEEM MUSHTAQ
ADVOCATE J&K HIGH COURT
License no. - 664/23

NG

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE WASEEM MUSHTAQ
CHAMBER NO. FFX-2, DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX MOOMINABAD
BATMALOO, SRINAGAR

IN THE CASE OF: 1. Foundation World School, Illahibagh through its Chairman Faizan Ul Islam S/O - Mr. Nisar Ahmad Mir R/O - Vakeel Colony Brein Nishat, Srinagar

....CAVEATOR

VERSUS

PUBLIC AT LARGE (NON-CAVEATOR)

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat Petition in terms of Sec 148(a) of CPC
Caveat Petition for providing right of prior audience to the caveators before passing any order if the non-caveator or any other person choose to file any suit, appeal, writ petition or proceedings against the caveators on the ground of distorted fact/misrepresent and crooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief order at irreparable loss and inconvenience of the caveators. It would be proper that caveators are given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

WASEEM MUSHTAQ
ADVOCATE J&K HIGH COURT
License no. - 664/23

NG

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT SRINAGAR

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE WASEEM MUSHTAQ
CHAMBER NO. FFX-2, DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX MOOMINABAD
BATMALOO, SRINAGAR

IN THE CASE OF: 1. Fusion Sports Arena through its representative Mr. Nisar Ahmed Mir S/O Late Ghulam Nabi Mir R/O Nawakadal Srinagar

....CAVEATOR

VERSUS

PUBLIC AT LARGE (NON-CAVEATOR)

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat Petition in terms of Sec 148(a) of CPC
Caveat Petition for providing right of prior audience to the caveators before passing any order if the non-caveator or any other person choose to file any suit, appeal, writ petition or proceedings against the caveators on the ground of distorted fact/misrepresent and crooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief order at irreparable loss and inconvenience of the caveators. It would be proper that caveators are given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

WASEEM MUSHTAQ
ADVOCATE J&K HIGH COURT
License no. - 664/23

NG

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Rotten Meat Crisis

Over the past two weeks, Kashmir has been a constant witness to raids and seizures of the tonnes of rotten meat and stale chicken in the so-called cold storages, and even shops. Heaps of discarded sheep heads were found dumped along roadsides. While on its face, it may look like a hygiene lapse, it is much more than that: it's a betrayal of public trust, and it's unfolding on a scale that points to an organised network feeding unsafe meat into the Valley's kitchens.

From the outskirts of Srinagar to small towns in south and north Kashmir, Food Safety Department teams have found and destroyed thousands of kilograms of decayed meat. Raids have revealed supplies imported from outside the state, stripped of labels, and destined for kebab joints, wazwan caterers, and everyday restaurants. The findings are grotesque: traders trying to dump contaminated meat into courtyards to evade seizure, consignments rotting in thermocol boxes, and even road-side piles of animal remains.

The economic fallout has been swift. Srinagar's once-bustling restaurants now see empty chairs where lunch crowds once gathered. Owners insist their meat is fresh, but fear has taken root. Street vendors who sold 70 kilos of kebabs a day now sell less than half. Social media has only amplified the panic, with videos of raids and rumours spreading faster than official reassurances. Trust, in the food business, is the most perishable commodity of all, and it has all but vanished and will take time before it is restored.

The issue, however, is less about its economic cost for the restaurants and the meat business, it is about health. Health experts warn that spoiled meat is not just a ticket to food poisoning; it is a silent carrier of long-term harm. The food safety department has found that the traders treat meat with chemicals to mask decay, which can be carcinogenic. People are now suspecting that the alarming rise in the cancer rates could be linked to this unwitting consumption of unsafe food.

While this may look like an isolated scandal, it isn't one. The scam has, for once, unmasked a systemic rot. It is true that the food safety department has exposed the deep network of the import of the unsafe meat, but this doesn't absolve it of the negligence in recent years. Civil society is also responsible, in part, for not paying attention. Weak enforcement, low penalties, and public apathy together have created an environment where unscrupulous suppliers thrive. And it is time to end this complacency and address the menace at its source, before it poisons both our plates and our public health.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Growing Wealth in the Valley

Steady, informed investing can help Kashmiris turn savings into security and opportunity.

Irshad Mushtaq

Wealth in Kashmir has traditionally meant land, gold, or cash tucked away for emergencies. Markets, for many, still feel distant and uncertain. Yet the patience that gets the valley through long winters can also grow lasting financial security.

A simple starting point is the Systematic Investment Plan. By increasing contributions every year, investors use rupee-cost averaging, buying more when prices are low and less when they're high. Over time, the habit builds value much like planting in every season.

Downturns, though unsettling, can be fertile ground. A lump-sum investment in a falling market is like acquiring a prized orchard at half its worth. When the recovery comes, growth often surprises.

The right guide makes the path clearer. A trusted financial advisor helps sift through schemes, hidden costs, and false promises. Choose quality over quick wins: investments with strong growth potential, flexibility, and easy withdrawals. Keep insurance and investments separate, they serve different needs.

Time is an ally. Long horizons smooth market bumps and reward patience. And mindset matters. Calm, informed decisions will carry further than any chase for fast profits.

If Kashmiris apply the same discipline to investing as to tending an orchard, the harvest will come. Security will no longer rest only in what is stored away, but in what steadily grows.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Rotten Truth That Shook My Kashmiri Plate

The spoiled meat scandal is a crime against Kashmiri culture, faith, and memory. And sadly, it came from our own.



Tabassum Haroon

“The next time I return to Kashmir, my questions will not be reserved for unfamiliar places. They will be for my own. I will ask to see the kitchen. I will ask for proof. I will hesitate before taking the first bite.

“Those who played with our faith, our health, and our heritage may never understand the depth of the harm they have done. They didn't just serve rotten meat. They served us a piece of our culture, spoiled.

Last year, I was home in Kashmir after months away. My younger son had been asking for goshtabas since the day we booked our tickets. We went to a restaurant with a reputation so solid, I didn't even think twice.

The copper bowl of yakhni arrived, steaming and fragrant. We ate like people who had been counting down the days for that moment.

By nightfall, my little one was doubled over in pain. For a week, he battled severe food poisoning. I told myself it couldn't be the restaurant. I blamed weather, airport sandwiches, and anything but Kashmiri food.

The idea that our own could harm us felt too unthinkable.

Now, after hearing the rotten meat scandal unfold in full detail, I find myself connecting the dots.

Perhaps the meat was stale, or it came from a dead animal. Maybe the chef knew and served it anyway. The thought fills me with disgust.

The pain runs deeper than a bad meal. Wazwan is not just a menu for us Kashmiris. It is a communal act, a cultural performance. It is how we celebrate weddings, welcome guests, and even mourn the dead. It is the rhythm of our festivals and the language of our love.

To serve it with rotten meat is to corrupt that language. It's like slipping poison into a prayer.

I left Kashmir in my teens, carrying my mother's caution like an invisible thread: Be careful what you eat.

Outside the valley, meat always came with a shadow of doubt. Was it halal? Was it clean? That doubt kept me away from meat for my first six months in a New Delhi hostel.

Then one afternoon, our war-

den took me to Motibagh Market and introduced me to Qureshi, a small-time butcher with a spotless shop. He looked me in the eye and said, "The day I don't supply to your hostel, you will get a call. Till then, eat without fear. All my meat is halal."

That day, after half a year of saying no, I finally tasted chicken again. It wasn't Wazwan, but it felt like trust.

That trust became my compass. Through marriage, two grown children, countless cities and airports, one question has followed me everywhere: Is this meat halal?

My four-year-old once mimicked me, pointing at restaurant walls and asking about certificates before touching his food. Even after checking, there were times the smell, the stains on a counter, or a hesitant answer told us to leave.

We became conditional vegetarians. Friends knew it and some even joined our chorus of caution. Trust in food is not just about hygiene. For us, it is bound to faith. When you say a meal is halal, you are not just talking about a method of slaughter, you are making a promise that the food is clean, pure, and permissible.

Breaking that promise is not a minor offence. It is a wound to the soul.

That is why this scandal has felt like more than a public health crisis. It is a moral injury. And this time, the betrayal did not come from outsiders.

It came from our own kitchens and markets.

For greed, some chose to poison their neighbours. For a few extra rupees, they served filth, trampled on trust, and desecrated something sacred.

This is a crime against community, against faith, against the

very idea of Kashmiri hospitality.

Some will say not everyone is guilty, that only a few bad actors brought shame to the rest. That may be true.

But when the rot touches the trust, the whole table feels spoiled. Even the honest butcher and the careful chef will now face our suspicion.

The next time I return to Kashmir, my questions will not be reserved for unfamiliar places. They will be for my own. I will ask to see the kitchen. I will ask for proof. I will hesitate before taking the first bite.

And if my questions are met with irritation or evasion, I will stand up and walk away. I would rather go hungry than eat from a plate I cannot trust.

It will take years to repair what has been broken. Trust, once lost, is slow to return. It will take more than government raids and temporary outrage. It will take transparency, honest sourcing, and a commitment from every butcher, chef, and supplier to protect what Wazwan means to us.

For now, I mourn what has been lost, the innocence of sitting at a Kashmiri table and eating without suspicion. And I grieve that the betrayal came from within.

Those who played with our faith, our health, and our heritage may never understand the depth of the harm they have done. They didn't just serve rotten meat. They served us a piece of our culture, spoiled.

And that is something I cannot forgive.

The author is a Kashmiri-origin, Dehradun-based freelancer with a decade of experience as an academician and editor, contributing to various publications.

Letter to Editor

This Scandal Should Force Kashmir to Clean Up Its Plate

It took 1,200 kilograms of rotting meat to shake Kashmir's conscience.

