

Trump Threatens Iran's Supreme Leader

Demands Iran's 'Unconditional Surrender' in Escalating Rhetoric
KO Web Desk

Srinagar: President Donald Trump dramatically escalated tensions with Iran on Tuesday, issuing a stark demand for the "unconditional surrender" of Iranian forces and openly threatening Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In a series of fiery posts on Truth Social, Trump claimed the U.S. knows the exact whereabouts of Khamenei, describing him as an "easy target" who is currently "safe" — but only "for now."

"We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now," Trump wrote, adding a pointed warning:



"But we don't want missiles shot at civilians, or American soldiers. Our patience is wearing thin. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

In a follow-up post moments later, Trump issued a blunt two-word directive: "UNCONDITIONAL

SURRENDER!"

Trump's comments came shortly after he declared that the U.S. — referencing American-manufactured Israeli military equipment — had achieved "complete and total control of the skies over Iran." He contrasted the | [More on P6](#)

No Helicopters For Pilgrims This Year Amarnath Yatra Routes Declared 'No Flying Zone'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday declared all routes of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra as 'No Flying Zones' from July 1 to August 10, in a significant security move following recent terror threats.

An official order issued by the Home Department, on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, prohibits the flying of any aerial platforms, including drones, UAVs, and balloons, along the yatra routes. The restriction will remain in place throughout the yatra period, covering both the traditional Pahalgam and shorter Baltal routes.

Exceptions will be



made only for medical emergencies, disaster response, and surveillance by security forces. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for these cases will be issued separately.

The decision follows high-level security reviews involving multiple stakeholders, including inputs from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, which recommended

declaring the entire route a No Flying Zone to prevent any security breach.

The yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3 and will continue until August 10. This year's security measures are being intensified in the wake of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives.

The annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine | [More on P6](#)

Union Home Secy Orders 'Safe, Incident Free' Yatra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the annual Amarnath Yatra slated to begin on July 3, the Union Government on Tuesday directed security agencies to ensure a foolproof, incident-free pilgrimage in the wake of recent terror threats.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a high-level security review meeting in Srinagar, bringing together top officials from the J&K Police, Army, paramilitary forces including CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, Railway Protection



Force, as well as senior officers from intelligence agencies and civil administration.

Sources said that the meeting was aimed at finalising a robust security | [More on P6](#)

Trump Slams Macron on Ceasefire, Links G7 Exit to 'Something Bigger'

President Donald Trump lit into French President Emmanuel Macron Monday night, accusing him of lying

and grandstanding over claims that Trump left the G7 summit to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. | [More on P6](#)

Contact Embassy, Leave Tehran: Govt Advisory To Indians

Press Trust Of India

All Indian nationals in Tehran were on Tuesday requested to contact the Embassy of India immediately and provide their location and contact numbers, as the conflict between Iran and Israel intensified. The Indian | [More on P6](#)

Airports Close Across Mideast as Israel-Iran War Widens

AP

After Israeli strikes landed near the hotel where he was staying in the Iranian province of Qom, Aimal Hussein

desperately wanted to return home. But the 55-year-old Afghan businessman couldn't find a way, with Iranian airspace completely shut down. He fled to Tehran after the strike Sunday, but no taxi would | [More on P6](#)

'Kashmir Open & Safe': CM, IATO Reaffirm Tourism Push



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday met a visiting delegation from the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), reaffirming the region's commitment to tourism revival and assuring stakeholders of safety, infrastructure upgrades,

and long-term planning. Acknowledging IATO's efforts in promoting the Union Territory as a premier travel destination, Omar said, "We are very grateful to the IATO for coming here and organising this visit, because trust works both ways. Your presence assures us that we are on the right path." Referring | [More on P6](#)

Parks Reopen In J&K Tourist Spots

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Several parks in Jammu and Kashmir's tourist places, including some in Pahalgam, that were closed in the aftermath of the April 22 terror attack were reopened on Tuesday, officials said.

The reopening of the parks has been welcomed by the tourists and local visitors alike who thronged the parks at several places. Security personnel were deployed in strength around the parks to secure the areas and create a sense of security, they said.

