

Kashmir's Healers Confront A Generation In Grief

At a Srinagar conference, doctors and citizens faced the harsh rise of suicide, addiction, and trauma among Kashmiri youth, and the fragile resilience that still flickers in their lives.

Syed Muhammad Barham

Srinagar: When psychiatrist Muzammil Mangool walked to the front of a Srinagar auditorium on August 23, the afternoon light caught the silver in his hair.

For three decades, he has silently witnessed what violence does to the human mind in Kashmir. He is not a man of words, but his words carry weight. That August afternoon, he spoke not like a lecturer,

but like someone who has spent years listening to patients unfold their pain, piece by piece.

The hall was filled with doctors, teachers, journalists, and students, attending a program on

Handling Emerging Mental Health Issues in Kashmir: Adolescents and Youth. The mood was somber. Everyone knew they were meeting in a valley already braving the brutal.

Then came the numbers.

Moderator Prof. Abdul Majid, a former Jammu & Kashmir State Minister, said that in the last five years, more than 100 people had died from a psychiatric disorder. Statistics have risen steadily since then, from half a case (More on Pg 8)

J&K Statehood: SC Refuses Early Hearing

Says Case Already Listed On Oct 10

ND Web Desk

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to advance the date of hearing on a plea seeking the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying the matter is already listed on October 10.

On August 14, a bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gawa had sought within eight weeks the Centre's response on a separate plea seeking restoration of statehood to the union territory.

"I am seeking early listing of a contempt petition relating to abrogation of Article 370. Statehood was to be granted to Jammu and Kashmir," a lawyer told the bench also comprising Justice NV Anand.

Appeared already on October 30, the 'CJ said on Monday was refusing to advance the date of hearing.

"We are at the end of a constitutional bench hearing. (the bench is hearing a presidential reference on Jammu and Kashmir for governors and the president)," Justice Gaur said.

While seeking the Centre's response, the bench had earlier said, "You also have to take into consideration the ground reality, you cannot ignore what has happened in Jammu & K."



said this when a counsel had sought an early hearing.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the revocation of Article 370, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, even as it ordered that assembly elections be held in the union territory by September 24 and its statehood be restored "at the earliest".

In December 2023 verdict, the apex court held that Article 370, which was incorporated in the Indian Constitution in 1949 to grant special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was a temporary provision.

Justice Gaur said.

Just prior, a separate plea was filed in the top court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of J&K. (More on Pg 8)

HC Takes Note Of Rotten Meat PIL, Seeks Govt Reply

Petitioner Flags Years Of Rotten Meat 'Smuggling' In Kashmir

MA Ahmad

Srinagar: The practice of "smuggling" rotten, diseased, and unhygienic poultry and meat products into Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Kashmir Valley, has been revealed by many years' petitioners of Public Interest Litigation said in a supplementary affidavit filed before the High Court of J&K and Lakshadweep.

While taking the supplementary affidavit on record, a bench of Chief Justice Awan Pali and Justice Jignesh Mehta also appointed Senior Advocate Jignesh Lalit Gaur as Amicus Curiae in the PIL, observing that the matter was serious. The bench also granted authorities time to the response to the PIL filed by a practicing lawyer.

Mr. Lalit, last week and filed for further continuation on September 5.

In the supplementary affidavit, the petitioner through advocate Shaikat Naze, has referred to an order by the Government of India (GOI) on 15 April 2017 by the District Commissioner Kashmir regarding the clandestine trade of rotten poultry.

At the venue of the order, he said, a complete ban was imposed on the import of such

confiscated poultry into the valley. The concerned department of the Government of India (GOI) and Public Distribution (APD) Department, the Department of Commercial Taxes, the Department of Animal Husbandry and the Department of Legal

affairs were directed to take the immediate steps to check fish bones at the entry points into the valley and the

quintals of fishbone along the fish of the festival season. Smith Street, Concession, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K said inspection on January.