The spoiled stockpile, seized last week in Srinagar, was a warning that the food on our plates is only as safe as the weakest link in a chain driven by profit over people.

Since the raid, reports of more suspicious consignments have emerged, and the real question is not what was caught, but what may already have been served, swallowed, and digested.

Meat is at the heart of Kashmiri life. Wazwan feast is a symbol of hospitality and honour. Yet the very food we treat as sacred is being trafficked through markets with alarming ease.

Somewhere in that supply chain, a wholesaler knew the meat had gone bad. A transporter looked the other way, vendors chose to sell it anyway, and this wasn't a slip-up.

It was a calculated gamble that the public wouldn't notice.

The risk is not theoretical. Spoiled meat can harbour Salmonella, E. coli, Botulism, and Listeria, bacteria that survive cooking and can cause fatal illness, especially in children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

A plate of minced kebabs made from such meat can deliver toxins straight into the bloodstream.

The bigger failure lies in enforcement. Where were the checkpoints when the trucks entered the valley? Why were routine inspec-

tions absent in wholesale markets?

Food safety cannot be a reaction to viral videos and public outrage. It must be constant, visible, and uncompromising.

The scandal also exposes a cultural blind spot. We rarely ask questions when we eat out. We don't demand to see hygiene certificates. We trust that someone, somewhere, is keeping us safe.

That trust, unchecked, is exactly what bad actors exploit.

Destroying the seized meat is only step one. Kashmir needs prosecutions, permanent bans on offenders, cold storage infrastructure, licensed vendors, and regular market sweeps.

Public health campaigns must

teach consumers to demand transparency because informed buyers are the first line of defence.

Our markets today resemble crime scenes where the murder weapon is food. And the casualty could be anyone.

The real question is whether we let this outrage fade or turn it into a movement for safe, ethical, and accountable food in every Kashmiri kitchen.

The next time, it may not be 1,200 kilograms in a dumpster. It may be on the plate in front of you.

Sincerely,

Ikkz Ikbal
Educator

The Startup Sherpa of Kashmir University

Breaking down silos and incubation rivalry, she creates networks where Kashmir's young entrepreneurs support and learn from each other.

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

On a bright morning at the University of Kashmir, a nervous first-year student walked into the NewGen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre clutching an idea: a solar-powered irrigation device.

Within minutes, Dr. Irfana Rashid, the centre's new coordinator, was already mapping out his path forward: mentoring, prototype funding, and connecting him with alumni who could help.

"For years, I taught entrepreneurship in classrooms," she says. "Now, I finally get to bring those lessons to life."

Her background is impressive: UGC-NET/JRF/SRF awardee, an MBA from the University of Kashmir, a Ph.D. from Aligarh Muslim University, and training at IIM Ahmedabad.

With over 30 research publications and ₹50 lakh in funding, she's guided more than a thousand students and faculty across the country.

Dr. Irfana's vision for NewGen IEDC is clear: to blend Kashmir's rich heritage with new opportunities. She points to saffron, apples, walnut wood, and trout farms as sectors where innovation can thrive globally while preserving the valley's identity.

She's focusing on agritech, arts and crafts, medicinal plants, tourism, and sustainability. And she's pushing a bold idea called "cooperation", getting rival incubators to share resources and work together to build a stronger startup ecosystem.

The biggest challenge is to change mindsets in a place where comfort and caution have long held sway. "We offer support, but we also expect accountability. Nothing truly valuable comes free."

Her long-term dream is a self-sustaining culture of innovation, where student-led entrepreneurship cells and pre-incubation courses nurture ideas from the ground up.

Back in her office, she's sketching out partners and timelines for that irrigation device. "Where there's a will, there's a way," she says. "Show us your will, and we'll help you find the way."

In this interview with Kashmir Observer, Dr. Irfana shares how she's working to make moments like this everyday reality for Kashmir's young innovators.

You've just taken charge at NewGen IEDC, University of Kashmir. What excites you most about this role?

It's a deep personal calling. After teaching

entrepreneurship for over a decade, I wanted to bring it to life. This role gives me that chance: to help young people here turn their ideas into ventures that truly matter.

Kashmir brims with untapped potential, but opportunities often seem out of reach. Being part of a mission that helps students bridge that gap truly excites me.

If a student walks in nervous but hopeful, what's their first experience like under your leadership?

I want them to feel welcomed, safe, and heard. For me, every idea counts, even the wild or incomplete ones. We offer mentoring, workshops, small funds to build prototypes, and access to experts.

Soon, we'll launch one-on-one onboarding sessions to help every newcomer map out their idea and connect with the right people from day one. The goal is to leave them confident, knowing they're not alone and that NewGen is a place their dreams can grow.

Kashmir has a unique culture and economy. How do you balance that with preparing students for the global stage?

We root innovation deeply in Kashmir's rich heritage: lakes, orchards, crafts, medicinal plants, and even renewable energy. At the same time, we reach out to the global Kashmiri diaspora to bring mentorship and connections from around the world.

It's about blending local identity with global opportunity, so our students become not only tech-savvy but also proud custodians of Kashmir's legacy.

Alright, but what's your vision for NewGen IEDC over the next five years?

I see it as the birthplace of Kashmir's start-up revolution. We want to transform students from job seekers into entrepreneurs who lead sustainable, high-growth ventures.

Our ambition is to be a national model for academic-driven startups and a hub where the valley's unique culture fuels global innovation.

This vision is close to the heart of our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nilofer Khan, who often says that Kashmir University must become the home of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

Are there particular sectors you're focusing on?

Absolutely. We're leaning into Kashmir's

natural strengths. Crafts and traditional arts are vital, as they hold cultural and economic promise. Sustainability is another priority: startups tackling clean energy, waste management, and eco-friendly solutions have our support.

Agritech, especially saffron and apples, is ripe for innovation. We're also excited about ventures exploring medicinal and aromatic plants native to Kashmir.

These sectors are where culture meets opportunity and sustainability.

But how are you building a culture of innovation here?

Culture drives everything. No matter how good your plans are, without a creative, experimental mindset, nothing sticks. We're starting a student-led Entrepreneurship Development Cell, giving students a voice and role as innovation ambassadors.

Plus, we're launching a pre-incubation course open to students from all colleges, teaching hands-on startup skills.

These steps are about planting seeds that grow into a thriving ecosystem, fueled by students who inspire each other.

OK, so what's been your toughest challenge so far?

The biggest hurdle is cultural inertia. Kashmir's lifestyle has long valued comfort and tradition, and change hasn't come as fast as we need.

Many brilliant ideas sit on the sidelines because people hesitate to step out of familiar patterns.

So, while we offer support and resources, we also demand accountability. We practice "tough love": we give help, but we expect determination and effort in return. Nothing worthwhile comes easy.

For the sake of curiosity, what unique strengths does Kashmir bring to entrepreneurship?

It's a unique mix of age-old crafts, natural beauty, agricultural bounty, and fresh talent. Think of Pashmina shawls, Kani weaving, and paper mache as globally recognized crafts deeply rooted in our culture.

Then there are pristine lakes perfect for trout farming, abundant hydroelectric potential, and organic farming traditions like saffron and apples that can reach premium markets.



Plus, our young tech-savvy generation is starting to bridge tradition and modern business. I always tell my students: "You name it, we have it. We just need to open our eyes and start moving."

While creating this culture, have you noticed any gaps in Kashmir's startup scene?

Yes, a big one. Many facilitators and incubators see each other as rivals, not partners. That's a missed opportunity.

Today's best strategy is "cooperation", a blend of cooperation and competition.

I want to create a Kashmir Startup Cooperation Network where incubators share mentorship, workspace, insights, and even funding.

We'll host joint workshops, demo days, and acceleration programs. Collaboration will help startups grow faster and stronger.

It's time to move from isolated silos to a connected ecosystem.

But how do your past leadership roles influence your approach here?

Over 13 years, I've worn many hats: department coordinator, committee chair, hostel warden. The biggest lesson I learnt was empathy. You can't lead without truly understanding people. That builds trust and motivation.

But empathy doesn't mean leniency. You have to balance kindness with clear expectations and accountability.

Sometimes, a simple word of encouragement or a pat on the back can ignite a spark. That's the power of mentorship, and it shapes how I lead NewGen: supporting, challenging, and believing in every individual.

So, what would you say to a young Kashmiri unsure about choosing a startup over a steady job?

I understand their fear. It's natural, especially here where uncertainty is part of life. But the proverb "where there's a will, there's a way" holds true.

With real determination, you find a path, even if it's tough.

At NewGen, we're committed to helping young entrepreneurs find that way. You're not alone. We'll walk with you, just bring your will.

What mindset do you encourage students to cultivate?

Three things: grit, community, and openness. Grit means believing in yourself and pushing through challenges. We bring in founders who share their stories to inspire this. Community means helping each other. When one succeeds, they lift others.

We've started a weekly "Coffee & Collaboration" hour for informal learning and support. Openness means accepting feedback with humility and being accountable. Our expert sessions offer honest advice, always with encouragement. This mindset turns ideas into reality.

Any final thoughts?

Kashmir's potential is enormous. With the right mindset and support, this valley can become a beacon of innovation. I'm excited and hopeful for the journey ahead.

The Human Touch Kashmir Can't Afford to Lose

How impatience and rudeness in public places reflect a larger challenge for Kashmir's society.

Faizaan Bashir

A few months ago, on a night that started like any other, my family was asleep except for my father.

He was restless, pacing the house with a strange ache on the right side of his chest.

I was deep in sleep when a nightmare jolted me awake. I screamed, "My family, where are you?"

My father was the first to answer. His calm voice pulled me out of fear and made me worry about his health. I told him about the nightmare, and he shared that he hadn't slept all night.