Twenty-six people, most of them tourists, were killed by terrorists in Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, a popular tourist spot.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj | [More on P6](#)

iPhones, Gold & MBBS Abroad

Patwari's Lifestyle Triggers ACB Action In Kupwara

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A patwari posted in the Lolab area of Kupwara district has landed in trouble after the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) booked him for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The accused, identified as Ayoub Khan, son of Gulsheer Khan, a resident of Doniwari Lolab, is a revenue official whose extravagant lifestyle raised red flags, prompting an official probe.

According to a statement issued by the ACB, the agency received a complaint against Khan accusing him of living lavishly—owning multiple properties, several vehicles, and having funded expensive professional education for his children, including an MBBS course abroad. The complainant alleged that Khan had houses in Srinagar's Bemina locality and in his native village, besides owning a significant amount of orchard and agricultural land.

Following this, a discreet verification was initiated, which revealed that during the period under scrutiny, Khan had incurred heavy expenditures and acquired assets far exceeding his legal income. Investigators found that he had purchased a piece of land at Hamdaniya Colony in Bemina, Srinagar, where he constructed a double-storey house. He had also built another double-storey residence in his native village of Doniwari Lolab. In addition to immovable property, | [More on P6](#)

GST

GST Pakhwada

As part of GST day celebration, CGST offices across the nation are organizing the GST Pakhwada from

June 16 to June 30, 2025

A helpdesk will be setup in all CGST Commissionerates across the Country for resolving GST related queries and providing necessary guidance to GST taxpayers.

Scan for details of Help Desks

Please visit the Help Desks for your GST queries

GST – A Journey of Trust, Transparency & Transformation

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

@cbicindia @cbic_india @cbicindia @CBICINDIA CBIC India

NIT Hosts First Alumni Association Meeting Post Registration

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday hosted the inaugural meeting of its newly registered Alumni Association of NIT Srinagar (AANITS), marking a significant step in strengthening alumni engagement and global outreach.

The meeting served as a platform for detailed deliberations on building a robust alumni network, launching global chapters, and institutionalizing mentorship opportunities for students. It was presided over by Er. Aamir Ali Mir, Vice President of AANITS and Director of Disaster Management, J&K. Prof. Mohammad Shafi Mir, President AANITS, Prof MA Shah, Dean Alumni & International Affairs, welcomed the members and led the proceedings, which also focused on planning the 2025 Alumni Meet and enhancing global alumni outreach.

Key office bearers in attendance included Er. Ali Mohammad Rather, General Secretary and Former Executive Engineer, JKPDD; Er. Syed Javed Bukhari, Secretary and Vice President & MD of FIL Industries Pvt. Ltd.; and Dr. Mursaleen Hussain Mohammad, Additional Secretary. Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger, Joint Secretary-I, Dr. Shahid Saleem, Treasurer and Prof. MA Shah, Member-Secretary and Dean AIA, also participated in key discussions. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Coordinator, and Dr. H.S. Pali, Associate Dean, were also present. Meanwhile Abhiraj Das, Muhammad Hussain and Malkeet Singh also attended the meeting.

A major highlight of the meeting was the formal launch of SANGAM – Stu-

dent-Alumni Network for Growth, Aspirations & Mentorship, a visionary initiative aimed at creating a vibrant and structured platform for alumni-student interaction. The SANGAM platform is designed to build enduring relationships between current students and the vast alumni base of the institute, fostering a culture of mentorship, professional development, and collaborative growth.

Prof. M.A. Shah, who is spearheading the initiative, explained that SANGAM will enable structured support for research, innovation, and career development by drawing on the expertise of alumni across disciplines.

He emphasized that the initiative is aligned with the Five-Year Vision Document of NIT Srinagar and aims to develop strategic partnerships through both regional and international alumni chapters. The initiative also aspires to serve as a knowledge bridge across borders and generations.

The meeting included brainstorming on SANGAM's flagship activities such as the "Alumni Back to Campus" program, which will bring alumni back to their alma mater for guest lectures and academic interaction.

