

## Police Under My Control, Rest With Elected Govt: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday drew a clear distinction regarding his administrative powers, stating that only the police department falls under his direct control, while other crucial sectors like roads, water, power, and agriculture will be the domain of the elected government.

His candid remarks came during the closing ceremony of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Khudwani in South Kashmir, where he also underscored the paramount importance of the agriculture sector for Jammu and Kashmir's prosperity.



Responding to demands from the farming community, including the inclusion of horticulture under the Crop Insurance Scheme, LG Sinha stated, "You said, 'LG Sahab, give us something.' The only thing I can give you are the police personnel. Rest — roads,

water, power, agriculture — fall under the government's domain. I won't object to any development work initiated by the elected regime." This statement, made in response to Minister Sakina Itoo, was met with widespread applause and appreciation for its frankness. He further added, "I have no objection if the elected government acts on your pleas. I stand with you."

The event marked the culmination of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, a nationwide initiative aimed at bolstering India's agricultural sector. LG Sinha described the mission as a "transformative step toward building a resilient, modern, and prosperous agricultural landscape in Jammu and Kashmir." He articulated a vision for J&K, aiming to make every farmer | [More on P10](#)



### LG Gives Job Letter To Widow Of Adil Shah

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday provided a job to the wife of Adil Shah, a local pony ride operator who was killed in the April 22 Pahalgam attack while battling terrorists, officials said.

Sinha handed over the appointment letter to Adil Shah's wife Gulnaz Akhter at their house in the Hapatnar area of Pahalgam in | [More on P10](#)

## LG Orders Reopening Of 16 Tourist Spots Urges Public To Make Amarnath Yatra Successful

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday announced the phased reopening of 16 tourist destinations across the Union Territory from June 17. These sites had been temporarily shut following the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam on April 22.

Eight destinations each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions will reopen, including the popular Betab Valley and parks in Pahalgam Market. Other sites reopening in South Kashmir include Verinag Garden, Kokernag Garden, and Achabal Garden.

In Srinagar, the gates of Badamwari, Duck Park,

and Taqdeer Park will be reopened. In Jammu division, tourist locations such as Sarthal and Dhaggar in Kathua, Devi Pindi, Siyad Baba, Sula Park in Reasi, Guldanda and Jai Valley in Doda, and Pancheri in Udhampur will also welcome visitors again.

The Lieutenant Governor said the reopening will be carried out in phases, with security assessments guiding the process for remaining sites.

"Some places were closed after the April 22 (attack) in view of security considerations. The divisional commissioners and IGP of Kashmir and Jammu have taken reports from every district and it has been decided to reopen | [More on P10](#)

## Iran's Blunt Warning To West: 'Stay Out Or Be Hit'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Tehran has issued a stern warning to the United States and the West, threatening direct attacks on their military assets in the Middle East should they interfere with Iran's military operations against Israel. The statement, delivered via multiple Iranian media outlets, marks a dramatic escalation in an already volatile conflict that risks spiralling into a full-scale regional war.

The warning follows Jewish state's largest-ever aerial assault on Islamic Republic. On Saturday, Israeli fighter jets reportedly targeted a residential quarter of Shahid Chamran Noubonyad Complex in north-eastern Tehran. According to media reports, the strike killed at least 60 people, including 20 children.

Iran is encircled by numerous American military facilities ranging from fully-operational bases, to airfields, to



surveillance sites dotted across the Middle East. The map above shows major US military facilities in Iran's neighbourhood, in countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, the UAE, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq and Syria.

Additional strikes hit a missile site in Assadabad, and a refinery near Tabriz, with smoke reportedly seen rising from the latter. Iran's Fordow nuclear facility, a highly fortified site, also sustained | [More on P10](#)

## Emergency Numbers Issued For 1,300 Kashmiri Students In Iran

With tensions rising in Iran after Israeli airstrikes, the Indian Embassy in Tehran has issued emergency contact numbers and safety advisories for Indian nationals, particularly the 1,300 Kashmiri students currently in the country.

The embassy has urged all Indians to remain vigilant, avoid non-essential movement, and follow local safety protocols. Emergency helpline numbers released are: +98 9128109115 and +98 9128109109. The Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P10](#)

## AAP's Mehraj Malik Withdraws Support To NC-Led Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant political development, Mehraj Malik—the outspoken MLA from Doda and the only Aam Aadmi Party legislator in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly—on Saturday announced his withdrawal of support from the ruling National Conference-led coalition.

Malik made the announcement on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), stating: "I, Mehraj Malik, MLA from Doda, hereby withdraw my support to NC in the government coalition. This decision has been taken in the best interest of my people

of Jammu and Kashmir, whose trust and welfare will always be my top priority."

Though his exit does not affect the stability of the government—which still enjoys the support of 52 MLAs, well above the majority mark—it is expected to create political turbulence within the Assembly.

Known for his fiery speeches, Malik has been a vocal critic of both the BJP and PDP. During the last Assembly session, he accused the two parties of "wrecking" Jammu and Kashmir, sparking uproar. His remarks led to a physical altercation in the House lobby, where he was | [More on P10](#)

## 'Bureaucratic Raj 2.0' Para Hits Out At Omar For Not Expanding Cabinet

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and Pulwama MLA Waheed Para on Saturday criticised Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the delay in expanding the Council of Ministers, accusing him of being reluctant to share power.

In a post on X, Para said that while the people of J&K had given a "historic, one-sided mandate" to restore democracy and end bureaucratic rule, power remains concentrated in the hands of a few.

"J&K CM Omar Abdullah Sahab says he's running a 'hybrid government', but... why no cabinet expansion | [More on P10](#)



Boys bathe in a stream to beat the heat amid rising temperatures across J&K. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

## Ahmedabad Plane Crash: Death Toll Reaches 270 Centre Forms High-level Panel To Find 'Root Cause'

Press Trust Of India

Ahmedabad: The Centre on Saturday set up a high-level multi-disciplinary panel to ascertain the "root cause" of the crash of the London-bound Air India plane in Ahmedabad and assess any contributing factors including mechanical failure, human error and regulatory complacence even as the death toll in

the disaster rose to 270.

As the panel headed by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was mandated to give its report in three months, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said aviation regulator DGCA has ordered "extended surveillance" for the Tata-owned airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliner series planes. The Civil Aviation ministry

said the committee will not be a substitute to other probes being conducted by relevant organisations.

In a post on X, Air India said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The carrier

now has 26 Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787-8 (AI171) and another 29 persons including five MBBS students on the ground were killed when the aircraft came down on Thursday moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai | [More on P10](#)

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2

# University of Aberdeen 1st Scottish varsity to open campus in India

Press Trust Of India

University of Aberdeen has become the first Scottish university to receive the nod for setting up a branch campus in India, officials said on Saturday. The university was granted a Letter of Intent to set up its branch campus in Mumbai which is expected to be operationalised by 2026. The proposed campus would initially offer programmes in computing and data science, business management, economics, and artificial intelligence. Besides, it will also offer an MBA programme with future expansion in mathematics, international business management and information systems, public health, film studies and psychology—strategic areas where Aberdeen and India share common priorities. “We are excited to progress our global



ambitions after the Indian Government gave us approval to proceed with our intention for a campus. As a

country of over 1.4 billion where 50 per cent of the population are below the age of 25, India has long been a

priority area for our global engagement strategy focusing on student recruitment, articulation partnerships, research collaborations and alumni networks,” said Siladitya Bhattacharya, Vice-Principal, Global Engagement at the University of Aberdeen. Bhattacharya explained that the proposed campus aims to empower students, accelerate joint research with Indian partners and contribute to India's dynamic knowledge economy. “By combining the University of Aberdeen's research expertise with India's innovation ecosystem, this initiative aims to tackle global challenges while enabling student exchange, faculty collaboration and industry-led innovation. “We are looking forward to collaborating with our Indian partners to bring this vision to life and further bolster ties between Scotland and India through education and research,” he said.

Alison Barrett MBE, Country Director India at the British Council, said that the University of Aberdeen's decision to progress with a campus in Mumbai marks an important moment in deepening the education partnership between India and the UK. “It reflects our shared commitment to advancing the internationalisation of higher education, research, and innovation, as envisioned in India's National Education Policy 2020,” Barret said. Founded in 1495, the University of Aberdeen is the fifth oldest in the UK. With education and active research delivered across 12 schools, the university has a diverse community of over 130 nationalities and 14,500 students across five key interdisciplinary areas: Energy Transition, Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity, Environment and Biodiversity, Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

## ASF ENTERPRISES

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Parveena Begum while my correct name is Parveza 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. Parveza W/o Naseer Ahmad Lone R/o Puthar Reshipora Kreeri fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This Is Information For The General Public That In Birth Certificate Of My Daughter The Name Is Entered As Aisha Latief Mother Name Shahzada Bano Father's Name Latief Ahmad Teli Birth Place Ramzana Hospital. While Her Actual Name Is Aisha Lateef Mother's Name Is Shahzada Lateef Birth Place Khanam's Hospital. Now I Want Its Correction, If Any Body Having Any Objection In This Regard May Contact Executive Officer Municipal Council Budgam With In A Period Of 7 Days. No Objection Shall Be Entertained After That. Lateef Ahmad Teli F/O Aisha Lateef R/O Ompora Budgam. mcb

### Public Notice

I have changed my name from Immad Riyaz (old name) to Immad Riyaz Mir (new name). In future I will be known as Immad Riyaz Mir (New name). If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the concerned office within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Immad Riyaz Mir 9796356998

inf

### Public Notice

The name and DOB of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Mohammad Iyad Bin Jeelani and DOB 11-01-2016 while correct name is Peerzada Mohammad Iyad Jeelani and Correct DOB is 11-07-2017. Now I have applied for the correction 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. Peerzada Ghulam Jeelani F/o Peerzada Iyad Jeelani R/o Tapper Waripora Pattan fko

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subb... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

#### PUBLIC NOTICE...

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Yusraa Mehraj D/o Mehraj ud din Parray R/o Sheer Abad Khore with verified date of birth 11/11/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.. SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my scooty bearing regd No: JK05G 6952 . 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 office of the ARTO Sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ghulam Rasool Dar S/o Mohammad Gaffar Dar R/o Arampora Baramulla bmg

## NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Mir F/o Muzamil Ahmad Mir R/o building no 5, Kalarooch Kupuwara J&K 193222, want to correct my Son's name & DOB in his Adhaar Card bearing Aadhar no:- 2101 5910 7548 from Muzamil Ahmad to Muzamil Ahmad Mir & 19/6/2003 To 21-11-2007. I want to re-issue for the same. Regard this, if anybody is having any objection He/She may file the same to the Concerned Adhaar centre within a week at the most, after that no claim should entertained.

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## COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS PATTAN

Case File No.	Date of Institution	Date of Order	CNR No.
28	06.03.2024	07.06.2025	JKBA110001162024

In the case of: Mohammad Sultan Chopan Son of late Mohammad Ismail Chopan R/O, Rengi Pattan Tehsil Khoie Complainant along with his counsel Touseef Gani present. Versus 1. Abid Ahmad Lone Son of Mohammad Ramzan Lone 2. Rayid Bin Abid Son of Abid Ahmad Lone Both Residents of village Hathlangoo, Sopore Tehsil Dangerpora. Accused

In the matter of: - Complaint in terms of Section 82 of CR.PC

PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC

Coram: - Altaf Hussain Khan U.I.D No JK00157

The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I. Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above. Same is pending adjudication before this court. After initial appearance you have subsequently remained absent as this court issued warrant against you however, warrant issued against you has been returned unexecuted with the endorsement that you are concealing your presence in order to avoid execution of warrant. This court satisfied that you are wilfully concealing yourself in order to avoid execution of warrant issued against you. As such, through this proclamation you are directed to appear before this court on before this court 20-06-2025.

Issued today on 7th of June, 2025 Under the seal of this court

Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pattan

fko

## Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare

Lalmandi, Srinagar, Kashmir.

### AUCTION NOTICE

As request putforth by Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag vide No. CAO/A/PS/2025-26/2255-56 dated 03.05.2025. Sealed Auction Notice is hereby called for auction of Cutting of Trees at Apiculture Development Office, Anantnag as per the details mentioned below. Interested parties are informed to quote the rates in respect of material to be auctioned on following terms and conditions. The rates should reach to the office of Apiculture Development Office, Anantnag District Anantnag on 18.06.2025 (Wednesday) till 12:15pm through sealed envelope duly filled in on the prescribed format after careful examination of all terms & conditions of the auction notice.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- That the offered rates must be accompanied with a CDR of 2% of the Minimum Reserve Price pledged to Accounts Officer Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir or cash deposit an amount of Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five thousand Only) before the Auction Committee.
- That no tenderer is allowed to submit the tender below the minimum reserved rates, otherwise his cash deposit/CDR will be forfeited.
- That the interested party can inspect the material at Apiculture Development Office, Anantnag on any working day during the Office hours upto 18.06.2025 at 11.00 am
- That the offered rates shall be opened on 18.06.2025 at 1.00 PM in the office chambers of Apiculture Development Office, Anantnag in presence of bidders who wish to participate..
- That the Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject the bids without assigning any reasons thereof.
- That the Successful bidders shall have to deposit 100% bid amount immediately after he/she is declared successful bidder.
- In case the successful bidder fails to make the payment in full within stipulated time, his/her earnest money shall be forfeited & award of bid will be given to second highest bidder on the rates offered by 1st highest bidder.
- That in case any dispute arises between the parties, the matter will be refer to Director Agriculture Kashmir & his decision shall be binding on both the parties.
- The CDR's in respect of unsuccessful bidders will be released after one week duly applied by the bidder to Member Secretary Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).
- That the said public auction notice has been called in the interest to save the state exchequer from imminent loss being perishable commodity.
- That the interested party can inspect the material at respective Areas as mentioned above on any working day during the office hours upto 18.06.2025.
- The successful bidder shall have to use the area without causing damage to other plantation/infrastructure of the farm area.

The detail of the material to be auctioned is given as under:-

Sl No.	Tree Species	No. of Trees	Volume Estimates (in cft)	Latest rate/ CFT.	Total Amount (Minimum Reserve Price)
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
01	HC Nut	20	459.25	Rs. 103.00/CFT	Rs. 56215.34
02	Ulmus	01	30.70		
03	Ailanthus	03	55.83		
	Total	24	545.78		

DIPK-2538/25 dated: 14-06-2025

Sd/- Accounts Officer, (Member Secretary (A.C.) Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar

www.ikssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Medical Record Keeper, advertised vide Notification No. 02 of 2021 under Item No. 231 for which the OMR based written examination was held on 03-02-2025 - Supplementary Document Verification thereof.

### NOTIFICATION

All such candidates who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the following post, vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/4/2025-06 (7643763) dated: 30-04-2025, but could not appear before the Document Verification Committee(s) on 07-05-2025, due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee on 18-06-2025 (Wednesday) from 11 AM to 04.30 PM at JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu (Jammu Centre based candidates) and at JKSSB, Central Office, Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre based candidates), failing which no further claims in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.

S.No.	Name of the Post	Advertisement No.	Item No.
1	Medical Record Keeper	02 of 2021	231

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS) Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/4/2025-06 (7643763) DIPK-2531/25 Dated: 14-06-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar

www.Jikssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Tabla Assistant, advertised vide Notification No. 06 of 2020 under Item No. 181 for which the OMR based written examination was held on 04-02-2025 - Supplementary Document Verification thereof.

### NOTIFICATION

All such candidates who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the following post, vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/6/2025-06 (7644391) dated: 30-04-2025, but could not appear before the Document Verification Committee(s) on 07-05-2025, due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee on 18-06-2025 (Wednesday) from 11 AM to 04.30 PM at JKSSB, Central Office, CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu (Jammu Centre based candidates) and at JKSSB, Central Office, Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre based candidates), failing which no further claims in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/6/2025-06 (7644391) DIPK-2530/25 Dated: 14-06-2025

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS) Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

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## TAFI Says Kashmir Safe, Launches Tourism Revival Campaign



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) on Saturday extended full support to Kashmir's tourism sector, stating that national travel bodies must stand by the Valley and project it as a safe and welcoming destination.