We rushed to the hospital.

The waiting area was packed, with many patients ahead of us. When the nurse called out a name that sounded like my father's, I asked her politely if she could repeat it.

Her sharp reply cut through the tension we were already feeling. She seemed annoyed at my simple request.

That moment stayed with me, a bitter reminder of how people entrusted to help us sometimes add to our troubles.

Government employees and those in public service must be chosen carefully, not just for skills but for kindness and patience.

Another moment happened when my brother and I were picking up guests from Karanagar in Srinagar.

While waiting, we decided to visit the nearby Medical College. At the gate, we asked the guard if there were visiting hours. Instead of answering calmly, he

yelled at us, "What are visiting hours? Go off."

This shocked us deeply. People guarding a place of learning should be welcoming, not hostile. We left disappointed, carrying the weight of that unnecessary harshness.

Later, while scrolling through Facebook, I saw a video that tore at my heart.

A young boy was being scolded harshly by his teacher, and the child's reactions were mocked for laughs. The teacher's behaviour was worse than what one might expect from animals.

Tears welled up in my eyes watching those innocent, frightened children and the cruel disregard in the teacher's actions. If those responsible for shaping young minds can behave like this, how can we expect better manners elsewhere?

Teachers hold a special place in every society. They help build nations, nurture respect, and teach kindness.

Yet, this teacher showed none of those qualities.

These experiences are far from rare. Worse things happen every day in Kashmir and beyond.

But people who serve the public must learn to treat others with dignity. Those who laugh at others' pain while pretending to care must rethink their ways.

Changing this begins with us. Education that teaches kindness, respect, and empathy offers the only true path forward.

This article was originally written by Faizaan Bashir in March 2019.

Supreme Court's Wake-Up Call for Kashmir

As a lawyer from the valley, I see why this judgement offers a crucial chance to protect our students' mental health.

Syed Arsalan Abid

I have seen many battles in courtrooms, but none as heartbreaking as those that begin far from legal disputes, especially in classrooms, hostels, and homes across Kashmir.

The relentless pressure on our students to score high marks feels like a shadow that darkens their every step. Too often, this pressure turns into tragedy.

Last week, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that brought this silent crisis into the open.

Triggered by the suicide of a student in Visakhapatnam, the Court went beyond ordering a probe. It issued clear, binding directions to protect students' mental health nationwide.

For Kashmir, where students face the extra weight of living in a strife zone, this judgment offers a vital lifeline.

It requires every school, coaching centre, and hostel to have mental health policies and trained counsellors.

It demands an end to harmful practices like segregating students by marks, public shaming, and setting impossible academic targets.

Hostels and classrooms must display helpline numbers. Teachers and wardens will be trained to spot early signs of distress. Safety protocols, like tamper-proof fans and rooftop restrictions, are mandatory in residential institutions.

The Court singled out coaching hubs notorious for student suicides, including those in Kashmir, ordering "heightened mental health protections."

This is a direct call to reform the very



spaces where many young people feel most vulnerable.

Crucially, the judgment introduces institutional accountability.

If schools or hostels ignore harassment or distress that leads to self-harm, they face legal consequences.

This is a shift from silence and neglect to responsibility.

The apex court also spoke to parents: ease off the constant academic pressure, and see your child as more than a marksheet.

Protecting young minds is a shared duty between families, schools, and government.

Kashmir authorities now have just two months to draft rules for private coaching centres, with district officials charged to

monitor compliance and respond to complaints. The central government must file progress reports every 90 days.

This moment offers Kashmir a chance to change how we educate and care for our children. If we delay, we risk more lives lost to pressure and despair.

If we act, students will find help when they need it. Our homeland will resonate with hope, not sorrow.

As a lawyer, I know the power of the law. Yet laws alone won't protect our children. It's on all of us to listen, and act.

The Supreme Court has spoken. Kashmir must answer.

- Syed Arsalan Abid is a Commercial Advocate and Corporate Advisor from Kashmir.

Inflammation Control In Diabetics May Cure Depression, Methods Vary: Study

Press Trust Of India

An analysis has revealed that addressing inflammation in diabetes can help determine success in treating depression in a group of patients. However, there are differences in outcomes between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, researchers said.

While type 2 diabetes is a metabolic condition marked by an inability to manage blood sugar, type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks and damages insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

"People with type 2 diabetes and high inflammation levels possibly respond particularly well to a change in depressive cognitions through cognitive behavioural therapy. People with type 1 diabetes and high inflammation levels, on the other hand, could benefit more from anti-inflammatory drug therapies," said author Norbert Hermanns from the Research Institute of the Diabetes Academy Mergentheim (FIDAM), Germany.

Findings published in the journal Diabetologia could help develop cus-



tomised treatment plans for diabetics, who might be doubly vulnerable to depression compared to the general population, the team said.

Diabetes is often accompanied by anxiety and negative feelings of sickness, which constitute depressive symptoms and can impair progress in treatment.

The researchers said that while early diagnosis and effective treatment of depression in diabetics is important, not all respond equally

whether with medication or cognitive

behavioural therapy (a form of psychotherapy).

The team looked at 521 people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and analysed how their depressive symptoms responded to behavioural therapy over a year.

Measuring 76 inflammatory markers in the blood, the research team examined whether there was a link between inflammation levels and the severity of depression.

Among people with type 2 diabetes and higher levels of inflammation,

cognitive behavioural therapy was found to improve depressive symptoms, including joylessness.

However, among patients with type 1 diabetes and high inflammation, behavioural therapy was found to produce smaller improvements, especially in fatigue, sleep disorders, or loss of appetite.

It is possible that distinct immune processes autoimmune processes in type 1 diabetes and metabolic inflammation in type 2 diabetes could be responsible for the differences in outcomes, the researchers said, adding that future research could help better understand this.

"In people with type 2 diabetes, higher levels of 26 biomarkers were associated with greater reductions in depressive symptoms, whereas in people with type 1 diabetes, higher levels of 13 biomarkers were linked with lower reductions in depressive symptoms," the authors wrote.

"There were also diabetes type-specific differences in the associations with symptom clusters of depression. This suggests that different inflammation-related pathways may be relevant for the response to depression treatment in people with type 1 diabetes or type 2 diabetes," they wrote.

IIT-Roorkee Researchers Discover Promising Drug Candidate To Fight Deadly Antibiotic Resistance

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee have developed a new drug candidate that can restore the effectiveness of a potent antibiotic against deadly drug-resistant bacteria, according to officials.

The researchers' team has designed a novel molecule that works alongside the antibiotic -- Meropenem -- to treat infections caused by KPC-2-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae, a superbug listed among the World Health Organization's (WHO) top-priority threats, the officials said.

The research has been published in the prestigious "Journal of Medicinal Chemistry" and is expected to contribute significantly to future drug-development efforts targeting superbugs.

"This breakthrough offers a promising solution to one of the world's most-urgent health challenges, antimicrobial resistance. Our compound neutralises the resistance mechanism and shows strong therapeutic results in preclinical models," said Ranjana Pathania, Principal Investigator, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT-Roorkee.

The newly-discovered molecule belongs to a class of -lactamase inhibitor drugs that prevent bacterial enzymes from breaking



This innovation reflects IIT-Roorkee's commitment to developing impactful scientific solutions for global challenges. In the face of rising antibiotic resistance, such research provides critical hope for effective and accessible treatments

down life-saving antibiotics. Compound 3b is highly specific, safe to human cells and works synergistically with Meropenem to kill resistant bacteria. Lab and animal tests significantly reduced bacterial infection in the lungs.

"This innovation reflects IIT-Roorkee's commitment to developing impactful scientific solutions for global challenges. In the face of rising antibiotic resistance, such research provides critical hope for effective and accessible treatments," said K K Pant, Director, IIT-Roorkee.

Pant said as antibiotic resistance threatens global healthcare systems, innovations like this bring renewed hope for effective treatments and reinforce India's contribution to frontline biomedical research.

Climate Heat Extremes Cut Tropical Bird Populations by 40% Since 1950: Study

Press Trust of India

Heat extremes driven by climate change may have reduced the world's tropical bird population by 25-38 per cent on average since 1950, a study has estimated.

Findings published in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution suggest that climate change is endangering tropical bird populations even in the absence of direct human pressures, such as

changes in land use, researchers said.

The world's tropical regions -- having a high biodiversity -- are home to nearly half of all bird species. However, many species are said to be living at temperatures close to their tolerance thresholds.

The team, led by researchers at Spain's Barcelona Supercomputing Centre and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, said that impact of heatwaves on birds, including tropical populations,

remains under-studied.

They analysed data gathered from monitoring over 3,000 bird populations across the world during 1950-2020, resulting in over 90,000 observations.

Compared to a scenario where there is no human-caused climate change, "the historical intensification of heat extremes has caused a 25-38 per cent reduction in the level of abundance of tropical birds, which has accumulated from 1950 to 2020," the authors said.

An exposure to extreme

heat -- defined as days registering temperatures among the highest one per cent for a region -- was strongly related with a reduced growth in yearly bird numbers, especially in tropical regions.

The researchers said that the analysed impacts of heatwaves were consistent across modelling approaches and migratory behaviours of the bird species.

They added that the total impact of human-caused intensification of heat extremes over the decades was more

than that from direct human pressures in the studied tropical populations.

The study highlights the growing threat of climate change, with heat extremes playing a critical role in endangering bird numbers in tropical regions.