Plans were also discussed for a distinguished alumni awards program and the launch of an annual alumni magazine titled "Bridges and Beacons," which will document the journeys, achievements, and reflections of alumni.

The magazine's first edition is scheduled to be unveiled at the SANGAM Meet 2025, planned for the Delhi Chapter. It will feature research articles, career guidance, campus chronicles, creative works, and student achievements.

Div Com-Led Panel To Review Sgr Master Plan-2035

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday constituted a seven-member panel led by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to undertake short term review of Srinagar Master Plan-2035.

According to an order issued by Commissioner Secretary to the Government, M Raju, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the committee has been constituted to examine the feasibility of TPS areas, and identify any TPS area, if necessary for the removal of the precondition with respect to issuing of building permissions in such areas.

The committee comprises Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Srinagar devel-

opment Authority as Member Secretary. The members include Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Vice-Chairman J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority, Chief Town Planner Town Planning Organization, Kashmir and representatives of Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (not below the rank of Additional Secretary).

The panel has been tasked to examine the orders and directions issued by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh from time to time, and on the basis of court orders, in case of buffer zones of Dal and Nigeen lakes, and to accordingly propose amendments to the Master Plan-2035 to incorporate the court directions.

Tarigami Voices Concern Over West Asia Turmoil

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Expressing concern over the deteriorating situation in West Asia, senior CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, M Y Tarigami on Tuesday condemned the escalating violence in Palestine and recent developments involving Iran, warning that such aggression threatens global peace and stability.

Tarigami's remarks came during a protest gathering in Srinagar organized in response to a nationwide call by Left parties to show solidarity with the people of Palestine and Iran, and to denounce the intensifying conflict in the region.

In a statement issued on the occasion, Tarigami said, "Today, we express our unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine. Despite the physical distance, our hearts are with those who suf-

fer. We stand in opposition to all forms of violence and oppression. In the end, it is humanity that must prevail."

He urged the Government of India to take a firm and principled position, consistent with the country's historical support for the Palestinian cause, and called for an immediate suspension of all military and security engagements with Israel. "India must ensure it is not complicit, directly or indirectly, in the grave violations unfolding in the region," he stated.

Tarigami also expressed dismay over targeted attacks on scientists and peace advocates in Iran, characterizing them as a dangerous escalation. "No weapon can suppress the voice of the oppressed forever," he said, calling on secular societies and peace-loving individuals worldwide to speak out.



CM Omar Receives First Batch Of Hajj Pilgrims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, received the first batch of Hajj pilgrims this evening at the Srinagar International Airport, marking the beginning of the return phase for pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who performed the sacred pilgrimage of Hajj-e-Baitullah this year.

The Chief Minister personally welcomed and congratulated the pilgrims on their safe return and smooth performance of the Arkan-e-Hajj.

He interacted with the Hajj pilgrims and inquired about their experiences and the facilities provided during the pilgrimage.

The Hujjaaj expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister and appreciated the arrangements made for their comfort and convenience throughout the journey.

The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the devotion and discipline exhibited by the

“
The Hujjaaj expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister and appreciated the arrangements made for their comfort and convenience throughout the journey.

pilgrims during the course of their spiritual journey.


The first returning batch comprised 178 pilgrims, out of the

total 3,606 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who undertook the pilgrimage this year.

The return of this group heralds the start of the arrival phase, which will continue over the coming days.

The government has made elaborate arrangements to ensure a hassle-free arrival experience for the pilgrims. Necessary logistical and transport facilities have been put in place to facilitate their smooth journey from the airport to their respective destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA from Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Executive Officer J&K Haj Committee Dr. Shujhat Qureshi and other concerned officials were also present during the reception of the Hujjaaj.




Kashmer

Aspire. Strive. Achieve

OBSESSIVE
COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY



HPVT

I did wash my hand ... but.... did i clean it enough? ?Wash it again? is it clean now?




It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN myths and stigma distress associated with OCD



KASHMER (Kashmir American Society of Healthcare), Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust)

is initiating a **free 8 weeks Group therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.