"Everyday, a big load was carried out in Jammu. Today, around 100 kg of synthetic bones were found in the total seized products to 120 kg of meat, 21 quintals of cheese, and 440 quintals of meat. (More on Pg 8)

FDA To Publish Violators' List Soon

MA Ahmad

Srinagar: The people available to be held accountable and face public scrutiny for selling rotten and off-brand products the market would list to be made public within the next few days. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has

intended rules in Jammu and Kashmir, seizing 12,000 kg of meat, 21 quintals of cheese, and 440

quintals of fishbone along the fish of the festival season. Smith Street, Concession, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K said inspection on January.

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Kashmir Parts On Flood Watch After Rain Forecast

Heavy Rains Wreak Havoc In Jammu Schools Closed, Bridges Blocked

Dubai: Heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir, with the possibility of heavy rain in the next 48 hours in parts of the state, according to the weather forecasters said. (More on Pg 8)

Measures as weather experts predicted moderate to heavy rainfall over the next 48 hours in parts of the state, according to the weather forecasters said. (More on Pg 8)

JDKMA Issues Advisory

J&K: Jammu and Kashmir Development Management Authority (JDKMA) on Monday issued an order, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts of J&K over the next 48 hours, with authorities cautioning people. (More on Pg 8)

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Embrace Change, Courage: LG Urges Youth

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, on Monday urged the youth to embrace change with a positive mindset and show courage in pursuit of greater achievements, while addressing the commemoration of Babul Ganga Bhawan Ambedkar Bihar University in Manipal.

At his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the management of Babul Ganga Bhawan Ambedkar Bihar University in Manipal.

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Operation Sindoor Forces Targeted Terror By Deeds, Not Faith: DM

Press Trust Of India

Jodhpur: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asserted that Indian forces gave "zero tolerance" to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor and "our soldiers did not kill terrorised because of their deeds."

Addressing an event here, he also lauded the people of border areas for supporting the Indian forces and the brave forces during the military operation to avenge the Pulwama terror attack.

The Defence Minister said that the Indian forces, he called the service check and asked if they were ready for the operation.

"The check of all (have) arrived in the next two days, promoting the government to respond. (More on Pg 8)

Rising Drug Abuse Govt To Mandate CCTVs In Schools, Colleges

ND Web Desk

Srinagar: Amid serious concerns over the rampant use of drug abuse among the youth, Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to mandate CCTVs in schools and around educational institutions would be made mandatory.

She also underlined the importance of addressing the socio-behavioural shortcomings of schools and colleges for early detection and timely correction.



The target that was decided on Monday from all border regions, as planned, During Operation Sindoor our forces received full support from all border regions.

India is a country that not only respects the human rights of its citizens as members but also respects the people across the world as a part of its family.

"India does not discriminate based on caste or religion. However, terrorists killing people after. (More on Pg 8)

Polls Held Due To SC, Hope Same For Statehood: CM

Dismisses PDP's Protest Over Kashmir Prisoners As 'Just for a Show'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reiterated already on the Supreme Court will set a deadline on the restoration of statehood to the Union territory after it hears the case in October.

The apex court on Monday refused to advance the date of hearing. (More on Pg 8)

THE DECISIONS ON THE SECURITY IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR ARE TAKEN IN DELHI, NOT IN THE KASHMIRI STATE. It is better that the should go to Delhi, meet the Home Minister and raise this issue with him the way we did.

Parliamentary Panel On Home Affairs Visiting Kashmir

Div Com Anshul Garg Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, led by Minister of State for Home Affairs, is visiting Kashmir to review the situation in the state and to meet the officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The committee is headed by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Anshul Garg.

Commissioner Kashmir: The committee is being accompanied by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Baramulla, Baniptara and Ganderbal, along with senior officials from Srinagar District Authority, Jammu Development Department, Health Department, Srinagar and Ganderbal, along with representatives from Planning Department & Monitoring, FISMA, ICDS, Hospitality, PSC, PSC, Tourism, Information, Education, Police,

CRPF and other security agencies. Emphasizing on meticulous planning and coordination, Mr. Garg directed officers to ensure foolproof security and hassle-free arrangements during the visit of the committee.