Along with strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, the authors also called for conservation measures addressing both habitat protection and the growing threat of climate extremes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My residence has been wrongly written as Khisipora in the school record, while my correct residence is Khisipora, which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the objection in the office of Govt. Middle School Suria Por Kreei / ZEO Wagoora within seven days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

Name: Waseem Ahmad Malik
S/O: Gulzar Ahmad Malik
R/O: Khisipora, Kreei

fko



YouTube

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

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

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

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

CM Omar Abdullah Reviews Dairy Infrastructure Scheme

Underscores J&K's Immense Dairy Potential



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday chaired a high-level review meeting on the Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Processing Infrastructure Development Scheme (JKDPIDS), a ₹1,433 crore initiative aimed at transforming the J&K's dairy sector into a robust, organized and globally competitive industry. During the review, the Chief Minister highlighted the vast potential of dairy in Jammu & Kashmir.

He stressed the urgent need to expand organized milk processing from the current 4% to at least 20% within the next seven years, ensuring better prices, regular payments, and market access for over 5 lakh dairy farmers.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, gave a detailed presentation on the scheme, implemented by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as the nodal agency.

The plan envisages the establishment of 10 automated milk processing plants across 18 districts (excluding Srinagar and

Jammu), enhancement of milk collection and chilling capacity to 10 LLPD, creation of 100 milk testing laboratories, and the formation of 10,000 farmer-owned dairy collectives.

He said that all Deputy Commissioners have been asked to immediately identify and transfer 40-50 kanals of encumbrance-free land for each proposed processing plant.

The Chief Minister called for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely provision of road connectivity, electricity, and water to the project sites.

He further instructed NDDB and the Animal Husbandry Department to expedite agreements on sexed semen production and fodder development to strengthen productivity at the grassroots level.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also asked NABARD to ensure prompt release of funds and strict financial monitoring, while emphasising that all departments must adhere to the set timelines for project execution, with quarterly progress reviews at the state level.

J&K Bank Opens Centralised Processing Centre In Srinagar For Customer Ease

We Owe Our Growth To The Goodwill And Trust Of Our Customers: MD & CEO



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- As part of its strategic initiative to set up a network of centres for enhancing customer convenience and service excellence across operational geographies, J&K Bank Monday commissioned its second Centralised Processing Centre (CPC) for medium and large corporates at Zero Bridge, Srinagar in Kashmir. These centres are being established for accelerating turnaround times (TAT) to ensure faster, more efficient and standardised service delivery for customers.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee formally inaugurated the facility in the presence of Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar, General Managers Rajesh Malla Tickoo and Nishikant Sharma, GM & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri and Deputy General Manager (CPC) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat.

Zonal Head (Srinagar) Layek Ahmad Jan, Special Secretary to MD Tanveer Hussain, along with other senior officers of the Bank,

were also present on the occasion.

Emphasising the Bank's long-standing customer focus on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Customer convenience is our top priority because we owe our growth to the goodwill and trust of our customers. And in today's fast-evolving banking landscape, improving process efficiency is critical to meeting the rising expectations of our customers, especially the younger, tech-savvy generation. This Centralised Processing Centre is another step in our journey to streamline operations, reduce service-time delivery for an enhanced customer experience."

He further said, "We are fully aware of the emerging challenges in the financial sector and are proactively upgrading our technology platforms to achieve excellence in processes, products, and services. This initiative reflects our enduring commitment to providing world-class banking solutions while maintaining the trust and confidence that our customers have placed in us for decades."

In India, Trump's Tariffs Spark Calls To Boycott American Goods

Reuters

NEW DELHI- From McDonald's and Coca-Cola to Amazon and Apple, US-based multinationals are facing calls for a boycott in India as business executives and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's supporters stoke anti-American sentiment to protest against US tariffs.

India, the world's most populous nation, is a key market for American brands that have rapidly expanded to target a growing base of affluent consumers, many of whom remain infatuated with international labels seen as symbols of moving up in life.

India, for example, is the biggest market by users for Meta's WhatsApp and Domino's has more restaurants than any other brand in the country. Beverages like Pepsi and Coca-Cola often dominate store shelves, and people still queue up when a new Apple store opens or a Starbucks cafe does out discounts.

Although there was no immediate indication of sales being hit, there's a growing chorus both on social media and offline to buy local and ditch American products after Donald Trump imposed a 50% tariff on goods from India, rattling exporters and damaging ties between New Delhi and Washington.

McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Amazon and Apple did not



immediately respond to Reuters queries.

Manish Chowdhary, co-founder of India's Wow Skin Science, took to LinkedIn with a video message urging support for farmers and startups to make "Made in India" a "global obsession," and to learn from South Korea whose food and beauty products are famous worldwide.

"We have lined up for products from thousands of miles away.

We have proudly spent on brands that we don't own, while our own makers fight for attention in their own country," he said.

Rahm Shastry, CEO of India's DriveU, which provides a car driver on call service, wrote on LinkedIn: "India should have its own home-grown Twitter/Google/YouTube/WhatsApp/FB -- like China has."

To be fair, Indian retail companies give foreign brands like Starbucks stiff competition in the domestic market, but going global has

been a challenge.

Indian IT services firms, however, have become deeply entrenched in the global economy, with the likes of TCS and Infosys providing software solutions to clients world over.

On Sunday, Modi made a "special appeal" for becoming self-reliant, telling a gathering in Bengaluru that Indian technology companies made products for the world but "now is the time for us to give more priority to India's needs." He did not name any company. Don't drag my McPuff into it

Even as anti-American protests simmer, Tesla launched its second showroom in India in New Delhi, with Monday's opening attended by Indian commerce ministry officials and U.S. embassy officials.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch group, which is linked to BJP, took out small public rallies across India on Sunday, urging people to boycott American brands.

2.17 Lakh Fake Currency Notes Detected In Financial Year 2024-25: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI -As many as 2.17 lakh pieces of fake notes of various denominations were detected during 2024-25 compared to 2.23 lakh such notes in the previous year, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Of this, highest -- 1,17,722 pieces -- counterfeit notes of 500 [MG (New) Series] were detected in FY25, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

This was followed by 51,069 pieces of such notes of 100 denomination and 32,660 notes of Rs 200, he said.

"Government of India, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, reviews the effectiveness of security features of banknotes from time to time and undertakes measures to introduce new security features in accordance with Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Incorporating new security features/new designs in the banknotes to stay ahead of the counterfeiters is a continuous process," he said.

In reply to another question, Mr Chaudhary said, the RBI has noted that net fixed assets of private limited companies



registered a steady growth of 7.6 per cent, 10.3 per cent, and 10.2 per cent in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, respectively based on financial statement data of corporates received from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Additionally, he said, the RBI compiles data on investment intentions of private corporates using information received from select banks and financial institutions (FIs).

As per the latest data published in the August 2024 issue of the RBI Bulletin, the number of projects sanctioned by banks and FIs more than doubled, from 401 projects in 2021-22 to 944 projects in 2023-24.

During the same period, he said, the total cost of sanctioned projects rose significantly from Rs 1.4 lakh crore to Rs 3.9 lakh crore.

The government has taken several measures to enhance investor confidence and crowd-in or encourage private sector participation, with a focus on capital expenditure, infrastructure development, financial sector reforms and ease of doing business, he said.

Key initiatives include Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, she said, credit guarantee programmes, FDI liberalisation across sectors such as defence, retail and insurance, and regular review of the FDI policy.

New Income Tax Bill: Here's What It Means For Taxpayers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Income Tax Bill (No.2) 2025 -- a major legislative move to replace the 63-year-old law governing income taxation for individuals and corporations -- was passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday in just three minutes, without any debate.

The Bill, which streamlines TDS, exemptions and other compliance-heavy provisions and also allows individuals to claim refunds without penalty on delayed filings, was passed as the opposition parties continued to disrupt proceedings over allegations of irregularities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who had on August 8 withdrawn the Income Tax Bill, 2025 -- which she had introduced in February -- on Monday introduced an updated version incorporating recommendations made by a Parliamentary panel that scrutinised the legislation. Amid slogan shouting by the opposition, the bill was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

The Bill will now go to the Rajya Sabha for approval and thereafter to the President for assent. It will become law once the Presidential assent is provided.

The new bill reduces the size



and complexity of the current Income Tax Act, drastically cutting the number of effective sections and chapters and nearly halving the word count.

"Almost all of the recommendations of the Select Committee have been accepted by the government. In addition, suggestions have been received from stakeholders about changes that would convey the proposed legal meaning more accurately," said the statement of Objects and Reasons of the Income Tax (No.2) Bill.

It does away with the confusing concepts of assessment year and previous year, replacing them with easier to understand 'tax year'.

According to the revised Bill, individuals will be allowed to claim TDS refund even if their return of income is filed beyond the statutory timeline provided for filing of the original income-tax return. Thus, the Finance Ministry has incorporated the provision of the existing Income Tax Act, 1961.

Kargil's Apricots Exported To Saudi, Kuwait, Qatar For First Time



ANI

NEW DELHI: Kargil's apricots are reaching Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar for the first time, thanks to the One District One Product initiative.

"This has been done under the One District One Product and Vocal For Local, Global Outreach initiatives," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal wrote on X, sharing the news.

The successful export of 1.5 metric tons of apricots is proof of the growing international demand for Indian fruits, said the minister.

"This reflects the Modi government's commitment to farmers' welfare," the Minister's X post, written in Hindi, concluded.

The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry Initiative "One District, One Product" (ODOP) aims at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country by selection, branding, and

promoting one product from each district of the country.

The ODOP Initiative aims at attracting investment in the district and boosting manufacturing and exports, thereby generating employment in the district. ODOP is operationally merged with the "Districts as Export Hubs" initiative.

The Developing Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative is a flagship export promotion initiative of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), with the vision to transform every district into a vibrant contributor to national exports. It builds upon and now incorporates the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative to streamline export potential at the grassroots level.