Speaking at a press conference in Srinagar, TAFI's National President Ajay Prakash said the purpose of their visit is to send a strong message across India that Kashmir is open, safe, and eager to receive tourists. "All our chapter chairman and committee members from different regions are here to show solidarity. Tourism is the lifeline of Kashmir, and there's truly no place like it," he said.

The initiative comes in the wake of a recent terror incident in Pahalgam, which led to a dip in tourist arrivals. Prakash acknowledged the fear the incident generated but emphasized that their presence is meant to counter that narrative and assure travelers that Kashmir

remains a prime tourist spot.

He also highlighted the recent tourism boom in the Valley and stressed the need to regain that momentum with coordinated efforts from airlines, hoteliers, and travel operators nationwide. TAFI, he added, is actively engaging with airline companies and hotel chains to keep travel and accommodation affordable.

Calling boycott calls against Kashmir "foolish," Prakash said the federation stands firmly with the people of the Valley and is confident that the tourism sector will bounce back stronger.

As a gesture of solidarity, TAFI members will now carry the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism logo and slogans like "Dil Se Kashmir" and "Jannat Phir Khuli Hai" in their official email signatures to help promote the region.

The visiting delegation also met with local hoteliers, travel agents, and tourism department officials, expressing hope that the message of Kashmir's warmth and unmatched beauty would reach far and wide.

## Tabletop Exercise On Flood Disaster Preparedness Held

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In order to assess and strengthen the district's emergency response mechanism, district administration Srinagar, Saturday organized a Tabletop Exercise on Flood Disaster preparedness here in the DC office complex.

The Tabletop Exercise was followed by a comprehensive practical demonstration. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority, presided over the event.

Additional District Magistrate and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DDMA Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; CEO, DMRR, Dr. Amir Hussain; Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, Snowber Jameel and other concerned were present during the exercise.

The exercise, aimed to simulate emergency situations, outline the roles and responsibilities of key disaster managers, and learn from domain experts about the latest trends in flood disaster relief, was organised in joint collaboration of DDMA Srinagar with J&K level DMA.

It provided an opportunity for these agencies to highlight the significance of their respective roles and the specialized tools at their disposal during flood emergencies.

On the occasion, DC commended the active participation and coordination among all stakeholders. He reiterated the significance of preparedness in mitigating the impacts

of disasters and ensuring the safety and well-being of the public.

He added that the initiative reflects the administration's unwavering commitment to disaster resilience and the safety of the residents of Srinagar.

During the event, participating departments showcased their preparedness through demonstrations of specialized equipment crucial for floods.

A key segment of the exercise featured a detailed presentation by the Additional District Magistrate and CEO, DDMA Srinagar. He elaborated on the operational framework of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the Incident Response System (IRS), emphasizing the collaborative efforts required during and after a disaster to ensure effective response and recovery.

Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, underscored the importance of such tabletop exercises in evaluating and refining disaster response strategies. He highlighted the collaborative approach adopted by various departments to address potential challenges.

CEO, DMRR, also lauded the participation and coordination among all stakeholders.

The successful execution of this exercise was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Consultant Mush-taq Ahmad and the District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) team in Srinagar, who meticulously organized and managed the event.

# Bemina Flyover Develops Cracks; Probe Ordered

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Just a year after being thrown open for the public, cracks have appeared on the much-anticipated Bemina flyover in Srinagar city, triggering concern among the commuters and the locals alike.

The Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, which constructed the flyover, said the cracks appeared because of seasonal changes and are merely nothing and will not have any effect on safety of the bridge.

According to KNO, a visibly cracked section of the flyover, captured in images circulated on social media, shows structural cracks along a joint between concrete slabs, drawing public criticism.

Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Sajad Ahmad Naqeeb said the cracks are "not alarming", saying that they were likely caused due to seasonal temperature fluctuations and settling processes.

"These are not major cracks that compromise the integrity of the bridge. They are seasonal and weather-related, common in such structures during temperature transitions," he said.

He added to ensure safety, he has framed a committee to thoroughly examine the issue and initiate immediate filling and repairs.

Replying to the safety of the bridge due to cracks, he said there will be no effect on the bridge as they are just at a few spots and the bridge is intact and strong.

Pertinently, Bemina Flyover, part of



**THESE ARE NOT MAJOR CRACKS THAT COMPROMISE THE INTEGRITY OF THE BRIDGE.** They are seasonal and weather-related, common in such structures during temperature transitions,"

the NH-44 bypass corridor, was conceived to ease traffic congestion. The one-kilometre-long, four-lane structure was inaugurated in June 2024 following its construction by the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department with the project cost of Rs 31.49 crore.

Additionally, as the photo went viral on social media, local residents and commuters have raised questions about the structural quality and monitoring mechanisms in place. Some have expressed fear over potential safety risks.

# DC Sgr Inaugurates Entrepreneurship Mela At Kashmir Haat

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** With an aim to connect Srinagar's youth with viable livelihood opportunities and reinforce the administration's ongoing mission to empower the youth through sustainable entrepreneurship and skill development, district administration Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Employment and Counseling Center Srinagar organized a one-day Potential Entrepreneurship Mela at the Kashmir Heart (Numaish Gah) Exhibition Ground.

The mela, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth, was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmed Dar; Joint Director Employment, Waseem Raja; Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba Inayat, along with the Career Counselling Officer (CCO) and Employment Officer (EO) from the Employment Department and other concerned also attended the event.

On the occasion, DC inspected various stalls set up by the different line departments. He interacted with the participants and encouraged the youth to take full advantage of available self-employment schemes.

He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and ensuring accessible support for aspiring business owners.

During the programme, Dr. Sheeba Inayat informed the dignitaries that district Srinagar has surpassed 780 applications under the Mission Yuva initiative, marking a significant achievement in youth engagement. The mela saw participation from 290 youth, with 50 registered on-the-spot under various Mission Yuva



## Admin Bids Farewell To Dr Bilal

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** District administration Srinagar Saturday organized an impressive function at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to bid a warm and affectionate farewell to outgoing Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who has been posted as new Deputy Commissioner, Budgam.

Officers, while expressing their views on the occasion, highlighted the contribution of Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat as the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and unanimously lauded his efforts in shaping developmental initiatives taken in Srinagar district, measures to ensure a prompt and efficient public delivery system, fight against drug menace, employment generation and infrastructure development.

In addition, officers lauded the tireless efforts of Dr Bilal as District Election Officer in ensuring suc-

cessful conduct of Elections for Lok Sabha and Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly in Srinagar district. His role as a Controller Civil Defence Srinagar, during recent war like situation, to prepare Srinagar district for civil defence preparations and readiness to handle emergencies and ensure the safety of citizens and critical installations in the district.

Officers also enumerated the achievements made under his vibrant and dynamic guidance in Srinagar district. The team Srinagar also expressed gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Bilal for his leadership in ushering the positive change in district and extended best wishes to him for future.

While appreciating his commitment, efficiency, and people-centric approach, Officers also praised the ability of the outgoing Deputy Commissioner to maintain accountability, transparency, responsiveness, and coordination among departments.

schemes via the official portal.

Career Counselling Officer and Employment Officer actively assisted participants with guidance, real-time registration, and information on available schemes.

Participants included budding entrepreneurs, SHG members, and rep-

resentatives from SBDU, BHD, and Yuva Doots. All major line departments implementing self-employment schemes installed informative stalls highlighting, eligibility criteria, scheme benefits and financial support, application procedures and departmental contact points.

# DLSA Observes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, Saturday observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with deep commitment and compassion towards the elderly members of society.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, Department of Social Welfare Srinagar, and Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Headquarters Delhi JK UT (NGO), a day ahead of the globally recognized date of 15th June to accommodate greater participation and ensure timely outreach to senior citizens.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arif, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the close supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

In his address, Shabir Mujahid, former Director of Doordarshan and member of Ahata Waqar, applauded

the collaborative efforts of DLSA Srinagar and other stakeholders. He highlighted the pressing need for such initiatives that address the concerns of senior citizens and promote respect, dignity, and protection for the elderly.

Abdul Gani Parray, Chairman of the Senior Citizen Council, passionately addressed the gathering and urged the community to uphold the values of care and compassion towards elder persons. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (South) also spoke on the occasion and elaborated on the various welfare schemes and support systems available for the senior citizen population.

Dr. Mushtaq Maqbool, a noted psychiatrist, sensitively discussed the mental health issues faced by elderly individuals and emphasized the importance of timely psychiatric support and emotional care.

One of the key highlights of the event was the organization of a Free Medical Camp, where elderly participants received general health check-ups, physiotherapy sessions, and

medical consultations. This initiative aimed to ensure that the elderly continue to receive accessible and essential healthcare services.

Urba Rashid and Sehar Nazir, Legal Aid Defense Counsels of DLSA Srinagar also addressed the audience, emphasizing the significance of observing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. They raised awareness about the availability of legal aid services for senior citizens and explained the functioning of the NALSA Helpline 15100, a toll-free number that provides free legal aid assistance across the country.

Other members of Ahata Waqar also expressed their views and shared personal experiences, adding depth and emotion to the overall event.

In addition to this programme, a special awareness programme was also conducted by Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar at Faqir Gujri, Srinagar to sensitize the local community about the issues of elder abuse, rights of senior citizens, and the availability of free legal aid.

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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

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



### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
18 Zil-Hajj  
1446

## PRAYERS

FAJR 3:34

ZUHR 12: 31

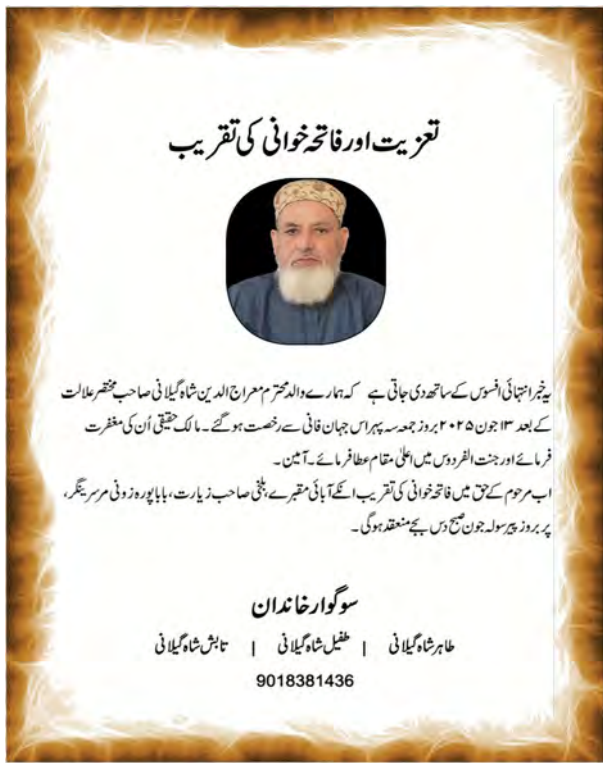
ASR 5:31

Magrib 7:46

ISHA 9:28

## This Day In History

- 763 BC- Assyrians record a solar eclipse that will be used to fix the chronology of Mesopotamian history
- 778- Willibald, Abbot of Heidenheim, dictates his pilgrimage to the Holy Land fifty years before, to nun Hugbuc, who records this and biographies of Willibald and his brother - the first known English woman writer
- 923- Battle of Soissons: King Robert I of France is killed and King Charles the Simple is arrested by the supporters of Duke Rudolph of Burgundy
- 1184- Magnus V Erlingsson, King of Norway (1156-1184), dies in the Battle of Fimreite
- 1246 - With the death of Duke Frederick II, the Babenberg dynasty ends in Austria
- 1389 - Battle of Kosovo; Turks defeat Serbs
- 1567 - Battle at Carberry, Scotland: Protestant troops beat Earl Bothwell's army
- 1667 - 1st fully documented human blood transfusion is performed by French physician, Dr. Jean-Baptiste Denys, when a small amount of sheep blood is transfused into a 15-year old boy, who survives the procedure
- 1808 - Joseph Bonaparte becomes King of Spain
- 1826 - Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II abolishes the elite Janissary corps executing thousands for treason to make way for a more modern army
- 1864 - Battle of Petersburg begins as General Ulysses S. Grant assaults the Confederate line at the important Southern rail center of Petersburg
- 1869 - World's 1st plastic Celluloid is patented by John Wesley Hyatt, Albany, NY
- 1876 - Tsunamis after earthquake floods NE coast of Japan, kills 28,000
- 1878 - World's first moving pictures caught on camera (used 12 cameras, each taking 1 picture) done to see if all 4 of a horse's hooves leave the ground
- 1888 - Wilhelm II becomes Emperor of Germany
- 1896 - Tsunami strikes Shinto festival on beach at Sanriku, Japan; 27,000 are killed, 9,000 injured and 13,000 houses destroyed
- 1911 - Tabulating Computing Recording Corporation (IBM) is incorporated.
- 1913 - The Battle of Bud Bagsak in the Philippine concludes
- 1916 - Boeing Model 1 [B & W Seaplane], the 1st Boeing product, flies for the 1st time
- 1917 - In order to calm troubled relations with Ireland, the British grant amnesty to the Prisoners taken during the Easter Rising of 1916
- 1924 - Ford Motor Company manufactures its 10 millionth automobile
- 1940 - World War II: France surrenders to NAZI Germany, German troops occupy Paris
- 1940 - Soviet Army occupies Lithuania
- 1943 - Congress of racial Equality (CORE) forms
- 1954 - Great Britain's 2 biggest steel factories nationalized
- 1960 - Argentina complains to UN about Israeli illicit transfer of Eichmann
- 1965 - South Africa begins economic boycott of Dutch products
- 1977 - Spain's 1st free elections since 1936 (41 years)
- 1978 - Soyuz 29 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6; they stay 139 days
- 198 - 5 En route to Halley's Comet, USSR's Vega 2 drops lander on Venus
- 1988 - NASA launches space vehicle S-213
- 1991 - Birth of the first federal political party in Canada that supports Quebec nationalism, le Bloc Québécois
- 1996 - IRA bomb in Manchester wrecks city centre at 11.17am, injuring 200
- 2001 - Indian epic "Laagan" directed by Ashutosh Gowariker, starring Aamir Khan and Gracy Singh premieres
- 2002 - Near earth asteroid 2002 MN missed the Earth by 75,000 miles (120,000 km), about one-third of the distance between the Earth and the Moon
- 2012 - Apple I computer sells for a record \$374,500
- 2015 - Real estate mogul Donald Trump launches his campaign for US President





Air India Completes 787 Checks, Cautions on Delays

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Air India on Saturday said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

In the wake of the fatal crash of Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane in Ahmedabad on Thursday, DGCA

to airports with operating curfews. Customers will be duly notified about any delays," the airline said in a post on X.

The airline said it is in the process of completing the one-time safety checks directed by DGCA.

"These checks are being carried out on the Boeing 787 fleet as they return to India, before being cleared for their next operation.

"Air India has completed such checks on nine of the Boe-



on Friday ordered enhanced safety checks of the aircraft fleet.

Air India has 33 Boeing 787-8/9 planes.

"Some of these checks could lead to higher turnaround time and potential delays on certain long-haul routes especially those

ing 787 aircraft and are on track to complete this process for the remaining 24 aircraft within the timeline provided by the regulator," the airline said.

The carrier had 26 legacy Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

Fire Engulfs 67-storey Bldg in Dubai's Marina, 1000's Evacuated

Press Trust Of India

Dubai: A massive fire broke out at a 67-storey building in Marina here, the Dubai Media Office (DMO) said on Saturday.

All 3,820 residents from 764 apartments of the Marina Pinnacle were safely evacuated after the fire started late

The DMO later at 2.21 am noted that specialised units safely evacuated all 3,820 residents from 764 apartments of Marina Pinnacle without any injuries.

This is not the first time that Marina Pinnacle — also known as Tiger Tower — has caught fire. In May 2015, a



on Friday night.

The fire was extinguished by Dubai Civil Defence teams that worked tirelessly for six hours, Khaleej Times newspaper reported.