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



You do not have to fight your battles alone.


There is no need for referral , simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (1st Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

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

AIRPORTS	
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311	
RAILWAYS	
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259	
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243	
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029	
BIJBHERRA: 01932-228243	
PAMPORE: 01933-294132	
PATTAN: 01954-293507	
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153	
HIGHWAY STATUS	
	Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Open) Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

 <div> <div>HIJRI CALENDAR</div> <div>21 Zil-Hajj 1446</div> </div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3: 34
	ZUHR	12:32
	ASR	5: 32
	Magrib	7:47
	ISHA	9: 29

This Day In History

- 618 - Coronation of the Chinese governor Li Yuan as Emperor Gaozu of Tang, the new Emperor of China, initiating three centuries of the Tang Dynasty's rule over China
- 860 - Rus Vikings attack Constantinople
- 1155 - Pope Adrian IV crowns Frederick I Barbarossa Roman-German Emperor
- 1264 - The Parliament of Ireland meets at Castledermot in County Kildare, the first definitively known meeting of this Irish legislature
- 1316 - Peace of Fexhe: prince-bishop Adolf II of Mark and Luikse towns
- 1538 - Treaty of Nice: ends war between Emperor Charles V & King French I
- 1541 - Irish parliament selects Henry VIII of England as King of Ireland
- 1574 - Polish King Hendrik of Anjou secretly leaves Poland
- 1580 - States of Utrecht forbid catholic worship
- 1583 - Richard Martin of London takes out first life insurance policy, on William Gibbons; premium was £383
- 1629 - Sea battle at Dungeness: Piet Heyn beat the Dunkirkers, commerce raiders in the service of the Spanish Monarchy
- 1639 - Treaty of Berwick: Ends the First Bishops' War between England and Scotland
- 1682 - William Penn founds Philadelphia, US
- 1757 - Battle at Kolin Bohemia: Austrian army beats Prussia
- 1812 - War of 1812 begins as US declares war against Britain
- 1815 - Battle of Waterloo; Napoleon and France defeated by British forces under Wellington and Prussian troops under Blucher
- 1821 Opera "Der Freischutz" is produced (Berlin)
- 1822 - Part of US-Canadian boundary determined
- 1837 - Spain gets new Constitution
- 1912 - The Chicago national Republican Convention splits between President Taft and Theodore Roosevelt; after Taft is nominated, Roosevelt and progressive elements of the Party form the Progressive Party (also known as the 'Bull Moose Party')
- 1941- Turkey signs peace treaty with nazi-Germany
- 1948- UN Commission on Human Rights adopts the International Declaration of Human Rights
- 1953- Egypt proclaimed a republic, General Neguib becomes president
- 1959- 1st telecast transmitted from England to US
- 1977- Space Shuttle test model "Enterprise" carries a crew aloft for 1st time, It was fixed to a modified Boeing 747
- 1981- Vaccine to prevent hoof & mouth disease announced
- 1981-The AIDS epidemic is formally recognized by medical professionals in San Francisco, California.
- 1983 - 7th Shuttle Mission-Challenger 2 launches Sally Ride as 1st US woman in space

From KO Archives

Passport Issued, Posthumously

Observer News Service

S RINAGAR: A passport has been issued in favour of a Sopore woman one year after her death. Mehra Begum w/o Abdul Ahad Wandroo of New Colony, Sopore, had applied for a passport on June 7, 1998. But for about two years, the police and CID dilly-dallied the verification of her antecedents.

The passport was issued to her vide No B0921489 this week. But, in the meantime, she had passed away only to mock at the speed at which her case had moved in the state offices.

(Kashmir Observer, June 18, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Looming Catastrophe

Once again, the world finds itself holding its breath as Iran-Israel conflict threatens to spin out of control. The headlines are chilling: US president Donald Trump has told people in Tehran to leave their homes, warning of “something big” about to happen. The war began with Israel launching a massive attack on Iran, decapitating its top military leadership, forcing Tehran to respond. What started as a covert shadow war of assassinations, cyberattacks, and sabotage has now exploded into open conflict. Israel’s unprecedented strikes deep into Iranian territory, targeting nuclear sites and vital infrastructure, and Iran’s retaliations have already claimed lives within days. The war was thus imposed on Iran. Just as the West keeps harping on Israel’s ‘right to self-defense,’ Iran’s right to defend itself should also be acknowledged. And all that Iran is doing this time is defending itself from constant attacks from Israel. The Islamic Republic is open to stop the war if Israel halts attacks.