Each district identifies one or more products or services with export potential and creates a District Export Action Plan (DEAP) to support quality, capacity, market access, and infrastructure. A District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC), led by local administration in partnership with DGFT regional authorities, oversees execution.

Air India Express Announces 'Freedom Sale', Tickets Start At...

Press Trust Of India

KOCHI- Air India Express on Sunday announced a 'freedom sale' to mark India's 79th Independence Day, offering around 50 lakh seats starting from Rs 1,279 across its domestic and international network.

In a release, the airline said bookings are open until August 15 for travel from August 19, 2024, to March 31, 2026.

"With fares starting at just Rs 1,279 for domestic and Rs 4,279 for international flights, this sale is a celebration of freedom, connectivity, and accessibility in a new India," it said.

The sale opens exclusively on www.airindiaexpress.com and the Air India Express mobile app from August 10 and will be available across all major booking channels from August 11 to 15, the airline said.

"Travel under this offer is valid from August 19, 2024, to March 31, 2026, covering India's most vibrant festive season, including Onam, Durga Puja, Deepawali, Christmas, and more," the release added.



The airline said it also offers fare options tailored to individual preferences. The 'Xpress Lite' zero check-in baggage fare is available on its website, while 'Xpress Value' fares, which include standard check-in baggage allowances, start at Rs 1,379 for domestic and Rs 4,479 for international flights.

For those seeking a premium experience, 'Xpress Biz' - the airline's business-class equivalent with an industry-leading seat pitch of up to 58 inches - is now available on more than 40 brand-new aircraft recently inducted as part of its rapid expansion.

Air India Express has a growing fleet of 116 aircraft and operates over 500 daily flights, connecting 38 domestic and 17 international destinations, the release further said.

Banks Free To Decide On Minimum Balance For Savings Accounts: RBI Guv

Press Trust Of India

GOZARIA (GUJ)- Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday said banks are free to decide the minimum balance for savings accounts and that it does not fall under the regulatory domain of the RBI.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function on 'Financial Inclusion Saturation Drive' organized at Gozaria village panchayat in Gujarat's Mehsana district.

Asked about a private bank increasing the minimum balance required for savings accounts, Malhotra said, "The RBI has left it to individual banks to decide on what minimum balance they want to set. Some banks have kept it at Rs 10,000, some have kept Rs 2,000 and some have exempted (customers). It is not in the regulatory domain (of RBI)."

In a recent decision, private lender ICICI Bank increased the minimum balance requirement for those opening new savings accounts from August 1.

The minimum average monthly

balance (MAB) has been increased by five times to Rs 50,000, from Rs 10,000 on savings bank account, as per the lender's website.

Similarly, MAB for semi-urban locations and rural locations have been increased five times to Rs 25,000 and Rs 10,000, respectively.

Meanwhile, the State Bank of India has decided not to penalise savings account holders if they do not keep minimum balance.

Traditionally, public sector banks have lower balance requirements compared to private lenders with the requirement waived for Jan Dhan accounts. Several public sector banks have done away with the requirement, and customers who fail to maintain the minimum prescribed balance do not need to pay a penalty.

Speaking at the event, Malhotra said digital literacy was very important to succeed in the new age.

"Earlier they used to say if you do not study you will not prosper. In today's age, this is the same for digital literacy. If you do not have digital literacy you will not progress," he said.

Gold Retreats From All-Time High, Ends Rs 900 Lower At Rs 1,02,520/10g

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Snapping a five-day rally, gold prices retreated from record high levels and ended Rs 900 lower at Rs 1,02,520 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday as stockists turned to selling amid easing geopolitical tensions.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had climbed Rs 800 to hit a record peak of Rs 1,03,420 per 10 grams on Friday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity, which also reached the peak of Rs 1,03,000 per 10 grams in the preceding session, declined Rs 900 to Rs 1,02,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday.

In the five sessions until Friday, the yellow metal prices increased by Rs 5,800 per 10 grams.

"Gold resumes trading on a weaker note as the upbeat market mood diminishes demand for traditional

safe-haven assets.

"Additionally, a de-escalation in geopolitical tensions, as President Donald Trump agreed to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, later this week to discuss peace efforts surrounding the Russia-Ukraine conflict," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Also, the clarification from the White House regarding a 39 per cent tariff on gold bars exerted downward pressure on gold prices, Gandhi said.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, silver prices depreciated by Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,14,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,15,000 per kg on Friday.

Silver prices rose by Rs 5,500 per kg in five straight days to Friday. In the global market, spot gold fell by USD 40.61 or 1.19 per cent to trade at USD 3,358.17 per ounce in New York.

NIA's Death Penalty Plea: Delhi HC Seeks Malik's Response

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi:The Delhi High Court on Monday sought separatist leader Yasin Malik's response on a plea filed by the National Investigation Agency seeking death penalty for him in a terror funding case.

A bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Shalinder Kaur granted four weeks to Malik to file his response to the NIA's petition.

The court posted the hearing for November 10.

Malik, who previously sought to argue in-person against NIA's plea seeking the

enhancement, was supposed to appear virtually from jail but wasn't produced.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief (JKLF) is lodged in Tihar jail where he is serving a life term in the case.

The high court noted that neither Malik was produced virtually in the proceedings from jail nor he filed his reply to NIA's plea in pursuance to the court's August 9, 2024 order.

On August 9, Malik was directed to be produced virtually and not physically due to security threats.

On Monday, the bench

directed the jail authorities to produce him virtually on November 10.

Malik last year turned down the court's suggestion to appoint a lawyer on his behalf and said he wished to argue the case in-person.

On May 29, 2023, the high court issued notice to Malik on the NIA's plea seeking death penalty.

Subsequently, jail authorities filed an application seeking permission for his virtual appearance on grounds that he was a "very high-risk prisoner" and it was imperative to not physically produce him in court to maintain public order

and safety.

The request was allowed by the high court.

On May 24, 2022, a trial court sentenced Malik to life imprisonment after holding him guilty for offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and IPC.

Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges, including those under the UAPA, and was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Appealing against the sentence, the NIA emphasised that a terrorist cannot be sentenced life term only because he has pleaded guilty and chosen not

to go through trial.

While seeking enhancement of the sentence to death penalty, the NIA said if such dreaded terrorists are not given capital punishment on account of pleading guilty, there would be complete erosion of the sentencing policy and terrorists would have a way out to avoid capital punishment.

The trial court, which rejected the NIA's plea for death penalty, had said the crimes committed by Malik struck at the "heart of the idea of India" and were intended to forcefully secede Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India.

Police Search Bookshops In Rajouri For 25 Banned Books

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday carried out searches at bookshops across Rajouri district to seize the 25 books banned by the Lieutenant Governor's administration in the Union Territory.

"Police carried out extensive searches at multiple locations across the district to trace and seize books that have been recently prohibited by the competent authority," a police officer said. The action was taken to prevent the circulation of the prohibited literature, he said.

The general public, especially bookshop owners, is advised not to buy or sell any of the 25 banned books, he said.

"Anyone found involved in the sale or purchase of these books will be dealt with strictly under the relevant sections of the BNS," he added. The Jammu and Kashmir administration had last week banned the publication of 25 books for "promoting false narratives and glorifying terrorism."

According to an order issued by the Home Department, the books, including those written by famous authors like Moulana Moudadi, Arundhati Roy, A G Noorani, Victoria Schofield, and David Devadas, propagate secessionism in J-K and need to be declared as forfeited in terms of Section 98 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Rotten Meat Scandal

is processed, stored too long, or contaminated, it affects the gut microbiome, immunity, and overall health," said Dr. Firdous Mir, a gastroenterologist in Srinagar. "We're seeing more gastric infections, more acidity, more allergies, and diet is a major driver."

A 2023 Directorate of Health Services survey found that 41 percent of urban Kashmiri households consume frozen meat regularly, and more than half have no idea how long it was stored before reaching their kitchens.

The rotten meat scandal has sharpened calls for reform.

Consumer rights advocates want clear date-of-slaughter labels, maximum storage timelines, and random market inspections.

"Without enforceable laws, the dishonest seller will always undercut the honest one," said Fayaz Sofi, a Srinagar-based advocate.

Organic farmers see the moment as a chance to resist.

"We can feed ourselves without depending on imports," said Parveen Akhtar, who runs a small poultry farm in Budgam. "Modern hygiene can work with our old wisdom: buy fresh, eat in season, trust your source."

Researchers warn the stakes extend beyond public health.

Industrial farming drains groundwater, erodes soil, and pollutes streams in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. Local sourcing, they say, can ease these pressures while reviving rural livelihoods.

Yet price is a sticking point.

Imported frozen meat can be 20 to 30 percent cheaper. Reformers argue for targeted subsidies for small farmers and public awareness campaigns to make people think about the hidden costs of cheap, low-quality food.

In markets across the valley, the fallout is visible. Foot traffic in some butcher lanes has dropped. Some shoppers now travel long distances to buy from trusted sellers, while others are turning to vegetables and traditional haakh-batte meals.

In downtown Srinagar, 68-year-old Abdul Rahim remembers when a chicken's yolk colour told you what it had been fed.

"Fresh food kept us strong in body and mind," he said. "Beyond taste, it was dignity."

No one knows if the valley will get that dignity back. But the call for fresh food is now louder than the cleavers, carrying a Kashmiri truth: freshness is wellness.

Over 11,600 Kg

Meanwhile, in a joint operation, the Srinagar Police and the Food Safety Department conducted raids at multiple locations across the city, targeting vendors suspected of selling unhygienic and expired meat products.

An official said, "During the operation, substantial quantities of rotten meat were seized and destroyed on the spot under relevant sections of the Food Safety and Standards Act."