The DMO said the authorities are working closely with the building's developer to arrange temporary housing for the affected residents, prioritising their safety and well-being.

The DMO in a post on X at 1.44 am on Saturday said: "Specialised teams successfully evacuated all residents from the 67-storey building, prioritising their health and safety throughout the operation. Efforts continue to fully contain the fire."

"Ambulance teams and medical staff are on site to offer full medical and mental support to the safely evacuated residents," the DMO added at 2.09 am.

Ambulance teams and medical staff are on site to offer full medical and mental support to the safely evacuated residents

kitchen incident sparked a fire on the 47th floor, which spread to the 48th floor before being contained by Dubai Civil Defence, Khaleej Times said. PTI



Iran Shoots Down 3rd F-35 Fighter Jet: Report

Claims Capture of Israeli Pilots Amid Escalating Conflict

Agencies

Tehran: Tensions between Iran and Israel have reached a new peak as Iranian media claim that Iranian air defense forces have successfully shot down three Israeli F-35I Adir stealth fighter jets in the span of 48 hours. Tehran said that one Israeli pilot was captured alive after ejecting, while another is reported to have been killed. The claims come in the wake of Israel's large-scale aerial offensive targeting Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure.

Iranian outlets including IRNA, Press TV, and Tehran Times have reported that a third F-35 fighter was destroyed over western Iran in the early hours of Saturday, following the downing of two others on Friday. Iran's Army Public Relations Office released a statement confirming the latest engagement, claiming that the pilot's fate remains "under investigation." One female pilot is said to have been taken into custody after ejecting, though no names, images, or additional evidence have been released.

linked channels have circulated what they describe as images of wreckage; however, analysts have questioned their authenticity. No high-resolution or geolocated evidence has yet

The F-35I, a heavily customized version of the U.S.-built F-35 Lightning II, is the crown jewel of Israel's air power. Delivered under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, each jet reportedly costs around Rs 7 billion (approx. \$85 million). If Iran's claims are true, Israel could have lost assets worth over Rs 21 billion (\$255 million) in less than two days.

been provided to confirm Iran's assertions.

The downings, if verified, would represent a stunning blow to the Israeli Air Force and a remarkable achievement for Iranian air defense systems against one of the world's most advanced stealth aircraft.

Israeli authorities so far denied Iran's claims. In a brief statement, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said:

"We have no reports of any aircraft lost or personnel missing. All operational assets have

returned safely."

Independent military analysts say F-35's low radar cross-section and robust electronic warfare capabilities make it extremely difficult to detect and intercept with conventional air defense systems.

The reported shootdowns follow Israel's early Friday morning launch of a coordinated air assault using US made F-35I Adir, F-15I Ra'am, and F-16I Sufa fighter jets. Targets reportedly included nuclear facilities, missile depots, and command centers across Iran.

Strikes resulted in the deaths of senior military figures, nuclear scientists, and civilian casualties, including women and children. In retaliation, Iran launched a series of ballistic missile attacks on Israeli strategic positions, sparking fears of a broader regional conflict.

Strategic and Financial Stakes

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At UN, Iran accuses US of being complicit in Israeli strikes

Arab News

UNITED NATIONS: Iran accused the United States of being complicit in Israel's attacks on the Islamic Republic, which Washington denied, telling Tehran at the United Nations Security Council that it would "be wise" to negotiate over its nuclear program.

Iran launched retaliatory strikes on Israel late on Friday after Israel attacked Iran earlier in the day.

Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon said Iran had been "preparing for war" and Israel's strikes were "an act of national preservation."

His Iranian counterpart, Amir Saeid Iravani, accused Israel of seeking "to kill diplomacy,

to sabotage negotiations, and to drag the region into wider conflict," and he said Washington's complicity was "beyond doubt".

"Those who support this regime, with the United States at the forefront, must understand that they are complicit," Iravani told the Security Council. "By aiding and enabling these crimes, they share full responsibility for the consequences."

US President Donald Trump said Friday that he had given Tehran a 60-day ultimatum, which expired on Thursday, to make a deal over its escalating uranium enrichment program.

A sixth round of US-Iran talks had been scheduled to take place in Oman on Sunday, but it was unclear whether it would go

ahead. Danon said Israel had been patient despite mounting risks.

"We waited for diplomacy to work ... We watched negotiations stretch on, as Iran made false concessions or refused the most fundamental conditions," Danon told the Security Council. He said intelligence had confirmed Iran could have produced enough fissile material for multiple bombs within days.

Senior US official McCoy Pitt said the United States will continue to seek a diplomatic resolution that ensures Iran will never acquire a nuclear weapon or pose a threat to stability in the Middle East.

"Iran's leadership would be wise to negotiate at this time," Pitt told the council.

NEET-UG 2025 result

Rajasthan Boy Tops, Over 12 Lakh Qualify

Press Trust Of India

Rajasthan's Mahesh Kumar has topped the medical entrance exam NEET-UG, while Madhya Pradesh's Utkarsh Awadhiya has bagged the second rank, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday.

More than 12.36 lakh candidates out of 22.09 lakh test takers qualified the exam. The number is down from last year's 13.15 lakh qualifying candidates. However, the number of test takers was also higher last year at over 23.33 lakh.

Maharashtra's Krishang Joshi and Delhi's Mrinal Kishore Jha bagged the third and fourth ranks, respectively.

Among females, Delhi's Avika Aggarwal emerged topper, bagging the fifth rank nationally.

The maximum qualifying candidates are from Uttar Pradesh (over 1.70 lakh), followed by Maharashtra (over 1.25 lakh) and Rajasthan (over 1.19 lakh).

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) is the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates appearing for the test.

More than 12.36 lakh candidates out of 22.09 lakh test takers qualified the exam. The number is down from last year's 13.15 lakh qualifying candidates

The NTA conducts the NEET every year for admission into medical colleges. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBBS course -- approximately 56,000 in government hospitals, and about 52,000 in private colleges.

Admissions to undergraduate courses in dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha also utilise

Draft Proposes Overhaul Of Transport Systems For Persons With Disabilities



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A new draft framework has proposed sweeping changes to transport systems to make them more accessible for persons with disabilities (PwDs), including mandatory wheelchair space in buses and Metro trains, step-free toilets at stations, level boarding ramps, and trained staff across air, rail and road transport networks.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has invited comments and suggestions from the stakeholders and general public on the draft accessibility standards for the transport and mobility sector.

The draft "Transport Accessibility Framework" has been prepared by the Strategic Accessibility Cell - Rights of Riders (SAC-RR). It lays out detailed, enforceable standards across the transport chain - from booking and boarding to infrastructure, vehicles and emergency response.

Most measures are marked "non-negotiable", meaning they would be binding once the guidelines take effect.

The department said these draft standards, which identify non-negotiable rules, have been prepared to strengthen the creation of barrier-free environments in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and relevant rules.

According to the draft, all new buses procured under Central schemes must include low-floor entry, ramps, safety belts, and designated wheelchair areas.

Existing services such as PM eBus Sewa and Type III intercity buses would also be retrofitted with tested lifts or bridge ramps. At least four priority seats with seatbelts are required in each bus for people with limited mobility.

Metro and rail platforms must deploy rubber gap fillers and boarding ramps, while coach doors and aisles must be widened to accommodate wheelchairs.

Long-distance trains must include at least one accessible coach with wheelchair anchorage and a Type A toilet with grab bars, the draft noted.

At airports, the draft calls for step-free access from parking to check-in, aerobridges with rollout ramps, designated wheelchair-friendly seating in aircraft, and availability of aisle chairs.

NEWS MAKERS

Dream cut short 1st-year MBBS student, farmer's son, dies in plane crash

Aryan Rajput, a farmer's son from Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, was studying to become a doctor, but the crash of the Air India flight in Ahmedabad on Thursday tragically cut short the life of the 19-year-old.

Rajput was among those who died on the premises of the B J Medical College and civil hospital when the London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft crashed soon after take-off.

Rajput, who hailed from Jigsawli village, was a first-year student at the



Ahmedabad college and lived in its hostel.

His father Ramesh Singh Rajput is a farmer, said Jigsawli village sarpanch Pankaj Rajput.

Aryan had recently returned to the hostel after visiting home on May 31, he said.

Inspector General of Police Arvind Saxena told

PTI that Aryan Rajput's body was expected to reach Gwalior late Friday night.

The Air India flight with 230 passengers and 12 crew members on board crashed into the B J Medical college complex moments after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon.

Aryan's cousin Bhikham said he was eating in the hostel's dining area when the plane came down.

"One of his friends informed us about the incident. We have told his parents that he is injured. The family is in deep shock," he added.

Couple Poisons 3 Children During Dinner, Attempts Suicide

Kanker, Jun 14 (PTI) : Three children died, and their parents are in critical condition after they allegedly consumed poison in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district, the police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred in Paralkot Village-70, under Partapur police station limits, on Friday night, an official said.

He said that as per preliminary information, Devendra Bairagi (36) and his wife allegedly gave poison to their daughters, Jutika Bairagi (9) and Dipiti (12), and son Devraj (6), and also consumed the substance while having dinner.

While the children died, neighbours admitted the couple to the Pakhanjore Civil Hospital and informed the police, the



official said. He said the couple's condition was critical.

Neighbours informed that the family was facing some financial problems but the matter is being investigated, he added.

While the children died, neighbours admitted the couple to the Pakhanjore Civil Hospital and informed the police, the official said. He said the couple's condition was critical.



## Secretary, Ministry Of I&B Reviews Functioning Of Media Units



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India Sanjay Jaju, today reviewed the functioning of Ministry's media units in Srinagar. He was provided with an overview of the functioning of Doordarshan, Akashvani, Press Information Bureau, Central Bureau of Communication and Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), J&K Government.

During the visit, Jaju inspected the offices of Doordarshan Kendra (DDK), Srinagar, and Akashvani Srinagar, where he held detailed interactions with officials and staff.

The Secretary laid special emphasis on the creation of more indigenous programmes and region-specific content that resonates with the cultural ethos of Jammu & Kashmir. He encouraged the teams to develop programming in local languages to enhance regional outreach and viewer connect.

On the occasion, Jaju said, Public broadcasting in a region like Jammu & Kashmir must not only inform but also inspire. By promoting local languages, expanding news content, and leveraging our platforms, we aim to create a stronger, more inclusive media presence that truly reflects the voice and diversity of the region.

Reviewing the functioning of Doordarshan Kendra, Jaju advised the expansion of news bulletins to keep audiences well-informed. He expressed keen interest in exploring new projects for the production

of serials and films for the DD Kashir channel, highlighting the need to give a creative platform to local talent and stories.

Underscoring the importance of new-age digital platforms, Jaju stressed the need to popularise the WAVES integrated OTT app, which aggregates rich audio-visual content from across Doordarshan and All India Radio networks. He called for greater amplification and user sign-ups for the platform, especially from the younger demographic.

Additionally, he highlighted the strategic importance of DD Free Dish in sensitive zones like J&K, noting that it plays a critical role in providing access to free and factual content. He urged efforts to enhance its reach and subscriber base across the UT.

To enhance the impact of government communication in the region, Sanjay Jaju underscored the importance of greater coordination between the DIPR, J&K, and the media units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. This will ensure more effective dissemination of public interest messages, development stories, and citizen-centric initiatives across platforms, ensuring uniformity and wider reach.

Secretary Information J&K Government Muneer-ul Islam, Director, Press Information Bureau, Srinagar and RNU DD News, Shri Qazi Salman, Director Information J&K, Nitish Rajora were present besides senior officials from CBC, programme and engineering wings of DDK and Akashvani Srinagar.

## Transport Commissioner Visits Pahalgam Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

### Observer News Service

**PAHALGAM:** In view of the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, today visited Pahalgam to review the transport arrangements besides interacting with the drivers and stakeholders at various taxi stands.

He was accompanied by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir besides others.

During the interaction with the local taxi operators and union representatives, the Transport Commissioner emphasised the crucial role of transport community in ensuring a safe, smooth and welcoming experience for the pilgrims and tourists.

"Drivers are the first point of contact for the visitors and serve as our true ambassadors. In the current scenario, their role becomes even more vital in building confidence and trust among the yatrīs and tourists

alike," stated the Transport Commissioner.

The Transport Commissioner urged the drivers to drive responsibly, strictly follow the traffic and safety regulations and adhere to the fares prescribed by the department. He informed that the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) along with his team shall be stationed at Pahalgam throughout the Yatra period to ensure that these directions are followed in letter and spirit.

The RTO Kashmir exhorted upon the drivers to remain alert, courteous and fully compliant with the safety protocols throughout the Yatra period. He also appreciated their cooperation in maintaining discipline and order on the roads.

The officials assured that the Transport Department stands in full support of the transport fraternity and will extend all necessary assistance to facilitate seamless operations during the Yatra.

## Kashmir Timber Association Calls On Forest Minister

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of Kashmir Timber Association on Saturday met Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana and discussed their concerns regarding the timber trade regulations and forest compliance in Kashmir.

The association emphasized the need for uniform policy implementation across Jammu and Kashmir, citing alleged inconsistent practices as a major hindrance to the sector's growth.

Key issues raised included inadequate technical infrastructure at checkpoints, complex licensing procedures, inconsistent E-way bill issuance, and outdated equipment.

The Minister assured the delegation of the government's commitment towards supporting the sector and carefully considering their suggestions to enhance transparency, uniformity and trader-friendliness.

The Minister highlighted the importance of balancing timber supply and forest conservation, enforcing a robust legal framework, monitoring systems and accountability measures to oversee timber trade and prevent forest damage.

He emphasized the vital role of forests in sustaining livelihoods and assured the delegation of the Government's commitment to creating a conducive environment for the timber trade sector. He said Government is willing to collaborate with the stakeholders to promote the growth and development of the timber trade sector in Jammu and Kashmir while ensuring community-driven forest conservation and management.

The Minister, while appreciating the suggestions of the delegation, urged them to continue their engagement with the Government for potential reforms that could benefit the sector and support livelihoods dependent on it.

# CS Bats For Seamless Synergy For Achieving Tail End Irrigation

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a pivotal meeting, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a high-level meeting to assess the proactive measures undertaken by the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) aimed at ensuring comprehensive irrigation coverage for every field across the Union Territory and fortifying defences against the recurring flood threats.

The meeting besides ACS, JSD was attended by Secretary, RDD; CEO, JSCL; Chief Engineers/SEs of t&FC along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the critical need for seamless coordination among the Jal Shakti Department, Agriculture Production Department and the district administrations. This collaborative synergy, he highlighted, is paramount to amplify the impact of flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), ensuring that irrigation facilities translate into tangible benefits for the farmers at the grass-roots level.

He further articulated that the efficacy of major and minor irrigation projects must be reinforced by the simultaneous development of their command areas, ensuring that these vital schemes fully achieve their intended purpose.

To facilitate the robust implementation of district irrigation plans, the Chief Secretary strongly encouraged the optimal utilization of relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and other available programs.

Addressing the pressing issue of flood management, Dulloo enjoined upon the concerned authorities to significantly accelerate the



implementation of flood mitigation projects envisioned under PMDP-II. He advocated a forward-looking approach, stressing the importance of envisaging long-term results for flood protection while executing these crucial projects.

He also impressed upon the Rural Development Department and the Housing & Urban Development Department to perform their paramount duty of protecting the precious water bodies, particularly irrigation canals, from pollution. He called for resolute enforcement measures against the polluters to safeguard these vital lifelines.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of the modernization efforts concerning the Ravi Canal and reviewed the operational efficiency of the prestigious Shahpur Kandi Dam, both critical for welfare of the people of this UT.

Furthermore, Dulloo meticulously reviewed the progress on the Tawi Riverfront Development project. He issued stringent directives to the concerned agencies, emphasizing the imperative to complete the diversion of nallahs and all associated construction and beautification works, including the ongoing electromechanical installations, by the unyielding deadline of September 30, 2025.



**DULLO CALLED UPON THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES** to significantly accelerate the implementation of flood mitigation projects envisioned under PMDP-II."