The Div Com also instructed the Directorate of Information and Statistics to. (More on Pg 8)

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Sagar Inaugurates ENT Theatre At Gousia Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: NC leader and MLA Khayyar Ali Mohammad Sagar inaugurated the newly established ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) Theatre at Government Gousia Hospital, Srinagar. The inauguration marks a pivotal milestone in its endeavour accessible and affordable medical services for the residents of Khayyar and adjoining areas.

The new ENT Theatre is expected to benefit underprivileged and economically weaker patients who, until now, were compelled to travel to super-specialty hospitals for ENT-related services due to the lack of adequate infrastructure at the local level.

According to KNS, following the inauguration ceremony, Sagar toured the facility, inspected, with patients and medical staff, and reviewed ongoing operations at the hospital. During his address, he committed to advance

local healthcare and acknowledged a financial grant of 13 lakhs from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to further strengthen services at Government Gousia Hospital. "The launch of this ENT Theatre is a step forward in bringing essential healthcare closer to the people," Sagar said. "We are determined to improve medical infrastructure at the grassroots and ensure no one is denied treatment due to lack of resources."

This initiative is part of a broader effort to upgrade healthcare delivery systems in the constituency. The new facility is expected to receive patient load on tertiary care hospitals and ensure timely medical interventions for ENT ailments.

The hospital administration and local residents extended their appreciation to the Hon'ble MLA for his continuous efforts in improving infrastructure with services in the region.



21,000 Stray Dogs To Be Sterilized In Srinagar

Agencies

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has launched an ambitious sterilization and vaccination campaign to control the rising population of stray dogs in the summer capital.

Under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, more than 11,000 stray dogs will be sterilized in the next 18 months. Municipal Veterinary Officer (MVO) of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Dr. Faiz, confirmed on Monday.

Speaking to survey agency Kashmir Indipendent News Service (KINS), Dr. Faiz said the programme, which began on August 14, 2020, is being carried out in a scientific and humane manner.

"We have set a target of sterilizing 1,500 dogs per month, which comes to around 40 dogs per day. The programme will continue for 18 months and will cover all its animals under the programme," he explained. He said that the dogs are being impounded strictly under the Animal Birth Control Rules 2020 and in line with the guidelines issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

"The SMC has hired a professional agency for this task and it is binding on them to complete the process in time. The dogs are sterilized, administered anti-rabies vaccines, and then released back at the same location from where they are picked up," Faiz said.

Collating the initiative a humane population control method, he added, "This is not just about numbers. It is about ensuring public safety while treating animals in a scientific and compassionate way."

Disposing plastic bags, Dr. Faiz categorically stated that no rabies cases have been found in Srinagar's stray dogs.

"As per municipal records, none of the dogs across the 10 wards have been infected with rabies. If rabies is ever detected in human, it is confirmed and reported through medical authorities," he clarified. According to Dr. Faiz, the SMC's scientific dog survey, conducted on the Pateran-Lalpora model, estimated Srinagar's stray dog population at around 61,000, while he said that current record shows that annual reports suggest around 30,000 dogs in the city.

However, he said that the 2020 survey is not relevant at present.

He explained that most dog bite cases occur during natural circumstances. "Bites usually happen when male dogs fight over females during mating season, or when mother dogs feed their puppies and are under threat," he said.

Dr. Faiz admitted that the sterilization process faced resistance from locals in areas like Batamooli. "Recently, when our teams were killing dogs, people assumed we were inflicting harm and selling the meat because of the recent meat scandal. This is totally false and baseless. We even had to seek police help to calm the situation," he revealed.

To address these concerns, SMC has put in place a dedicated mobile application to monitor sterilization operations in real time. "Every dog is digitally tagged to ensure transparency and accountability. There is a room for misperception," Faiz assured. He also clarified that a state-of-the-art sterilization facility at Dar-bahman is undergoing completion. "We will be significantly reduced our capacity, allowing us to sterilize more dogs daily," he said. (KINS)

Mission YUVA

DC Hands-Over Sanction Letters To Entrepreneurs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a continued effort to promote youth entrepreneurship and to create livelihood opportunities for aspirants of the district, the Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akhlesh Lalbhai on Monday handed over sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs of the district under Mission YUVA to help them establish their business.

