

RED FLAG RISES

# Middle East On Brink As Israel Strikes Iran

Iran's Nuclear Sites & Military Leadership Hit, Middle East Braces For Retaliation



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Israel launched a massive attack on Iran early Friday targeting the country's nuclear program and killing half a dozen top military commanders and at least six nuclear scientists. This is the most significant attack on Iran since the 1980s Iraqi invasion, raising the potential for an all-out war between the two bitter Middle East adversaries.

Top military leadership and several veteran nuclear scientists including Dr Fereydoon Abbasi and Prof

Mohammad-Mehdi Tehrani were assassinated in the initial Israeli strike.

Iran Loses Top Commanders, Names Successors

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, Commander of Aerospace Force of the IRGC were confirmed to have been assassinated by series of air

strikes and Mossad operations on ground in Tehran in the early hours of Friday.

Unconfirmed reports said Quds Force chief Brigadier General Esmail Ghaani too was among those targeted.

The IRGC announced in a statement on Friday that "Brigadier General Hajizadeh was martyred in a terrorist strike by the Zionist regime on an IRGC center in the wee hours of Friday".

"The late commander was a prominent and influential figure of the resistance front and a symbol | More on P10

## Israel's Strike On Iran Sparks Outrage in Kashmir

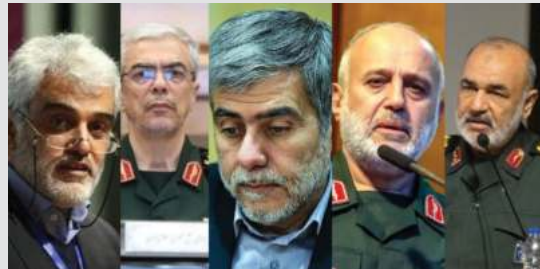
Observer News Service

Israel's unprecedented attack on Iran has triggered widespread condemnation from political and religious leaders across Jammu and Kashmir, who have labelled the move as unjustified, provocative, and a serious threat to global peace. Leading the chorus, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chief cleric of Kashmir, denounced Israel's actions during his Friday sermon at Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid. Describing Israel as a "rogue state and a huge threat to world peace," the Mirwaiz expressed outrage over the killing of Iranian civilians, including women and children, in the strike.

"Besides perpetuating genocide on hapless Palestinians and getting away with it, Israel is now putting the whole Middle East in peril," he said, calling upon the international community, especially the United Nations, to intervene and restrain Israel from launching attacks on sovereign nations. | More on P10

## Who Are The Iranian Scientists Who Have Been Killed?

In total, six Iranian scientists have been killed in the Israeli strikes



Prof Mohammad-Mehdi Tehrani, Maj General Baqeri, Dr Fereydoon Abbasi, Major General Ali Rashid, Major General Hossein Salami

State media said nuclear scientist Fereydoon Abbasi-Davani was killed along

with his wife and child, as were Abdulhamid Minouchehr, a faculty member | More on P10

## 'We're Scared': Kashmiri Students In Iran Urge Evacuation

With Israeli airstrikes hitting military and nuclear targets in Iran, hundreds of Kashmiri students studying there, mostly MBBS aspirants, have made urgent appeals for evacuation, citing fear, uncertainty, and lack of support on the ground.

Tabiya Zahra, a second-year MBBS student from Kashmir at Tehran University of | More on P10

## Air India Plane Crash: Black Box Recovered

KO Web Desk

Ahmedabad: The black box of the Air India AI171 has been found on the rooftop of the building where the flight had crashed, reports said on Friday.

Police sources told Reuters that one of the two black boxes has already been located, though it remains unclear whether it is the flight data recorder (FDR) or the cockpit voice recorder (CVR). NDTV reported that the black box was found on the rooftop of the building.

There is no clarity if the second unit has been found.

The search for the aircraft's black box had taken centre stage as investigators continued to piece together what caused Air India flight AI171 to crash just minutes after takeoff.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders — collectively known as the black box — are considered critical in unravelling the factors that led to the tragedy.

Emergency teams with specialised equipment, including metal cutters, have been deployed at the wreckage site in Ahmedabad's Meghanagar area to recover the device.

The Telegraph reported that the DVR of CCTV cameras of BJ Medical College hostel, where the plane crashed, has been taken into custody by police.

A DVR is an electronic device designed to record and store video footage from CCTV cameras.

Earlier, fire department officials, along with the forensic, civil aviation experts and police assisted in | More on P10

## Amarnath Yatra Review Meeting Ensure Seamless Synergy For Peaceful Pilgrimage: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Sinha chaired a high-level meeting attended by senior officials of the civil administration, police, army, CAPFs and Intelligence agencies. Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat and GoC 15 Corps of the Army, Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava,



participated in the meeting, he said.

He said the Lieutenant Governor conducted a comprehensive review of the security apparatus and measures deployed by the security agencies to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.

Sinha directed for seamless coordination among the civil administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, J&K Police, Army, security forces, and all the other crucial stakeholders to ensure a peaceful and successful holy pilgrimage,

he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the working of the security grid and various significant steps being taken by the agencies, he said.

Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, | More on P10

## 1503 'Ghost Traders' & ₹7.5 Cr Gone Fake Lists, Bogus Traders & DC Office Under CBI Lens

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against officials of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Srinagar, Revenue officials, and private brokers for their alleged involvement in a multi-crore flood relief scam dating back to 2014.

According to officials, the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch in Srinagar initiated a formal

investigation after credible information revealed large-scale misappropriation of post-flood financial assistance meant for non-insured shopkeepers with turnovers below ₹10 lakh.

Following a Joint Surprise Check (JSC) at the DC Office's Accounts Section on March 6, 2025, and subsequent formal verification, the CBI found that officials had manipulated lists of beneficiaries. The scam involved | More on P10

## J&K DDCs' Term Ends Feb 2026

Panchayats, BDCs Non-Existent For 1.5 Years

Agencies

Srinagar: The five-year tenure of the district development councils in J&K will come to an end on February 24, 2026, while the two other tiers of Panchayati Raj system-Halqa Panchayats and Block Development Councils- have been non-existent for one-and-a-half years now. Officials said that existing DDCs would complete their five-year term in February next year.

"Since they were formally constituted by the Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development on | More on P10

## J&K Braces For More Heat 'Orange' & 'Yellow' Alerts Issued For 6 Days

Observer News Service

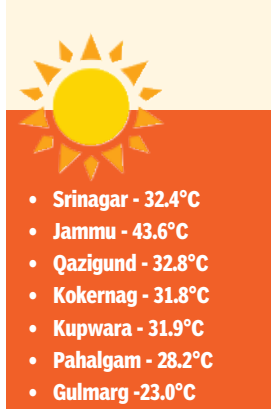
Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir continues to reel under an intense heatwave, the Meteorological Department has issued 'orange' and 'yellow' alerts for the next six days, warning of isolated heatwave conditions and gusty winds till June 19.

According to the MeT, hot and dry weather will persist over the next 24 hours, with temperatures remaining above normal across the Union Territory. Light showers in Srinagar and some other areas on Thursday evening,

however, offered slight respite from the soaring temperatures.

An orange alert has been issued for Saturday (June 15), indicating severe weather conditions, while yellow alerts have been sounded for June 15, 16, 18, and 19.

"There is a possibility of brief spells of light rain and thundershowers at isolated to scattered places from June 16 onwards, accompanied by gusty winds," said Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department. "Between June 17 and 20, the weather will remain mainly hot



- Srinagar - 32.4°C
- Jammu - 43.6°C
- Qazigund - 32.8°C
- Kokernag - 31.8°C
- Kupwara - 31.9°C
- Pahalgam - 28.2°C
- Gulmarg - 23.0°C

and dry, while some relief is expected from June 21 to 23 with intermittent rain and thundershowers at

several places," he added.

The department has advised the public to stay hydrated and avoid outdoor exposure during peak heat hours (12 noon to 4 pm). Farmers, however, have been asked to continue their agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir remained significantly above normal. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 32.4 degrees Celsius, while Jammu touched a scorching 43.6 degrees. Qazigund registered 32.8 degrees, Kokernag 31.8, Kupwara 31.9, and | More on P10

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Government of India

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2

## نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری سکوٹی (yamaha Ray Z) ز برنمبر 6123 - JK04J کے نمبر پلیٹ کہیں گم ہو گئے ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے دے ہوئے نمبر پر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈپلیکٹ کرائی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر ARTO بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از مباحث کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
جاوید احمد صحیح ولد محمد صدیق صحیح ساکن مخئی پورہ نوگام بڈگام۔  
فون۔ 8494061910

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 540181805955 the name is entered as FOZIA MUDASIR MIR while my actual name is FOZIA NAZIR SHAH. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

FOZIA NAZIR SHAH  
W/O MUDASIR YAQOOB MIR  
R/o F- 126 GROUND FLOOR, NEAR KRISHNA MARKET  
LAJPAT NAGAR DELHI. 110024

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MOHD AZAM SOFI while his actual name is MOHAMMAD AZAN SOFI. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

ISHFAQ AHMAD SOFI  
F/o MOHAMMAD AZAN SOFI  
R/o NAGRADKHAH BUDGAM  
CELL. 6006601891

mcb

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER OPERATION & MAINTENANCE CIRCLE-1 KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD. SRINAGAR.

Email:- selmrekmr@yahoo.com Tel No. 0194-2452153.

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor UT of J&K, sealed bids are invited from interested travel operators/private individuals from UT of Jammu and Kashmir for engagement of 1 No vehicle (preferably Bolero/Scorpio) for discharging various departmental activities/official use on monthly rent basis (without POL which shall be provided by the KPDCCL). The bids should reach the office of Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle-Ist M. A Road Srinagar through registered/speed post/courier service or in person by or before 23.06.2025 up to 4:00 PM.

The bids shall be opened in the office of undersigned on 24-06-2025 at 1:00 PM in presence of the bidders who wish to remain present.

For any further information, bidders can contact the office of undersigned during all the working days in working office hours.

Superintending Engineer,  
O&M Circle-Ist KPDCCL.

DIPK-NB-791/25  
DATED: 13-06-2025  
No. SE/O&M-/1/1643-45

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.com

No: e-8/eea/1279-83

### ADDENDUM

dated: 13-06-2025

Subject: Re-Construction of School Building at HSS Lethpora.

Reference: NIT No.15/EEA/R&B/ of 2025-26/1099-1109 DATED: 05/06/2025.

Following few lines in the condition of NIT and SBD are hereby added:-

#### Provisions added to conditions No. 17 of the NIT:

- The Mechanical components/ Mechanical part of tender shall be carried out by the successful bidder" through Mechanical Contractor/Firm/Agency with whom the Civil Contractor/Bidder has signed Memorandum of Undei standing (MoU) and should be Executed under the supervision of Executive Engineer (R&B) Mechanical Division, South Kashmir and shall be binding on the executing Agency. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) must be executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate (Judicial or Executive) (Notary shall not be accepted) specifying clearly that failure on the part of Mechanical Contractor/Firm/Agency shall be deemed failure on the part of the bidder and vice versa. The NIT No. Serial No. of Item and Name of Work should be mentioned in the MoU. For authentication, the E-Stamp No. must be mentioned on the MoU The MoU should be signed with the registered Mechanical Contractor/ Firm/Agency who is duly qualified and licensed to execute the Mechanical scope of work in accordance with project specifications.
- The work done claims for Mechanical works shall be framed by the Executive Engineer (R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir as per applicable standard procedure and norms.
- The work done claims for Mechanical component of the work shall have to be certified by the Executive Engineer (R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir stating that the Mechanical works/ components have been executed strictly as per NIT / SBD/BOQ fulfilling standard specifications.
- The work will be put to third party checking in accordance with standard practices, Specifications and codes at the cost of the contractor as and when required.
- The specification of all Mechanical equipment/ material shall be strictly as per NIT/SBD/BOQ. All materials/equipment's used for Mechanical components/items shall be supported with OEM Certificates and ISI Markings. All Mechanical work shall have to be inspected and certified by the Inspection wing of Mechanical Department after successful completion of the work.

#### Provisions added to clause 4.4 of the SBD:

The Mechanical Contractor/Firm/Agency with whom the Civil Contractor/Bidder has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should have at least Two Successful works of similar Nature for Government /Autonomous bodies for Buildings / Hotels / Office/ Hospitals. The participating bidder has to upload the allotments and work completion certificates of the same works. The Contractor / Subcontractor shall have qualified Mechanical Engineer having relevant experience. These additional conditions shall form an integral part of original NIT and SBD and shall be binding upon all participating bidders.

All other terms & conditions shall remain same as per NIT/SBD.