## Providing Basic Amenities At Doorsteps Govt's Priority: Dy CM

### Observer News Service

**RAJOURI:** In a significant outreach initiative aimed at addressing the public grievances and ensuring welfare of the citizens in border areas, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a public darbar at Kalasara, one of the remotest villages of Nowshera division.

During the visit, the local residents apprised the Deputy Chief Minister of various issues mainly pertaining to road connectivity, water scarcity, unscheduled power cuts, healthcare facilities, bunkers, compensation, shortages teachers, veterinary doctor and other developmental issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister issued on the spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt redressal of issues raised by the people.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dy CM reiterated the government's resolve to ensure equitable development across



all regions, with a special focus on the welfare of border residents. He assured that concerted efforts are being made to address the challenges faced by the people, improving their living standards.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to well-being of the border population. He emphasized that providing basic amenities at the doorsteps of the people is among top priorities of the government.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister paid a surprise visit to Maternity and Child Hospital Nowshera and inspected

the progress on development works being executed there.

During the inspection, the Dy CM stressed on timely delivery of the project while maintaining set quality parameters. He said that this project, after completion, will significantly strengthen the maternal and child health services in the area.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma; SE PWD (R&B); ACD, Aulqil Nuavid; DDE, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; DMO, Mohd Rafiq besides other district and sectoral officers.

## No Sign of Macadamization Despite Ideal Weather Conditions

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As Kashmir reels under sweltering heat, the much-needed macadamization of Srinagar's battered roads remains a distant dream. Despite the arrival of a conducive season for roadwork, both the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) have failed to initiate the resurfacing or repair of major and link roads across the city.

From main arteries to interior lanes, roads in Srinagar are riddled with potholes and craters, causing immense inconvenience to commuters and posing serious safety hazards. Daily traffic snarls and damage to vehicles have become routine, with locals expressing anger over the administration's apathy.

"Summer is the only time when road macadamization

is possible, yet authorities are asleep. Roads in places like Bemina, Natipora, Rambagh, Batmaloo, and Downtown are in a disgraceful condition," said Fayaz Ahmad, a local resident.

While the R&B Department is responsible for major roads, the SMC oversees link and inner-city roads. However, neither agency has so far rolled out any visible plan for repairs or blacktopping.

Many believe the absence of coordination and lack of urgency from both departments reflects administrative indifference. "The season is ripe for road work, yet not even patchwork has been initiated in many parts," another resident remarked.

Locals have appealed to the Government to intervene and ensure that the city's crumbling road infrastructure is addressed without further delay. [KNT]

## Heatwave Drives Locals To Sonamarg



### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As Jammu and Kashmir continues to reel under an intense heatwave, Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has witnessed a sharp rise in local footfall, with families and youth from across the Valley thronging the scenic destination in search of respite from soaring temperatures.

With the mercury touching 30°C in Srinagar and other low-lying areas, scores of residents have been making their way to the cool climes of Sonamarg. The banks of the Sindh stream have turned into vibrant recreational spots, bustling with people pitching tents, bathing in the glacial waters, and soaking in the refreshing mountain breeze.

"This weather is unbearable in Srinagar right now. We couldn't sit inside the house, so we came here to spend a day. The breeze and water make it much more comfortable," said a visitor from the city.

The influx has brought a temporary economic boost to the area, especially to small vendors and shopkeepers catering to the needs of these local tourists. Authorities, however, have urged visitors to maintain cleanliness and avoid littering to help preserve Sonamarg's natural charm.

Amid this rush, Sonamarg

Development Authority (SDA) is pushing efforts to streamline tourism in a more sustainable manner. On Saturday, SDA Chief Executive Officer Bilal Mukhtar visited a local village in the region, where he met with guest house and homestay owners to assess ground realities and promote responsible, year-round tourism.

"The aim is to not only attract more tourists throughout the year but also to make Sonamarg a model for sustainable mountain tourism," Mukhtar said during his interaction with stakeholders.

He emphasized the need for improved infrastructure, efficient waste management systems, and stronger coordination between local communities and tourism authorities. Locals raised concerns regarding connectivity, promotion of homestays under government initiatives, and lack of basic facilities.

According to KNO, the outreach was welcomed by residents, who termed it a positive step toward inclusive and grassroots-level planning in one of Kashmir's most visited destinations.

With the heatwave expected to persist, the rush to cooler hill stations like Sonamarg is likely to continue—making it even more important to balance tourism with environmental responsibility.

## Baramulla Civil Society Holds Varmul Day Meet

### Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa called upon the public to actively contribute towards making Baramulla a prosperous and progressive district. Emphasizing collective responsibility, he encouraged citizens to take initiative and play a constructive role across all sectors viz. education, entrepreneurship, sports, and overall development.

DC Sherpa highlighted that sustainable growth can only be achieved through active civic engagement and community driven efforts. He stressed the importance of unity, innovation, and commitment in building a brighter future for the district.

He was addressing a grand function to celebrate 'Varmul Day' organized by Varmul Civil Society here today commemorating the district's cultural legacy, public service milestones, and social contributions of its citizens.

MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; MLA Uri, Dr.Sajad Shafi; MLA Sopore, Irshad Ahmad Kar; MLA Wagoora Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone; Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Feroz Yahya; Chairman Varmul Civil Society, Tariq Ahmad Mughloo and other prominent personalities participated in the celebration.

Minga Sherpa appreciated the Varmul Civil Society for organizing such a meaningful event, saying, "I take this opportunity

to urge all those present to avail benefits from PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), and other flagship schemes of the Government."

He further informed the gathering that both the Solid Waste Management Plant and Sewerage Treatment Plant for Baramulla town have been sanctioned, with a public hearing scheduled on July 1, and expressed hope that the work on these critical projects will commence very soon.

Varmul Day, celebrated once every four years, honors outstanding contributions in public service with the prestigious 'Sitare Zeenat,' the highest award in public service in Baramulla.

This year, eminent personalities who were honoured with the 'Sitare Zeenat' award for their remarkable public service included former Minister, Harban Singh Azad, founders of Public School Baramulla, renowned religious scholar, late Maulana Syed Abul Wali Geelani and late Maulana Ghulam Rasool Makhdoom, who served as Imam I Hai of Baramulla for many decades.

The legislators from various assembly constituencies of Baramulla underscored that 'Varmul Day' is not just a celebration of our district, but a reflection of the values we collectively uphold which we must continue to nurture and work together for a brighter, inclusive future of Baramulla.



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KO VIEW

Teach, Don't  
Traumatise

Nothing can be more painful than when a child returns home from school not with learning, but with trauma. Nine-year-old Anam Altaf, a student at Srinagar's prestigious Presentation Convent, came back on a June afternoon dizzy, vomiting, and barely conscious. Her father alleged she was physically punished for not bringing a notebook. The school denied any such abuse. But whatever the truth, one fact remains: something went horribly wrong, and the systems meant to protect children failed, again.

This incident comes barely weeks after the suicide of 14-year-old Numan Sofi from Kashmir Harvard School, a case that still haunts parents across the Valley. It appears we have not yet grasped the urgency of reforming how our schools handle discipline, communication, and the emotional well-being of students.

Anam's father said the school delayed informing him. He alleged they neither provided medical help nor showed concern afterward. If that is true, the school's actions are negligent. On the other hand, the school's official version suggests the child merely had a headache, was given medication after parental consent, and that the father disrupted their efforts. But as rightly pointed out by the parents, if everything was in order, why not release the CCTV footage? The school's refusal to do so raises more doubts than it dispels. Institutions of learning are obligated to practice best ethics, so they should be transparent about what happened on the day.

That said, Presentation Convent is a celebrated school in the Valley and has a record of teaching generations of Kashmiri students. In fact, its students have done both the school and the Valley proud. So, a rare alleged oversight can't be allowed to be exaggerated.

If anything, this incident should focus some attention on the private school system in the Valley, which needs a lot of reform. While children are generally treated well, the truth is that the quality of the education imparted isn't commensurate with the hefty fees charged by them. From the looks of it, a predominant part of the private school enterprise in the Valley is more about running a business than the delivery of a quality education. And they get away with this easily because a majority of the parents in Kashmir don't hold them to account or aren't sufficiently concerned with good education. Moreover, in a private school they take the quality of education for granted. But this attitude has to change. Private schools have to justify their exorbitant fees by delivering quality education, something that should take precedence even over the infrastructure facilities.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Every time I visit downtown Srinagar, the smell hits me before the traffic does.

It creeps in through the car vents somewhere around Eidgah and only gets worse as you move closer to Saidapora. It's not just a bad smell. It's a wall. Thick, rotten, heavy. The kind that sticks to your skin and won't let go.

But here's the thing. I don't live there. I stay about 22 kilometers away, near Chadoora. I could've ignored all this and moved on with my day. But how long can you look away when an entire population lives beside a mountain of garbage, and no one seems to care?

The Achan Saidapora dumping site in Srinagar holds over 11.5 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste. These aren't just numbers. These are actual hills of filth that have grown unchecked over decades.

Earlier this year, on March 20, I was in New Delhi at the National Green Tribunal (NGT), where the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr Owais Ahmad, was summoned.

The bench – made up of Justice Prakash Srivastava, Justice Sudhir Aggarwal, and Dr Senthil Veil – had serious questions. So did I.

In court, Justice Aggarwal didn't mince words. He told Dr Owais straight: "Srinagar is unfortunate to have such kind of officers who have no concern for people and environment."

That stung. Not just for the officer, but for the city that has been abandoned to its stink.

Following the hearing, Dr Owais gave an undertaking. He promised the NGT that all 11.5 lakh tonnes of legacy waste would be cleared in two years. The method? Bioremediation. The deadline? Firm.

But before we could even begin to see change, Dr Owais was transferred. Gone. Just like that. No explanation, no follow-up.

What does that say about the seriousness of the government?

You can smell the answer.

People in Buchpora, Lalbazar, and of course, Saidapora, tell me they feel trapped in their own homes. Children get rashes, elderly complain of breathing problems. Flies swarm the drains and courtyards. "We can't eat in peace, we can't

Srinagar's Trash  
Hills Are Rising

As the summer heat deepens, Old Srinagar is choking on the stink of garbage from the Achan landfill. The author, who took the case to India's top green court, asks why the government keeps turning away.

breathe in peace," one woman told me near the local mosque. "It's like we are being punished for something we never did."

This, I believe, is a human rights violation. So why did I go to the NGT? Why fight a battle I could easily ignore?

Because someone had to. And because this isn't the first time.

I've taken multiple environmental cases to the NGT. From illegal mining in Beerwah and Chadoora to wetland destruction in Wullar and Hokersar, I've seen how judicial pressure can wake up the system.

In Doodh Ganga's case, we managed to get over 140 crore sanctioned for cleaning and restoration.

Last July, after I filed the Achan case, the Central Pollution Control Board and Environment Ministry sent a team to inspect the site. We all gathered there — SMC officials, pollution control officers, and myself.

The report that followed confirmed what we already knew: Srinagar Municipal Corporation had violated environmental laws and solid waste rules. For years.

When the NGT heard the matter again in March, apart from the SMC Commissioner, officers from JK Pollution Control Committee and

“People in Buchpora, Lalbazar, and of course, Saidapora, tell me they feel trapped in their own homes. Children get rashes, elderly complain of breathing problems. Flies swarm the drains and courtyards. “We can't eat in peace, we can't breathe in peace,” one woman told me near the local mosque. “It's like we are being punished for something we never did.”

CPCB were present. My legal team, including Advocate Rahul Chowdhary and Advocate Itisha Awasthi, stood with me.

The SMC admitted that Srinagar currently produces 1,600 tonnes of waste every day, and by 2028, this could hit nearly 2,000 tonnes.

With this scale of mess, where is the plan?

Even more shocking, the JKPCB revealed that waste management rules were violated for 1,800 days between 2020 and 2025. That's nearly five years of continuous failure.

The NGT has initiated penal action against eight former SMC commissioners, from Dr Shafqat Khan to Dr Owais Ahmad himself. They've all been held responsible under the Environment (Protection) Act.

But penalties alone can't clean these trash hills. Even local politicians are now speaking up.

Syed Altaf Bukhari, president of Apni Party, recently visited the area and publicly admitted how unbearable the stink has become. He called for urgent spraying of disinfectants and the development of a modern waste management plant. But that's just damage control.

The bigger question is: why did it take a public health crisis for leaders to notice?

After this year's Eid ul Azha, things got worse. Animal waste piled up along with the usual household garbage. Combine that with 30-degree heat and you get a cocktail of rot and disease.

I'm trying everything I can. I write about this issue in local papers. I speak about it on social media. I've met religious leaders, including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and urged them to raise this issue from the pulpit.

The people of Saidapora, Eidgah and nearby localities want him to speak up, and the chief cleric seems willing. Friday sermons are powerful platforms. If political leaders won't act, maybe the mosque can stir their conscience.

Some say waste management is not under the domain of elected governments. That's false. This is a basic responsibility. Clean air, clean water, clean neighbourhoods are not luxuries. They are rights.

Srinagar deserves better. The people of Saidapora deserve dignity. And if that means showing up at court again and again, I will do it.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should also visit the site. Smell what the people smell. See what they live with. Make a promise not to me, but to them. A promise that these garbage hills will not outlive their children.

I am always ready to help the government. But it has to start with admitting that this problem is real, urgent, and within their power to fix.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.

Smart Tourism Is  
Kashmir's Way Forward

Visitors come for beauty. They must leave with respect.  
Technology can help, but culture must lead.

Dr. Saad Parvez

“We must shift from passive sightseeing to active cultural exchange. Tourists should leave with more than selfies. They should leave with stories. Let them brush with a papier-mâché artist, cook with a local chef, or attend a Sufi night in an old shrine.

fall, map stress zones, and measure the impact on air, water, and forests. This isn't about tech for tech's sake. It's about building an early warning system, for nature, and for people.

Education is key. Tourists often don't know how their presence affects a place. They need to be shown, not scolded. Let's build tourist orientation centers at entry points like Srinagar

Airport or Qazigund. These can offer short films, interactive maps, and a cup of kehwa to welcome and guide.

Simple mobile apps can also help. Push notifications in multiple languages can explain local customs, dress codes, and do's and don'ts in sensitive zones. A little information goes a long way in protecting sacred spaces.

And we don't have to look far to see what happens if we fail.

Thailand had to close its famous Phi Phi Islands to heal coral reefs destroyed by unregulated tourism. Venice is struggling under the weight of cruise ships and Airbnb rentals. Bali's water crisis is now worsened by unchecked construction. These are not warnings. They are blueprints for collapse.

Kashmir is already showing signs. Dal Lake is choking on untreated sewage and plastic waste. Once-tranquil spots like Pahalgam are now lined with parked cars. Shrinking meadows, polluted streams, and stressed locals are telling us: this can't go on.

There's also a deeper damage - the cultural one.

Tourism, when unchecked, turns

Some places are not meant to hold masses, but meaning. Kashmir is one of them. The question is no longer how to bring more people here, but how to welcome the right ones, in the right way.

Not long ago, you could still hear your thoughts in a Shikara. Now, the lake moves differently - restless, hurried - as if trying to keep up with the way we travel.

The solution doesn't lie in shutting doors. It lies in opening new ones, smartly. Technology, data, and community wisdom can help us rebuild tourism to serve both people and place.

Let's begin with crowd control. Imagine if entry to fragile sites like Gulmarg or Sonamarg worked like a timed ticket to a museum.

A digital visitor management system could limit numbers based on real-time capacity. No more traffic chaos, no long queues, no pressure on fragile landscapes. Everyone gets their turn, and a better experience.

This isn't a fantasy. It's entirely doable. Pre-booking systems already work for major attractions around the world. Kashmir can adapt it to its own scale.

Add in GPS-based tools to help visitors avoid congested areas, and suddenly, tourism becomes smoother for everyone, especially locals, who feel overrun in their own towns.

Transport must change too. We cannot keep filling narrow roads with diesel vehicles. Let's replace taxis with electric shuttles. Let's bring in e-scooters in Srinagar. Why not run silent electric shikaras on Dal Lake?