The conflict looks now set to expand. The warning signs are flashing bright red. So where is the world’s sense of urgency? It’s simply not enough to issue statements of concern or hold meetings at powerful leadership meetings like G7. This conflict needs serious diplomatic efforts and it needs it now. The big powers, especially the United States, China, Russia, and Europe, must put aside their rivalries to push Israel to stop. A ceasefire should be the first goal. Although Trump has said he is working for a “real end” to the war, its chances don’t look bright, considering the US is not neutral in the conflict. And also the strategic objectives of Israel and the west in Iran are far larger to be accomplished in the short term.

After weakening Hamas, Hezbollah and Huthis, Israel and the west see a chance to remake the Middle East in their own image. And it is very unlikely to stop unless the goal is achieved. This goal is to tame the region and quell the last bastion of resistance to Israel and the west. But is this sustainable in the long term? Seems very unlikely if we go by the decades-old troubled history of the region. This violent subduing of the countries and installing of pro-western governments hardly serves the cause of peace, and will unravel sooner than later. Best course of action would have been to resolve the longstanding Palestinian issue - the original sin - for the region to have a genuine peace. In the end, true and lasting peace in the Middle East will never come from missiles and regime change — it can only be built on justice, dialogue, and the courage to address the root causes, starting with the unresolved issue of Palestine.

FINANCIAL FIX

Stitched Out of Business

Local Kashmiri tailors struggle to keep up as migrant workers reshape the rules of garment-making.

Irshad Mushtaq

Walk down any market lane in Kashmir and you’ll hear it: “Master Ji, kal tak ho jayega?” The answer from a migrant tailor is almost always yes. For a rush job, they’ll charge 1,000, stitch overnight, and deliver it to your door, wrapped and ready. Local tailors, though, still ask for a week. And often, you’ll need to chase them for it.

The difference isn’t just speed. Migrant tailors offer complete service—lining, fall, dupatta finishing—all bundled in. They replicate designs straight off Instagram and rarely say no. Customers trust them because they deliver what’s asked, when it’s asked.

Local tailors, many working solo from home, stick to basics. No lining, no packaging, no design flexibility. If you ask for something new, they often say they don’t have the tools. It’s not laziness, it’s habit, and a system that hasn’t evolved.

There’s also the physical toll. Kashmiri tailors cut, stitch, finish, everything themselves. That means longer hours, delayed orders, and growing health issues. Migrant tailors often divide the work. One cuts, another stitches. It’s more efficient.

Despite having skill and reputation, local tailors are losing ground. Even families related to them now choose outsiders for important orders. It’s not personal, it’s practical.

What they need isn’t just better machines. It’s better systems. Basic training in customer service, workflow, and modern styling could help. Adding lining shouldn’t take a revolution.

Tailoring in Kashmir was once a craft of pride. It still can be. But to survive today’s demands, local tailors must stitch in something they’ve long ignored: change.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

From Kerala to Kashmir

Food Safety Is India’s Next Big Health Fight

Every year, World Food Safety Day reminds us how vital safe food is to our health, economy, and communities. The day shines a light on the real risks of unsafe food that touch so many lives.

Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

Every year, about 600 million people get sick and 420,000 lose their lives from eating contaminated or adulterated food, with people in poorer countries hit hardest.

These aren’t just numbers. They’re people suffering from preventable illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses, or harmful chemicals in food.

The day which dawns on June 7 every year pushes governments, farmers, businesses, and even us at home, to step up, keep food clean and safe, and make sure what we eat nourishes rather than harms. It’s about saving lives and making health a priority for all.