DIPK-2477/25  
dated: 13-06-2025

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora

## The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 107005045 Session: 2024-2025 Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board/ parent against my name as Abrar Gulzar instead of Abrar Gulzar Lone  
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

**Name: Abrar Gulzar Lone**  
**F/N: Gulzar Ahmad Lone**  
**M/N: Haseena Begum**  
**DOB : 23-07-2010**  
**Residence: Tapper Waripora Pattan**  
**Mobile: 8082861751**



fko

## NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU SRINAGAR ZONAL UNIT

E-MAIL zdsnr-ncb@nic.in

### Appointment of Public Prosecutor for Narcotics Control Bureau on contract basis at Srinagar Zonal Unit.

Applications are hereby invited from eligible Advocates for appointment as Public Prosecutor (PP) in Narcotics Control Bureau, Srinagar on contract basis. The eligibility criteria and other details are available on website of narcotics control bureau, www.narcoticsindia.nic.in . The eligible advocates may apply in the requisite proforma by (Date, by email at zdsnr-ncb@nic.in

cbc 19126/11/0028/2526

Zonal Director

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the registration of my Craft Box Center under name and style "Craft Box Sozni" situated at Budran Budgam from the office of the Department of Handcrafts J&K. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sajad Ahmad Parray S/o Bashir Ahmad Parray  
R/o Budran Magam Budgam

BMG-r

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing ID No; 0213030001121 from Ab Khaliq Mir S/o Ab Gani Mir to Tariq Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Khaliq Mir. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Tariq Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Khaliq Mir**  
**R/o Nathipora**

FKO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK04D 7647. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehraj Ahmad Dar  
S/o Ab Rahman Dar R/o Larkipora Khag

bmrg

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of son has inadvertently recorded as Aftad Abid in his aadhaar card bearing no 3538-7677-2953 which is incorrect. While his correct name is Aftaq Abid which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aabid Ahmad Mir  
F/o Aftaq Abid  
R/O Mandji, tehsil Sopore, District Baramulla

FKO

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION SMC, SGR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
(for Road work/bridges/Buildings)  
TWO COVER SYSTEM

2nd FRESH NIT No.09 of 2025-26

Dated: 12/06/2025

(E-tendering)

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on %age basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Cr.) Including GST	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
1.	Raising of 2nd and 3rd Floor on existing Shopping Complex opposite Exhibition (Cheap Market)	9.71	10,000/-	1,942,000/-	270 Days strictly	AAY

Project Authority = Commissioner, SMC  
Major Head of Account = Additional Financial Assistance (UT Capex 2024-25)  
Position of AAA = Order No. 1099 of 2022 Dated: 23.08.2022.  
Executing Agency = Srinagar Municipal Corporation.  
Position of Funds = Available.  
Technical Sanction= Order No. (108-SSCL of 2023 Dated:06.03.2023 )

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12/06/2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12/06/2025 from 04 PM to 30/06/2025 upto 04:00 PM
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	21/06/2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Joint Commissioner Works, SMC, Srinagar
4.	Bid submission Start Date	12/06/2025 From 04 :00 PM
5.	Bid Submission End Date	30/06/2025 upto 04:00 pm
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01/07/2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Joint Commissioner Works, SMC, Srinagar
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) is to be paid through online/ offline mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of Chief Accounts Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the Municipal Account 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Balgarden. (The Date of Bank Receipt must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
- At the time of tendering all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Joint Commissioner Works SMC Srinagar. The Date of Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG before the contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security @ 5% of the Allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Joint Commissioner Works SMC. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period issue of letter of intent.
- In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.
- All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from Concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer to whom the Enlistment Registration Card was issued.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.  
The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons  
Bidders may contact office of the Joint Commissioner Works SMC or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.  
Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.  
The rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.  
Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.  
Defect Liability Period:  
The DLP shall be calculated from the date of completion of work and the DLP shall be 36 months after final financial completion year.  
All key construction material (i.e., cement, steel, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.  
Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website  
The contractor should give undertaking as per annexure No.II  
All CVC guidelines are to be adhered strictly particularly similar nature of work should have been executed by the bidder clearly similar means same items of the work which have been advertised, its experience for execution shall be considered.  
Any variation in items/ unit of BOQ shall be dealt rectified as per the SSR 2020/ Checked estimate.  
The Successful bidder has to get all structural drawings from any reputed design firm and duly vetted by from DIQC/NIT Srinagar, cube tests and nothing shall be paid.  
However the quantity of the various items Viz RCC, Reinforcement, Structural Steel, Iron Steel as per the drawings to be provided by Contractor (as per para no. 16) should be well within and in no case should exceed advertized quantities of BOQ

NOTE:  
1. For any typographical error found this NIT shall be corrected with respect to checked estimate / original BOQ.  
2. Any other item, not covered in the BOQ, if required to be executed at site, shall be paid strictly as per SSR/LMR rate in vogue after deducting the contractor's depreciation.

No.SMC/EELRWD/542-51  
DIPK-NB-793/25

Dated: 13-06-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, LRWD SMC, Srinagar



- 1276- While taking exile in Fuzhou, southern China, from advancing Mongol invaders, remnants of the Song Dynasty court hold coronation ceremony for young prince Zhao Shi, making him Emperor Duanzong of Song
- 1325- Explorer Ibn Battuta begins his travels, leaving his home in Tangiers to travel to Mecca (gone 24 years)
- 1634- Russia and Poland sign Peace treaty of Polianov
- 1645- Battle of Naseby, Leicestershire: "New Model Army" under Oliver Cromwell & Thomas Fairfax beat royalists forces of English King Charles I
- 1658- Battle of the Dunes: English and French forces defeat the Spanish near Dunkirk during Franco-Spanish War
- 1671- French officer Simon-François Daumont de Saint-Lusson takes possession for France of Lake Huron and Superior "and all the other contiguous and adjacent countries, rivers, lakes and streams, here, both discovered and yet to be discovered", at assembly of fourteen Amerindian nations at Sault-Sainte-Marie
- 1673- Battle at Schooneveld: Dutch admiral Michiel de Ruyter beats French and English fleet
- 1777- US Continental Congress adopts the Stars & Stripes flag, designed by Francis Hopkinson, replacing the Grand Union flag
- 1797- Napoleon forms Ligurian Republic
- 1800- Battle of Marengo (Alessandria): Napoleon Bonaparte's French army overcomes Austrian forces in Piedmont, Italy
- 1807- Emperor Napoleon I's French Grande Armée defeats the Russian Army at the Battle of Friedland in Prussia (modern Russian Kaliningrad Oblast) ending War of the Fourth Coalition
- 1821- Badī VII, king of Sennar, surrenders his throne and realm to Ismail Pasha, general of the Ottoman Empire, bringing the 300 year old Sudanese kingdom to an end
- 1822- Charles Babbage proposes a "difference engine" in a paper to the Royal Astronomical Society entitled "Note on the application of machinery to the computation of astronomical and mathematical tables"
- 1834- Hardhat diving suit patented by Leonard Norcross of Dixfield, Maine
- 1834- Sandpaper patented by Isaac Fischer Jr, Springfield, Vermont
- 1846- Belgian Liberal Party forms
- 1863- Battle of 2nd Winchester, Virginia; Confederate force defeats Union army garrison and captures Winchester
- 1900- Having been annexed to the USA on 12 August 1898, Hawaii is constituted as an organized territory
- 1900- The Reichstag approves a second law that allows the expansion of the German navy
- 1904- At the battle of Telissu, the Japanese rout the Russians and inflict heavy casualties
- 1904- Dutch troops occupy Kuto Reh, Sumatra, killing all inhabitants
- 1907- Norway adopts female suffrage for middle class women only in parliamentary elections
- 1908- Fourth German Navy Bill is passed authorising the financing of the building of another four major warships
- 1913- The South African Government pass the Immigration Act, which restricts the entry and free movement of Asians; it leads to widespread agitation and rioting by resident Indians, led by Gandhi
- 1916- Democratic Convention convenes in St Louis; Woodrow Wilson campaigns on the slogan "he kept out of the war".
- 1917- 1st German air attack on England, 100+ killed in East London
- 1929 -Prussia & Vatican sign Concord
- 1938- Chlorophyll patented by Benjamin Grushkin
- 1940- German forces enter Paris during WWII
- 1941- Estonia loses 11,000 inhabitants as a consequence of mass deportations into Siberia
- 1942- 1st bazooka rocket gun produced Bridgeport Ct
- 1944- 1st B-29 raid against mainland Japan
- 1958- British parachutists lands on Cyprus
- 1967- USSR launches Kosmos 166 for observation of Sun from earth orbit



## Israeli Attack Followed Trump's 60-Day Deadline to Iran

KO Web Desk

Srinagar- President Donald Trump issued a warning to Iran following a major Israeli attack, cautioning Tehran against retaliation. The strikes, which took place on the 61st day after a U.S.-backed ultimatum to Iran, were reportedly coordinated with the Trump administration, according to Israeli sources.

Though the air assault was carried out solely by the Israeli Air Force, senior officials in Jerusalem emphasized that the operation was not unilateral. Contrary to Secretary of State Marco Rubio's earlier comments, Israeli officials stated that President Trump had been in close contact with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and had agreed to the timing of the strikes, marking a significant escalation in the standoff with Tehran.

"Israel acted after the deadline," said one Israeli security source, referring to the two-month window the Trump administration had reportedly given Iran to return to the negotiating table. "The 60-day warning passed. On day 61, Israel struck."

Speaking to Fox News shortly after the operation began, President Trump confirmed the U.S. had prior knowledge of the airstrikes but did not participate militarily. Still, he signaled strong backing for the operation and indicated readiness to defend U.S. and Israeli interests in the region.

"We will defend ourselves, and we will defend Israel," Trump said. "Several people in leadership [in Iran] will not be coming back," he added, hinting at the reported deaths of senior Iranian officials.

Despite the military escalation, Trump left the door open for diplomacy. "We still want to talk," he said. "But Iran needs to understand—they cannot have a nuclear bomb. That is non-negotiable."

Iran insists it maintains a civilian nuclear programme as weapons of mass destruction are forbidden in Islam.

Meanwhile Iranian military spokesperson accused the U.S. of facilitating the Israeli attack, claiming residential areas were targeted and threatening retaliation. "Israel acted with U.S. help... It will pay a heavy price," he said.

Meanwhile, American officials confirmed that the U.S. had recently restocked Israel's Iron Dome interceptor supply and maintained close coordination with allies in the region, though they stressed that Washington had no direct role in the strikes.

According to Israeli security sources, the current phase of hostilities could last at least two weeks, with the potential for U.S. involvement if Iran retaliates. The U.S. Central Command remains on high alert, and President Trump is expected to attend a National Security Council meeting to assess the evolving situation.

## Modi Stresses Early Restoration Of Peace And Stability In Call With Netanyahu



Press Trust Of India

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday to brief on the evolving situation in west Asia as the Indian leader emphasised the need for early restoration of peace and stability.

"Received a phone call from PM @netanyahu of Israel. He briefed me on the evolving situation. I shared India's concerns and emphasised the need for early restoration of peace and stability in the region," Modi said on X.

Israel attacked Iran early Friday in strikes that took out top military officers and hit nuclear and missile sites, raising the potential for an all-out war between the two

bitter Middle East adversaries. It appeared to be the most significant attack Iran has faced since its 1980s war with Iraq.

Earlier in the day, the External Affairs Ministry said India is "deeply concerned" over the recent developments between Iran and Israel and is "closely monitoring" the evolving situation.

India urged "both sides to avoid any escalatory steps".

The MEA also asked all Indian nationals in the region to exercise caution, stay safe and follow local security advisories.

India asserted that it enjoys "close and friendly relations" with both the countries and "stands ready to extend all possible support



Firefighters and people clean up the scene of an explosion at a residence compound after Israeli attacks in Tehran, Friday, June 13, 2025. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

## Iran Leader Vows 'Bitter & Painful Fate' for Israel

Agencies

Tehran: Iran's Supreme Leader has vowed 'harsh punishment' for Israel saying the Jewish state would suffer severe consequences after the latter launched unprecedented attack on the Islamic republic early Friday.

In a statement, Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei vowed "harsh punishment" for Israel after the airstrikes killed several top Iranian commanders and scientists. "The Zionist regime at dawn today opened its wicked and blood-stained hand to a crime in our beloved country, revealing its malicious nature more than ever by striking residential centers," leader said in a statement carried by television channels.

"With this crime, the Zionist regime has set itself for a bitter and painful fate and it will definitely receive it," he added.

Leader confirmed that "several commanders and scientists were martyred" in the attacks, saying their successors would "immediately continue their duties."

Earlier Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, the spokesman for the Iranian Armed Forces, said that Israel will pay a heavy price and should expect strong action from the Iranian armed forces.

Prof Mohammad-Mehdi Tehrani, Dr Fereydoon Abbasi, Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, Major General Hos-



sein Salami

"Iran has placed itself on 100 percent military readiness and the enemy will receive a strong slap," he stated.

The IRNA news agency, citing a security source, reported that Iran is preparing a "decisive response" to the latest act of Israeli terrorism against the Islamic Republic.

Several top commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and top nuclear scientists have been confirmed killed in the large-scale Israeli strikes

targeting Tehran and multiple provinces across the country.

State television IRIB confirmed that Major General Hossein Salami, IRGC chief commander and Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, commander of the central headquarters of the Iranian Armed Forces were martyred in one of the targeted attacks.

Veteran nuclear scientists Dr Fereydoon Abbasi and Prof Mohammad-Mehdi Tehrani and have also been martyred in separate attacks.

Unconfirmed reports said Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces is also among those assassinated.

The attacks were first reported around 3:00 a.m. local time on Friday in the capital, Tehran, followed by a series of explosions in several other provinces across the country.

Videos circulating on social media show widespread destruction in residential areas of Tehran and other regions, the result of what has been described as indiscriminate Israeli aggression.

The Israeli regime confirmed responsibility for the attacks, claiming to have targeted sites in Natanz, Khorramabad, Khondab, and several other locations.

## 'The Rubicon has been crossed' Iran Likely To Break Paralysis With Massive Retaliation

Tehran: Iran's paralysis following Israel's massive strike against its nuclear facilities is unlikely to last, Iran experts say, warning that Tehran will imminently retaliate as a "Rubicon has been crossed."

"Iran's leadership is likely reeling, but that paralysis is unlikely to last," Sina Toossi, senior fellow at the Center for International Policy, said in a statement, CNN reported.

"A large-scale retaliation, likely involving drone and missile strikes into Israeli territory, appears im-

minent," Toossi said, adding that "rather than crippling Iran's military and nuclear capabilities, Israel's escalation risks fueling nationalist sentiment, solidifying internal cohesion and triggering a dangerous cycle of retaliation, all while increasing the likelihood of American entanglement."

Trita Parsi, executive vice president of the Quincy Institute in Washington, DC, told CNN that it would be difficult for Iran not to retaliate, adding that Iran's response is likely to be bigger than its attack in October, which saw

Iranian missiles attack Israeli military sites.

It is unclear how long it will take Iran to recover from Israel's blows, however, Parsi said.

In its attack, Israel has "tried to kill off several of the norms around the use of force and international law, to essentially bring it down to a situation where it is law of the jungle," Parsi said.

Toossi added that Trump has warned Israel not to strike. "Whether that was a strategic ruse or genuine restraint is now irrelevant. The Rubicon has been crossed," he said.

## Middle East Airspace Shut After Israel Strikes Iran, Airlines Cancel Flights

Lisa Barrington and Joanna Plucinska  
Reuters

SEOUL/LONDON, June 13 (Reuters) - Airlines steered clear of much of the Middle East on Friday after Israeli attacks on Iranian sites forced carriers to cancel or divert thousands of flights in the latest upheaval to travel in the region.