In mountain zones, cable cars and ropeways can cut down on road travel, reduce emissions, and offer better views.

During winter, cities like Zermatt in Switzerland go car-free. In high season, parts of Kyoto shut down to vehicles. Kashmir deserves this kind of break.

Hotels and homestays are another weak link. Too many are built without regard for climate, waste, or water. The

future lies in eco-lodges - solar-powered, locally built, and low impact.

Hotels should recycle water, cut plastic, and compost waste. We can even introduce a Kashmiri "Green Stay" certification. Tourists should be able to choose stays that match their values.

But what really defines Kashmir isn't infrastructure. It's its soul: its culture, its people, its way of life. That's what's at risk.

We must shift from passive sightseeing to active cultural exchange. Tourists should leave with more than selfies. They should leave with stories. Let them brush with a papier-mâché artist, cook with a local chef, or attend a Sufi night in an old shrine.

Technology can make this easier. Digital storytelling platforms can introduce Kashmir's history before people even arrive. Augmented reality can help reduce footfall at heritage sites. And virtual tours can give access without damage. It's about showing more while taking less.

We also need to listen to data. Right now, there's no reliable estimate of how many tourists Kashmir can sustainably host. That's dangerous. Without data, every policy is a guess.

AI and GIS tools can forecast foot-

identity into performance. Folk traditions become acts. Language is lost to convenience. Young people, exposed to hurried visitors with little understanding of the place, begin to trade heritage for imitation. What was sacred becomes staged.

We can't afford that. Not in a place like Kashmir.

So what's the alternative? Call it mindful tourism. Or better yet, meaningful tourism. Let's build a model rooted in respect, for the land, for its people, for its history. A model that creates jobs, but not at the cost of culture. That builds, but doesn't bulldoze.

We can start with "Sufi Tourism", led by spiritual guides, not tour guides. Experiences that bring people into sacred spaces with humility, not haste.

Pair it with eco-tourism. Slow walks, forest stays, river clean-ups, farm-to-table food. Add community tourism, where locals lead, earn, and teach. Where outsiders come not just to consume, but to learn.

This is not anti-tourism. This is smart tourism.

Other regions have done it. Bhutan charges a daily fee to reduce tourist volume and increase value. Slovenia uses tech to control nature park visits. Japan offers deep, personal cultural experiences—tea, pottery, poetry—over mass sightseeing. They are not losing tourists. They are gaining better ones.

Kashmir can be a global model for this. We have the wisdom. We have the urgency. And we still have time.

The danger is real. But so is the opportunity. Let's not wait for a breakdown. Let's begin the build-up now.

Let's not forget, Kashmir is not just another destination. It is a civilizational space. A living story. A place where beauty is not in what's seen, but in how it's preserved.

And that preservation can begin with one smart step.

The author is Director, Greenovator Incubation Foundation, NIT Srinagar.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

# A Moment of Reflection for Kashmir

*As mocking videos of the elderly go viral in Kashmir, a haunting question rises: Have we traded reverence for ridicule, and in doing so, lost a piece of ourselves?*

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi

June 15 is marked around the world as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It's a day of reflection, not just about data or policy but about something much deeper. How we treat the people who once held our hands through life's first steps.

In Kashmir, that question cuts especially deep. Ours was never just a place of natural beauty; it was a place of values. We called it "Peer Waer," the garden of saints. A land where elders were not merely tolerated, they were treasured. They led prayers, broke bread, settled disputes. Their presence brought calm and clarity. But if we're honest with ourselves today, can we still say the same?

We are watching a silent crisis unfold. Elder abuse is happening here. Not always in the form of bruises or broken bones, but in cold shoulders, sharp tongues, and the unforgiving glare of a phone camera. Sometimes, all it takes to hurt someone is to laugh when they are most vulnerable.

Last year, a video made rounds on social me-

dia. It featured an elderly, hearing-impaired man holding his passbook, trying to ask about his delayed pension. Instead of being helped, he was mocked. "Su waate gharrai," the man filming sneered again and again. "It'll reach your home."

That phrase became a joke. Memes followed. The video went viral.

But no one stopped to think: What was this really? A man, old and unwell, seeking the bare minimum: his own money. Instead, he became a punchline.

Then came another video. An older man, recently out of surgery, was cornered in a hospital. A woman filmed him, asking inappropriate questions about his treatment. He tried to keep his dignity. But the moment that clip hit Instagram and WhatsApp, his dignity was torn apart. The comments, the jokes, the laughing emojis. It all drowned out the man behind the pain.

What do these videos say about us?

Not just about the individuals filming, but about those of us watching, sharing, laughing. Do we pause to consider the ripple effect? That person on camera has children, maybe grandchildren. And he has feelings.

More troubling still is that these acts of mockery

clash directly with what our faith teaches us. Islam doesn't just advise kindness to elders, it demands it. One verse from the Quran states: "And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment... say not to them [even] 'uff...'" (Surah Al-Isra, 17:23)

This isn't poetic suggestion. It's a command. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) made it even clearer when he said, "He is not one of us who does not show mercy to our young and respect to our elders."

So where did we go wrong?

The change didn't happen overnight. It came gradually, in the form of fast internet, dopamine-fueled content, and a culture that now rewards spectacle over substance. Our smartphones have turned into instruments of humiliation. Videos get clicks. Memes go viral. The human being gets lost.

In our homes, the signs are just as stark. Many elderly parents are now quietly sidelined. Their views are seen as

outdated. Their habits become irritants. Conversations flow around them. Meals begin without them. We no longer wait for their nod before making a family decision. Some even face financial manipulation or are denied proper care. But worse than all of that is the slow, grinding erasure of their dignity.

I remember a time when children were told to stand when an elder entered the room. When their blessings were sought before journeys, when stories from their past formed the bedtime lullabies of children. Today, many elders sit alone in corners of crowded homes, their voices fading into the hum of television and the tap of phone screens.

It's easy to blame modernity. But technology isn't the villain here, we are. Our choices, our silence, our casual sharing of cruelty. When we laugh at an old man in pain, what does that say about the kind of people we are becoming?

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day isn't just for reports or candlelight vigils. It's a mirror. And if we dare to look into it, the reflection isn't flattering.

So what do we do? For starters, stop normalizing cruelty. Every time you come across a video that mocks the elderly, ask: would I laugh if this were my father? My grandmother?

Would I film my own parents like this?

As families, we need to bring our elders back into the heart of the home. Talk to them. Sit with them. Involve them. Respect them. As a society, we need to do better. Create elder support centers, medical aid programs, legal protections, and above all, foster a culture that treats age not as a weakness but as wisdom.

One day, all of us will grow old. And when we do, we will crave the same things they do now: to be seen, heard, loved.

Kashmir was once the garden of saints. Let's not allow it to become a graveyard of forgotten legacies.

On this day, don't just post a hashtag. Pick up the phone. Sit beside an elder. Ask them about their childhood. Their fears. Their joys. Their stories. And above all, listen.

That simple act of listening might be the first step in reclaiming who we are.

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi, from Anantnag, J&K, is a research scholar with an M.Tech in Infrastructure Development & Management.

## Kashmir's Gen Z Wants More Than Degrees

Smart, restless, and resilient, Generation Z in Kashmir is reshaping what higher education should look like. But are the institutions ready to listen?

Firdous Ahmad Malik

Generation Z, growing up with the world in their pockets, doesn't wait for answers. They search, swipe, skim, save. They learn fast and move faster.

But in Kashmir, speed is a luxury. Situational hiccups still slow down life. So how does this generation, wired for progress, fit into a higher education system still catching its breath?

There's a certain tension between the old and the new, and nowhere is it more visible than in a Kashmiri college classroom.

The chalkboard is still in use, the lecture is still the norm. But in the back row, someone is Googling terms on their phone, someone else is watching a tutorial, and one student is editing a resume mid-class.

They're not being rebellious. They're just learning in the way that makes the most sense to them.

Personalized learning isn't a choice anymore, it's an expectation. Gen Z prefers relevance over repetition. They ask questions. They want to know how a theory applies to real life, not just how to memorize it for exams.

In other parts of the world, universities are shifting accordingly: hybrid classes, flipped classrooms, real-world projects. In Kashmir, change has begun, but it's been slow.

A few institutions, like the University of Kashmir and IUST, have started offering online modules and seminars. There are smart classrooms, yes. But ask the students, and they'll tell you the internet doesn't always work. Or the power's out. Or the app crashed again.

What Gen Z in Kashmir really wants is not just information, but application. They want to know: Will this help me get a job? Will this degree mean anything outside this valley?

They are pragmatic. The job market is brutal and they know it.

Unemployment among youth in Jammu and Kashmir was 18.3% in 2023, one of the highest in India. A degree isn't enough anymore. This generation wants skills. Courses in coding, design, content creation, ethical hacking, renewable energy, climate policy, podcasting. They want internships, mentoring, and exposure to the world beyond the Banihal Tunnel.

But many universities here still



offer programs that haven't changed in a decade. There's a mismatch between what's taught and what's needed. That gap widens each year, and students fall in.

To catch them, institutions must build bridges — strong, structured collaborations with industries, both inside Kashmir and across India. Give students a pathway, and they'll run.

Then there's the matter of the mind. Mental health, once a whisper, is now a conversation. Gen Z doesn't want to suffer in silence. In a region shaped by decades of conflict, where trauma is layered and lived, this generation is asking for help.

They want counseling without stigma. Safe spaces without judgment. Some colleges have started offering sessions, but access is patchy, and the demand outweighs supply.

Students speak of anxiety during tensions, depression from disrupted studies, burnout from uncertainty. Mental health support becomes a survival for them.

And yet, their spirit holds. During COVID-19, when the world shifted online, Kashmir's students found themselves on the margins again. They borrowed notes, recorded lectures, found low-data apps. Their resilience was the lesson.

Technology is both their tool and their trap. They learn best on screens, but those screens often go blank.

For change to mean anything, digital infrastructure has to improve. Internet access must be reliable, not conditional. Teachers, too, need to evolve. Tech training for educators isn't just helpful, it's necessary.

And there's something else. Gen Z is global. They may be physically rooted in Kashmir, but mentally, they

move in and out of global conversations. They follow climate activists in Sweden, designers in Japan, entrepreneurs in Nigeria. They want that same access, that same energy. Why can't their syllabus reflect that? Why can't their colleges partner with universities abroad, bring in guest speakers from diverse fields, open digital libraries with global journals?

Some are trying. A few NGOs now run youth fellowships. Young Kashmiris are launching startups, publishing poetry, building tech platforms. There's a buzz, a hum. But to turn that into momentum, policy must match passion.

The National Education Policy 2020 feels like it was written for Gen Z. Flexible courses. Multidisciplinary learning. Focus on creativity, on skills, on tech.

But in Kashmir, implementation needs context. A one-size-fits-all won't work here. Policymakers must listen, not just to administrators, but to the students themselves.

Because here's the thing: this generation wants to be involved. They're not passive recipients. They want a seat at the table. Student councils, surveys, open forums aren't formalities to them. They're essentials. A university that listens builds trust. And trust is rare in a place where institutions often feel distant.

Kashmir's Gen Z is ready. They are tired of waiting for the system to catch up. They're building clubs, networks, businesses. They're creating change from the ground up. All they need is for someone to meet them halfway.

And maybe, finally, let them lead.

Firdous Ahmad Malik is Columnist and Research Scholar, Political Science MGU University, Bhopal. He can be reached at Artistmalik12@gmail.com

## A Father's Day Gift No Court Could Give

For a Kashmiri father living without his children, Father's Day brought neither closure nor contact, but a dream he can't forget.

Syed Majid Gilani

It was the night before Father's Day. Outside, the world was winding down. Shops had wrapped their last gift boxes, children had finished scribbling "I love you" in crayon, families were planning Sunday breakfasts.

I sat in my room, as I always do, staring at nothing. I don't expect cards or cake anymore. My children live far away. Not by choice. Not by distance. But by the invisible wall that courts and custody can't explain to a father's heart.

Their names are Arshad, Sarah, and Murshad. They live in my prayers now. Every morning I whisper them before I sleep. Every night I say them before I sleep.

I haven't heard their voices in years, but I know them by heart. I carry them the way old men carry memories. Close to the chest, tucked between silence and breath.

That night, something stirred. I must've dozed off after I offered my prayers. But the moment wasn't empty. I heard the door creak. Not loudly. Just enough to jolt me awake. Except I wasn't in my bed anymore. I was back in a time when love lived in my house.

Arshad was the first to walk in. He looked taller. His shoulders broader. But his eyes, they hadn't changed. Still soft. Still searching.

"Papa," he said, and my heart dropped.

He sat beside me, holding my hand like it was something fragile. "I miss our walks. Remember how you woke me before Fajr, how we used to race the cold down Shalimar Road? You taught me to skip stones on Dal Lake. You let me steal bites from your corn cob when we sat by the boulevard. I still see you at Hazratbal, lifting me so I could kiss the sacred wall. I remember it all, Papa."

I didn't speak. I couldn't. I just touched his face and let that moment sit quietly between us.

Then Sarah came in. My moon-faced girl. Her eyes were red from crying, but her voice, when it came, was soft as ever. "You called me your princess. You used to wait at the school gate. Remember those little pens and chocolates you'd bring? You said you'd teach me

to drive when I turned eighteen. I haven't forgotten, Papa."

She leaned on my shoulder and I kissed her head. I could still smell the baby shampoo she used to hate. I didn't ask questions. I just listened.

Murshad was last. My baby boy. He didn't say much. Just ran to me like he always did. Full speed, arms wide, no hesitation. He clung to me, buried his face in my chest and sobbed, "Why don't we live with you, Papa? I miss your stories. The ones about the Prophet and his companions. I miss sleeping next to you."

I broke then. Fully. No father is built to hear that question.

I held all three of them, tighter than any dream has a right to allow. I told them I think of them every day. That I still have their toys, their drawings, their birthday cards. I told them I'm still fighting. That nothing in the world has made me give up. Not time. Not silence. Not court orders. Not grief.

"Be good," I told them. "Be truthful. Be kind. Choose good friends. Walk with faith. Never forget who you are, and where you come from."

Sarah squeezed my hand. "We haven't, Papa. We think of you every day. We know you still fight for us."

We sat like that for what felt like forever. Laughing through tears. Remembering the small things. The way light flickered during power cuts. The made-up bedtime stories. The way my lap felt like a world they didn't want to outgrow. And then, as dreams do, this one dimmed. Slowly, they faded. First the faces. Then the voices. All that remained was a whisper: "We love you, Papa."

I woke with a pillow soaked in tears. The room was quiet again. But something had shifted.

Outside, morning had broken. The world was preparing Father's Day breakfast. Toasts were being buttered, shirts ironed, gifts unwrapped.

I sat by the window and whispered a prayer.

"Ya Allah,

keep them safe. Guide their hearts. Let them remember their Papa, and come home when the time is right."

To every father out there who spends Father's Day in silence—waiting for a knock that doesn't come, checking old photos, replaying baby laughter in your head—I see you.

Your love hasn't gone unnoticed. It moves through time and walls. It lives in your prayers. It lives in theirs too. Even if you don't hear it.

Arshad, when your hand first found mine, I became a father. Sarah, your curiosity lit my soul. Murshad, your smile was my peace. If all I get this year is a dream, I'll take it.

Because in that dream, for one night, we were a family again.

And that's all a father really wants.

Syed Majid Gilani is a government officer by profession and a writer by longing. He shares stories of family, faith, and the silences in between. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com





# Your Gmail Inbox Is Running Slow. Do These Things to Fix It

John Brandon  
Wired.com

For more than 1.8 billion people in the world, there is one service that rules them all: Gmail. A primary conduit for communication, the email service that Google launched in 2004 is now as prevalent as the iPhone, a Windows laptop, and the deep blue sky.

I created my first Gmail account way back in 2005, and my current account has existed since 2012. My life revolves around email, but sometimes those revolutions can run a bit slow. Hampered by too many emails, I find myself clicking and waiting for an email to open and waiting again to see the attached files.