This year’s theme, “Food Safety: Science in Action,” hits home for me. Safe food isn’t just a local concern, it’s a global mission. It’s about ensuring every bite we take is free from harm, and that starts with science, passion, and a commitment to getting it right.

Universities like mine are all in – researching new solutions, training future leaders, and spreading the word about why food safety matters.

The journey from farm to fork is full of risks. Germs, chemicals, random bits of stuff, or even intentional tampering can sneak into our food.

Tackling these challenges isn’t just about gut instinct. It takes hard science to spot dangers, test for them, keep food fresh longer, and set rules that actually work.

“Science in Action” is about turning lab discoveries into real-world fixes that keep our plates safe.

India’s Big Role in Feeding the World Safely India, with its sprawling farms, vibrant food culture, and over 1.4 billion people, is a heavy-weight in the global food scene.

We’ve gone from just feeding ourselves to exporting food worldwide, thanks to the grit of our farmers and scientists. But with that scale comes a huge responsibility to keep every grain, vegetable, and spice safe.

Our traditional food practices are like hidden gems. Think about it: spices like turmeric and cumin don’t just add flavor—they fight bacteria. Fermenting dosa batter or drying mangoes in the sun? That’s preservation, Indian-style.

Science is now catching up, proving these age-old methods work, and blending them with modern tech to keep our food safe. It’s like our grandmothers knew something we’re just now proving in labs.

In 2024, India stepped up its game. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is leading the charge, and one of their coolest tools is the State Food Safety Index (SFSI). It ranks states on things like staffing, inspections, lab testing, training, and how well they empower consumers.

Kerala’s been killing it, topping the charts for two years straight with tight inspections, solid testing, and campaigns that get people talking about food safety.

The SFSI sparks friendly competition among states, pushing everyone to do better and keep our food safer.

The Bumps in the Road But it’s not all smooth sailing.

In 2024, tests showed some food samples didn’t meet safety standards. In Punjab, for example, about 15.4% of samples in 2023-24 failed quality checks—think adulterated spices or sub-par snacks.

Numbers like these are a wake-up call. We need sharper oversight, tougher enforcement, and food businesses stepping up to follow the rules. It’s a reminder that we can’t let our guard down.

Fixing this means beefing up our testing labs with better tech and trained staff. It also means helping food businesses meet standards through training and making sure consumers know how to spot safe food.

When everyone’s on the same page—producers, regulators, and consumers—we’re unstoppable. Science Leading the Way

At the heart of it all is science. Our researchers

are cooking up game-changers: quick tests to catch germs or toxins, smarter packaging to keep food fresh, and eco-friendly ways to preserve it. These aren’t just lab experiments. They’re solutions hitting the ground, thanks to teamwork between universities, businesses, and the government.

For instance, new tests can spot harmful bacteria in hours, not days, and sustainable packaging is helping us go green while keeping food safe.

India’s not just solving its own problems; we’re setting global standards.

Universities are where the future of food safety starts. We’re training students to tackle tomorrow’s challenges, from detecting new contaminants to designing safer supply chains. Partnerships with global experts help us stay sharp and align with the best practices out there.

And it’s not just about experts. Everyday people need to know how to handle food safely, read labels, and speak up when something’s off.

Programs like FSSAI’s Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) are making that happen, building a culture where everyone cares about safe food.

India’s Path to Global Leadership

India’s food safety journey is a mix of old-school wisdom, cutting-edge science, and smart policies. We’re turning our massive food system into a strength, leading the way for safe, sustainable eating.

Sure, challenges like scale and compliance are real, but we’re tackling them with more research, better labs, and empowered communities.

This World Food Safety Day 2025, India’s showing the world how “Science in Action” looks.

By innovating, regulating, and educating, we’re building a healthier, safer future. Not just for us, but for everyone.

Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai is a distinguished Food Scientist and Vice Chancellor at BRA Bihar University. He can be reached at dcrai@bhu.ac.in

The Multipolar Moment

Israel fired the first shot. Iran answered. But the true casualty may be the myth of Western monopoly on power.

Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi

the rules of engagement.