Proliferating conflict zones around the world are becoming an increasing burden on airline operations and profitability, and more of a safety concern. Detours add to airlines' fuel costs and lengthen journey times.

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Israel on Friday said it targeted Iran's nuclear facilities, ballistic missile factories and military commanders at the start of what it warned would be a prolonged operation to prevent Tehran from building an atomic weapon.

Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport was closed and Israel's air defence units stood on high alert for possible retaliatory strikes from Iran.

Israel's El Al Airlines (ELAL.TA), opens new tab said it had suspended flights to and from Israel as did Air France KLM (AIRF.PA),

opens new tab and budget carriers Ryanair (RYA.I), opens new tab and Wizz (WIZZ.L), opens new tab. Delta Air Lines (DAL.N), opens new tab suspended flights to Tel Aviv through the end of August.

Wizz said it had re-routed flights affected by closed airspace in the region for the next 72 hours. Israeli airlines El Al, Israir (ISRG.TA), opens new tab and Arkia were moving planes out of the country.

FlightRadar data showed airspace over Iran, Iraq and Jordan was empty, with flights directed towards Saudi Arabia and Egypt instead.

About 1,800 flights to and from Europe had been affected so far on Friday, including approximately 650 cancelled flights, according to Eurocontrol. With Russian and Ukrainian airspace closed due to war, the Middle East region has become an even more important route for international flights between Europe and Asia.

The escalation of the Middle East conflict knocked shares in airlines around the world with British Airways owner IAG (ICAG.L), opens new tab down 4.6%, Delta Air Lines (DAL.N), opens new tab down 4%, and Ryanair (RYA.I), opens new tab off 3.5%. A surge in oil prices after the attack also stirred concerns about jet fuel prices.

## DGCA orders enhanced inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Aviation watchdog DGCA on Friday ordered enhanced safety inspection of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet powered by GENx engines, a day after 241 people on board died in the plane crash in Ahmedabad.

The enhanced DGCA inspection will include checks of various systems and a review of take-off parameters of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft of Air India, owned by Tata Group.

There are 26 Boeing 787-8s and 7 Boeing 787-9s in the Air India fleet.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed Air India to carry out additional maintenance actions on its Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 planes equipped with Genx engines with immediate effect.

These actions will be carried out in coordination with the DGCA regional offices concerned.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft, operating a flight from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed soon after the take-off on Thursday afternoon. Out of the 242 people on board the

plane, only one person survived.

With effect from January 15, the regulator has ordered various one-time checks of the Boeing 787 planes, including inspection of fuel parameter monitoring and associated system checks.

Inspection of cabin air compressor and associated systems, electronic engine control system test, engine fuel driven actuator-operational test, and oil system checks have also been ordered.

Besides, DGCA has directed to carry out a serviceability check of the hydraulic system and review of take-off parameters.

According to an order issued by the watchdog, flight control inspection has to be introduced in transit inspection till further notice, apart from having power assurance checks within two weeks.

Also, DGCA has said there should be "closure of maintenance actions based upon the review of repetitive snags during the last 15 days on B787-8/9 aircraft at the earliest".

Reports of these checks have to be submitted to the regulator for review. The London Gatwick-bound Boeing 787 aircraft that crashed on Thursday was powered by GENx engines.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Ahmedabad Plane Crash

## Having Seat Near Emergency Exit Door Saved Lone Survivor's Life?

11A' was one of the 238 economy class seats in the ill-fated Air India Dreamliner that crashed on Thursday, killing 241 people on board and leaving just one survivor.

And the lone survivor - a British national of Indian origin, Vishwash Kumar Ramesh (45) -- was the occupant of '11A'.

The Boeing 787-8 aircraft, better known as the Dreamliner, operating the Ahmedabad-London AI171 flight, had 242 people on board, including 12 crew members.

"11A' is among the six seats in the first row of the economy class of Air India's B787-8 planes. It is the window seat near one of the emergency exit doors as well as the aircraft galley area, according to the seat map.

While it might be too early to conclude on the factors that helped Ramesh exit the aircraft that went up in flames, being seated near the emergency exit door could be one of the reasons for his miraculous escape.

Currently, there are 27 B787-8 planes in the Air India fleet and each of them has 238 economy and 18 business class seats.

All these aircraft are set to go for retrofit in the coming months.

Air India has confirmed that 241 people on board the AI171 flight have died.

"The good news is that one person survived the crash..." Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday after meeting Ramesh and visiting the crash site. PTI



"'11A' is among the six seats in the first row of the economy class of Air India's B787-8 planes. It is the window seat near one of the emergency exit doors as well as the aircraft galley area, according to the seat map.



## SDA Issues Advisory On Cleanliness, Safety Measures

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With the rising temperatures and increasing influx of both local and non-local tourists at the popular destination of Sonamarg, the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has issued an advisory to ensure the safety of visitors and the protection of the environment.

According to an advisory, a copy of which lies Kashmir Observer, the SDA said that it has been observed that many visitors, including children are entering the River Sindh—especially in areas from Gagangir to Fish Point—to seek relief from the ongoing heatwave.

These water bodies are extremely unsafe for bathing due to their unpredictable currents and hidden dangers, which can lead to fatal drowning incidents, reads the advisory.

The Sonamarg Development Authority strongly advised people not to enter or bath in the River Sindh, or any river, stream or waterfall in Sonamarg.

Parents and guardians have been appealed to closely monitor children and ensure they stay away from all water bodies.

Tourism stakeholders, in-

cluding ponywalas, guides and service providers are directed to inform and caution tourists about the potential risks.

Warning signage has been installed at vulnerable spots, and everyone is expected to strictly follow all safety instructions.

Additionally, it has been observed that a large number of visitors and campers are erecting tents close to the riverbanks and improperly disposing of garbage in open areas. Such behaviour endangers the ecological balance and spoils the natural beauty of Sonamarg, the SDA said.

"To maintain cleanliness and environmental safety, visitors and campers are advised, Do not erect tents in close proximity to the River Sindh, Avoid disposing of garbage in open surroundings, Collect all waste and dispose of it responsibly in designated dustbins placed across Sonamarg," it reads.

The SDA urged all visitors to act responsibly and cooperate in preserving the sanctity and safety of this breathtaking tourist destination. "Let us all work together to keep Sonamarg clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone," reads the advisory.

## ACB Arrests Patwari For Accepting Bribe Of Rs 5K

Observer News Service

**POONCH:** Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested a Patwari from Halqa Dhara, tehsil Mandi District Poonch for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 5000.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesman said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that complainant was in need of revenue record i.e. attested copies of Khasra Girdwari of his land situated in Village Dhara for which he applied via online mode on 26.04.2025 but Patwari Mohd. Jameel was demanding a bribe for providing the attested copies of the same.

"Since, the complainant didn't want to pay a bribe and he approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servants under law," the spokesman added.

On receipt of the complaint,

a discreet verification was conducted, which confirms the demand of bribe by the public servant and accordingly, a case under FIR number 02/2025 under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Rajouri and investigation taken up, the statement reads.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and the accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 5,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. The accused person was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following the due process of law," it added.

Subsequently, the spokesman said that a search was also conducted in the residential house of the accused Mohd. Jameel Patwari is situated at Poonch, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on.

## Police Arrest Drug Peddler In Kupwara

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its drive against drug menace, Police in Kupwara Friday said to have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

"A Police party of PS Kupwara at a checkpoint established at Gonipora Haihama, arrested a drug peddler identified as Nazir Ahmed Khan son of Momin Khan resident of Gonipora Haihama Kupwara," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

During the search, a substantial quantity of Heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession. Preliminary enquiry revealed that the accused was engaged in illicit drug trafficking, police said.

Accordingly, police said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kupwara and investigation has been initiated.

Meanwhile, police appealed to people to come forward with any information related to drug trafficking and abuse.

## DC Kupwara Reviews Preparation For 'International Yoga Day'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday chaired a meeting of concerned officers at D.C Office here to review the preparations for celebration of 'International Day of Yoga' being observed on June 21.

On the occasion, DC impressed upon all the officers to work in coordination for smooth and successful celebration of the International Day of Yoga. She directed the line departments to make all necessary arrangements well in advance at the sites where mega yoga sessions will be held to commemorate the day.

The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at Government Degree College Boys Kupwara where

a large number of people are expected to participate in the event. Besides, mega events will also be held in Government Degree Colleges, Schools, Arogya Mandirs, Amrit Sarovars and tourist locations across the district for celebration of 'International Day of Yoga'.

DC directed the stakeholder departments to work in a co-ordinated manner to ensure all the necessary arrangements well in time for successful conduct of the Yoga events.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mufti Fareed-ud-Din; ADC Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi; ASP Kupwara, ASP Handwara, Principals of GDCs, ACD, CEO, District Officer Ayush, EO MC Kupwara, besides Officers from LBDDA, YS&S, BSNL and other concerned officials.

## CM Omar Hears Public Grievances During Raabita Programme



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday held a public outreach programme at his Raabita office in Srinagar, where he listened to a wide range of issues and demands raised by individuals and delegations from across Jammu and Kashmir.

Director of IIT Jammu, Manoj S. Gaur, called for support to the Venture Fund created by IIT Jammu aimed at promoting socio-economic development in the region.

A delegation of the Kashmiri Language Union raised concerns regarding the promotion of the Kashmiri language, urging greater institutional support for its development.

A delegation of Revenue Officers submitted a memorandum seeking the reorganization of the Revenue Department and its wings across

various departments, with demand for better conditions and structured career progression for Revenue cadre officers.

Similarly, a delegation from Industrial Estate Pampore, led by its president, flagged several issues pertaining to the functioning and development of the estate.

A deputation from the J&K OBC Resident Welfare Forum highlighted various concerns of the OBC community in Jammu & Kashmir.

Representatives from the Bharat CSR Network met the Chief Minister to discuss potential tourism promotion initiatives.

A delegation from Animal Rescue Kashmir raised issues regarding the welfare and rescue of animals, requesting institutional support and awareness for their cause.

Candidates appointed under SRO-120 of 2018 called

for resolution of pending compassionate appointment cases, while another delegation being considered under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (2022) also highlighted similar concerns regarding pendency in compassionate appointments.

A deputation of "Voice of Weekly Newspapers" from Kashmir brought to light issues faced by weekly newspaper publishers in the region.

Besides these, numerous individuals and other delegations met the Chief Minister and apprised him of their grievances and demands.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all deputations and assured them that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and other senior officials were also present during the programme.

## Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Arrival Of Hajj Pilgrims

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In preparation for the arrival of Hajj pilgrims, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, chaired a meeting on Friday to finalize the comprehensive arrangements for safe and smooth arrival of pilgrims at the International Airport Srinagar.

Addressing the officers from various departments, Div Com issued a slew of directives aimed at facilitating the pilgrims and their attendants during their arrival.

He emphasized for issuing vehicle and entry passes to the attendants promptly to avoid any inconvenience during the arrival process.

Div Com directed the concerned authorities to earmark dedicated parking spaces for vehicles accompanying the pilgrims, ensuring smooth traffic flow and reducing congestion.



He instructed the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar to deploy medical teams at the airport to provide immediate assistance to any needy pilgrims.

He further directed the Hajj Committee to deploy adequate staff to assist pilgrims, ensuring they receive the necessary support throughout their arrival.

To ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement, Div Com stressed the need for proper traffic management on the Airport road during the pilgrims' arrival.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the District Administration of Budgam and Srinagar, Airport Authority, Police, CRPF, Hajj Committee, and Emigration.

## Principal Secretary SWD Chairs Introductory Meeting

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Anil Kumar Singh, Friday chaired an introductory-cum-review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, here.

The Principal Secretary undertook a comprehensive, sector-wise review of the implementation of all Centrally Sponsored and Union Territory-level schemes, including flagship programmes. The officers presented detailed updates on the status of various schemes through PowerPoint Presentations.

Anil Kumar emphasized the need for robust implementation of all schemes and stressed ensuring wide coverage of eligible beneficiaries. He specifically reviewed the physical and financial progress of the department across the Union Territory.

Key schemes reviewed during the meeting included Mission Poshan, Saksham Anganwadi 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, Mission Shakti, Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), Ladli Beti, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Marriage Assistance Schemes, and various welfare initiatives for tribal communities, women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The Principal Secretary di-



rected for timely disposal of pensions, loan assistance and scholarships to the intended beneficiaries. He also called for closely monitoring the recruitment process to ensure timely filling of vacancies critical to the effective implementation of programmes.

Anil Kumar stressed the need for seamless functioning of Saksham Anganwadi Centres, Vatsalya Sadans, shelter homes, juvenile homes, Child Care Institutions (CCIs), One Stop Centres for Women and other welfare facilities across the UT. He asked for accelerating the completion of infrastructure development and expedite work on all ongoing departmental projects in all the districts.

The meeting further discussed measures to strengthen child development, improve nutrition and support the wel-

fare of marginalized sections of society, including specially-abled individuals, widows, senior citizens and members of reserved categories.

The Principal also took stock of the effectiveness of the legal framework aimed at promoting social justice and protecting the vulnerable groups. Key legislations reviewed included the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

The meeting was attended by the DG Women and Child Development, Secretary Social Welfare Department, Directors of Social Welfare Kashmir and Jammu, Director Finance, MD Mission Shakti, Commissioner for Disabilities and other senior officers of the department.

## Marhama Bijbehara Residents Demand Basic Amenities

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Scores of residents from Marhama village in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district staged a protest on Friday, demanding immediate attention towards the basic infrastructural needs of the area, including proper electricity, drinking water, irrigation facilities and healthcare services.

Chanting slogans, the protesting villagers assembled in main Marhama locality and urged authorities to wake up from what they termed as a "deep slumber" and fulfill their long-pending demands.

Talking to KNO, a local resident said, "Just few mohallas of our village have been receiving proper power supply while the rest are being neglected and no attention is being given towards them."

He said that if the whole village pays the same fee then why some areas are witnessing step motherly treatment.

Residents also complained about the lack of potable water. "We are forced to fetch unclean water from a nearby stream. This poses serious health threats, especially for children and elderly."

Locals said that a water supply scheme was constructed in the area years before, but it was unable to cater to the whole vil-

lage that consists of over 18000 people.