In this connection, the 3rd Raza Yara was organized at the meeting hall of the DC Office Complex which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Jigar Akhlesh Lalbhai, Chief Planning Officer, Fajal Ahmad Durr, General Manager J&R Bank, Pwer Meenul Ahmad Chait, LDM (Bhalla), Nidhar Zaid, heads of various J&R Bank units, officials and other concerned, alongside the District Development Commissioner Srinagar.

On the occasion, over 200 fresh sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA initiative were distributed for whom proposals had been approved after detailed evaluation by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC). These 200 approvals follow the distribution of sanction letters under Mission YUVA to 400, as per the guidelines of the initiative. DC lauded the efforts of all the stakeholders and banks who worked hard to ensure the timely release of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region.

DC Inspects Work Progress On Under-Construction Hostel

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akhlesh Lalbhai on Monday inspected the progress of the under-construction hostel for the wards of the DC Srinagar. He was accompanied by the District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Jigar Akhlesh Lalbhai, Chief Planning Officer, Fajal Ahmad Durr, General Manager J&R Bank, Pwer Meenul Ahmad Chait, LDM (Bhalla), Nidhar Zaid, heads of various J&R Bank units, officials and other concerned, alongside the District Development Commissioner Srinagar.

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OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

"I did wash my hand 10 times. I did clean it enough. I wash it again! It is clean now!"

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING and CHEERING

UNSEEN PAIN BUT

anxiety myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMIR Kashmiri American Society of Healthcare Medical Education & Research

In collaboration with: HCVI, Hindu Peace Volunteers Trust

is initiating a **Free 8-Week Group Therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of consulting clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist Dr. L.S.K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

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Happy & Healthy mind. HCVI's motto. Also, Hindu Peace Volunteers Trust, Srinagar.

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Burglars Decamp With Copper In Nowshera

Agencies

Srinagar: Burglars broke into a residential house in Nowshera, near Nowshera, on the 25th night of August at 11 PM and decamped with copper wire worth Rs. 10,000.

Nowshera: A case was filed in connection with the incident and initial investigations point to the involvement of multiple persons. CCTV footage from the locality has captured the identity of the suspects. Officials confirmed. (KNS)





TRAFFIC POLICE: 199-989795, 1999-26686

PCO: 199-143302, 245988

PCO: 199-266223

FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES:

199-143302, 245988

199-266223

CAP: 199-1001701

SAC: 199-1001701

Ambulance Helpline: 199-1001701

AIRPORTS

Srinagar: 199-266223

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Legal Counsel: Tanadhu Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2523227 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2523227
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Rayees Wathori

The Dying Art of laughter in Kashmir

Kashmir's village theatre once echoed with satire and song. Now its future hangs by a thread.

KO VIEW

Flood Risks Rising

The strange alert now in force across Jammu and Kashmir is more than a weather warning. It is a stark reminder that the Valley remains dangerously exposed to floods, and that very little has changed since the disaster of 2014.

Heavy rains over the past 48 hours have caused untold damage in mountain areas, damaged roads and bridges on the Jammu-Pothohar highway, and triggered landslides in Kashmir, Ramban and Baramulla. The India Meteorological Department has forecast more to intense rainfall till August 27, warning of cloudbursts and flash floods. In a state still haunted by its past deluge, the morning signs are not good. A recent study published in *Mantana*, the IMD's own journal, recorded 2,064 extreme weather events in Jammu and Kashmir between 2010 and 2022. These have killed more than 50 people in just over a decade. Scientists say that climate change is raising the atmosphere's moisture-holding capacity by up to 7 per cent, at high altitudes, fueling and, thus, violent downpours. Kashmir's recent cloudburst, which ended over 60 lives, is only the latest tragedy.

