

# THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Sunday, February 22, 2026 / St Joseph's University / Vol:18 Issue: 78 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

## Stall relocation affects Ramzan vendors

V.Nayonika

**BENGALURU:** Crowd gathering and food business in Frazer Town have experienced significant changes this Ramzan, as vendors report lower footfall due to the relocation of food stalls across the city. Meanwhile, residents continue to report concerns about traffic congestion and crowding during peak evening hours. The changes come after residents' complaints over congestion and hygiene during the earlier Ramzan celebrations. A memorandum to law enforcement authorities resulted in stricter restrictions on stalls and their relocation to areas including Palace Grounds and Shivajinagar. The move was intended to ease pressure on Fraser Town's infrastructure, but it impacted vendors' earnings and the locality's daily rhythm. The redistribution of stalls has reduced crowding in Fraser Town. However, vendors say the change has led to fewer customers, as the customer turnout for the food street has scattered and eventually decreased. "Ramzan is still our most important season," Akbar Pasha, a food stall owner, said. "But when the crowd is split across different locations, each stall gets fewer customers." Samuel Joash, a resident of Fraser Town, pointed out that, "It still becomes very difficult to move around after 8 pm, especially at peak hours, the roads are still packed. But better planning and designated vending spots would make it smoother for everyone."

## Three states account for 80% of India's elephant poaching

Disha Banthia

An elephant was found shot dead in Assam's Raimona National Park near the India-Bhutan border in late January 2026, with its tusks sliced off, as reported by India Today. Officials noted a mechanised saw method used for the killing that points to an organised poaching network operating across borders. State-wise data on elephant poaching over the past five years show that the crime is concentrated in a handful of states in some of India's most critical forest corridors. State-wise records on elephant poaching between 2019 and 2024 show that three states alone accounted for more than 80% of the total cases nationwide. Odisha tops the list with 17 poaching deaths, followed by Meghalaya with 14 cases, and Tamil Nadu recorded

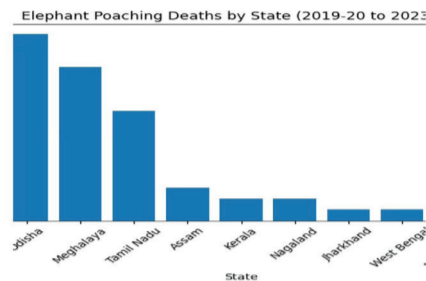
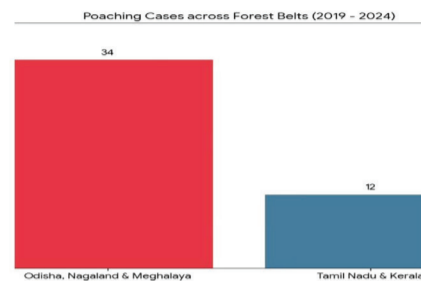


Chart 1-A and 1-B



AI-generated

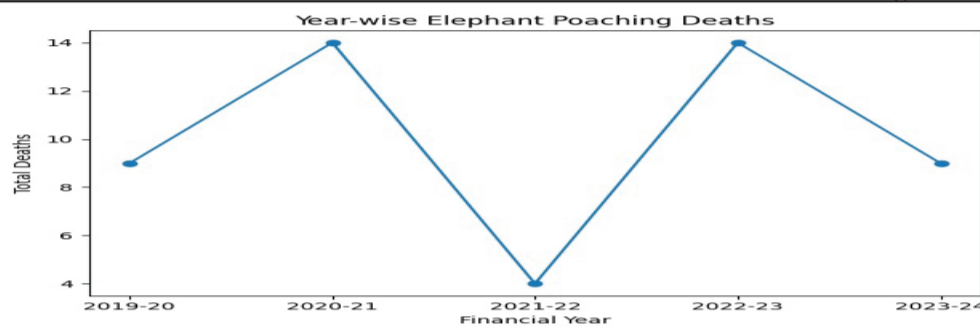


Chart 3

AI-generated

10. Combined, these three states accounted for 41 of the 50 elephant poaching cases recorded across the nation during the period. Poaching patterns across

the country appear to be concentrated along specific forest belts. Chart 2 shows the highest number of cases from Odisha, Nagaland, and

Meghalaya (Northeast India), totalling 34 cases. Whereas, southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala recorded a total number of 12 cases

over a five-year period. Chart 3 displays tracking years from 2019 to 2024, which reveal a fluctuating trend from five deaths in 2019-20, rising to ten in 2020-21, and then reducing to three in 2021-22, followed by an increase to twelve in 2022-23, and peaking at 14 in 2023-24. Following the recent incident in Assam, a pattern has emerged: elephant poaching in India occurs mostly in a limited number of hotspot states and shows spikes, not a steady decline. The number of recorded elephant deaths also suggests remaining vulnerabilities in the main forest corridors. The following data was sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