Being a predominantly agrarian village, Marhama residents also voiced concern over poor irrigation facilities. "We depend on agriculture for livelihood, but without a proper irrigation system, our fields remain dry during crucial months. Canals are choked or broken and lift irrigation pumps don't work," said Ghulam Mohammad, a farmer.

He said that Awantipora canal passes through the village that is providing water to over 20 villages but not to this village.

The villagers also lamented the absence of a proper healthcare facility in the area, adding that the staff has been drawing salary from PHC Marhama but have been posted at other places.

In absence of technicians various machines are lying defunct at the centre even as a gynaecologist was posted in PHC Marhama, who has been attached to SDH Bijbehara, thus leaving locals to lurch at large.

According to KNO, the protestors appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and concerned departments to intervene into the matter and take necessary steps to improve infrastructure and provide relief to the neglected population of Marhama.

## Two Killed As Car Overturns On Jammu-Udhampur Highway

Observer News Service

**UDHAMPUR:** At least two persons lost their lives while another sustained injuries in a tragic road accident that occurred near Prince Dhaba on the Jammu-Udhampur National Highway in Udhampur district on Friday.

According to officials, the mishap took place when a Swift car bearing registration number JK21K-9427, traveling from Jammu towards Udhampur, lost control and overturned near the popular roadside eatery.

The impact of the crash proved fatal for two occupants of the vehicle. The deceased were identified as 40-year-old Sunil Verma, son of Faquir Chand, and Ashik Kumar — both residents of RS Pura. Another

occupant, Sham Singh Rajput, aged 35 and also a resident of RS Pura, sustained injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he is currently undergoing treatment.

According to KNT, Preliminary reports suggest that overspending may have been the cause of the accident, though authorities have yet to confirm the exact reason pending further investigation.

The sudden demise of the two men has sent shockwaves through their native locality of RS Pura, with grieving families calling for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations on the highway.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and launched an inquiry to ascertain the exact circumstances that led to the accident.

## HC Rejects Anticipatory Bail in Rape-by-Deceit Case

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a key ruling under India's new criminal code, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh rejected the anticipatory bail plea of a man accused of rape under false promise of marriage, citing prima facie evidence of prolonged deception and sexual exploitation initiated through social media.


The case, registered under Sections 69 and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, involves allegations by a woman who claimed that Shakir-ul-Hassan began an intimate relationship with her in 2021, promised marriage, lived with her in Anantnag and Delhi, introduced her as his wife, borrowed Rs 10 lakhs, and ultimately sexually assaulted her in March 2025. She further alleged threats and assault by his family when she raised her voice.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, while rejecting bail for the main ac-

cused, quashed the FIR against his family, ruling their involvement was not substantiated. He emphasised that granting bail at this stage could jeopardise vital digital evidence and discourage other victims from coming forward.

The accused claimed the relationship was consensual and the case was retaliatory, citing the woman's alleged criminal background. The Court, however, found the timing of the counter-complaint suspect, and upheld the FIR as valid.

Justice Dhar underlined that rape through deceit, especially via social media, is a serious charge under Section 69 of BNS, and said anticipatory bail cannot be presumed in such cases. The judgment underscores the growing importance of electronic evidence and sets a precedent in handling sexual abuse cases involving manipulation and betrayal of trust. (CNS)



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Phone / Fax : 0194-2455514, Email:- hobacsgr@cbi.gov.in  
No. 88/PA/Misc/CBI, ACB-Srinagar Dated:- 13-06-2025

**MESSAGE;**

**DO NOT PAY BRIBE TO ANYONE, IF ANY OFFICER OR OFFICIAL OF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE DEMANDS BRIBE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CORRUPTION OR IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CORRUPTION, PLEASE MAKE A COMPLAINT TO DIG, ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH, CBI SRINAGAR NEAR MLA HOSTEL SRINAGAR PHONE NO'S (LAND LINE) 0194-2455514 AND ( MOBILE NO. ) 9419900977. YOU CAN ALSO SENT YOUR COMPLAINT ON EMAIL ID:- HOBACSGR@CBI.GOV.IN SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. BE A LEADER TO ERADICATE THE MENACE OF CORRUPTION. ISSUE IN PUBLIC INTEREST.**

Sincerely,  
Sd/-  
( Raman Kumar Meena ) IPS  
DIG & Head of the Branch  
CBI ACB Srinagar

DIPK-2498/25  
Dated:- 13-06-2025



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KO VIEW

A Dangerous  
New Front

Israel’s reckless airstrikes on Iran’s nuclear and military infrastructure, and Tehran’s vow of “bitter revenge,” threaten to pull the entire region into an unpredictable spiral of escalation. And this would be too much to take for a region already exhausted by the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Although, Israel has earlier also attacked Iran, the direct, large-scale strikes deep inside Iranian territory, killing top military commanders and nuclear scientists seems to have crossed a dangerous threshold. This has left Iran no option to back down, putting the entire region on the edge of a precipice.

The conflict has already led to a rise in oil prices, shut-down of regional airspace, and dipping of global stock markets on fears of a broader conflict. Iraq, Jordan and Israel have all sealed their skies in anticipation of missile and drone attacks. Iran sees America’s unwavering military support for Israel as an endorsement of the strikes. This perception almost guarantees that US military bases in Iraq, Syria or the Gulf could become targets if Tehran decides to retaliate beyond Israel’s borders, as Iran has itself made it clear.

The Middle East is already in the middle of several conflicts, most visible of them being the Israel’s 20 month long assault and siege of Gaza, which has killed close to sixty thousand Palestinians so far and by and large levelled the place. Israel has also put restrictions on the supply of aid to this tiny strip of land, housing over two million people. The United Nations has now called Gaza, the hungriest place on earth. Then there are conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, with Israel involved in each of them. The new front with Iran opened by Israel threatens to reignite and worsen these conflicts. This can draw Israel and the US deeper into a regional war that no one can truly win.

Amid this, the nuclear question looms large. Iran, which denies pursuing a bomb, is now more likely than ever to double down on its enrichment programme, arguing that only nuclear deterrence can protect it from existential threats. The collapse of trust and the death of diplomacy will push the region further from dialogue and closer to disaster.

The world must recognise that this is not just an Israel-Iran feud; it is a spark that could engulf an entire region. Regional leaders, major powers, and international organisations must act urgently to halt the slide towards all-out war. Failure to do so will deepen instability, inflame sectarian divides, disrupt global energy markets, and condemn millions more to the misery of endless conflict. The Middle East cannot afford another war. Neither can the world.

Real Tutors Live at Home

In today’s distracted Kashmir, a parent’s attention is the most powerful form of education.

Mohammad Hanief

Learning in Kashmir starts long before the first school bell rings.

It begins with a mother’s lullaby. A father’s silence. The way a child is held, spoken to, corrected, comforted.

Parents teach without lesson plans. They shape lives without a syllabus. Walk through a narrow alley in Anantnag, or past the bustling bazaars of Sopore, and you’ll find it everywhere: education without certificates. A grandmother reciting a verse. A father teaching his daughter how to measure rice. These are classrooms too.

Science backs what Kashmiris already live: 90% of brain development happens before age five. That’s before formal schooling. Before report cards. Before anyone outside the home takes over.

Parents are not just caregivers. They are builders. What they build early, lasts.

But parenting today is harder than ever. Screens tug at attention. Competition crushes joy. Even in the serene parts of valley, the noise has arrived. And somewhere between ambition and anxiety, many parents have begun outsourcing what once belonged at home.

We expect schools to do everything. But schools aren’t magic. They work best when homes do too. A child who’s been listened to, encouraged, and corrected with love at home walks into class ready. Not just to learn, but to grow.

You don’t need degrees to do this right. You need presence. A question

“We expect schools to do everything. But schools aren’t magic. They work best when homes do too. A child who’s been listened to, encouraged, and corrected with love at home walks into class ready. Not just to learn, but to grow.”

asked after school. A story at bedtime. A calm voice during chaos. These aren’t extras. They’re essentials.

In Srinagar, Rehana Ahanger watched her son struggle through math and science. She pushed. He withdrew. One day, she noticed his sketches. “I stopped forcing him to fit into my idea of success,” she told me. “He started shining in his own way.”

Too many kids never get that chance. According to NCRB data, over 13,000 students in India died by suicide in 2022. Many of them buckling under academic pressure. That’s not failure. That’s collapse.

And often, it starts at home, with unrealistic expectations and withheld affection.

We must flip the script. Praise effort, not just outcomes. Allow mistakes. Honour passions, even when they don’t fit the mold. Children aren’t projects. They’re work in progress.

And yes, not all parents have equal

tools. In Kashmir’s rural belts, poverty, illiteracy, and ignorance still steal time and attention. But small interventions can do wonders.

NGOs in Baramulla and Pulwama now hold parenting circles, where even non-literate parents learn how to nurture growth.

It’s not complicated. A warm home. A safe space. A conversation instead of a command. These shift a child’s direction more than any tuition centre ever could.

Technology adds new layers. It widens access, but it also eats away at connection. Parents must guide digital use, not with lectures, but example. Put the phone down. Look up. Be there. Kids copy what we live, not what we say.

Schools must open up too. Not every parent knows the system. Invite them in. Treat them as partners, not intruders. When teachers and parents talk, children win.

In Kashmir, education has long been seen as a ladder out of hardship. But a ladder is only useful if you’re steady on the first rung. That steadiness comes from home.

We talk often about revolutionising education. Maybe the real revolution is this: recognising that the most powerful educators don’t stand in front of a class. They sit beside their child on a cold morning, cup of tea in hand, listening.

That’s where it begins. That’s where it always begins.

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Mohammad Hanief is a writer based in Kashmir. He can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com.

Kashmir’s Timeless  
Culture of Ageing Well

As science pushes the boundaries of ageing, a Kashmiri judo coach wonders if the secret to longer, happier lives lies not in labs, but in orchards, poetry, and the slow rhythm of home.

Kabra Altaf

“A miracle drug won’t fix broken families. Gene therapy can’t cure loneliness. Artificial intelligence can’t teach your child how to sit with silence or grieve with dignity. These aren’t medical problems. These are cultural absences.”

I hear of heart attacks in men barely thirty. I see women with back pain in their twenties. Boys addicted to painkillers they never needed in the first place.

We’ve traded silence for screens, movement for machines, and meaning for pace. And science, in all its brilliance, is offering us more years, onto a life we no longer recognize.

Let’s be clear, science has its place, I’m not saying it’s useless. From diagnostics to disease prevention, medical advances are saving lives. But longer life and meaningful life are two very different things.

So yes, I believe in the story of Mujah Baba. But tell me honestly, how many of you would want to run a marathon at 90, outrunning someone half your age? Or blow out 100 candles on

your birthday cake without tipping them over? Because this is what science promises—but what do we really want?

The truth is, longer life doesn’t come from the future. It comes from memory.

I remember my friend’s great-grandmother oiling her hair with walnut oil, sitting under a pear tree, humming half-remembered lullabies. She was nearly blind, but she knew the steps of her courtyard better than my friend knew the city bus routes.

She lived to 96. No check-ups. No panic. Just grace, and a steady grip on this world.

She had everything we’re trying to buy back now: gut health, mindfulness, sleep hygiene, community.

But these aren’t trends. They were once normal.

So what happens when medicine starts giving us longer lives, but our bodies are wired for burnout, and our minds are already ageing from overstimulation?

What good is a second century if your soul feels worn out at 40?

A miracle drug won’t fix broken families. Gene therapy can’t cure loneliness. Artificial intelligence can’t teach your child how to sit with silence or grieve with dignity. These aren’t medical problems. These are cultural absences.

And so, while the world rushes to hack death, I think Kashmir must remember how it once lived.

Eat what your soil grows. Kaand. Nadru. Turnips in winter, mulberries in summer. Let food be memory, not industry.

Move with purpose. Don’t exercise to punish yourself. Walk to the spring. Hoe a row of earth. Carry a bucket, lift your child, knead dough. Sweat should mean something.

Speak. Especially to those older than you. Let their stories remind you how long life can be, and still how full.

Stay outside. Watch how the light shifts on a snow-covered branch. Notice how the body slows in winter and speeds up in spring. There’s a language in nature that recalibrates the body better than any app.

And most of all, make peace a daily practice. We can’t control war, but we can be soft with each other. We can learn to sleep without anger. We can sit with the ones we love and just be still.

Because maybe the real question isn’t how long we can live, but how much life we can fit into the years we already have.

Mujah Baba didn’t worry about the future. He lived by the sun, trusted the bees, and died peacefully, one winter, in his sleep. They say the honey he left behind never spoiled.

I believe them. And I also believe we still have time to sweeten our own lives, too—if we remember how.

Kabra Altaf is an eight-time national judo medalist and an SAT-accredited coach based in Srinagar, Kashmir.

What Keeps Kashmir Human

Far from academic jargon, Kashmir shows what empathy looks like when it’s lived, not taught.

Gowher Bhat

Kashmiris don’t always say what they feel. Some things sit unsaid, pressed between pauses and polite nods.

But if you stay long enough, if you watch and listen, you’ll see it — in the way a shopkeeper wraps apples a little tighter in winter, in the way a stranger stops to adjust the shoulder of an old man’s pheran.

This silent, almost invisible act is not politeness. It’s something deeper. It’s empathy.

What does it mean to care for someone without words? In a place like Kashmir, where grief has visited far too many homes and trauma is something everyone knows by name but never spells out, empathy becomes a language of life.

It’s in the tea your neighbour brings without asking. It’s in the way children hold hands when sirens scream. It’s in the hush of a classroom when a teacher notices the slumped shoulders of a boy who hasn’t spoken all week.

Empathy is not about grand gestures here. It doesn’t shout. It doesn’t perform. It shows up in silences, in small offerings, in sitting beside someone when you don’t have answers.

Across the world, scientists call it emotional or cognitive empathy. They map it with theories — mirror neurons, simulation responses, mental models.

But in Kashmir, people practice it before they learn its name. They grow into it like language. By watching. By feeling. By living through shared winters, power cuts, curbs, funerals.

Research tells us children show signs of empathy as early as one year old. In Kashmir, many show it sooner.