Yet, despite repeated close calls, the Valley's flood prevention measures remain woefully inadequate. A recent RTI reply by the Jammu and Flood Control Department confirms what many feared: no dredging of the Jhelum or its flood plain has taken place in five years. The Comprehensive Flood Management Plan (CFMP), launched in 2015 with much fanfare under the Prime Minister's Development Package, is still stuck in the Jammu and Flood Control Department's mailbox. Dredging is not a cosmetic exercise. By deepening the Jhelum, the river's water level will drop, and the surrounding areas will be left vulnerable. Routine desilting of irrigation canals, 670 km of which was done last year, is no substitute. Worse, research notes have malfunctioned on riversbanks and embankments. The RTI reply identified 184 illegal structures, yet only a fraction appear to have been removed. The need remains to channel natural drainage channels and create public faith in official promises.

True, a fresh flood study has been conducted under the Jhelum-Tawi Flood Response Project and an action plan has been prepared. But there is no clear timeline for execution, despite repeated warnings from the Central Water and Flood Research Station for its lack in 2018.

Kashmir cannot afford another 2014-scale calamity before the government acts. Strengthening embankments, ensuring reinforcements, building flood retention basins, and most of all, dredging the Jhelum must be treated as a top priority. It is not routine fix. Climate change is accelerating the pace of Himalayan disasters. The mountains will wait, and neither should we.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Has, Behera, Ko, Eng, Haque

Wealth Beyond Paychecks

Financial wealth often matters more than income in the valley.

Ishad Mushtaq

Conversations in Kashmir often circle around salaries who earn what, who has a cushy job, and who struggles. The reality is, wealth does not arrive with a pay check. It grows with choices.

A shopkeeper in Lal Chak, 100km from Srinagar, owes two decades, surpasses someone drawing 1 lakh monthly by saving because a habit.

Consider saving 10,000 every month. Over twenty years, that adds up to 24 lakh. With compound interest, an 18.25 annual return, that modest routine saving adds up to 2.4 crore.

Timing matters, too. Buying more when markets dip, reinvesting dividends, and combining regular SIPs with occasional lump sum investments can stretch that corpus to 3-4 crore.

High salaries often mask financial risk. In Srinagar, a well-paid professional might be over-reliant on a single employer, spending freely while owning little. Debt consumes identity, and lifestyle inflation erodes saving potential. Discipline, not income alone, defines financial endurance.

The shift begins in mindset. Wealth grows when learning, discipline, and action intersect. It is not about money, but values, consistency, and treating meaningful spending more space for money to work over years.

In Kashmir, where opportunities vary, start small, thoughtful steps can redefine financial futures.

Be a Kashmiri, where opportunities vary, start small, thoughtful steps can redefine financial futures.

The author is a Srinagar-based registered financial advisor

The sound of the folk song rolled across villages in Kashmir like a call to prayer. The singers emerged with its hollow bones, and the high pitched chorus followed like a shepherd's whistle, gathering people from fields and lanes toward the village square.

This was how Bhand Pather played, an art form that needed no stage lights, microphones, or curtains. Its stage was the earth, its roof the sky.

The Bhand, Kashmir's folk performers, arrived in bright costumes and wooden masks. They played dances of kings, lords, lords and peasants, peacocks and sheeps. Their stories carried laughter, but their satire was sharp.

They needed recognition, even-pose and reverence, and that was where people were watching. They entertained villagers but also educated them, through jokes that carried more truth than sermons.

For centuries, Bhand Pather embodied the spirit of Kashmiri art: secular, communal, and rooted in oral tradition. It was a theatre of resistance and memory, where dissent hid safely in humor. In villages where literacy was once high, it was also the people's university.

That rhythm has almost stopped. The decades of disarray silenced the Bhand, the festival ground where these performers used to draw crowds. Situation made it impossible to perform. Fear replaced laughter. And with time, local television and Bollywood moved people away, where global music played more available at a touch.

Now, the art form, the heartbeat of folk culture, was reduced to private screens. This shift was more political and economic, than technological.

Those artists were never given state protection in the way classical art is. No significant cultural policy in Kashmir prioritized Bhand Pather. Government grants for folk theatre are negligible here, enough to support a handful of performers each year.

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages lists Bhand Pather in its records, but following is inconsistent and symbolic.