In one such action, Srinagar Police in collaboration with officials of the Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI) raided cold storage unit in Parimpora where rotten meat was stored, which was seized, subsequently leading to the seizure of the cold storage under relevant section of the Food Safety and Standards Act, they said , adding that the action is part of an intensified drive to safeguard public health and ensure strict adherence to food safety standards.

"Similarly, acting on credible input received at Police Station Zakura, authorities identified Abdul Hameed Kuchay, a resident of Soura and operator of Sunshine Foods located at SICOP Zakoor, as a key suspect. He is alleged to be involved in a criminal conspiracy with Arif Ahmad Shah, of Baghat Barzulla, to supply decomposed meat unfit for consumption in large quantities to restaurants and hotels across Srinagar," Police said.

Police stated that this deliberate act of distributing rotten meat poses a serious threat to public health and constitutes a grave offence under applicable laws.

Consequently, FIR No. 48/2025 has been registered at Police Station Zakura under sections 271, 275, and 61(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further investigation is underway.

Srinagar Police affirms that inspections and legal action will continue in collaboration with concerned departments in the coming days to ensure strict compliance and accountability across the food supply chain, in the interests of public health and safety

Kulgam Anti-terror

since the encounter began on August 1 in the Akhal forest area of the district.

Two terrorists have also been killed in the encounter. The identity and the group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been ascertained so far.

This is the longest anti-terror operation in the Kashmir valley in recent years.

Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat and the army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma are monitoring the operation round-the-clock, officials said.

Security forces have pressed drones and helicopters into service to track the terrorists.

Search Op Intensifies

their hideout in a natural cave, according to officials.

The search operation in the forest area started early Sunday following intelligence input about the presence of two most wanted Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists -- Riyaz Ahmad and Mudassar Hazari -- who have been active in the district for the past eight years and carry a reward of Rs 10 lakh each.

Intermittent firing and deafening sounds of explosions rattled the forest in Dool area, some 25 km from Kishtwar town, overnight after security forces zeroed in on the natural cave where the terrorists were suspected to have taken shelter after exchanging fire with security search parties on Sunday, the officials said.

Security forces stormed the deep cave on Monday and searched it thoroughly but there was no trace of the terrorists who are believed to have managed to escape deep inside the forest, the officials said, adding a massive search operation is on to track down and neutralise them.

About the natural cave, the officials said it was very long and believed to be used by terrorists in the past as their hideout.

The terrorists had established well-fortified positions at different places inside the cave, where wood and other daily-use items were found stored, they said.

The hiding terrorists had opened fire on the search parties at 6.30 AM on Sunday and fled in the face of retaliation by security forces, the officials said, adding that intermittent exchange of fire was reported two more times during the day.

The cordon and search operation was strengthened with the joining of more reinforcements from the army, including para commandos, police and CRPF, and deployment of drones to ensure that the terrorists are not able to escape, the officials said.

They said the firing from the terrorists was last reported near the cave on a cliff Sunday evening, with security forces suspecting that they had managed to take shelter inside.

CM Orders Food

minister said.

The chief minister urged citizens to approach the authorities concerned rather than taking the law into their own hands. He cautioned against vigilante actions and directed the Food Safety Department to follow due procedure, work with the police for surprise raids, and avoid harassment of traders who comply with safety regulations.

Omar also directed that all food distributors, traders, and vendors be registered, bringing them under a formal licensing framework.

An inter-departmental committee will be constituted to ensure coordination, efficiency, and smooth enforcement, particularly for the distribution and sale of safe, hygienic, fresh, and properly labelled perishable items such as meat and chicken, he added.

"Departments have been instructed to verify that meat supplies originate from safe sources, that the cold chain is maintained, and that cold stores are equipped with deep-freezing facilities," an official spokesman said.

He said the chief minister took serious note of the use of harmful chemicals, unauthorised synthetic additives, and colouring agents, stressing their potential health hazards.

Multi-Tier Security

seen heightened measures, including road blockades, vehicle checks, security cordons, and search operations," the official said.

Extensive deployment of police and paramilitary forces has been made along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC), with senior officers reviewing arrangements in vulnerable border belts to ensure smooth coordination between agencies, the official added.

To bolster security further, drones and high-resolution CCTV cameras have been deployed to monitor key event venues and surrounding areas. Checkpoints have been set up in Srinagar and other district headquarters, particularly at major entry points, with random vehicle checks and frisking to prevent the movement of subversive elements.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi today said that multi-tier security arrangements were in place to ensure peaceful Independence Day celebrations.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with paramilitary forces, have been deployed in strength to ensure foolproof security for the August 15 celebrations.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Birdi said rehearsal dill preparations are currently

underway for the I Day function.

" We have also put in multi-tier security to ensure smooth and peaceful Independence Day,' he said.

Three days ago IGP, Kashmir had chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the overall security scenario and arrangements regarding the celebration of Independence Day.

IGP Kashmir had instructed the officers during the meeting to strengthen security checkpoints, particularly during night hours, at vulnerable locations and along the city's entry and exit routes. He also emphasized the need for strict vigilance against elements that pose a threat to peace and security.

20 Quintals Of

restaurants and food outlets across the district.

They said the confiscated items were destroyed on the spot to prevent them from reaching the market.

Authorities warned of strict legal action against repeat offenders, as part of an ongoing campaign to ensure hygienic and safe food for the public.

Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Mohammad Rafiq Mir while speaking to reporters reiterated their commitment to safeguarding public health, vowing that the ongoing inspection drives will continue with full intensity.

Officials warned that any individual or establishment found violating food safety norms will face strict legal action, including prosecution and closure of business, stressing that no leniency will be shown to repeat offenders.

Notably, over the past fortnight, Food Safety Department teams, often working with local police and revenue officials, have been conducting surprise inspections at meat shops, restaurants and cold storages throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

The drives have been triggered by repeated reports of rotten meat, spoiled poultry and unhygienic food products being sold to the public

LS Passes New

penalty on delayed filings, was passed as the opposition parties continued to disrupt proceedings over allegations of irregularities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who had on August 8 withdrawn the Income Tax Bill, 2025 she had introduced in February, on Monday introduced an updated version incorporating recommendations made by a Parliamentary panel that scrutinised the legislation. Amid slogan shouting by the opposition, the bill was put to vote and passed by voice vote.

The Bill will now go to the Rajya Sabha for approval and thereafter to the President for assent. It will become law once the Presidential assent is provided.

The new bill reduces the size and complexity of the current Income Tax Act, drastically cutting the number of effective sections and chapters and nearly halving the word count.

"Almost all of the recommendations of the Select Committee have been accepted by the Government. In addition, suggestions have been received from stakeholders about changes that would convey the proposed legal meaning more accurately," said the statement of Objects and Reasons of the Income Tax (No.2) Bill.

It does away with the confusing concepts of assessment year and previous year, replacing them with easier to understand 'tax year'.

According to the revised Bill, individuals will be allowed to claim TDS refund even if their return of income is filed beyond the statutory timeline provided for filing of the original income-tax return.

Thus, the Finance Ministry has incorporated the provision of the existing Income Tax Act, 1961.

The Income Tax (No.2) Bill provides for 'nil' TCS on Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) remittances for education purposes financed by any financial institutions.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said deductions in respect of certain inter-corporate dividends for companies opting for concessional rate of taxes have been re-introduced in line with the provisions of the existing Income-tax Act, 1961

The provisions relating to the carry forward and set-off of losses have been appropriately amended and the reference to the beneficial owner has been omitted to align with Section 79 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

"By enabling refunds for belated returns and harmonising definitions of Micro and Small enterprise with allied statutes, the Bill reflects a balanced, pragmatic, and taxpayer-oriented approach," Jhunjhunwala said.

While the Bill has welcome changes for enhancing clarity and reducing litigations, there seems to be no significant changes made to contentious provisions surrounding search and

seizure in the virtual digital space.

The present act provides authorised officers to conduct search and seize assets and books of accounts of individuals who may be suspected to have any undisclosed income or documents in order to evade paying tax. This allowed the authority to break the lock on any door, box, or locker if they couldn't find their keys or had cause to believe that any books of accounts or undeclared valuables were being stored there.

In the bill introduced in February, Clause 247 allows tax officers to bypass passwords and access digital platforms like emails and social media during searches if taxpayers refuse cooperation.

It stipulates that an authorised officer, in consequence of information in his possession, has reason to believe, can "break open the lock of any door, box, locker, safe, almirah, or other receptacle for exercising the powers conferred by clause to enter and search any building, place, etc., where the keys thereof or the access to such building, place, etc., is not available, or gain access by overriding the access code to any said computer system, or virtual digital space, where the access code thereof is not available".

This provision had sparked concerns around privacy.

The updated bill states that tax authorities can "break open the lock of any door, box, locker, safe, almirah, or other receptacle or override the access code to any computer system ... where the keys thereof are, or the access to such building, place, etc., or the access code to such computer system ... is not available".

While the 'digital space' is missing from the clause, it is included in the definition of computer systems.

Tax experts believe that starting April 1, 2026, when the new income tax law comes into force, income tax officials could get the authority to access individuals' digital accounts, such as emails, social media, bank accounts, trading platforms, and online investments, if they suspect tax evasion.

Centre Defends

to a plea of Congress leader Ravinder Sharma challenging the constitutional validity of sections 15, 15-A and 15-B of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which made provisions for the Lieutenant Governor to nominate five members of the legislative assembly over and above the sanctioned strength.

The sections were enacted to ensure that diverse voices, including those from under-represented communities, could contribute to the legislative process, the MHA said.

"The enactment of the sections (granting power to the LG) was necessitated to ensure adequate representation and inclusivity in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," the Centre said.