I knew I had to solve the problem. Google doesn't provide a lot of guidance for speeding up one's Gmail inbox, likely because the company doesn't want to admit it runs slow at times. I decided to "learn by doing" and discovered several tips and tricks that helped speed up the service.

### Take a Surgical Approach

My Gmail is severely cluttered and choking on too many emails and hundreds of labels. I needed to do major surgery. I started by disabling a few extensions and add-ons for Gmail, and then deleting a bunch of recent emails, but those actions made a negligible impact.

My theory—which I asked Google about, and which the company did not directly answer—is that Gmail has to spend extra time loading emails and running searches when it has to keep track of years and years worth of very large files. I never delete any emails, mostly because I can search for old tax forms, dig up contracts, and even find old photos. It's getting ridiculous, though: I have 652,000 emails that use 162 gigabytes of storage. It was time to do something about it.

To find emails with the largest attachments, use Gmail's built-in search operators. In Gmail's search box, start by typing "in:anywhere larger:40M" and review the results. This will surface emails in any of your subfolders with attachments totaling more than 40 megabytes. In



my case, I only found three emails with a massive attachment, so I tried "in:anywhere larger:25M" and then got nine emails with excessively large files. It was easy to glance through them and determine if they were worth keeping. (If you're feeling adventurous, you can also use the new Gemini AI for Gmail bot to search for emails with large attachments.)

Once you hit delete, make sure you empty the trash as well, otherwise those emails—and their large files—will stick around. On the left side, click Trash, then More, then Empty trash now.

One of Gmail's standout features is the ability to apply labels to emails to help you sort the contents of a busy inbox. But labels are just one more thing for Gmail to keep track of, and old labels that don't matter to you anymore are just clogging the pipes. There's no easy way to bulk-delete labels, so you have to manually remove them. To do that, click Manage Labels in Gmail's left-hand menu bar. Scroll down to your list of labels, then select Remove label for all your unused labels. I removed 350 labels! The emails are still there, but I've shed the weight of those obsolete sorting systems I no longer need.

I also deleted very old emails. To find your oldest emails, click All mail on the left, then on the upper right click the displayed pages to see Oldest instead of Newest. Select all emails on the screen and delete them as needed,

clicking through each page of emails to see more. You can also use the "older\_than" search operator; type "older\_than:1y" in the search bar to see all emails more than one year old. Try "older\_than:2y" and so on. (The Gemini bot might also be able to help find older emails here; give it a shot if you prefer chat-style searching.)

For me, after deleting large files and labels, and deleting thousands of old emails, Gmail ran noticeably faster.

One other fix has to do with how many files you view in your inbox. It's a basic rule of computing, especially in web-based apps: Showing less information on the screen means the app doesn't need to work as hard. Go to Settings, then See all settings. Look for the pop-up next to Maximum page size and select a lower number, say 25. I found this setting did help even in an older, clunky Gmail account from years ago.

### Cache Out

I wanted to do more, and I was tempted to clear my browser cache, which is a catch-all solution for speeding up web performance. For every site you visit, files and settings are stored locally, and as those things build up over time, they can slow down your browser. There's a downside to clearing the cache, though: You'll lose all your saved sessions and you'll have to log back

into all your websites, not just Gmail. Instead, it's better to clear the cache just for Gmail.

This might sound onerous, but it's easier than it sounds: To clear the cache for one site, first go to that site (in our case, Gmail.com). Then, in Chrome, press F12 (or go to View > Developer > Developer tools) to bring up the developer tools. Click on the Application tab at the top, and click Clear site data. This really sped things up for me, even more than deleting large files and labels. I was cooking with gas, but I felt like things could still be faster.

### Start Over

This is a more dramatic solution, but it's amazing how well it works. A few years ago, I switched Gmail addresses because my old account was too clogged. I started over with a new Gmail inbox that was sprightly and trim. It felt like buying a brand new car. Of course, the downside is that you have to let everyone know about your new email address. That's easier than you think.

After creating the new Gmail address, go back to your old one. In Gmail, go to Settings and click See all settings, then scroll down to the Vacation responder. You're taking a permanent vacation from your clogged email, so set the date range to run all year long. Type a message about how you're changing emails, and include the new email address.

You can also forward all incoming messages to the new inbox. Click the Forwarding and POP/IMAP tab at the top, and type in a new forwarding email. Gmail might prompt you for verification from another device to confirm it's really you. Then, click Proceed. Gmail will also send a confirmation email from the new email address to your old one. In your old account, click that confirmation link.

You're all set! Everyone will be notified when they email your old account, and you'll receive incoming emails in your new account.

Whether you follow these tips to liven up an older Gmail account or start over with a new one, the good news is that you'll notice a speed-up either way. Even my old Gmail account is now faster than ever.

## 'Anaemia In Pregnancy Linked To 47% Higher Risk Of Heart Condition In Child At Birth'

Press Trust Of India

Being anaemic during pregnancy could be linked to a 47 per cent higher chance of the child having a heart condition at birth, according to a study conducted on women in the UK.

Anaemia, or iron deficiency, has been studied to be common among people with congenital heart disease — in which one has heart defects at birth affecting the organ's function.

"We already know that the risk of congenital heart disease can be raised by a variety of factors, but these results develop our understanding of anaemia. Knowing that early maternal anaemia is so damaging could be a game changer worldwide," corresponding author Duncan B. Sparrow, from the University of Oxford, UK, said.

In this study, published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the researchers analysed health records of women who became pregnant between January 1998 and October 2020.

Over 2,700 women participants had a child diagnosed with a heart problem at birth, while 13,880 women did not. Haemoglobin levels are measured in the first 100 days of pregnancy, according to the country's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.

More than 120 children with congenital heart disease and 390 children with normal heart function were found to have had anaemia.

"This is the first study in a UK population that demonstrates an association between maternal anaemia in early pregnancy and CHD (congenital heart disease) in offspring, demonstrating a 47 per cent higher odds of CHD in the child," the authors wrote.

In a 2021 study published in Nature Communications journal, the researchers had identified anaemia in pregnant mice as a risk factor for causing heart defects in offspring mice, which was "previously unknown".

The team said that the effects of anaemia in mid-to-late pregnancy on the foetus's development are well understood and include a low weight of the child at birth.

However, evidence on the link between anaemia in pregnancy and congenital heart disease in children is "mixed and weak", they said.

In this study, the team looked at the link between anaemia in early pregnancy and the risk of the child being born with a heart condition.

"Because iron deficiency is the root cause of many cases of anaemia, widespread iron supplementation for women — both when trying for a baby and when pregnant — could help prevent congenital heart disease in many newborns before it has developed," Sparrow said.

The health records analysed were taken from the UK Clinical Practice Research Datalink GOLD database.



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Air India To Provide Rs 25 Lakh Interim Payment To Crash Victims' Familillies

Press Trust Of India

Air India on Saturday announced that it will provide an interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the families of the deceased and survivors of the Ahmedabad plane crash.

This interim payment is in addition to the Rs 1 crore compensation already announced by the parent company, Tata Sons, Air India said in a statement.

Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner carrying 242 passengers, including 12 crew members, crashed in the Meghaninagar area shortly after takeoff from the Ahmedabad International Airport on Thursday afternoon, killing 270 persons, including 241 passengers on board.

"To provide immediate financial support, Air India will be making an interim payment of Rs 25 lakh or approximately 21,000 British pounds to each of the families of the deceased and also to the survivors," Air India CEO and managing Director Campbell Wilson said in a video message.

This, he said, is in addition to the Rs 1 crore or approximately 85,000 British Pounds already committed by Tata Sons.

On Thursday, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran had announced that the Group will provide Rs 1 crore to the families of each person who has lost their life in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

Campbell Wilson said that over 200 trained caregivers are now in place, adding "with each family assigned dedicated assistance along with access to counseling and other services." The process of reuniting next of kin with their loved ones and personal effects has begun."Our teams are working closely with the families and authorities to help the reunification process," Air India chief said.

He said that Air India is also in the process of completing precautionary safety checks on Boeing 787 aircraft, as directed by the DGCA.

"We will complete all checks within the timelines prescribed by the regulator. This has been confirmed by the authorities," he stated.

He also said that the aircraft's data recorder has been recovered, which will form part of the official investigation, adding that Air India continues to "fully cooperate" with these investigations.

4 Months or Bust: SC Shuts Door on Delayed Property Registration

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR — In a landmark judgment that could significantly impact property transactions across India, the Supreme Court has ruled that a sale deed must be registered within four months of its execution, as mandated by the Registration Act, 1908. Failure to do so renders the transaction legally invalid.

A bench comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice K Vinod Chandran delivered the verdict while disposing of a batch of appeals arising from a contentious 53-acre land dispute on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The appeals challenged an order by a Division Bench of the Telangana High Court, which had upheld the validity of long-delayed sale deed registrations—contrary to statutory requirements.

Court Reaffirms Legal Timeline

The Supreme Court emphasized the mandatory nature of timely registration under Section 23 of the Registration Act, which stipulates a four-month deadline from the date of execution for presenting a property sale deed for registration. In cases where multiple parties sign the document at different times, Section 24 allows the document to be registered within four months from the date the last party signs.

In rare cases, under Section 34, the registration can be accepted beyond this period—within an additional four months—if the delay is justified and a fine is paid. However, this extension does not legitimize transactions registered decades later.

"An instrument of conveyance is compulsorily registrable under the Registration



Act," the bench noted. "The proviso to Section 34 enables the Registrar to condone the delay only if the document is presented within a further period of four months, upon payment of a fine."

Telangana Case: A 'Sham Transaction'

In the Telangana land dispute, authorities had validated the registration of sale deeds 24 years after their execution, a move the Court strongly condemned. The apex court highlighted discrepancies in the documents and pointed to indications of possible fraud.

"The validation of the sale agreement, which clearly is shown to be not one executed by the declarants, because of it materially differing from that produced as Annexure P-33... smacks of fraud," the Court observed.

The verdict overturns the Telangana High Court's Division Bench ruling, which had earlier dismissed concerns raised by a Single Judge Bench. That bench had rightly identified the registration as a sham, given the extraordinary delay and legal non-compliance.

Implications for Property Buyers and Sellers

This judgment reinforces the legal requirement of timely registration and aims

to protect property buyers and sellers from fraudulent or backdated agreements. It also clarifies that administrative or judicial leniency cannot override statutory deadlines.

Legal experts believe the ruling sets a precedent that strengthens due process in real estate transactions and curbs attempts to regularize irregular property transfers through backdated paperwork.

The case arose after the State of Telangana and several private landowners appealed against the High Court's decision. The disputed land, located in a rapidly developing area near Hyderabad, had changed hands through sale agreements that were allegedly registered decades after execution, sparking widespread legal and political controversy.

The Supreme Court's ruling not only annuls those questionable transactions but also underscores the importance of strict adherence to registration timelines, signaling a crackdown on irregular land deals.

Key Takeaway: Property sale deeds must be registered within four months of execution—or within a further four months with a fine—under the Registration Act, 1908. Any registration outside this timeline, without legal justification, is invalid and may be treated as fraudulent.

CBI Books Supertech, Arora in ₹126 Cr IDBI Bank Fraud

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered an FIR against Noida-based construction firm Supertech Limited and its promoter R K Arora among others for allegedly defrauding IDBI Bank of Rs 126.07 crore, officials said Saturday.

Arora has been named in the FIR alongside whole-time directors Sangita Arora, Mohit Arora, Parul Arora, Vikas Kansal, Pradeep Kumar, Anil Kumar Sharma, and Anil Kumar Jain, in addition to the Noida-based company, they said.

On Saturday, the CBI conducted coordinated search operations at five locations linked to the accused, including official and residential premises in Noida and Ghaziabad, in connection with the case.

During the raids, agency officials seized cash amounting to Rs 28.5 lakh, CBI's spokesperson said in a statement.

The case was initiated following a complaint from IDBI Bank, which alleged that the accused had conspired to misappropriate sanctioned loan funds through fraudulent means.

According to the FIR, the bank alleged that the company and its directors submitted forged documents to secure credit facilities under false pretences.

The loan account was subsequently declared a wilful default and categorised as fraudulent, allegedly resulting in wrongful losses totalling Rs 126.07 crore to IDBI Bank Ltd., the CBI said.

Air India Completes Safety Checks On 9 Boeing 787 Dreamliners; Inspections May Result In Flight Delays



Press Trust Of India

Air India on Saturday said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by aviation regulator DGCA.

In the wake of the fatal crash of Air India's Boeing 787-8 plane in Ahmedabad on Thursday, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday ordered enhanced safety checks of the aircraft fleet.

Air India has 33 Boeing 787-8/9 planes.

"Some of these checks could lead to higher turnaround time and potential delays on certain long-haul routes especially

those to airports with operating curfews. Customers will be duly notified about any delays," the airline said in a post on X.

The airline said it is in the process of completing the one-time safety checks directed by DGCA.

"These checks are being carried out on the Boeing 787 fleet as they return to India, before being cleared for their next operation. "Air India has completed such checks on nine of the Boeing 787 aircraft and are on track to complete this process for the remaining 24 aircraft within the timeline provided by the regulator," the airline said.

The carrier had 26 legacy Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

Sun Pharma Names Kirti Ganorkar as MD

Press Trust Of India

In a top-level rejig, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Friday said it has appointed Kirti Ganorkar as the Managing Director of the company effective September 1, 2025, succeeding Dilip Shanghvi to the job.

Entire business and all functions will be reporting to Ganorkar, the Mumbai-based drug major said in a statement.

As Executive Chairman, Shanghvi will continue to chair the company's Board, it added.

Abhay Gandhi - President & CEO, North America - has decided to pursue his interests outside Sun Pharma, the company said. Richard Ascroft will be joining as CEO - North America, succeeding Gandhi, it said.

Ganorkar's appointment is subject to approval of the shareholders at the upcoming annual general meeting, it added.

The announcement marks the culmination of a structured and forward-looking succession planning process at Sun Pharma, underscoring the organisation's commitment to leadership continuity and strategic governance, the drug firm said. Ganorkar has been heading India Business at Sun Pharma since June 2019.

Under his leadership, the company's India Business has grown consistently, further increasing its market share, the company said.

Previously, he has held various leadership roles across business development, marketing, M&A, new product introduction, project management, IP and litigation at the drug firm, it added. Ganorkar played a key role in driving Sun Pharma's foray into speciality by securing rights for innovative products such as Illumya, the drug firm noted.

Oil Prices Up 7% On W Asia Escalation



AGENCIES

Oil prices are leaping, and stocks are weakening Friday on worries that Israel's attack on Iranian nuclear and military targets could escalate further and damage the flow of crude around the world, along with the global economy.

The S&P 500 was down 0.7% in early trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 508 points, or 1.2%, as of 9:35 am Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.8% lower.

The strongest action was in the oil market, where the price of a barrel of benchmark US crude jumped 7.1% to \$72.88. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 7.2% to \$74.32 for a barrel.

Iran is one of the world's major producers of oil, though sanctions by Western countries have limited its sales. If a wider war erupts, it could slow the flow of Iran's oil to its customers and keep the price of crude and gasoline higher for everyone worldwide.

But past attacks between Iran and Israel have seen prices for oil spike initially, only to fall later "once it became clear that the situation was not escalating and there was no impact on oil supply," according to Richard Joswick, head of near-term oil at

S&P Global Commodity Insights.

That has Wall Street waiting to see what will come next. For now, the price of oil has jumped, but only back to where it was earlier this year.

"This is an economic shock that nobody really needs, but it is one that seems more like a shock to sentiment than to the fundamentals of the economy," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

In the meantime, US stocks are falling to give back some of the big recent gains that had brought them back to the brink of their record. But the losses are so far generally more modest than they've often been this year, when worries about President Donald Trump's tariffs have injected even more uncertainty into financial markets.

In India, equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent.

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex dived 573.38 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 81,118.60. As many as 2,469 stocks declined while 1,516 advanced and 137 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 169.60 points or 0.68 per cent to 24,718.60. On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark tanked or 1.30 per cent, and the Nifty 1.13 per cent.