By contrast, Bollywood produces films that Kashmir receive for mass visibility and significance. But Kashmiri folk forms that are central to the state's heritage are invisible.

The consequences are severe. As folk theatre lives on the margins, struggling to feed their families, many who once performed are now silent.

Letter to Editor

Why J&K Landowners Are Turning to the Supreme Court

On August 21, 2025, frustrated landowners from across Jammu and Kashmir reached the Supreme Court in New Delhi, seeking intervention to stop the state government's land acquisition process.

Their complaints ranged from blatant encroachment by local mafia to manipulated revenue records, from arbitrary acquisition procedures to unreviewed digitisation errors.

At first glance, this might read as another tale of litigation. Look closer, however, and a larger story emerges: landowners who should find recourse at the state level are now compelled to climb the judicial ladder all the way to the country's highest court.

Under the Jammu & Kashmir Land Revenue Act, Section 100B, land-



owners are viewed with broad powers. They can summon parties, inspect records, direct demarcation, order evictions of encroachers, and correct errors in land records. Their decisions are enforceable by law, and appealable only to higher review authorities or civil courts.

In practice, however, this authority has been steadily diluted. Many landowners report indefinite delays, unreviewed orders, and decisions skewed by local pressures.

Over time, backed by title deeds or prior court orders are misused in various ways to dispossess people.

Take Kargil village in Quitind. One landowner holds two lands of irrigated land. He obtained a Change of Land Use certificate for one kind. The state of the other remains unchanged, and decisions skewed by local pressures.

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Between the streets of downtown Srinagar and the marketplace, pride and dignity flow through the lives of those we often overlook.

BCCI Begins Hunt For New Sponsor After Dream11 Walks Out

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Fantasy sports company Dream11 is no longer the title sponsor of the Indian cricket team and the board has initiated the process to find a replacement, which is unlikely to be finalised in time for next month's Asia Cup.

As reported by the PTI on Sunday, Dream11 would be continuing as Indian cricket team's title sponsor, starting from the men's Asia Cup, after the government banned real money gaming under the recently passed 'Prohibition and Regulation of Online Gaming Act'.

BCCI secretary Devraj Salgia confirmed that the deal with Dream11 has ended and BCCI is putting the process in motion to get new title sponsor for various national teams.

The ban on real money gaming has affected the revenue stream of all fantasy gaming companies.

"One person shall offer any aid, assist, induce, entice, engage in offering online money gaming services nor shall involve in any advertisement which directly or indirectly promotes any person to play any online money game", the act states.



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The legislation also makes it clear that there could be financial penalty upto Rs one crore or a jail term of three years in case of a violation.

Dream11 won the tender for Indian national teams (Senior Men, women, Emerging) US\$ 1.19 million and women in 2023 for a period of three years for Rs 558 crore (US\$ 44 million). They are existing with almost a year still left in the contract but are unlikely to be penalised for it.

A top official told PTI on conditions of anonymity that with only 15 days left for India's opening Asia Cup match in the UAE, it will be very difficult to find a new sponsor.

With Dream11's exit, another company My11Circle will also find it tough to remain the fantasy sports partner of the Indian Premier League. My11Circle has pledged Rs 625 crore for a period of five years (Rs 125 crore annually).

"Obviously, we are keeping a watch on proceedings. Any company dependent on real money gaming is going to take a huge hit. But for IPL, the BCCI has enough time even if any company pulls out. IPL start in mid-March next year and a process, if initiated, can begin in place", the source said.

Playing Cricket With Pakistan Contrary To National Interest: Congress To BCCI

Congress's deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi urged the BCCI to ensure that the Indian team does not participate in cricket matches against Pakistan in the wake of the current internal situation. He said that with cross-border tensions prevailing between the two neighbours following the Pahalgam terror attack, playing cricket with Pakistan is "contrary to national interest".

India is slated to play Pakistan in a group stage match of the Asia Cup in Dubai on September 14. In a letter to BCCI secretary Devraj Salgia, which was shared with the press here on Monday, Gogoi said, "While cricket has always been a sport that brings joy among people in the current global and Pakistan relations, such engagements should not be prioritised over national interest".