Women are not adequately represented in the legislative assembly, it said.

Hence, the LG was empowered to nominate members to address the need for representation of certain communities or groups that may not have adequate electoral representation.

As per the Union government, the Lieutenant Governor has the powers to exercise the duty in his discretion, as a statutory functionary without aid and advice and not as an extension of the government.

The impugned sections serve a critical legislative function by ensuring representation for historically displaced communities and under-represented persons within the governance structure of the Union territory, it added.

The legislative intent behind these provisions is well-founded in law and equity, ensuring that the voices of these displaced communities are neither ignored nor marginalised in the democratic process, the MHA said.

As per the affidavit, the Lieutenant Governor of J&K holds executive authority, like the governance model of New Delhi and Puducherry.

The affidavit of Ipsita Paul, Under Secretary, Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, sought dismissal of the plea with exemplary cost, terming it as "politically motivated".

It said J&K is governed by the Constitution of India and the laws enacted by the Parliament of India.

"J&K does not retain any special status and all laws made by the Parliament of India shall be applicable to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir," the affidavit added.

It said that the petition has become "academic" as the scenario contemplated did not arise.

Under these sections, the LG was granted power to nominate three members (two from the Kashmiri migrants, one of whom must be a woman and one from the persons displaced from the illegally occupied PoK) to the assembly.

The MHA, in its affidavit, said it was necessary to have two members from the community of Kashmiri migrants as multiple regions of the area have remained disturbed for decades,

leading to extensive displacement of civilians.

"The inability of such displaced individuals to return to their place of origin due to persistent disturbances necessitates an alternative mechanism to ensure their representation in governance," the affidavit said.

The objective was to ensure that their voice is heard in the legislative process to safeguard their rights and interests, it added.

The MHA said there is no representative to the assembly from among the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and hence this provision was also necessary.

Sharma, a former member of the legislative council and chief spokesperson of J&K Congress, in his petition, said the sections have the potential of converting the minority government into a majority and vice versa.

The petition sought a direction to the Lt Governor not to make the nominations to the J&K Legislative Assembly, as it was likely to have the propensity to turn a minority into a majority government.

The MHA, in its affidavit, said the petitioner's anxiety "remains an anxiety" as the situation did not arise in the 2024 assembly elections and said the plea was filed prematurely.

In a post on X, the PDP president reacting to the centre's affidavit said, "GOIs (government of India's) decision to nominate 5 MLAs in J&K after holding elections is a blatant subversion of democratic principles.

"Nowhere else in the country does the Centre handpick legislators to override the public mandate. In India's only Muslim-majority region, long marred by conflict, this move feels less like governance and more like control, " she said.

Mufti said following the "illegal bifurcation" of the erstwhile state, skewed delimitation and discriminatory seat reservations, this nomination is yet another body blow to the idea of democracy in J&K.

"Representation must be earned through the people's vote, not granted by central decree," she said. "This cannot be allowed to become the norm. Hope Omar Abdullah government rises to the occasion by challenging this undemocratic precedent because silence now would be complicity later."

ECI Moves To

Peoples Conference Party, and Socialist Democratic Party—after serving them show-cause notices in June. The Commission's action was prompted by findings that these parties neither contested elections in the last six years nor existed at their registered addresses.

Air India to Suspend

necessitates a prolonged unavailability of multiple aircraft at any given time until at least end of 2026", Air India said in a statement.

"That, coupled with the continued closure of airspace over Pakistan, impacts the airline's long-haul operations, leading to longer flight routings and increased operational complexity," Air India said.

Following the closure of the Pakistan airspace, Air India's Delhi-Washington flights have a stopover at Vienna and the total flight duration, including the stopover time, is around 19 hours. On the return leg, there is no stop enroute and the flight duration is about 15 hours.

The airline said passengers having bookings to or from Washington D.C. beyond September 1 will be contacted and offered alternative travel arrangements, including rebooking on other flights or full refunds, as per their individual preferences.

At present, apart from Washington, the airline operates non-flights to six destinations in North America — New York, Newark (EWR), Chicago, San Francisco (U.S.), Toronto and Vancouver (Canada).

Currently, Air India has a fleet of around 190 narrow-body and wide-body aircraft.

The retrofit of the legacy 26 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner planes is expected to be completed by July 2027.

"Air India customers will continue to have the options of one-stop flights to Washington D.C. via four U.S. gateways — New York (JFK), Newark (EWR), Chicago, and San Francisco — with the airline's interline partners, Alaska Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta Air Lines, allowing customers to travel on a single itinerary with their baggage checked through to the final destination," the statement said.

In the wake of the fatal crash of Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane enroute to London Gatwick from Ahmedabad on June 12, the airline, which has embarked on an ambitious five-year transformation plan, has made changes to its network, including withdrawal of flights on five overseas routes.

The airline, on Sunday, said that starting in early 2027, it will additionally retrofit 13 of its legacy Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, aiming for completion by October 2028, with the timeline having shifted due to supply chain delays.

Asia Cup: Bumrah Likely To Play, Axar-Gill In Vice-Captaincy Tussle

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Shubman Gill is the flavour of the season after his stupendous show in the recent Test series against England but he will face a contender in Axar Patel for vice-captaincy in the Indian squad for the Asia Cup T20 scheduled in the UAE next month.

Also, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is set to play in the tournament and might be rested for the opening Test against the West Indies in early October.

The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee is likely to select the squad for the Asia Cup on August 19 or 20 depending on when the Centre of Excellence's (CoE) Sports Science team sends the medical bulletin of all players, including that of skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who has already started batting at the nets in Bengaluru.

There will be some tricky selection calls but the Indian selectors would certainly like to maintain continuity which has given them a lot of success from the time Suryakumar took over



as T20 captain.

While Axar was the designated vice-captain during India's last series against England at home, Gill was the deputy when Suryakumar was first appointed full-time skipper of the T20 squad in Sri Lanka last year.

It is understood that the selection committee won't be too keen to tinker with the set-up as Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar, Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya form a solid top five.

"Abhishek Sharma is world's No. 1 T20 batter in last ICC rank-

ings. Sanju Samson has been fantastic last season with both bat and gloves. So it will certainly be a tough call but Shubman in current form (although in Tests) can't be ignored. He had a good IPL also. Problem for selectors is, there are too many performers at the top of the order," a BCCI

source privy to developments told PTL.

With so many players in top-order, it would be very difficult to find a slot for Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan.

Even KL Rahul, who is now the first choice keeper in ODIs, is unlikely to be considered as he doesn't bat in the middle-order.

SECOND KEEPER'S SLOT

While Samson is all but certain to be the first keeper, the choice for the second keeper's slot will be between Jitesh Sharma and Dhruv Jurel. While Jurel was a part of the last T20 series, Jitesh had been impressive for RCB during their IPL winning campaign. He has also revelled in the role of a finisher.

Likely contenders: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana/Prasidh Krishna, Hardik Pandya, Jitesh Sharma/Dhruv Jurel.

JKSC Announces Trials For J&K Women's Football Team

J&K Sports Council on Monday said it will conduct open selection trials for raising J&K Football Team (Women) on August 13 and 14 at 3:00 PM onward at Synthetic Turf Football Field TRC Srinagar and Mini Stadium Parade Ground Jammu.

The trials will be held under the supervision of Selection Committee members constituted by the council. The selected Women Team will undergo coaching camp prior to their participation in 30th Senior Women's National Football Championship scheduled to be held from September 8 in Amritsar, Punjab.

Per a notification released by the JKSC, interested players can contact the following Coaches/Mentors:

1. Javed Ahmad Sofi, Football Coach, (Nodal Officer) J&K Sports Council (Kashmir Division) 7006037351.
2. Neetika Thapa and Rameez Malik, KIC Mentor, (Jammu Division) 7006810805, 7889424922. (Observer News Service)

National Games Gold Winner Among Athletes Handed Bans For Doping

National Games discus throw gold medalist Gagandeep Singh was among a slew of athletes across sports who were handed three-year ban by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) instead of four after they accepted their offence within 20 days of being charged.

Representing Services, Singh had won gold in men's discus with a best throw of 55.01m at the Uttarakhand National Games on February 12. He later tested positive for testosterone metabolites and was handed provisional suspension.

Two other track and athletes, Sachin Kumar and Jainu Kumar also made use of the same provisions to get one year reduction in their ban periods. Sachin's three-year ban period has begun from February 10 while the corresponding date for Jainu is February 20.

Other sportspersons who were handed three-year ban under the case resolution agreement were judokas Monika Choudhary (metandienone) and Nandani Vats (metandienone), para powerlifters Umeshpal Singh (stanazolol) and Samuel Vanlaltanpuia (metandienone), weightlifter Kavinder (metandienone), kabaddi player Shubham Kumar (norandrosterone), wrestler Mugali Sharma (stanazolol, clenbuterol), wushu players Aman (norandrosterone, stanozolol) and Rahul Tomar (drostanolone, mephentermine) and one minor wrestler. (PTI)

Crystal Palace Loses Appeal Against Demotion By UEFA

Crystal Palace lost its appeal at sport's highest court on Monday against demotion to the third-tier Conference League because of breaching UEFA rules on club ownership with American investor John Textor.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judges dismissed the English cup winner's request to stay in the more lucrative second-tier Europa League in a case that also involved Premier League rival Nottingham Forest and French club Lyon.

Forest and Lyon are confirmed taking entries directly into the Europa League in September and Palace must start in the Conference League qualifying playoffs round next week.

UEFA demoted Palace because Textor had a 43% ownership stake last season while also owning Lyon. Palace missed a March deadline set by UEFA to solve the potential issue.