A five-year-old girl in Pulwama once gave her school lunch to a neighbour’s son after his father went missing. No one taught her that. She just understood. Because in Kashmir, un-

derstanding pain is not an academic skill. It is something passed down like heirloom copper.

Studies say empathetic people have stronger mental health, better relationships, deeper friendships. That may be true.

But in the valley, empathy has always been about more than well-being. It is about belonging. About not letting someone drown in their silence. About holding space for another’s sorrow even when your own is too much to carry.

Can it be taught? Maybe. But here, it’s lived. In homes where mothers notice the change in a child’s eyes even when he says he’s fine. In schools where a teacher senses that a student hasn’t done her homework because she didn’t sleep last night. In hospitals where a nurse speaks softly to a grieving family because she’s been there too.

What makes this all the more remarkable is how private it is. No news. No noise. Just human beings making room for each other. Every day. Without asking for applause.

It’s easy to think of empathy as softness. But in Kashmir, it’s a kind of strength.

It survives when systems fail. It bridges where people divide. It comforts when words collapse. It doesn’t fix what’s broken. But it keeps people from breaking.

As the world moves faster and colder, the Valley holds on to something warm. And if you’ve ever been cradled in that care — by a friend, a stranger, a smile across a broken street — you know it’s not ordinary. It’s what makes Kashmir, despite everything, still feel human.

Let the world debate empathy in theories and journals. Here, it’s folded into every day. And maybe, that’s the real lesson.

Gowher Bhat is a writer and educator from Pulwama, Kashmir.



# When the Tourists Stopped Coming

In the shadow of a tragedy far from its hills, Naranag stands still. Its silence is a testimony to lives paused, plans broken, and a future in waiting.

Uzma Qadir Mir

Naranag is a village of stones and sky and silence. It sits tucked into the hills of Kangan, in Ganderbal district, a place where the ancient breath of temple ruins lingers among pine forests and the river Sindh curls like a song.

In summer, it hums with life. There are ponies clipping over trails. Tea stalls open early and sleep late. Young boys run alongside trekkers, offering directions or dreams. Women sweep porches of guesthouses. The whole village moves with the season, like a heartbeat in step with the footsteps of strangers.

But this summer is different. This summer, there is no sound.

It started far away, on April 22, 2025, in Pahalgam. A sudden attack. Violence, once again, breaking into the ordinary. And in its wake, a swift decision from the administration: shut down 48 tourist sites. Among them was Naranag.

The reasoning made sense. Safety. Prevention. A necessary pause.

But what does a pause mean when your entire life depends on motion?

Naranag, in the absence of tourists, becomes a ghost with memory. Guesthouses sit fully furnished, but empty. The roads that once echoed with horns and hooves now lie deserted, shaded by still trees. There are no footprints on the trail to Gangabal. No schoolchild is told to avoid the roadside traffic.

I went to Naranag to ask how people were doing. A man told me, "Some of us bought horses for this season. Others got loans, renovated our rooms, expanded kitchens. We were ready. But now, there's nothing. We're just watching time pass."

It's not just Naranag that's hurting. But Naranag feels it most deeply, because this village doesn't just host tourists—it breathes through them.

In these short months of warmth, the village earns enough to carry its weight through winter. The math is simple: no tourists, no income. No income, no repairs, no school fees, no weddings, no medicine, no dignity.

Children who once helped their families with ponies or packed food for trekkers now



sit home, unused to this stillness. Elders who used to lean on fences and count the arriving taxis now count days instead. In the rhythm of the village, a beat has gone missing.

In Srinagar, people used to drive up to Naranag for a breath of cooler air, a view of the peaks, a walk among ruins older than memory. When a routine breaks, something else can take its place, something darker.

I worry most about the young people. Their pride in seasonal work has been replaced by restlessness. Some of them wander the village with nothing to do, anxious and bored. When a routine breaks, something else can take its place, something darker.

Drug addiction is already creeping into the Valley. And when there's no work, no hope, and too much time, the risk grows sharper.

Kashmir has always known how to survive. But survival, like tourism, is also about timing. When a season is lost, a year is lost.

Tourism accounts for about seven percent of Kashmir's GDP. It feeds over two hundred thousand people, directly or indirectly. Naranag is part of this great network. One guesthouse here means work for a baker in Ganderbal, a carpenter in Kangan, a weaver in Baramulla. The closure doesn't just shut doors in one village. It shakes a web that stretches across the region.

Last year, Kashmir saw nearly three million visitors. There was hope again. Hope that the post-COVID world would bring back the economy, inch by inch. Then April came, and it slipped away. News reports spoke of lakhs

of cancellations. But in Naranag, the cancellations weren't on paper. They were in kitchens with no rice, in stables with idle ponies, in bank accounts with minus signs.

Still, the villagers aren't asking for magic. They aren't even asking for full reopening. They're asking for balance.

There are ways. Let tourists come in small numbers. Give passes. Station guards. Let villagers help patrol trails. Offer them work in keeping the paths safe. Provide a little money, just enough to last the season. ₹10,000 or ₹15,000 can mean a lot here. More than money, it gives a feeling of being seen.

Even former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti called it "collective punishment." Many on the ground don't seem to disagree with



Let tourists come in small numbers. Give passes. Station guards. Let villagers help patrol trails. Offer them work in keeping the paths safe. Provide a little money, just enough to last the season. ₹10,000 or ₹15,000 can mean a lot here. More than money, it gives a feeling of being seen.

that statement.

Amid anguish, the ruins still stand. The river still flows. And the people still wait.

One pony handler told me, "We just want to work again. That's all." He said it gently, like someone asking not for a favour, but for the chance to earn one.

Naranag is small, but its silence is loud. It tells us what's at stake when safety forgets to make space for the living.

It tells us that a village can survive war and winter, but not neglect. It asks us: when will the footsteps return?

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## A Walk Through the City

Sometimes, all it takes is a walk through the city to understand what we've become, and what we still long to be.

Aisha Hasnain

I'm in the Goni Khan market. Around me, old beggars sit by the road, but one elderly man stands out.

He isn't asking for alms. Instead, he's trying to earn a living, selling cheap carry bags for Rs 10 or 20. He wears them on his arms like bangles, walking silently among the crowd. Muzamilah is with me. We take a narrow lane that loops us back to the main road.

We see another elderly man in a pheran. His right hand is held out like a beggar's, palm facing upward. But his left arm stays tucked inside his cloak.

Then I notice his left hand emerging from the collar of his pheran, holding a smartphone to his ear as he speaks to someone. The scene feels both familiar and surreal: an image of poverty and technology layered together.

Near Dal Lake, a bold sign reads: Wine Shop. However you look at it—through a religious lens, a moral one, or even a scientific one—alcohol does more harm than good.

I was dressed in a beautiful ethnic outfit that day. Make-up isn't really my thing, but I was groomed and carried a small basket in hand. Muzamilah and I were rushing to catch a cab when we passed a cherry vendor. "Cherries! Cherries!" he called out.

Then, swept by the moment, he added with a grin, "The way she is groomed!" It made me laugh.

Later, at a well-known department store, I was asked to leave my handbag at the entrance with the security guard. That hadn't happened before. I complied but decided to speak to the manager.

"We've had some distur-



bances lately—shoplifting," he explained. "So we're not allowing handbags inside."

It saddened me. But theft is a global issue. The fact that every language on earth has words for feelings like love and greed shows how much we humans share, our struggles and our flaws.

In another cab, a young woman approached my window. She was nicely dressed, with some makeup on. "Is this going to Budgam?" she asked. It wasn't.

She walked back to the bus stand. A car slowed nearby. She leaned toward the window, spoke briefly, and stepped away. No smiles passed between them, no gestures of familiarity, just a cold exchange. She hesitated, then returned, opened the front door, and drove off with him. The moment lingered.

A year or two ago, on a

couple of late evenings, my father and I were heading home when the streets had mostly emptied. I remember seeing young women standing by the roadside, alone. I didn't understand it then. But now, the memory settles differently.

In a final lane we passed, a man probably in his mid-thirties was arguing with a woman old enough to be his mother. She seemed timid. I caught her saying, "Fear God..."

Her husband stood beside her. He looked like a decent man, said nothing rude, just helpless. The younger man snapped, "Show this attitude to villagers and Gujjars, not me!"

I turned back and asked a nearby shopkeeper what the issue was. "There wasn't enough space for his car to pass, so I asked him to back up," he said.

I don't know whether he

truly couldn't move forward, but nothing justifies how he spoke to those elders. He was another overgrown child who had no real argument, just a need to insult and diminish others. His words showed neither education nor dignity.

If we want to understand where we're headed, what kind of society we are building, we must look to the developed world, not just to admire but to learn.

The West has set the benchmarks. Whether it's education, jobs, or lifestyle, we aspire to match them. But what we often miss is that their progress didn't come from wearing designer clothes or driving luxury cars. It came from education, discipline, and respect for others.

*Aisha Hasnain writes under a pen name and can be reached at aishahasnain02@gmail.com.*

## Reading The Burning Rose

Dr. Abdul Majeed Bhaderwahi doesn't write fiction, he remembers lives we forgot to see.

Sadaket Ali Malik

Some books arrive without noise. They just sit silently on the shelf, until you open the first page. Jalta Gulab is one of those books. You don't read it all at once. You read a story, pause, look up, and feel like you've met someone real. Someone who's still sitting with you, long after the story ends.

Dr. Abdul Majeed Bhaderwahi knows people. He's spent his life with them. Not only as a writer, but as a doctor. He understands silence, hesitation, the words people leave unsaid.

And in these 65 stories, he gives them space. They don't shout. They don't ask for pity. They just live, and somehow, that's enough to move you.

He writes in Urdu, but there's nothing ornate or overly literary about his language. It's clean, honest, and unafraid of feeling. His characters speak like they would in real life. No lines that sound like they were written to impress. Just speech, thought, pain, memory: unfiltered and true.

The title story, Jalta Gulab, "The Burning Rose", says everything. Beautiful things hurt too. The stories hold joy and grief in the same breath. Many of them revolve around women: wives who refuse to become, daughters who notice too much, lovers who vanish slowly.

Stories like "Biwi Hum Nahin Banain Gi" and "Be Reham Mazhab" cut deep, not with volume, but with precision. The way women are written here—alert, layered, tired, strong—feels unusually honest. There's no savior. Just weight. Just life.

There are other stories that look at social justice without slogans. "Amanat Ka Haqdaar" and "Qasoor Sunnat Hai" explore betrayal, belief, and the ugly gap between who we are and who we pretend to be. Some end with a twist. Not a trick—but a quiet shift that leaves you thinking.

The writer's hometown, Bhaderwah, appears in glimpses: the landscape, the air, the dialects. But it never overwhelms

the story. It breathes quietly through it. In his hands, the setting doesn't become scenery. It becomes mood. And mood, in these stories, is everything.

There's something else here that's rare: restraint. Dr. Bhaderwahi never drags a scene. He never over-explains. He trusts you to feel the weight of what's missing. In "Zahreeli Aankhen", a glance carries more violence than words. In "Khwab Aur Aansoo", dreams fall apart without making noise.

Some titles run long and verge on the theatrical. You wonder if a tighter name would serve the story better. But once you're in, the storytelling clears away that clutter. You don't remember the titles—you remember the emotions.

Writers like Mohammad Yousuf Teng and Noor Shah have written warmly about this book. Teng calls it a portrait of human truths. Shah says it carries social responsibility without sermon. Both observations land. These stories aren't escape, they're encounter.

"Jalta Gulab" was released on May 31 by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages. The room was packed with writers, critics, and scholars. Rukhsana Jabeen was there. So was Ayaz Rasool Nazki, Khalid Hussain, Shamshad Kralwari. This wasn't just a book launch, it was a homecoming.

Dr. Bhaderwahi's earlier work, Chubhan, was noted in literary circles. But Jalta Gulab feels fuller, deeper. Not because the stories are bigger, but because they're braver. He doesn't create drama. He uncovers what's already there—despair, love, and courage.

By the end, you're left with an ache. The kind that doesn't fade quickly. These stories aren't wrapped up neatly. They stay unfinished, like real lives do. You don't finish this book and move on. You carry it with you.

And maybe that's the point. To stop. To notice. To see.

*Sadaket Ali Malik is a writer and translator at NTM Mysore. He can be reached at sadaketjammu@gmail.com.*



# UNRAVEL KASHMIR



Tata Group To Give Rs 1 Crore Compensation To Families Of Persons Killed In Plane Crash: AI CEO



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai, Air India's parent Tata Group will pay Rs one crore to the families of persons killed in the Ahmedabad plane crash, besides covering the medical expenses of those injured, the carrier's MD and CEO Campbell Wilson said on Friday.

In a message shared on the official handle of Air India on X, Campbell said that while everyone at Air India is devastated by this loss and grieves for those affected, the airline has moved 100 caregivers and 40 engineering staff to Ahmedabad.

"...We have confirmed that 241 of the 242 passengers and crew perished in the incident. All of us at Air India are devastated by this loss and grieve for those affected near families and their loved ones," he said.

The technical team is now helping at the site and caregivers are providing support to families, he said, adding that many more caregivers are travelling to Ahmedabad to provide further support.

Air India has set up assistance centres at Ahmedabad,

Mumbai, Delhi and London for the next of kin of the passengers and crew members, he added.

"These centres are facilitating their travel to Ahmedabad and providing them full support," he said.

He announced that the Tata Group, "our parent company, has announced that they will provide Rs one crore or approximately 85,000 British pounds, to the families of each person who lost their life and will cover the medical expenses of those injured".

In a video message, Wilson also said that the airline is deeply concerned for the well-being of the Medical Hospital students injured in the accident.

"Air India is committed to providing full and unstinting assistance in these difficult times," he said after visiting the crash site this morning.

"This morning, I visited the crash site and was deeply moved by the scenes. I also met key stakeholders in the government and assured them that Air India is committed to full cooperation with those working on the ground and to the investigations.

Kashmir's Small Businesses Get a Digital Lifeline for Dispute Resolution

A new government-backed portal promises faster justice for small firms in Kashmir struggling with delayed payments and legal bottlenecks.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a modest conference hall at Sanat Ghar, Bemina, small business owners got a crash course in something they rarely expect: quick justice.