He said the "cross-border tensions still persist and we are aware of the sacrifices of our armed forces" (PTI)

No Headway In Meeting Between AIFF & FSDI

The meeting between the office-bearers of All India Football Federation and its commercial partners to resolve the issues concerning the country's domestic game did not make much headway here on Monday. In a statement issued after the meeting, the AIFF said both parties expressed confidence of arriving at a mutually agreed proposal, but there was no mention of whether they have held any discussion on when to start the Indian Super League and the Super Cup.

The matter, though, is still under review. The Supreme Court, which heard the matter last Friday, had directed the AIFF and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDI), who are the AIFF's commercial partners as well as the BCCI, organisers, to discuss the issue and come out with a resolution by August 28, the next date of hearing. (PTI)

Ganguly Takes First Coaching Job At Pretoria Capitals

Sourav Ganguly has been appointed head coach of Pretoria Capitals, marking the former India captain's first venture into coaching. South Africa's SA20 franchise said.

The 53-year-old succeeds former England batter Jonathan Brett, while former South Africa all-rounder Shaun Pollock takes on the role of assistant coach. "The Prime is all set to bring a royal fair to the Capital camp! We are excited to announce Sourav Ganguly as our new head coach", Pretoria Capitals posted on social media on Sunday.

Ganguly, who retired from international cricket in 2008, transitioned from his playing career to cricket administration, serving as a president of the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) in India from 2019 to 2022. The former left-handed batter also previously served as a mentor for Indian Premier League franchise Delhi Capitals. (Reuters)

Budgam Win Provincial Level Taekwondo C'ship For Boys

Dabirah Hassan

BUDGAM: The Inter-District Provincial Level Taekwondo Championship for boys across all age groups concluded on Monday at Samagra Hostel, Narthal. The event witnessed participation from various districts, showcasing discipline, sportsmanship and remarkable talent in the field of Taekwondo. In the final standings, Budgam district emerged as the overall champion, securing the first position, followed by Srinagar in second place, while Baramulla claimed the third spot.



Kashmir's Danish Ferooq Bhat Named In India National Team

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir midfielder Danish Ferooq Bhat was on Monday named in the 23-member squad to represent India national football team at the FIFA Nations Cup at the CAFI Nations Cup, which starts August 29 in Tajikistan. This is new head coach Khalid Jamil's first tournament in charge of the senior men's team. The Blue Tigers have been drawn in Group B alongside defending cham-

ions Iran, hosts Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Danish, who plays for Indian Super League team Kerala Blasters, has already earned two caps for the national team, having made his debut in 2022. The 6-foot-1 central midfielder from Srinagar started his youth career with J&K Bank FC before playing for local club Jamshil Kashmir FC. Real Kashmir FC. He then played for Bengaluru FC and has been with Kerala since 2021, making 18 appearances and scoring four goals.

Undoubtedly "Kashmiri Bomber" by peers in Kashmir, Danish is the son of legendary Kashmiri footballer Ferooq Ahmad Bhat. J&K Football Association was among many to congratulate Danish Ferooq Bhat on his selection. "This remarkable milestone is a matter of great pride not only for Danish and his family but also for the entire football fraternity of J&K", the FA said.

DC Baramulla Inaugurates District Level Kho-Kho Tournament



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Mirza Sheraz on Monday inaugurated the Inter-School/Intra-District Level Kho-Kho tournament at Showkat Ali Sports Stadium. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the District Information Officer Baramulla, District Youth and Sports Officer, other officers and officials and participating athletes.

The DC extended his best wishes to all the participating students, encouraging them to play with dedication, unity and sportsman spirit, while also reminding them that participation itself is a victory as it builds character and resilience. Speaking at the occasion, Sheraz emphasized the importance of sports in the holistic development of children and youth. On the occasion, the DC also distributed sports gear and memento machines among all the 18 educational zones of the district, as well as among the Child Care Institutions Poonch and Palsah, to further strengthen sports activities at the grassroots level. The tournament, which will continue till 30th August, is being organised with the objective of nurturing young talent at the grassroots level and providing a platform for students.

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