## Domestic power shifts as J&K reach Ranji final

Aryan Arun

This week in Kalyani, West Bengal, the script of domestic giants winning shifted, as Jammu & Kashmir defeated two-time champions Bengal by six wickets to storm into their first-ever Ranji final in 67 years. Their rise indicates a pattern of a broader shift in domestic cricket. Since the pandemic, the Ranji title has travelled to Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra and Vidarbha, proving that smaller centres are going head to head with traditional powerhouses. J&K's final



A still from J&K's win over Bengal

Deccan Herald

is the latest, and probably the most exciting example of that in today's Ranji landscape showing that teams that train and execute well can take on champions in the domestic circuit. Chasing 126, J&K wrapped up the score in 34.4 overs, with Vanshaj Sharma's unbeaten 43

and Abdul Samad's 30\* sealing a chase that felt harder than the scoreboard suggested. The turning point of the game came from the bowling attack, with new IPL talent Auqib Nabi's nine wickets across the match shredding Bengal's batting. It was a performance

that strengthened his reputation this season, where he has consistently struck in the new-ball spells and at the death, leading a bowling unit that has learned to take wickets at crucial stages. J&K's run to the 2025-26 final has not been an overnight miracle. Over recent seasons, they have moved from a small nation easily beaten, to genuine contenders for the cup, piecing together results like the landmark win over Delhi, built on Qamran Iqbal's unbeaten 133 and incisive spells from Nabi and Vanshaj.

## NEET admissions spark debate

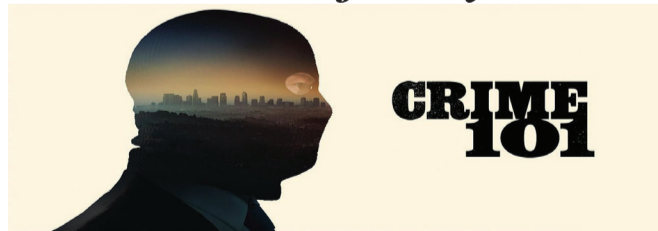
Harivalagan E

The allotment of a medical seat to a candidate who scored below the passing marks has sparked public debate over merit, fairness, and admission procedures. India's medical education standards are being challenged after a report revealed that a candidate secured a postgraduate medical seat with a score of just 9 out of 800 marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). The candidate from Chennai was given the seat under reservation despite his score in the NEET-PG, considered one of the most challenging exams in India. "I cannot talk about the reservation situation, but considering that the purpose of this degree is to save people's lives, the seat must be given to someone who deserves it. Scoring so low and still getting the seat is very disappointing. What about all the people who actually worked hard and scored well?" said Rahul Nayak, a corporate employee.

## Crime 101: Structure over flashy twists

Akhil Raj

Crime 101's narrative takes time to settle in. A slow-burning heist drama, driven by mood. Rather than chasing big twists or explosive sets, director Bart Layton lets the story breathe, unfolding at a deliberate pace that feels controlled and intentional. The robberies themselves are meticulous, while the tension is quiet but steady, rather than flashy. The film's strength lies in building suspense through atmosphere and the subtle unravelling of a system



Crime 101: movie poster

www.bookmyshow.in

that initially appears airtight. At the centre is Mike, a jewel thief played by Chris Hemsworth, whose strict no-casualty rule and disciplined methods drive the early narrative. Mark Ruffalo's determined detective counters him with steady intelligence, gradually connecting the

dots and creating a subdued cat-and-mouse dynamic. Sharon, an insurance broker caught in the fallout, adds emotional complexity. When a single job falters, the story shifts, deepening the tension through characters rather than dramatic excess.

## Ethics first in communal narratives

Niranjana Jayan

Filmmakers who handle communal conflicts have a moral duty to ensure that their films do not cause active social harm, said film critic Athul T amid controversies over "The Kerala Story 2 - Goes Beyond". The Kerala High Court issued a notice to the film's producers, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and the Union government on a petition filed by Sreedev Nambuthiri to revoke the film's certification ahead of its release. The plea argues that the title and promotional mate-

rial stigmatises Kerala by associating it with terrorism and forced conversion. "When filmmakers decide to portray real-world communal tensions or sensitive social issues, they ought to carry ethical responsibility", Athul said. Cinema is one of the most influential art forms of the current century and holds vast power to shape how audiences understand social realities, he added. While filmmakers are entitled to have political views, he argued that reinforcing stereotypes for ideological or commercial gain is misuse of that power.

Reporters / Editors: Disha Banthia, Allen George Easo, Akhil Raj, Aryan Arun, Nayonika, Hari, Niranjana | Sub - Editor: Allen George Easo  
If anyone has any feedback / complaints, reports / photographs or are conducting events, please email us at: beacon@sju.edu.in