As the conflict escalated, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made concerted efforts to draw the United States into the fray. Donald Trump, who initially reacted with sarcasm to the news of Iranian casualties, soon reversed his tone, presenting himself as a mediator like he presented himself during very recent Indo-Pak hostility.

This rhetorical pivot reflects not a genuine desire for peace, but rather concern over the conflict’s expanding consequences.

From Tehran’s perspective, the war is not simply a reactionary campaign but a calculated effort to alter the regional balance of power. Iran’s approach indicates a strate-

gic vision aimed at redefining the security architecture of West Asia.

Analysts now grapple with a pivotal question: will the war remain confined to regional boundaries, or evolve into a broader global confrontation? The varying positions of nuclear powers from East and West point to emerging global realignments.

Meanwhile, the geopolitical relevance of chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab has resurged, underlining their significance to global trade and international stability.

This war increasingly appears to be a confrontation between two competing visions of world order. The liberal, US-centric model char-

acterised by interventionism, hegemonic ambitions, and asymmetric power structures is facing unprecedented resistance. In its place, a multipolar order championed by emerging powers is gaining traction.

If this moment is seized wisely by independent states and resistance movements, it could mark a turning point in contemporary political history. The world, once declared to have reached the “end of history,” is now experiencing the return of history, fuelled by the renewed agency of sovereign nations.

Ultimately, to counter imperial interventions and dismantle imposed global frameworks, this war must be understood not merely as an isolated event, but as a transformative juncture in international relations.

Resistance today is not limited to a regional force – it is a global discourse that challenges domination. The choice between submission and resistance is no longer Iran’s alone; it is one that history must now resolve.

The author can be reached at : agamuntazir@gmail.com , X : @agasyedmuntazir

Letter to Editor

In Summer, Your Kidneys Are on the Line

Summer feels like freedom — open skies, vacations, lighter clothes. But beneath the brightness, a health risk grows silently: kidney stones.

Most people don’t see the link between heat and kidney trouble, but it’s real. As the temperature rises, so does your risk of stones. Hospitals see it every year. The connection is simple: heat makes you sweat, sweat drains your body of water, and low water leads to concentrated urine. That’s where the problem begins.

Your urine carries minerals like calcium, oxalate, and uric acid. When you’re well-hydrated, they stay diluted and pass without trouble. But when water is scarce, these minerals clump together. They form crystals, and then stones. The pain comes later, when those stones move.

In regions with intense heat — southern India, the Middle East, the U.S. Southeast — kidney stone cases often rise by 20 to 30 percent during

summer. But even in cooler areas, the risk climbs if you’re not drinking enough.

It’s not just about weather. It’s also about choices. Many people turn to soda, sweet tea, or energy drinks in hot months. These drinks do little to help your kidneys — some even worsen the risk. High salt foods, red meat, and oxalate-rich snacks like nuts or chocolate also raise your chances.

The good news is: stones are largely preventable.

Start with water. Aim for at least 2.5 to 3 liters a day. That’s 10 to 12 cups — more if you’re active or sweating. Don’t wait to feel thirsty; thirst is often late. A good rule is to check your urine. Light yellow means you’re okay. Dark yellow or amber? Time to drink.

Choose drinks wisely. Skip the colas. Instead, try lemon water — not just refreshing, but rich in citrate, which helps stop stones from forming. Herbal teas and plain water are your safest bets.

Rethink your plate, too. Reduce salt. Go easy on red meat. Limit high-oxalate foods like spinach, beets, and dark chocolate. If you’ve had stones before, talk to a doctor — a simple evaluation can help tailor your diet.

Also, watch the clock. Avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest hours — usually 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Carry a water bottle if you’re outside, and sip often.

Kidney stones don’t start with pain — they start with small habits. But they can end in emergency rooms, surgeries, and days of recovery. The key is to catch the risk early, and take it seriously.

This summer, enjoy the sun. But keep your water bottle close. Your kidneys are working harder than you think. Don’t make them do it alone.