The Directorate of Industries and Commerce, in collaboration with India's Ministry of MSMEs, hosted a one-day workshop to train Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) on how to resolve payment disputes using a newly launched Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) portal.

"Delayed payments can break a business," said Khalid Majeed, Director of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir. "We need fast, affordable solutions—and this is one of them."

The ODR portal, part of the World Bank-supported RAMP program, is linked with the government's Samadhaan platform. It allows businesses to report disputes, upload documents, and seek resolution online.

Officials described it as a game-changer for small firms locked in endless payment cycles.



"It saves time, cuts costs, and builds trust," said a senior MSME trainer. "And it's built for those who can't afford to wait."

In Kashmir, where thousands of small units operate with thin margins and little legal backup, the problem is common and often paralyzing. "Clients delay payments for months," said Rafiq Ahmad, who runs a packaging unit in Srinagar. "We don't chase them because going to court is a waste of time and money."

At the workshop, participants learned how to register, upload contracts, and manage disputes directly through the portal.

Government data shows that late payments are one of the biggest roadblocks for

India's 63 million MSMEs. In Kashmir's fragile economy, the effects are more severe: missed salaries, halted supplies, and shuttered shops.

Khalid Majeed urged businesses to embrace digital tools, saying the portal is more than just a complaint box. "It's about creating a culture of accountability," he said. "This will make it harder for buyers to stall payments and easier for sellers to fight back."

The training ended with practical demos and user logins. For many in the room, it wasn't just a workshop. It felt like a rare win.

"I've never seen a dispute resolved in weeks," said one participant. "Maybe now I will."

Kashmir Traders Push Back Against Distant Tax Hearings

At Srinagar meet, business leaders urge Income Tax Department to move appeal hearings to the Valley and simplify compliance.



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Traders in Kashmir want their tax appeals heard closer to home.

At a meeting in Srinagar, business leaders asked senior Income Tax officials to shift exemption and appeal cases from Chandigarh and Jammu to the Valley. "It makes no sense for local assesseees to travel hundreds of kilometers," said Javid Ahmad Tenga, president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "It delays justice and adds unnecessary costs."

The meeting, held at the Chamber's Residency Road office, was led by Joint Commissioner of Income Tax Dr. Ruveda Salam and attended by chartered accountants, industrialists and KCCI members. It opened a rare window for Kashmir's business community to speak directly to tax authorities.

Several members said they felt left out of key processes and weighed down by overlapping demands from the Income Tax and GST departments. They called for regular coordination meetings to address confusion and streamline

line compliance. "We're not against paying taxes," said one trader. "We're against the chaos around how to pay them."

With the Advance Tax dead-

line approaching on June 15, many flagged a sharp dip in business since April 22, when a still-unresolved incident disrupted markets. "The foot-fall is low, spending is cautious. That will reflect in our numbers," said a shop owner from Lal Chowk.

Tenga pressed for a local Income Tax ward in Srinagar to handle exemption cases currently dealt with outside the region. He also asked for faster disposal of appeals and fewer procedural delays.

Dr. Salam listened to each point, took notes, and said the department would consider holding more outreach sessions. "We understand these concerns," she said. "You'll see changes if you engage with us formally and consistently."

She also explained key rules around Advance Tax and TDS, urging traders to keep paperwork clear and communication open.

Gold Rallies Rs 2,200 To Rs 1.01 Lakh/10G As Tensions In Middle East Escalate

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Rising for the third consecutive day, gold prices on Friday surged Rs 2,200 to trade near a record high of Rs 1,01,540 per 10 grams in the national capital amid heightened tensions following Israel's military strike on Iran, which drove investors to the safe-haven asset.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity rallied by Rs 1,900 to Rs 1,00,700 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

On April 22, the yellow metal had climbed Rs 1,800 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1,01,600 per 10 grams.

In addition, silver prices jumped by Rs 1,100 to revisit the all-time high of Rs 1,08,100 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday.

The metal rose by Rs 1,000 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1,08,100 per kg on Monday.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the most-traded August delivery contracts of the precious metal zoomed Rs 2,011 to hit a record high of Rs 1,00,403 per 10 grams in the morning trade.

"Gold prices touched a new high and scaled past the Rs 1 lakh-mark per 10 gram while in the international markets, the bullion soared past USD 3,440 per ounce as investors flocked to safe-haven assets

amid mounting global instability," Rahul Kalantri, Vice President of Commodities at Mehta Equities, said.

Later, the yellow metal trimmed its early gains and was trading at Rs 99,906 per 10 grams.

Globally, spot gold rose by \$28.30 per ounce or 0.84 per cent to \$3,415.13 per ounce.

The sharp rally in gold came after Israel's military pre-emptive strike on Iran, escalating fears of a broader conflict in the Middle East. Simultaneously, renewed uncertainty over US trade policy, including threats of unilateral tariffs by President Trump-fuelled risk-off sentiment, Kalantri said.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's remarks about possibly extending the 90-day tariff pause failed to ease concerns. Additionally, weaker-than-expected US inflation data strengthened expectations for further interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, enhancing gold's appeal, he added.

According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, investors are now focused on the upcoming University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment report, particularly the inflation expectations component, for further guidance on the bullion prices and monetary policy outlook.



Two Days Of Market Slump Wipes Out Rs 8.35 Lakh Cr Investors' Wealth

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Equity investors become poorer by Rs 8.35 lakh crore in two days of market fall, where the benchmark Sensex dropped nearly 2 per cent amid heightened Middle East tensions, which drove Brent crude oil prices to sky-high levels.

Falling for the second day in a row on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex dived 573.38 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 81,118.60. During the morning trade, it tanked 1,337.39 points or 1.63 per cent to 80,354.59.

In two days, the benchmark has lost 1,396.54 points or 1.69 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 8,35,799.85 crore to Rs 4,47,21,343.34 crore (USD 5.19 trillion) in two days.

"Indian equities fell sharply, reacting to weak global cues and a surge in crude oil prices after Israel launched military strikes on Iran earlier today. The sharp rise in crude prices weighed on the Indian rupee and led to selling pressure in OMCs, paints, tyres and lubricant stocks," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent

crude jumped 7.61 per cent to USD 74.64 a barrel.

"Indian equity markets endured a sharp sell-off on Friday, with the Nifty-50 and Sensex both off their intraday lows but still closing with significant losses. The market faced pressure from geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, surging crude oil prices, and broad-based sectoral weakness," Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

Among the Sensex firms, Adani Ports, ITC, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Maruti and Sun Pharma were the gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.32 per cent and small-cap index dipped 0.30 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, services tumbled 2.06 per cent, bankex (1.01 per cent), FMCG (0.94 per cent), financial services (0.85 per cent), metal (0.81 per cent) and power (0.75 per cent).

Healthcare index and realty were the only winners.

As many as 2,469 stocks declined while 1,516 advanced and 137 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Rupee Dives 55 Paise To Close At 86.07 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee plummeted 55 paise to 86.07 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar on Friday (June 13, 2025) due to a spike in global oil prices and a firm dollar amid rising tensions in the Middle East following Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear sites.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose sharply by 7.27% to \$74.40 per barrel in futures trade.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.25 against the greenback and traded in the range of 85.92-86.25 before closing at 86.07 (provisional), up 55 paise from its previous close. The local unit had settled at 85.52 on Thursday (June 12, 2025).

Weak domestic equity markets and FII outflows further contributed to the fall in the local unit, forex traders

said. "The rupee fell to a low of 86.25 before recovering to 85.92 before ultimately closing at 86.07. It has taken one country's military strike on another to bring home the fragility of markets," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

"RBI did support the rupee... oil prices were a concern as an increase of \$10 increases trade deficit by \$12 billion and CPI inflation by 50 bps," he said.

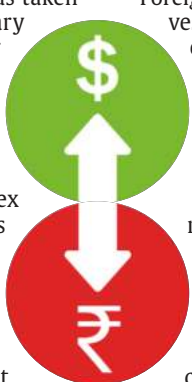
In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 573.38 points to settle at 81,118.60, while Nifty dropped 169.60 points to 24,718.60.

The dollar index, which

gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.33% to 98.24.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,831.42 crore on a net basis on Thursday (June 12, 2025), according to exchange data. "FPIs continued to remain sellers of equity and buyers of U.S. dollars, while oil companies bought dollars on rising oil prices. Iran has closed its airspace, affecting our airline routes already hit by closure of the route by Pakistan."

"For Monday (June 16, 2025), we expect the rupee to trade in a similar range of 85.75-86.50 as we await India's trade deficit data to be released," he added.



Air India Crash: How Many Boeing 787 Dreamliners Are In Service Worldwide? Which Indian Airlines Operate It?

Press Trust Of India

Considered an airline's work horse for long-haul flights, Boeing's Dreamliners took to the skies 14 years ago and now, more than 1,100 such planes are in service.

And the Air India plane crash on Thursday that snuffed out the lives of 241 people onboard was also the first time that the best-selling wide-body Dreamliner or Boeing 787 suffered a fatal accident resulting in hull loss.

The Boeing 787-8 aircraft -- VT-ANB -- involved in the crash was 11.5 years old and had flown for more than 41,000 hours, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

There are 1,148 Boeing 787 variants in service globally, with an average age of 7.5 years, it said. Indian airlines & 787s Currently, Air India and IndiGo are the two Indian airlines operating the B787 planes.

Of the 34 B787s in the Air India fleet, 27 B787-8s are legacy aircraft. The first of the legacy B787-8 is slated to go for retrofit in July. The remaining seven B 787-9 joined the Air India fleet after the merger of Vistara with it last year.

Globally, the Ahmedabad



crash is the first time that hull loss has happened for a B787 aircraft, according to an official.

Cirium on Thursday said the aircraft operated its first flight on December 14, 2013.

The plane was delivered to Air India on January 28, 2014, and it was 11.5 years old.

"The aircraft had 18 business class seats and 238 economy class

seats. It had more than 41,000 hours of flying time, and almost 8,000 takeoffs and landings, including some 700 cycles in the past 12 months. This is average for that aircraft build year/riod," Cirium said.

India, which is expanding its fleet and overseas network, has an additional 20

B787s on order and a letter of intent for options for an additional 24 aircraft, as per Cirium.

Recently, IndiGo started operating a B787 leased from Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic. IndiGo is to lease a total of six such planes for long-haul operations.

Headwinds A few years back, the US watchdog Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had stopped deliveries

of the Dreamliners due to certain issues but the plane was never involved in any fatal crash till Thursday.

When it comes to India, Air India had problems with Dreamliners due to battery issues back in 2013. The battery troubles had also forced then government-owned Air India to briefly ground its fleet of Dreamliners. At that time, the carrier had around six such planes.

Also, the airline had received compensation from Boeing for the issues.

Best selling wide-body aircraft Boeing, which has faced multiple headwinds in recent years, describes B787 as the "best selling passenger wide-body of all time".

The Dreamliners come in three models -- 787-8, 787-9 and 787-10. The 787-8 has a range of up to 13,530 kilometres.

The plane's length is 57 metres, height is 17 metres and the wingspan is 60 metres, as per Boeing website.



## UN conference on Palestinian state postponed because of Middle East tensions

Paris, Jun 13 : A top-level UN conference on a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians scheduled for next week has been postponed amid surging tensions in the Middle East, French President Emmanuel Macron said Friday.

France and Saudi Arabia were due to co-chair the conference hosted by the UN General Assembly in New York on June 17-20, and Macron had been among leaders scheduled to attend. The Palestinian Authority hoped the conference would revive the long-defunct peace process.

Macron expressed his "determination to recognise the state of Palestine" at some point, despite the postponement. France has pushed for a broader movement toward recognising a Palestinian state in parallel with recognition of Israel and its right to defend itself.

After Israel's strikes on Iran on Friday, Macron said that France's military forces around the Middle East are ready to help protect partners in the region, including Israel, but wouldn't take part in any attacks on Iran.

Macron told reporters that the two-state conference was postponed for logistical and security reasons, and because some Palestinian representatives couldn't come to the event.



He insisted that it would be held "as soon as possible" and that he was in discussion with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman about a new date.

"The aim is a demilitarised Palestinian state recognizing the existence and the security of Israel," Macron said. Any such state would exclude any Hamas leaders, he said.

Macron said that the Israel-Iran conflict, the war in Gaza and the situation for Palestinians around the region are all "interlinked".

Macron spoke on Friday with 10 world leaders, including US President Donald Trump

and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, about the Israeli strikes on Iran and consequences.

One of the aims at the UN conference was to increase the number of countries recognising Palestinian territories as an independent state. So far, more than 145 of the 193 UN member nations have done so. The Palestinians view their state as encompassing Gaza and the West Bank with east Jerusalem as the capital.

Netanyahu has rejected the creation of a Palestinian state, and Israel refused to participate in the conference.

## 2 Chinese scientists will stay in jail while accused of bringing biological material to US

Detroit, Jun 13 Two Chinese scientists accused of smuggling or shipping biological material into the United States for use at the University of Michigan will remain in custody after waiving their right to a hearing Friday in federal court.

Yunqing Jian and Chengxuan Han said in separate court appearances in Detroit that they would not challenge the government's request to keep them locked up while their cases move forward.

"This is a constantly evolving situation involving a large number of factors," Han's attorney, Sara Garber, told a judge. She didn't elaborate and later declined to comment.

Han was arrested Sunday at Detroit Metropolitan Airport after arriving on a flight from China, where she is pursuing an advanced degree at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan.

She planned to spend a year completing a project at the University of Michigan lab, and is accused of shipping biological material months ago to laboratory staff.

It was intercepted by authorities. The FBI, in a court filing, said the material is related to worms and lacked a



government permit. Experts told The Associated Press it didn't appear to be dangerous.

Jian's case is different. She is charged with conspiring with her boyfriend, another scientist from China, to bring a toxic fungus into the US Fusarium graminearum can attack wheat, barley, maize and rice.

The boyfriend, Zunyong Liu,

was turned away at the Detroit airport last July and sent back to China after authorities found red plant material in his backpack.

Jian, who worked at the university lab, was arrested June 2. Messages between Jian and Liu in 2024 suggest that Jian was already tending to Fusarium graminearum at the lab before

Liu was caught at the airport, the FBI said.

Jian's attorneys declined to comment Friday.