CAS said its judges decided Textor "was a board member with decisive influence over both clubs at the time of UEFA's assessment date." (AP)

LaLiga Close To Holding Villarreal v Barcelona In US



The Spanish league is closer to playing a regular-season game in the United States.

The Spanish soccer federation on Monday approved a request for the match between Villarreal and Barcelona to be played in Miami on Dec. 20.

The federation will now seek approval from soccer governing bodies UEFA and FIFA.

The 17th-round match in La Liga would be played at the Hard Rock Stadium.

The league first tried to stage a match in the U.S. in 2018, but the idea was dismissed after criticism from some players, fans and clubs. Its subsequent attempts to play there also failed.

Staging a match abroad has been part of the league's goal of promoting soccer and its brand in other countries.

The league is in a long-term partnership with sports and entertainment group Relevant Sports, which is part of Stephen Ross' portfolio of companies including Hard Rock Stadium, the Miami Dolphins, the Formula One's Miami Grand Prix and the Miami Open tennis tournament. (AP)

District Budgam Carrom C'ship 2025-26 Begins At DPS

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The District Budgam Carrom Championship 2025-26 kicked off on Monday at Delhi Public School Sheikh Pora, with participation from players across different categories. The event is organised by the District Budgam Carrom Association, under the aegis of the J&K Carrom Association, and as part of the "My Youth My Pride" initiative of the J&K Sports Council.

The championship was formally inaugurated by Mudasir Khan, General Secretary, J&K Carrom Association, who declared the tournament open. Bilal Ahmad, HoD Sports, DPS Budgam, was present on the occasion along with other members of the Associations. They collectively extended their best wishes to the participants, encouraging them to showcase their skills and sportsmanship.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the association members highlighted the importance of promoting indoor sports like carrom for the holistic development of youth. They also acknowledged the continued support of the J&K Sports Council, which has been instrumental in organis-



ing such events across the region.

RESULTS:

Zaib defeated Syed Aisha
Qariha defeated Fatima
Saffa defeated Sabba
M. Rafil defeated Ayan
Basit defeated Suhail
Affan defeated Riyan
Abdul Basit defeated Ubaid
Suhail defeated Muneer Altaf

DYSS Organises Motorcycle Rallies



Younis Paray

BUDGAM: To express spirit of patriotism ahead of the 79th Independence Day celebrations, the Department of Youth Services and Sports organised motorcycle rallies across districts.

In Budgam, District Administration in collaboration with DYSS organised a Motorcycle tricolor rally. It was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat in the presence of District Youth Services and Sports Officer

Ghulam Hassan Lone, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Additional Superintendent of Police Budgam and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, in Anantnag, as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and Independence Day celebrations, the District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag, in collaboration with the District Administration and Police Department, organised a vibrant Tiranga Bike Rally. The rally was flagged off from Dak Bungalow Khanabal by District Youth Services and

Sports Officer Anantnag, Raja Yaqoob, alongside SHO Sadder Police Station Anantnag, Majid Khan, and District Activity Incharge, Mohammad Abbas Dar. Field officials of the YSS Department actively participated, carrying the Tricolour with pride.

The rally route covered prominent locations including Khanabal Chowk, Nai Basti, Mehdi Kadal, Lal Chowk, Janglaat Mandi Chowk, and Ashajipora, before culminating at Municipal View Park, Bypass Road Anantnag.

Lok Sabha Passes Sports Bill

Minister Calls it Biggest Reform Since Independence

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The long-awaited National Sports Governance Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha here on Monday with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya describing it as the "single biggest reform in Indian sports since independence" amid opposition protests over revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill was also passed when the Lok Sabha re-assembled at 2 pm after an early adjournment due to opposition protests.

"It is the single biggest reform

in sports since independence. This Bill will ensure accountability, ensure justice, best governance in sports federations," Mandaviya said amid sloganeering by opposition members.

"It will have massive significance in India's sports ecosystem. It is unfortunate that such an important bill and reform does not have the opposition's participation," he added.

The opposition leaders were not present in the house when the Bills were introduced for consideration and passage as most of them were detained while marching towards the

Election Commission headquarters against the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and alleged voter data fudging.

But after two MPs participated in the consideration debate, speaking in the Bill's support, the opposition members returned to the House and started raising slogans.

Amid the din, the Bills were passed by a voice vote following which the House was adjourned till 4 pm.

Earlier, Chairman of the parliamentary committee on sports, Digvijaya Singh, requested Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer

the National Sports Governance Bill to the panel. He felt that the Bill should be examined and discussed before it is taken up by Parliament.

Mandaviya said the two Bills were key reforms aimed at building a "transparent, accountable and world-class sports ecosystem" in India as the country aims to bid for the 2036 Olympics.

"Efforts have been made since 1975 and in 1985, we had the first draft. But sports was also politicised for personal gains. Some ministers made efforts to bring this bill but could not move forward.

"In 2011, we had a National Sports Code. Another effort was made to turn it into a bill. It reached the cabinet, there was a discussion as well but the bill was deferred after that. It did not reach the Parliament," the minister stated while presenting a timeline of the Bill's journey.

"The National Sports Governance Bill is a force of change... Despite being such a large country, our performance at the Olympic Games and on the international stage has not been satisfactory and this Bill aims to build India's sports capacity," he added.

Fans & Family Honour 'Palestinian Pele' Killed In Gaza

Reuters

GAZA CITY: The "Pele" of Palestinian soccer hoped to keep scoring goals until he was 50. An Israeli tank shell dashed that dream a decade early, his family said, killing Suleiman al-Obeid as he queued in southern Gaza this week to collect food.

Obeid's widow Doaa al-Obeid now clutches the blue-and-white number 10 shorts he wore for his Gaza club, Al-Shati, one of the only mementos she has of her late husband, as she and her five children mourn the revered 41-year-old striker.

"This is the most precious thing left behind by him," she said.

The family have few other be-

longings of Obeid, whose home was destroyed in a bombardment earlier this year. They now live in a tent among the ruins of a neighbourhood of Gaza City.

Obeid, likened by fans to Brazilian great Pele for his skills and goalscoring, hit headlines this week after Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah criticized a tribute to Obeid by Europe's governing body UEFA that did not mention the cause of death.

"Can you tell us how he died, where, and why?" wrote Salah.

The Palestinian Football Association said Obeid was killed in an attack by the Israeli military in southern Gaza while waiting to collect aid at a distribution point.

His family said it was a tank



shell that killed him.

Responding to Salah's post on X, an Israeli military spokesperson Nadav Shoshani said: "Hey

Mohamed, After an initial review, we found no records of any incidents involving Suleiman al-Obeid. In order to take a closer look, we need more details."

Obeid, who had played for the Palestinian national team, was still playing for his club in Gaza when the war between Israel and Hamas began in October 2023.

Hamas attacked Israeli towns and villages killing more than 1,200 people. Israel in response has laid waste to the Gaza Strip, a coastal enclave housing more than 2 million people, and killed some 61,000 Palestinians.

Most have been killed by airstrikes, artillery and gunfire, but a growing number are starving to death.

'THIS PLAYER WAS A GAZELLE'

Obeid kept playing throughout the hardship, his widow Doaa said.

"He used to go training every day and never stopped, not a single day. Even during the crisis of war, in the midst of rockets, shell-ing and mass killing, he would go play. He used to gather his friends and loved ones and go play with them," she said.

The Palestinian Football Association says hundreds of athletes and sports officials are among those killed by Israel's assault, with most sports facilities now destroyed.

Palestinian soccer fans say they will focus not on Obeid's violent death but his legacy.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Stress-free Investments

Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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

Registered Office: Sharekhan Limited, The Ruby, 18th Floor; 29 Senapati Ba pat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai 400 028, Maharashtra, India. Tel: 022-67502000. Fax No.: 022-24327343. Correspondence Address: 10th Floor, Gigaplex Bldg. No. 9, Raheja Mindspace, Airoli Knowledge Park Rd, MSEB Staff Colony, TTC Industrial Area, Airoli, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra 400708, India. Tel: 022 -61169000/ 61150000; Fax no. 61169699. SEBI Regn. Nos.: BSE / NSE - CASH/ F&O /CD/ MCX -Commodity INZ000171337; DP: NSDL/CDSL-IN-DP-365-2018; CIN: U99999MH1995PLC087498; Sharekhan Ltd. (AMFI-registered Mutual Fund Distributor) Mutual Fund: ARN 20669 (date of initial registration: 03/07/2004, and valid till 02/07/2026); IRDAI Registered Corporate Agent (Composite) License No. CA0950, valid till June 13, 2027. PMS: INP000005786; Research Analyst: INH000006183; MCX Member Id -56125. For any complaints email at igc@sharekhan.com. Compliance Officer: Mr. Joby John Meledan; email id: complianceofficer@sharekhan.com; Tel: 022-62263303. Please refer the Risk Disclosure Document issued by SEBI and go through the Rights and Obligations and Do's and Don'ts issued by Stock Exchanges and Depositories before trading on the Stock Exchanges. For commodities derivatives, please note that Commodities Derivatives are highly leveraged instruments. PMS is not covered in Commodity Derivative Segment by Share khan Limited. Before investing in the asset class consider your investment objectives, level of experience and risk appetite carefully. Mutual Fund investment are subject to market risk. Read all the scheme related documents carefully before investing. Brokerage will not exceed SEBI prescribed limit. Mutual Funds are not Exchange traded products and all disputes with respect to the distribution activity would not have access to Exchange investor redressal forum or Arbitration Mechanism. The figures shown above are as of 30th November 2024. Such representations are not indicative of future results. For more details visit www.sharekhan.com. (AP Regn. Nos.: BSE-0107480196720; NSE-206970951)