Kashmir's Oldest Trade Body Backs Reopening of Key Tourist Sites

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR — The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Valley's oldest trade body, has welcomed the government's decision to reopen eight major tourist sites, calling it a much-needed boost for a struggling economy.

"This is a timely and vital step," the Chamber said in a statement Saturday, responding to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's announcement in south Kashmir. "Tourism is not just a cultural asset here — it's a lifeline for thousands of families."

The reopening follows weeks of appeals from business leaders urging authorities to restore access to key destinations that were shut down after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. The attack had sent a wave of cancellations through the tourism sector, just as the summer season was beginning.

In the first phase, attractions like Betab Valley, Verinag, Kokernag, and Achabal Gardens in Anantnag will reopen. Srinagar's Badamwari Garden, Duck Park, and Taqdeer Park will also welcome back visitors.



"Even one closed site creates a ripple across the economy," said a senior KCCI member. "Drivers, guides, hoteliers, artisans — they've all been

waiting."

The Chamber has pledged full support for the government's tourism plans, including the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. It has also urged authorities to consider reopening other sites still under restrictions.

With security reassessed and destinations reopening, the Chamber said it hopes this marks the start of a steady recovery. "Kashmir is ready to receive guests again," the statement read. "Let them come."

At Ganderbal Fair, Startups Offer Hope in a Tough Job Market

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL, JUNE 14 — On a clear Saturday morning in Qamaria Park, beneath rows of tents and fluttering posters, young Kashmiris came not to look for jobs, but to build something of their own.

A crowd of students, recent graduates, and young entrepreneurs filled the lawn as the district administration hosted what it called a Mega Entrepreneurship Mela, part job fair, part exhibition, and part push against a future that too often feels stalled.

"We want our youth to think beyond government jobs," said Jatin Kishore, the Deputy Commissioner of Ganderbal, who moved slowly from stall to stall, speaking with each entrepreneur. "This is where change starts."

Around him, tables were crowded with products: handmade soaps in paper wrappers, glass jars of apricot jam, herbal

teas, fish feed, candles, and soft-cover notebooks stitched by hand. Most stalls were run by young people in their twenties, some still in college, others just starting out.

"I started with a single bar of soap at home," said Shazia, 26, who now runs a small skincare brand using local herbs. "Now I make enough to support myself."

In Kashmir, where unemployment among the youth hovers around 18 percent, well above the national average, government jobs have long been seen as the only stable option. But those jobs are few.

The mood at the mela suggested something else is taking shape: a shift toward self-employment, even in small ways.

Across the park, government officials handed out leaflets about schemes, training programs, and soft loans. Workers from the District Employment & Counselling Centre helped young people register on the



Mission Yuva portal—an online platform meant to support first-

time entrepreneurs. "The idea is to reduce hesi-

tation," said an officer helping students sign up. "Most of

them don't even know these options exist."

By midday, the park was full. A boy asked how to start a poultry unit. A girl jotted down numbers for a candle-making workshop. Two men from a neighboring district took photos of a stall selling organic vegetables.

For many, this was their first time seeing people like them take such steps.

"When you see someone from your own place, with no big money or family business, doing this—it hits different," said Sameer, 21, who came from a nearby village with his younger brother.

The event drew more than just curious students. Small-scale entrepreneurs and government departments shared space, offering everything from career counseling to business mentorship. Officials from horticulture, fisheries, rural development and banking stood ready to answer ques-

tions about subsidies, licenses and credit.

"This isn't just a mela," said Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, the Additional District Development Commissioner. "It's a message."

Still, challenges remain. Many young people hesitate to take loans. Some worry about bureaucracy, others about failure.

"But it has to start somewhere," said Fatima, who runs a stall selling handmade stationery. "Even if it's just a table in a park."

By late afternoon, the air turned cooler, and some stalls began packing up. The Deputy Commissioner walked one final round, pausing to speak with a group of girls selling jams and pickles.

"You don't need a big factory to begin," he told them. "You just need to begin."

For a few hours, under a blue sky in a quiet corner of Ganderbal, that beginning seemed within reach.



## FM Sitharaman Begins 3-day Visit To Leh

### Agencies

Leh: Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in Leh on Saturday, marking the start of her three-day official visit to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

She was warmly received at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport by Member of Parliament Haneefa Jan, Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal, Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Leh Adv Tashi Gyalson, DGP Dr SD Singh Jамwal, Administrative Secretary Shashanka Ala, Deputy Commissioner Santosh Sukhadeve, SSP Shruti Arora, along with senior BJP leaders and officials.

During her stay, the Finance Minister will engage with officials from LAHDC Leh and the UT administration. She is scheduled to inaugurate multiple developmental projects and chair a Credit Outreach Program with UTLCB Ladakh, focusing on enhancing credit flow and strengthening financial inclusion in the region.

Sitharaman will also visit key locations including Nyoma, Hanle, and Rezangla in the Changthang region to review ongoing developmental activities and assess local needs.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited the historic 17th-century Leh Palace during her stay in Ladakh. Built by the revered King Singe Namgyal, the palace stands atop a steep rocky hill, overlooking the city and reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage.

During her visit to Leh, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met several delegations to discuss regional development and administrative priorities.

She held an interaction with Member of Parliament Haneefa Jan, and later met with a delegation of Executive Councillors from the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC Leh), led by its Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, Tashi Gyalson.

The meetings focused on key developmental issues, financial inclusion, and the ongoing efforts to strengthen infrastructure and economic growth in the Union Territory.(KNO)

## New Finance Bill Triggers Worry Among J&K Pensioners

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Government's recently passed Finance Bill has triggered widespread concern among pensioners and employees in Jammu and Kashmir, amid fears that the new provisions could adversely impact existing pension entitlements.

According to Abdul Qayoom Wani, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pensioners' Welfare Association, the bill has raised apprehensions that millions of pensioners across the country may be excluded from due benefits. He cited a 1982 Supreme Court ruling which mandates the payment of compensation whenever pay revisions occur, describing it as a benchmark that must not be undermined.

Wani, who recently attended a meeting of the All India State Pensioners Federation in New Delhi, said the forum has decided to launch a countrywide response. On June 23, district presidents of pensioners' associations across India—including all 22 districts in Jammu and Kashmir—will submit memoranda to their respective Deputy Commissioners, addressed to the Prime Minister, highlighting the impact of the bill.

The Pensioners' Welfare Association has also raised concerns about delays in the disbursement of sanctioned funds and unexplained deductions from family pensions since January. Wani noted that despite funds being released, beneficiaries

often face issues with commutation loans and timely credit of dues.

Another major issue flagged by the association is the non-implementation of medical allowances. While employees under the central government in Union Territories receive 1,000 as monthly medical allowance, pensioners in J&K continue to be excluded from the benefit. "We've even raised the issue with the Chief Minister and former Governor. The CM publicly promised to address it, but no action followed," Wani said.

He also emphasized that pensioners above the age of 80 are entitled to a 20% increase in their pensions under central rules. "There should be a structured increment every five years after the age of 60. If J&K is to be treated as a welfare state, these provisions must be implemented in full," Wani said.

Disparities in treatment between former legislators and regular employees were also highlighted. Wani pointed out that MLAs enjoy multiple pensions and benefits, while those enrolled under the National Pension System (NPS) since 2010 are still demanding basic entitlements and job security.

The association has also pressed for regularization of casual workers, enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, and broader job security measures. The government had earlier sought a six-month period to resolve these issues, but little progress has been reported.

## Blistering Heat Continues In North, Central India; Hills Scorch

### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A relentless heat-wave continued to scorch large parts of north and central India for the sixth consecutive day on Saturday, with maximum temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius in several cities and high temperatures reported in parts of the hilly states.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said maximum temperatures remained more than 5.1 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average in parts of Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya and at isolated places in sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim.

Temperatures were also appreciably above normal in many areas of Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. Experts warn that persistent heat in these hilly regions could lead to faster glacier melt, increase the risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and intensify forest fire vulnerability.

Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar and Churu were among the hottest places in the country on Saturday, each recording a maximum of 46.5 degrees Celsius, 5 and 4.1 degrees above normal, respectively.

In Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj and Kanpur recorded highs of 45 and 44.9 degrees Celsius, while Ghazipur (44.5) logged a departure of 6.3 degrees above normal. In Madhya Pradesh,

Hoshangabad reported 45.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Khajuraho (44.7 degrees), Nowgong (44.6 degrees) and Gwalior (42.5 degrees).

Rohtak in Haryana recorded 44.3 degrees Celsius, while Chandigarh reported 42.2 degrees Celsius. In Punjab, Patiala and Amritsar saw temperatures of 42.6 and 42 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The national capital also experienced scorching conditions, with maximum temperatures of 42.2 degrees Celsius at Aya Nagar and 42 degrees Celsius at Palam. The heat index, a measure of how hot it feels when humidity is factored in, soared to an alarming 53.8 degrees Celsius in Delhi.

India experienced a relatively cooler May this year due to the early arrival of the monsoon and frequent thunderstorms in the northwest and central regions.

But a sharp drop in rainfall since early June has caused temperatures to rise rapidly, triggering widespread heatwave conditions since June 8-9.

Even parts of the hill states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have been experiencing hotter-than-usual weather over the last few days.

According to the IMD's extended range forecast, the monsoon is now likely to cover the remaining parts of central and eastern India and some areas of northwest India by June 18. It is

expected to advance over most of northwest India between June 19 and June 25.

An IMD official said the system is likely to reach Delhi by June 22-23, ahead of the normal onset date of June 30.

The southwest monsoon usually makes its onset over Kerala by June 1, reaches Mumbai by June 11 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

Severe and frequent heatwaves are making life harder for low-income households with limited access to water and cooling.

Experts warn that outdoor workers, the elderly, and children are at high risk of heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

Last year, hospitals in India reported nearly 48,000 cases of heatstroke and 159 deaths due to extreme heat.

Between 2015 and 2022, 8,171 people died due to extreme heat outside hospitals, according to National Crime Records Bureau data.

Health Ministry records accessed by PTI show that 3,812 heat-related deaths occurred in hospitals during the same period.

However, experts say India's fragmented death reporting system and difficulties in directly linking deaths to heat exposure mean the actual toll is likely much higher.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Police Under

a proud stakeholder in India's journey toward becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2027, committing to building a stronger farm economy, increasing rural employment, and enhancing farmer incomes.

Highlighting the critical role of agriculture, LG Sinha noted that 70 percent of J&K's population depends on this sector. He pointed to significant strides made under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), which he hailed as a "revolutionary program" designed to transform J&K into a robust 1 trillion agricultural economy by 2030. Notable improvements include advancements in mustard cultivation, trout production, and beekeeping. He emphasized the triple benefits of mustard farming—reducing edible oil dependence, generating fodder, and promoting agriculture.

Sinha also shared impressive statistics, revealing that cold storage capacity in J&K has more than doubled from 1.40 lakh metric tonnes in December 2022 to over 2.80 lakh metric tonnes by January 2024. Fish production has surged by 33%, and milk processing capacity has increased six-fold since 2020. Furthermore, 17 mandis have been connected to enhance agricultural trade, facilitating transactions worth 1,050 crore for farmers. Under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, 13 lakh farmer families in J&K have directly received 3,674 crore in their bank accounts.

Addressing the long-pending demand for crop insurance for horticulture, LG Sinha indicated that while the decision rests with the government, he would urge the concerned minister to pursue it, assuring "no opposition from Raj Bhawan." He also highlighted targeted initiatives for the upliftment of forest-dwelling tribal communities, including Gujjars, Bakarwals, Pahari, and other STs, acknowledging their role as custodians of forests and traditional wisdom.

The Lieutenant Governor praised the youth of J&K for actively engaging in agriculture and allied sectors, recognizing their role as agricultural entrepreneurs. The event also saw LG Sinha launch various initiatives and publications from SKUAST Kashmir and hand over sanctioned letters to farmers from tribal communities. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of the citizens who lost their lives in the Pahalgam Terror Attack.

Prominent attendees at the ceremony included Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Sakina Itoo, Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Prof Nazir Ah. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir, and VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir, alongside scientists, experts, faculty, students, and members of the farming community.

### LG Gives Job Anantnag district.

After interacting with Adil Shah's family members and some locals, Sinha told reporters that the government job to Akhter was a symbol of gratitude from the administration to her husband's valour.

"Gulnaz Akhter has been given a permanent job in the fisheries department in Anantnag. This is a mark of gratitude from the administration. We have talked to the family and the people of the village, who want increased employment opportunities in the region. We will take care of that in the days to come," Sinha said.

The LG said the J&K government has already provided financial assistance to Adil Shah's family for the bravery shown by the pony ride operator.

Taking to X, Sinha said, "Met the family members of martyr Syed Adil Hussain at Anantnag. Handed an appointment letter to his wife Mrs Gulnaz Akhter on compassionate grounds. The whole country is proud of the bravery of Adil who sacrificed his life while protecting tourists at Pahalgam on April 22."

Speaking to reporters after meeting the family and locals, Sinha said the government job symbolizes the administration's gratitude for Shah's courage. "Gulnaz Akhter has been given a permanent job in the Fisheries Department in Anantnag. This is a mark of our collective gratitude. The family, as well as villagers, have shared their concerns with me, including the need for better employment opportunities, which the administration will work on," he said.

The LG further assured the family of continued support and concrete measures to help them lead a life of dignity. The administration has also extended financial assistance to Shah's family in recognition of his bravery.

The appointment of Gulnaz Akhter has been made under exceptional circumstances, by exercising the discretionary powers conferred to the Lieutenant Governor under Clause 2A of the Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022.

The clause permits the LG to make appointments of dependent family members of civilians killed in terrorist-related incidents, even in cases where the deceased was not a government employee. In this case, the appointment was also made in relaxation of educational qualifications.

The LG administration clarified that the Fisheries Department had no role in either the relaxation or the appointment process, which was entirely carried out by the LG's office in keeping with the provisions of the scheme.

Adil Shah was among the 26 people killed in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, an incident that sparked widespread grief across Kashmir and drew tributes to Shah's bravery in shielding others during the assault.

### LG Orders

some destinations in a phased manner," Sinha said.

The lieutenant governor was speaking to reporters after visiting the Nunwan Base Camp of the annual Amarnath Yatra in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

During his visit to Pahalgam, LG Sinha held a meeting with representatives from various stakeholders, including MLAs, DDC Chairpersons, tour and travel operators, the Ponywala Association, and hoteliers.

He assured them that all restrictions on tourism would be eased once through security evaluations were complete.

The LG expressed hope that the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, set to begin on July 3, would play a pivotal role in reviving tourism in the region.

"I urge people to come forward and make the annual Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage successful. This Yatra is not just the responsibility of the administration or security forces—it is the people's Yatra. Everyone should feel proud to contribute to it," he said.

He added that security agencies have formulated a comprehensive plan to ensure the safety of pilgrims and advised travelers to stick to designated convoys.

Highlighting recent infrastructure improvements, the LG noted better roads, power supply, telecom services, and accommodation facilities that have been put in place to support the pilgrimage.

During his visit, the LG also inspected preparations at the Nunwan Base Camp, including progress on the Disaster Management Centre and Yatri Niwas. He was accompanied by Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, CEO of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; IGP Kashmir VK Birdi; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid; and other senior officials from civil administration, police, and armed forces.

### Iran's Blunt

what the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran described as "minor damage."

Iran also confirmed the deaths of two more senior commanders and three scientists including Major General Gholamreza Mehrabi, Major General Mehdi Rabbani and the three nuclear scientists: Ali Bakaei Karimi, Mansour Asgari and Saeid Borji.

In response, Iran launched a barrage of missile and drone attacks against Israeli targets. Explosions were reported across Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, with interceptors streaking across the night sky. A missile struck near the Kirya military headquarters — home to Israel's defense ministry — triggering a massive explosion caught on video.

So far, Iranian attacks have killed at least five Israelis and wounded 300 more. Significant structural damage has been reported, with emergency images showing collapsed buildings and destroyed vehicles in central Israel.