Federal authorities so far have not alleged that the scientists had a plan to unleash the fungus somewhere. Fusarium graminearum is already prevalent in the US — particularly in the east and Upper Midwest — and scientists have been studying it for decades.

Nicknamed "vomitoxin" because it's most known for causing livestock to throw up, it can also cause diarrhea, abdominal pain, headache and fever in animals and people.

Researchers often bring foreign plants, animals and even strains of fungi to the US to study them, but they must file certain permits before moving anything across state or national borders.

The university has not been accused of misconduct. It said it has received no money from the Chinese government related to the work of the three scientists.

In a statement, it said it strongly condemns any actions that "seek to cause harm, threaten national security or undermine the university's critical public mission".

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Middle East

of development, innovation and might in the defense and missile spheres", the IRGC said.

Meanwhile Iran has quickly replaced slain commanders with successors.

Announcing the new appointments Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who also acts as Supreme Commander of the armed forces, appointed Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi as the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, following the assassination of Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri.

He named Mohammad Pakpour as commander of IRGC, succeeding Major General Hossein Salami.

Additionally, the Leader promoted Ali Shademan to the rank of brigadier general and named him to replace Major General Gholam Ali Rashid as the commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Military Headquarters.

Red Flag of revenge

Iran has raised the symbolic red flag of revenge above the Jamkaran Mosque in Qom after deadly Israeli airstrikes. The red flag signals a call for justice and retaliation in Shia tradition, especially when blood has been unjustly spilled.

According to Press TV, the flag was hoisted shortly after Israeli jets struck multiple Iranian military and nuclear targets on Friday. These attacks led to the deaths of senior commanders, scientists, and civilians, including women and children. The strikes have drawn both grief and anger across the country.

Iran's Supreme Leader has vowed 'harsh punishment' for Israel saying the Jewish state would suffer severe consequences after the latter launched an unprecedented attack on the Islamic republic early Friday.

President Pezeshkian: 'Our response to make Israel regret'

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has vowed a "legitimate and powerful" response to the enemy that will make it regret it's preposterous action.

"The people of Iran and the country's officials will not remain silent in the face of this crime, and the legitimate and powerful response of the Islamic Republic of Iran will make the enemy regret their foolish actions," Pezeshkian said in a message to the Iranian people on Friday following the Israeli regime's assassination of senior military commanders, scientists and civilians, Press TV reported.

Pezeshkian called on the Iranian people not to heed the enemy's psychological warfare and boost their unity with officials instead.

"Today, the people of Iran need to be more united, trusting, harmonious, convergent and reconciliatory more than ever, and with the help of the Almighty God, ... they will give a crushing, wise and powerful response to the crime of the occupying regime," the president emphasized.

Pezeshkian said Iran has made its utmost efforts to promote peace and tranquility in the region and the world and demonstrated its full readiness to hold long and confidence-building negotiations.

At the same time, he emphasized, Iran will take a decisive measure in response to the aggression and in legitimate defense of the country's integrity.

US Warns Iran Against Retaliation

In Washington, the Trump administration said that Israel took "unilateral action against Iran" and that it had informed the US ahead of the attack but

warned Iran against retaliations.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Israel took "unilateral action against Iran" and that Israel advised the U.S. that it believed the strikes were necessary for its self-defense.

"We are not involved in strikes against Iran, and our top priority is protecting American forces in the region," Rubio said in a statement released by the White House that warned Iran against targeting U.S. interests or personnel.

Israel launched the attack a day after the US Embassy in Israel issued a security alert restricting the movement of its employees and their family members in the country, amid escalating tensions in the region.

Earlier President Trump said on Wednesday U.S. personnel were being moved out of the Middle East because "it could be a dangerous place," as tensions with Iran rise.

#### Israel's Strike

Echoing similar sentiments, National Conference MP Agha Syed Ruhullah, representative from Srinagar in the parliament, slammed Israel's repeated attacks on countries in the Middle East, labelling it a "colonial thug" on the global stage.

"Israel has now bombed Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, and still plays the victim. This rogue Zionist regime isn't defending itself—it's behaving like a colonial thug," Ruhullah said in a series of strongly worded posts on X.

He also rebuked India's abstention from a recent UN General Assembly resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, calling it a betrayal of India's post-colonial legacy.

"This reflects a shrinking of moral imagination and an abandonment of global solidarity. Nehru and Indira Gandhi upheld justice in Palestine—what changed?" he asked.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also joined in, calling Israel's strike on Iran "totally unjustified" and warned of serious global repercussions.

"Israel launched the attack calling it 'pre-emptive,' but this is nothing short of waging war. If Russia's aggression on Ukraine is condemned, why the silence on Israel?" he told reporters in Srinagar.

Omar Abdullah also raised concerns about the potential impact on global fuel prices, aviation routes, and economic stability. He urged the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure the safety of Kashmiri students in Iran.

Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti described the attack as a "brazen act" and pointed to the West's silence as a form of complicity.

"Israel has gone rogue, and the silence of the global community—especially Western powers led by the United States—is both alarming and telling," Mufti said on X.

She was equally critical of the lack of response from Muslim-majority nations, describing their inaction as a "betrayal" of the values they profess to uphold.

"These glaring double standards endanger global peace and stability. The inaction of so-called Muslim countries is not just disappointing—it's shameful," she added.

The Israeli airstrikes on Iran mark a sharp escalation in Middle East tensions and come amid ongoing conflict in Gaza. The global reaction, or lack thereof, has drawn sharp rebukes from

within Kashmir, where solidarity with Palestinians and now Iranians is running high.

As tensions continue to flare, Kashmir's political and religious leadership are increasingly positioning themselves at the forefront of South Asia's moral outcry over what they perceive as Western hypocrisy and unchecked Israeli aggression.

#### Who Are The

and dean of the Faculty of Nuclear Engineering at Shahid Beheshti University, and Ahmadreza Zolfaghari, a professor at the same department.

The building housing the residence of these Iranian scientists was severely damaged in Friday morning's attacks.

Dr Fereydoon was a former head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and a former member of the Iranian parliament. He held a PhD in nuclear physics and had conducted nuclear research at the defence ministry.

In 2010, Fereydoon survived twin blasts in Tehran that killed fellow nuclear scientist Majid Shahriari. Iran blamed Israel for the incident, although Israel neither confirmed nor denied the assassination.

The news agency identified the other slain scientists as:

Mohammad-Mehdi Tehrani, a nuclear scientist, was head of Iran's Islamic Azad University in Tehran.

Abdolhamid Minouchehr, holder of a PhD in nuclear engineering, who served as dean of the nuclear engineering faculty at Shahid Beheshti University and conducted extensive research on improving the efficiency and safety of nuclear plants

Ahmad Reza Zolfaghari, professor of nuclear engineering at Shahid Beheshti University

Amir Hossein Faghihi, who belonged to the engineering faculty at Shahid Beheshti University and previously served as vice president of the AEIO and head of the Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute

Motallebzadeh, a nuclear scientist who was targeted and killed along with his wife.

#### 'We're Scared'

Medical Sciences, described the terrifying moment when the explosions shook the ground. "We're safe for now, but deeply scared. It all started around 3:30 am—we felt the tremors," she said. Internet disruptions and unclear safety protocols have added to the anxiety.

Zahra said university officials visited the students and advised them to remain calm, but did not offer clarity on which areas might be safer. She urged the Indian government to arrange evacuation, citing uncertainty about the security situation and internet disruptions in some areas.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) has formally requested intervention from the Ministry of External Affairs, highlighting the precarious security conditions and communication challenges faced by students. With around 1,500 students from Kashmir currently studying in Iran – most of them pursuing MBBS – JKSA has urged External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to ensure their safe return amid the escalating Iran-Israel conflict.

"We, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), write to you with deep urgency and grave concern regarding the dire situation faced by hundreds and thousands of Kashmiri students currently studying in Iran, following the unprecedented

escalation in hostilities between Iran and Israel," the letter reads.

JKSA said that the recent Israeli pre-emptive airstrikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure, followed by a barrage of retaliatory drone and missile attacks by Iran, have brought the region to the brink of a full-scale conflict. "This volatile security environment has left thousands of Indian students, the majority of them from Kashmir valley, extremely vulnerable and exposed to immediate danger. These students had traveled to Iran to pursue professional education, particularly MBBS, due to the country's economically viable academic infrastructure. Now, they find themselves in the middle of an active military zone, fearful for their lives."

JKSA said students have been reporting "continuous sounds of airstrikes, air defence sirens, and increased military activity" around their campuses. Many institutions are situated dangerously close to military installations, raising fears of being directly affected in case of further escalation.

"The students are terrified and feel completely helpless," the letter continued. "Numerous students have contacted the Indian Embassy seeking support, relocation, or evacuation. However, they have not received any reassuring response or concrete information about the next steps."

The association also said it is receiving distress calls from families in Kashmir, with parents in tears pleading for the safe return of their children. JKSA offered to assist with verified student lists and coordination efforts, urging the government to act swiftly before the situation worsens.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure the safety of Kashmiri students in Iran.

In a post on X, Abdullah, said that the families of Kashmiri students are deeply worried.

"Requesting @MEAIndia to urgently ensure the safety and well-being of Kashmiri students currently stuck in Iran. Their families are deeply worried, and we stand with them in this difficult time," Omar said.

He urged the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that "every step must be taken to safeguard our students."

#### Air India Plane

locating the black box of the plane. Boeing has said a team of company experts is ready to assist Indian authorities. The aircraft involved in the crash first flew in 2013 and was delivered to Air India in January 2014.

This marks the first-ever fatal crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner since its commercial debut in 2011.

Flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London Gatwick, went down in flames shortly after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1:39 p.m. on Thursday. The aircraft, carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew members, lost altitude rapidly and slammed into the newly built BJ Medical College hostel, erupting into a massive fireball.

Rescue operations were carried out through the night, with emergency crews battling smoldering debris and thick black smoke. According to authorities, 241 people onboard died, with only one British national surviving. An additional 24 people on the ground are believed to have perished, although exact figures are yet to be confirmed.

First responders reported finding many of the victims still strapped into

their seats. "Almost 70 per cent of the passengers were found in their seats, most with their seatbelts still on," said one official.

Residents living in the vicinity said that construction of the hostel for resident doctors was completed only a year ago and the buildings were not fully occupied.

"We were at home and heard a massive sound, it appeared like a big blast. We then saw very dark smoke which engulfed the entire area," said 63-year-old Nitin Joshi, who has been living in the area for more than 50 years.

#### Ensure Seamless

and Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Mandeep K Bhandari, gave an overview of the yatra arrangements and key measures taken to further enhance the facilities and services for pilgrims and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage beginning July 3, the official said.

Earlier this week LG Sinha performed the 'Pratham Puja' at the Amarnath cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas, marking the ceremonial beginning of the annual yatra this year. He assured the pilgrims that foolproof security arrangements have been put in place for the yatra and urged pilgrims to visit the cave shrine in large numbers.

"The Pratham Puja was concluded. I request the devotees to come in large numbers for the yatra which will start on July 3 and conclude on Raksha Bandhan on August 9," LG Sinha said. "I urge all the devotees of Baba Barfani to visit in large numbers for the Holy Yatra and pray to Mahadev for progress of J&K and the nation."

#### Fake Lists, Bogus

depositing unspent flood relief funds into the Additional Treasury Tankipora under inconsistent figures ranging from ₹31.54 crore to ₹42 crore.

Fake Lists, Fictitious Associations As per the CBI findings, two non-existent organizations — Al-Falah Shopkeepers Association and Flood Affected Coordination Committee Srinagar — submitted fabricated lists in 2018 to the Tehsil Office Central Shalteng. The lists, bearing names of 1,503 purported flood-affected shopkeepers, were submitted without the required affidavits or verification, blatantly violating official guidelines.

"The majority of names in the list were found to be from a single household," an official source said, confirming that both the associations were fictitious.

Legal Route Used to Push Fake Claims

In an attempt to legitimize the fraud, 401 shopkeepers from North Srinagar filed a writ petition in the J&K High Court in 2021. The court, citing an earlier order, directed authorities to consider their claims. Citing this order, 24 individuals from the 1,503 fictitious beneficiaries also approached the court in 2022, followed by 1,479 more in 2024, filing separate petitions.

The court directed the government to consider their claims "provided they are eligible." These orders were then used by the accused officials to secure revalidation and release of ₹13.79 crore from the Finance Department, along with an additional ₹12 lakh for the 24 petitioners.

Shopkeepers, Brokers & Officials Collude

Although the 1,503 individuals physically exist and maintain active bank accounts, they were found to have knowingly shared their

credentials with brokers and officials to falsely claim flood relief benefits.

"The shopkeepers were not entitled to any such relief, yet became part of the conspiracy by providing their details for financial gain," the CBI noted.

The investigation further revealed that the accused officers submitted fake verification reports to various top-level government offices to ensure the release of funds.

Advocate Implicated

The scam also involved Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, who represented the 24 petitioners. Verification revealed that eight of his close family members were among the alleged beneficiaries.

Charges & Sections Invoked

The CBI has booked the accused under multiple sections of the Ranbir Penal Code, J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as amended under the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019. These include Section 420 (cheating), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), and other provisions related to criminal misconduct by public servants.

The fraudulent scheme resulted in a misappropriation of ₹7.51 crore, with funds credited directly into the bank accounts of ineligible beneficiaries.

The CBI has launched a full-scale probe to identify the entire modus operandi and network of conspirators, including the officials, brokers, and pseudo-beneficiaries involved in this elaborate scam.

#### J&K DDCs' Term

February 25, 2021, they would complete their term on February 24, 2026," they said, adding that they can be dissolved even before completing their five-year term on the grounds of holding simultaneous polls for all tiers of Panchayati Raj system.

Legally speaking, the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 states that District Development Councils (DDCs) have a five-year term. However, if the government decides to hold common elections for all levels of the Panchayat system at the same time, the term of the DDCs may end earlier to match the tenure of other two-tiers.

The Panchayats and BDCs have been non-existent since January 10, 2024 as Jammu & Kashmir government is yet to hold elections to elect representatives for these bodies.

Officials' sources said that the government is yet to decide on timing of holding local bodies' polls in the Union Territory.