Tehran's Blunt Warning to Western Powers

In an unusually direct threat, Iran warned the United States, the United Kingdom, and France that:

"All military bases, ships, and regional installations belonging to these countries will be considered legitimate targets if they intervene or support Israel's actions."

Citing what it called a "legitimate right of self-defence," Iran said the U.S. in particular would be "held responsible for all consequences" due to its strategic alliance with Israel. State-run Fars News Agency reported that Iran's strikes would "continue and intensify," and vowed that the conflict would soon "spread to all areas occupied by this regime and American bases in the region."

U.S. Responds: 'Unilateral Israeli Action'

In an attempt to distance Washington from the Israeli operation,

U.S. Secretary of State said:

"Israel acted unilaterally in self-defense... the United States was not involved in the planning or execution of the strike."

Despite this, Iran maintains that the U.S. bears responsibility, calling the Israeli operation part of a broader Western agenda.

Israel Responds: 'Tehran Will Burn' In a heated counter-warning, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant declared: "If Iran continues to fire missiles at Israeli cities — Tehran will burn."

He made the statement after an emergency assessment with Israel's top military commanders.

Nuclear Diplomacy in Ruins

Amid the escalating hostilities, Iran's Foreign Ministry declared ongoing nuclear negotiations with the United States as "meaningless." Talks scheduled to take place in Oman on Sunday have reportedly been suspended indefinitely.

Global Concerns Mount

With both Iran and Israel suffering high-profile losses and issuing uncompromising threats, international observers fear that the conflict could expand beyond bilateral hostilities. The involvement of U.S., U.K., and French forces — either by action or miscalculation — could ignite a wider regional war involving Gulf nations, Lebanon's Hezbollah, Iraqi militias, and potentially even global powers like Russia and China.

Despite active diplomatic backchannels, prospects for immediate de-escalation appear dim.

### Emergency Numbers

Students Association (JKSA) confirmed the presence of about 1,300 Kashmiri students in Iran and is coordinating support. It has asked students to submit their details via WhatsApp to facilitate assistance.

The embassy has also advised citizens to follow its official social media handles for real-time updates.

### AAP's Mehraj Malik

assaulted by BJP MLAs and PDP workers after making critical statements about the saffron party and late PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

While the ruling coalition may not be numerically threatened, Malik's aggressive floor interventions are likely to remain a challenge for the government in future sessions.

### Para Hits Out At

yet? Why is power still concentrated in the hands of just a few? This isn't democracy, it's bureaucratic Raj 2.0 hiding behind a democratic mandate," Para wrote.

He added that the delay in forming a full cabinet reflected the government's unwillingness to decentralise power and deliver on governance. "With limited access to power, people are suffering on the ground," he said.

Omar Abdullah, along with five other MLAs, took oath as ministers in October last year. As per the law, he can induct three more members into his Council of Ministers.

### Ahmedabad Plane

Patel International Airport before falling inside the nearby campus of the state-run BJ Medical College in

Meghanagar area and going up in flames.

As investigators pore over wreckage at the BJ Medical College hostel and canteen complex for clues after the crash, Air India officials said the ill-fated airplane underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year.

The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was done as per the engine manufacturer's protocol in April 2025, the officials said. The aircraft was powered by GE engines, manufactured by GE Aerospace.

The officials, who did not want to be named, also claimed there were no issues with the engines or the aircraft.

"Around 270 bodies have been brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital so far from the plane crash site," President of Junior Doctors association of BJ Medical College, Dr Dhaval Gameti, told PTI. The death toll in the country's worst ever air disaster in three decades was earlier put by authorities at 265.

With probe agencies looking into all possible causes for the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential flap issue, Naidu told reporters in Delhi that decoding of the Black box is going to give "in-depth insight" into what happened moments before the tragedy.

The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly known as Black box, was recovered from the "roof-top" of the hostel building at the crash site on Friday.

There was no word yet on recovery of another Black box-- the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR). This instrument records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit, such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises.

Naidu said India has very strict aviation safety standards and robust protocols, and everything will be done to further improve safety.

The central panel headed by the Union home secretary will also suggest comprehensive guidelines to prevent incidents like the Ahmedabad crash in the future. It will have its first meeting on Monday. The panel will publish its report in three months, a statement by the Civil Aviation ministry said.

The panel will ascertain the root cause of the crash and assess the contributing factors, including mechanical failure, human error, weather conditions, regulatory compliances and other reasons, it said.

It will also recommend necessary improvements and formulate suitable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent such incidents in the future. The SOPs would also include best international practices regarding preventing and handling such incidents, the statement said.

The panel has the civil aviation secretary and the additional secretary in the home ministry as members, according to an order dated June 13.

Representatives from Gujarat home department, state disaster response authority, Ahmedabad police

commissioner, Indian Air Force's director general of inspection and safety, director generals of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and DGCA are part of the committee.

Other members include special director of the Intelligence Bureau and director of the Directorate of Forensic Science Services.

The panel will assess emergency response of various stakeholders, including rescue operations, and coordination.

According to the statement, the panel will have access to all records, including, among others, flight data, cockpit voice recorders, aircraft maintenance records, ATC (Air Traffic Control) log and witness testimonies.

Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha said the investigation is going on smoothly. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AARB) is probing the crash.

Before the press conference, a one-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the victims of the crash.

As grieving families of the victims desperately wait to collect the bodies, a government doctor at the BJ Medical College said DNA samples of 11 crash victims have been matched with their family members so far.

DNA testing to establish the identity of the victims is underway as many of the bodies are charred beyond recognition.

Dr Rajnish Patel, Professor of Surgery, told reporters that the process of matching DNA has to be done meticulously. It has legal and medical implications and so one cannot rush through it, he said.

Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the sole survivor on board the doomed aircraft, was stable and out of danger, he said.

Earlier, eight victims, who were identified by their relatives and did not need DNA profiling as their bodies were not damaged, had been handed over to their families by the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, authorities said.

Additional Chief Fire Officer Jayesh Khadia said, "Our firemen, who are helping forensic and aviation experts in their ongoing investigation at the crash site, found some body parts from the canteen's rubble on Friday, while a body was found today morning."

Apart from central and state government agencies, a team of the National Security Guard (NSG) has also been deployed at the crash site.

NSG commandos were seen at the crash site on the hostel building where the tail of the plane got stuck after the crash. Sources said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) officials visited the site on Friday.

Fire brigade officials said since the tail fin of the aircraft was stuck on top of the canteen's damaged building, cranes have been roped in to remove it and bring it down. "We will start the work of removing the tail fin from the building and bring it on the ground once Air India officials arrive at the site," Khadia said.

Student hostels that suffered damage in the crash are being vacated for a probe by the AARB and accommodated elsewhere, Minakshi Parikh, the Dean of the BJ Medical College said.

Meanwhile, airline sources said that Air India and Air India Express will do away with flight number '171' after the Thursday crash.



WTC FINAL

# South Africa Wins First Major Cricket Trophy In 27 Years

Associated Press

LONDON: Chokers no more.

The South Africans consigned the word to history when they ripped the World Test Championship mace from Australia's callused grip inside four days of a riveting final at Lord's.

South Africa wore a new label Saturday — champion — by claiming its first major cricket trophy in 27 years when it wrapped up a five-wicket win.

The last 69 runs required on day four were confidently knocked off by the Proteas in just over two hours — only three boundaries — with Australia typically fighting all the way to the inevitable end.

South Africa moved from a portentous 213-2 overnight to a winning 285-5, the second highest successful run chase in the 141-year test history at the home of cricket.

Victory laid to rest ghosts of heart-breaking losses on big ICC stages that have haunted South Africa for decades. The venues and dates are infamous in South Africa cricket, among them Birmingham 1999, Dhaka 2011, Auckland 2015, Kolkata 2023 and Bridgetown 2024.

But London 2025 will go down as one of the greatest days in South Africa sports, when its cricket underdogs grabbed the advantage and didn't let go against a red-hot Australia.

"Whilst we were batting, we could hear the Aussies using that dreaded word, choke," Proteas captain Temba Bavuma said. "It's been years since we've overcome a final. We've been etched in history, we're part of something that has never been done. It's special in a lot of



ways. Also, it's a chance for South Africa to be united. We've got a cause where we can put aside our differences and enjoy. We just have to embrace it."

The stunning result also bodes well for South Africa's preparations for its home ODI World Cup in 2027. It's a different format, but the Proteas' mindsets won't be burdened by not having won a global trophy since the Champions Trophy's precursor in 1998.

Australia didn't give up the WTC

mace easily, relentlessly attacking the stumps and trying to prey on any South Africa butterflies. The desperate Australians used up their three reviews in vain within the first 90 minutes and fought to the end. But the serial champions lost an ICC final for only a fourth time in 14 chances.

"They were fantastic in that fourth innings," Australia captain Pat Cummins said. "There wasn't a lot in the wicket but they didn't give us a chance."

The Proteas were staunch, losing only three wickets on Saturday. One of them was Aiden Markram, the colossus Australia could not topple until it was too late.

He resumed the day on 102 and was out for 136 when only six runs from victory. He spent six hours, 23 minutes in the middle. Australia didn't celebrate his wicket. Instead, players slapped Markram on the back and congratulated him on his match-winning knock as the Lord's crowd stood and applauded.

## DPS Srinagar Lifts Inter-School U-14 Football Trophy



D elhi Public School Srinagar's Under-14 Boys Football Team emerged as the champions of the Inter-School Football Tournament (Zone Amira Kadal), in which 14 schools competed.

The team maintained an unbeaten record and did not concede a single goal during the entire competition.

In Round 1, DPS delivered a resounding 15-0 win against Candid Higher Secondary School, Nowgam. In the quarter-finals, the team dominated Model High School, Jawahar Nagar, with an impressive 9-0 scoreline.

DPS outplayed Tyndale Biscoe School in a tense semi-final match, clinching a narrow 1-0 win.

In the final, DPS was crowned champion after a commanding 4-0 victory over Burn Hall School.

With an overall score of 30 goals and zero goals conceded, the team's performance was nothing short of exceptional.

## HSS Marhama Wins Inter School Bijbehara U-17 Kabbadi

H SS Marhama emerged victorious in Inter School Zonal Level Kabbadi Tournament, featuring Under-17 boys, organised by ZPEO Bijbehara on Saturday at BMHSS Bijbehara. In the final competition, HSS Marhama defeated HS Semthan.

The tournament was organized by ZPEO Bijbehara with the aim to promote sportsmanship, nurture talent, and foster healthy among the Kabbadi players of the Zone. In the tournament, 108 male students of Under-17 age group from various schools of the zone participated.

During the post match presentation ceremony, Shakeela Akhter, HOI MS Khasiteng, along with field officials of YSS Zone Bijbehara gave away the trophies to both the teams.

## DYSSO Budgam Holds Meeting With Officials

D istrict Youth Services and Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone held a meeting at the District Sports Office Budgam in which the Zonal Physical Officers along with the Sports Activity In-charges also attended and raised several issues.

On this occasion, the District Officer directed the Zonal Ground Level Officers to continue activities at the Zonal level and try to complete the events as soon as possible. The Zonal Officers informed the officer about various inter-school sports competitions in their zones.

The District Officer urged the Sports In-charges to organise sports activities of Basketball, Handball, Cricket and Badminton and urged them to encourage more children to participate in the events.

## MCC Outlaws 'Bunny Hop' Boundary Catches



B oundary catches involving 'bunny hops', or multiple airborne touches outside the rope, have been deemed illegal by the Marylebone Cricket Club, with the new ruling set to be integrated into ICC's playing conditions this month and the MCC's laws from October next year.

Spectacular catches like the ones pulled off by Michael Naser during BBL 2023 and Tom Banton, with Matt Renshaw's help in 2020, will not be considered legal once the updated rule comes into force.

According to an MCC note circulated to member boards by the ICC, while the existing law "led to some spectacular" fielding efforts, it also allowed "some unusual-looking catches that, to the majority of the cricketing public, feel unfair".

Describing Naser's catch for Brisbane Heat to dismiss Jordan Silk, the MCC said the fielder "bunny hopped" before completing the catch inside the boundary. While the act complied with the law at the time, the note added it "felt like the fielder had - quite literally - gone too far".

As part of its revision, the MCC clarified that any fielder making a second contact with the ball after jumping from beyond the boundary must land inside the field of play, or else a boundary will be awarded.

## 6th Srinagar District Rope Skipping Championship 2025 Concludes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 6th Srinagar District Rope Skipping Championship 2025 concluded on Saturday at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Khanwar here. Over two action-packed days, more than 200 athletes—both boys and girls—participated in the championship, showcasing exceptional talent and sportsmanship.

The event was organized by the Rope Skipping Asso-

### CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GIRLS CATEGORY):  
**R.P. SCHOOL, LAWAYPORA**
- OVERALL CHAMPIONS (BOYS CATEGORY):  
**WOODLAND HOUSE SCHOOL**

ciation of Jammu & Kashmir (RSAJK) and hosted by GHSS Khanwar. Muzamil Ahmad Dar (ZPEO Rainawari), along with several physical educators, presided over the medal distribution cer-

emony and congratulated the winners for their commendable performances.

In his vote of thanks, Mohammad Sufiyan, General Secretary of RSAJK, expressed his gratitude to the participants, organising team and supporting institutions. He also announced that the Open Kashmir Rope Skipping Championship will be held at the scenic tourist destination Pahalgam in July 2025, further boosting enthusiasm for the sport in the region.



## 10 Officials From J&K Successfully Clear AKFI Referee Course



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a proud moment for the sports fraternity of Jammu & Kashmir, 10 officials from the region have successfully qualified the Referee Course Examination conducted by the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, in May 2025.

The successful candidates include Arshid Rather, Firdous Rather, Nahida Nabi, Ram Kumar, Gourav Dubai, Mir Alam, Majid Khan, Nuzarat Hussain, Tanveer Iqbal and Anita Sharma.

"Their achievement represents a significant stride toward enhancing the

standard of officiating and strengthening technical expertise in Kabaddi across the region," the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association said in a statement.

"This accomplishment not only reflects the growing enthusiasm for Kabaddi in Jammu & Kashmir but also underscores the unwavering commitment of local talent to excel on the National Stage," the statement added.

Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, General Secretary, and Anil Kumar, President of the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association, extended heartfelt congratulations to all the qualified referees for their dedication, hard work and success.

## BCCI Tweaks Ranji Format; Changes To SMAT

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The 2025-26 Ranji Trophy will be held from October 15 to February 28 in two phases with a tweaked format which will see the promotion and relegation of one team from the plate group instead of the current two sides, the BCCI decided in its Apex Council meeting on Saturday.

Back in 2018-19, the BCCI had added nine teams in the Ranji Trophy including the team from the North East but that has impacted the quality of cricket in the premier domestic competition.

Meghalaya played in the Ranji Trophy elite division but lost all their seven games last season.

"All multi-day men's tournaments (senior and junior), 1 team will be promoted and 1 team will be relegated for the 2026-27 season grouping," read a BCCI note in PTI's possession.

The format change in red ball cricket will apply to all BCCI tournaments across age groups.

The first phase of Ranji Trophy will be played from October 15



to November 19 while the second phase will run from January 22 to February 1. The knockouts will be

played from February 6 to 28.

The Duleep Trophy, which returns to the zonal format, will

mark the start of the season and will be run from August 28 to September 15. "The team will

be picked by the Zonal Selection Committee," the BCCI added.

The Irani Cup will run from October 1 to 5.

### Super League Introduced For SMAT, Plate Group Reintroduced

The Plate division has been reintroduced in all one-day competitions including the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Until last season, the knockout games included the standard quarterfinal, semifinal and final stage but from this season, the qualified team will get three extra matches in Super League.

Top team from group A and B will meet in the final. The bottom placed six teams from the last season will form the plate group. The SMAT will be played from November 26 to December 18.

Additionally for all the white ball tournaments, the head to head clause for qualification has been done away with and net run rate will determine which team advances in the competition if they have equal points and wins.



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