"The government has not yet made up its mind on when to hold the polls. It is expected that a decision on conducting local bodies elections will be taken only after the Amarnath Yatra," they said, adding that the ECI is also expected to decide the timing of by-polls in Budgam and Nagrota segments in August–September this year."(KNO)

#### 'Orange' & 'Yellow'

Pahalgam 28.2 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg, known for its cooler climate, recorded 23.0 degrees Celsius. In the Jammu division, Katra recorded 39.5 degrees, Banihal 31.8, Batote 31.6, and Bhaderwah 30.8 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Katra recorded 39.5°C, while Banihal (31.8°C), Batote (31.6°C), and Bhaderwah (30.8°C) also witnessed higher-than-normal temperatures.

The Met has reiterated its advisory urging caution, especially for vulnerable populations, as the heatwave conditions persist.



WTC FINAL



# South Africa Need 69 More Runs To Win WTC Final Against Australia

Associated Press

**LONDON:** Hobbling captain Temba Bavuma and hundred-hitter Aiden Markram pushed South Africa to the brink of a sensational victory over Australia in a gripping World Test Championship final at Lord's on Friday.

Bavuma, elevating the drama with a strained left hamstring, and opener Markram partnered for an unbroken 143 runs against one of Australia's greatest bowling attacks to have South Africa 69 runs from an historic triumph.

Chasing 282 to win, the Proteas were 213-2 at stumps on day three in a stirring bid to win a first ICC trophy in 27 years.

Bavuma was 65 not out, his running restricted but not his batting technique, and Markram was 102 not out, easily the highest individual score of the final.

Defending champion Australia bombarded them with four of its top-10 all-time test wicket-takers — more than 1,500 wickets in total — but they couldn't

part the Proteas pair, and hardly troubled them.

In South Africa's huge favor, the day three pitch flattened, offered the bowlers little and was far easier paced than the first two days, when 14 wickets fell on each. Only four wickets were taken on Friday, and none after tea.

The odds were in Australia's favor when South Africa's chase began straight after lunch.

One of cricket's best test bowling batteries faced a work-in-progress batting lineup needing to equal England's most successful ever run chase at Lord's from 2004 to win. The only bigger triumphant run chase at the home of cricket was 344-1 in 1984 by the West Indies.

By the time pacer Mitchell Starc removed Ryan Rickelton and Wiaan Mulder, South Africa was 70-2 but flying.

The positive intent missing from the first innings was shown from the first ball of the chase, and the strike was rotated constantly. Australia managed only three maidens

in 56 overs, all by spinner Nathan Lyon.

Starc could have had a third wicket and reduced South Africa to 76-3 when Bavuma, on 2, thick-edged to first slip.

But a helmeted Steve Smith, standing closer than usual to the wickets because the ball hasn't been carrying to the cordon all game, couldn't hold Starc's 138 kph delivery and broke his right pinkie finger. He immediately left for a hospital, was out of the final and probably the following three-test tour of the West Indies.

Earlier, tailenders Starc and Josh Hazlewood resisted for almost two deflating hours.

Both exceeded their test batting averages. Hazlewood up-percut Marco Jansen over the cordon, and Starc achieved his 11th test fifty, and first in six years.

Their third 50-plus partnership for the 10th wicket tied the all-time test record. The stand ended on 59, Hazlewood out for 17 to part-timer Markram. Starc was not out on 58 from 136 balls.

## New DG YSS Chairs Maiden Meeting With DYSSOs

New Department of Youth Services and Sports Director General Anuradha Gupta chaired her maiden meeting with District Youth Services and Sports Officers of Kashmir division on Friday. The meeting, held in the office chamber of the DG YSS in Srinagar, focused on ensuring holistic youth development through active participation in sports, curbing rising screen addiction and addressing the growing drug menace among young boys and girls.

DG Anuradha Gupta emphasized that no school-going child should remain unattended when it comes to sports and physical activities. She urged the field staff of the Department to encourage students to participate in games of their choice, highlighting the crucial role of physical activity in today's digital age.

The DG conducted a detailed review of sports infrastructure across all Kashmir districts and discussed the popularity of various sports in different districts.

In a move toward inclusive development, Gupta issued guidelines for organising feasible sports activities for people with special needs.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Kashmir, Deputy Director Planning, Assistant Director Kashmir, Sectional Officers, and Section Incharges from the YSS Directorate.

## WTC: Lord's Mourns Air India Crash Victims With Silence



A minute's silence was observed at Lord's to pay tribute to the victims of the Ahmedabad plane crash, ahead of start of play on Day 3 of the World Test Championship Final between Australia and South Africa on Friday.

Only one person survived the horrific accident on Thursday afternoon when London-bound Air India flight AI-171, carrying 242 passengers including crew members, crashed moments after taking off from Ahmedabad's Sardar Patel International Airport.

The passengers included 169 Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese nationals, and one Canadian national.

The players and the umpires at Lord's also wore black armbands in memory of the Ahmedabad airplane crash victims.

## Australia's Steve Smith Out Of WTC Final After Breaking Pinkie

Australia batter Steve Smith will take no further part in the World Test Championship final after suffering a compound dislocation of his right pinkie on Friday.

Smith was hurt at first slip trying to catch a thick edge by South Africa captain Temba Bavuma at Lord's.

Many edges haven't been carrying to the slips cordon in the match, so Smith was standing closer than usual to the wickets, 14 meters behind Bavuma, and wearing a helmet when Mitchell Starc delivered the 138 kph short ball.

Smith got his hands up but not fast enough to make the shoulder-high catch. He left the field immediately.

He was taken to hospital for more treatment, a team statement said.

It did not say how long he'll be sidelined, but the injury puts in doubt him going to the Caribbean after the WTC final for the three-test series against the West Indies starting on June 25.

## Gambhir Rushes Back Home After Mother Gets Hospitalized

India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Friday returned to the country after mother Seema Gambhir had to be hospitalized due to health emergency, a BCCI source told PTI.

The source said Gambhir had to fly back to attend to his mother, who suffered a heart attack and is currently in ICU in a New Delhi hospital.

The Shubman Gill-led Indian Test squad is in the UK to play a five-match series against England starting June 20 in Leeds.

"Gautam's mother had a heart attack on Wednesday. He and his family left for India on Thursday and they have reached Delhi," the BCCI source informed.

In Gambhir's absence, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate will assume the team's charge during the four-day intra-squad match between India and India A, beginning here from Friday.

## YSS Anantnag's Inter Zonal District Level Tournaments Conclude

Observer News Service

**ANANTNAG:** The District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag successfully concluded its District-Level Inter-Zonal Baseball Tournament for Girls in the Under-14 and Under-17 at HSS Dailgam on Friday.

In the U-14 category, Zone Achabal emerged victorious after a spirited final match against Zone Dooru, who finished as runners-up. In the U-17 division,

Zone Ashmuqam clinched the title with an impressive performance, also defeating Zone Dooru. The event witnessed participation of 162 female students.

Zone Shangus, on third day of the Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competitions for U-17 Girls at HSS Uttersoo, a total of 270 girls participated across three disciplines of Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho.

In Bhijbehra, the Zonal Level Kabaddi Tourna-

ment for U-14 Boys concluded at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Ground, Bijbehara, organised by the Zonal Physical Education Office, Bijbehara. BMS H.P Tawaila lifted the winner's trophy, while MS Darigund finished as runners-up.

In Zone Achabal, ZPEO Achabal conducted a 'Run for Unity' and Unity Pledge across three venues, including HS Magraypora and MS Hajipora.

## Inter-Zonal District Level Girls U-19 Sports Meet Ends In Budgam



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam concluded its Inter-Zonal District Level Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball competitions for Girls Under-19 at Sports Stadium Budgam on Friday.

The event was formally inaugurated by the Activity Section of DYSSO Budgam and witnessed enthusiastic participation from all 12 zones of the district. The competitions showcased exceptional talent, team spirit, and discipline among young athletes.

Held under the guidance and supervision of District Youth Services and

Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone, the event was well-organised with all necessary health and medical facilities in place, ensuring the safety and well-being of participants.

The event commenced with a pledge ceremony, emphasizing unity, integrity, and dedication to sportsmanship. The entire championship was smoothly and efficiently conducted, thanks to the tireless efforts of conveners, officials, and ground staff.

This successful culmination reflects the department's strong commitment to empowering young girls through sports and fostering a culture of active participation and healthy competition across the district.

## Liverpool To Pay Record \$157 Million For Florian Wirtz: Reports

Agencies

**LONDON:** Liverpool has agreed to pay a transfer fee of 116 million pounds (\$157 million) for attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz from Bayer Leverkusen, British media reported Friday.

The deal for the 22-year-old Germany international includes a guaranteed 100 million pounds plus 16 million pounds in add-ons, which if achieved would make it a British record.

The Premier League record for an initial fee was set when Chelsea signed Enzo Fernandez from Benfica for 106.7 million pounds (\$131.4 million at the time) in 2023.

Later that summer, Chelsea then agreed to pay up to 115 million pounds (\$146 million at the time) — with 100 million pounds up front — for midfielder Moises Caicedo from Brighton.

British media including the BBC reported the Wirtz fee — which would be a Liverpool record — without citing a source. Sky Sports

reported the fee to be 116.5 million pounds.

Wirtz's move has been expected for several weeks and the player has seemed to confirm it himself on his Instagram account, dismissing reports he asked for the No. 10 shirt held by Liverpool midfielder Alexis Mac Allister.

Wirtz is expected to undergo a medical in the coming days ahead of the signing.

Liverpool is aiming to build a dynasty after winning the Premier League title this season.

Wirtz would reunite with former Leverkusen teammate Jeremie Frimpong after the Dutch right back signed for Liverpool for a reported 35 to 40 million euros (\$39.7 million to \$45.4 million) last month.

Wirtz only turned 22 last month but has been a key first-team player for Leverkusen since he was 17. He was the star attacking player in the team that won the Bundesliga and German Cup in 2023-24 without losing a game.



### MOST EXPENSIVE SIGNINGS EVER

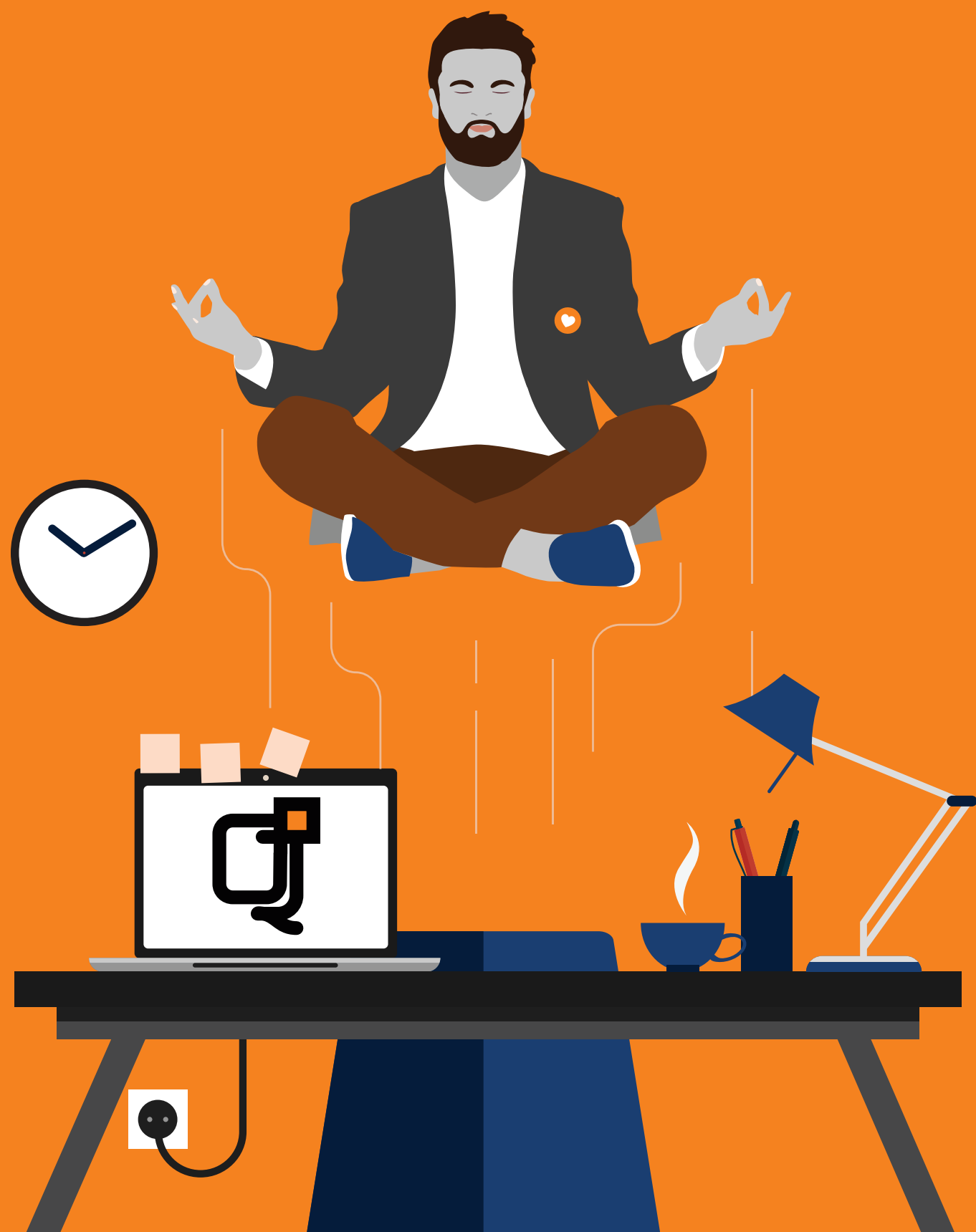
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FROM BARCELONA TO PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (2017) FOR €222 MILLION.
- **KYLIAN MBAPPÉ**  
FROM MONACO TO PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (2018) FOR €180 MILLION.
- **PHILIPPE COUTINHO**  
FROM LIVERPOOL TO BARCELONA (2018) FOR €145 MILLION.
- **OUSMANE DEMBÉLÉ**  
FROM BORUSSIA DORTMUND TO BARCELONA (2017) FOR €135 MILLION.
- **JOÃO FÉLIX**  
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