Sincerely,
Dr. Avinash Singh
Urologist

Kashmir's Click-to-Crate Apples

A tech shift is underway in Kashmir's apple belt, where young growers armed with smartphones are bypassing middlemen, reshaping tradition, and bringing the mountain fruit to mainland.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad

Last harvest, in a narrow lane of Shopian's Sedow village, past rows of rusted tractors and crates piled high with fruit, 28-year-old Adil Nazir crouched beneath an apple tree with a phone in hand. He was not checking the weather. He was editing a reel.

The clip shows red Kullu apples hanging low on branches, a drone shot of a misty orchard, and Adil waving from the truck bed. His caption is simple: "Fresh from Sedow. DM to buy."

In less than an hour, the post reached 3,000 people, most of them outside Kashmir.

This is what apple farming looks like now in the valley. A tech transformation, driven not by policy or market reform, but by social media and young growers refusing to follow the old script.

"In my father's time, we waited for commission agents," Adil says. "They'd come, quote a price, take

half the profit. We had no say. Now I'm selling my apples directly to homes in Delhi and Mumbai."

Adil is part of a growing network of Kashmiri orchardists using phones not just to share updates but to reshape the way they grow, sell, and survive.

The region produces nearly three-fourths of India's apples, yet its farmers have long struggled with price manipulation, unpredictable weather, and government neglect. That struggle has moved online.

Across south and north Kashmir, WhatsApp groups buzz with early warnings about scab infections. YouTube videos in Kashmiri break down pruning techniques and pesticide tips. On Facebook and Instagram, growers post glossy images of fresh fruit, complete with variety tags, location pins, and payment options.

For many, this shift is less about modernity and more about survival.

"It's not just about being online," says Rouf Ahmad, a horticulture

graduate from Baramulla who runs a YouTube channel with 52,000 subscribers. "It's about reclaiming control."

Rouf's channel offers tutorials in local dialects. How to graft a sapling, manage cold storage, or deal with hail damage. In the comments, growers ask questions, share crop photos, and correct each other. It's not formal education. But it works.

These platforms are also challenging Kashmir's rigid market chains. For decades, growers sold apples to middlemen who took them to mandis in Delhi or Azadpur. Prices fluctuated, payments were delayed. Farmers had no access to end buyers.

That is changing.

In the fall of 2023, a small collective in Baramulla called Kashmir Fresh Picks sold over 30,000 kilograms of apples directly to consumers through Instagram. The team, mostly in their twenties, handled logistics on WhatsApp, used QR codes for traceability, and offered

doorstep delivery. They earned nearly 30 percent more than traditional routes.

"We packaged every box like a story," says one member. "People in Chandigarh knew which orchard their apples came from. That mattered to them."

When a November snowstorm struck south Kashmir the same year, uprooting trees and flattening late-harvest fruit, social media again proved vital.

Dozens of growers used WhatsApp to share damage reports, organize help, and pressure local officials for compensation.

"We didn't wait for government survey teams," says Feroz, a grower from Kulgam. "By the time they came, we'd already mapped the damage and uploaded the videos."

These digital tools are not just for outreach, they're becoming lifelines. And yet, not everyone can access them.

Older orchardists struggle with smartphones. In parts of Shopian

and Anantnag, 4G service is spotty. Misinformation spreads quickly. In 2022, a video claiming a miracle pesticide cure circulated widely. Dozens followed it. Crops suffered.

"There's no way to tell what's real and what's fake," says one agriculture officer. "We need verified channels. We need oversight."

Another challenge is language. Most digital content is in Hindi or English. Many farmers speak only Kashmiri. Training programs remain rare, especially for women and elders.

"It's a digital revolution, but not everyone is invited," says Shahida, a schoolteacher in Pulwama who helps her father run his orchard. "We need the internet, yes. But we also need it in our voice."

The risk, experts say, is that this new tech-farming model, exciting as it is, could end up benefiting only a small, connected group. Without policy support, the divide between digital haves and have-nots may deepen.

Still, for younger orchardists, the change is hard to ignore.

In a corner of his orchard, Adil scrolls through his Instagram comments. A café owner in Bengaluru wants a trial order. A food blogger from Pune is asking about Kashmiri pears. There's a message from someone in Dubai.

"Fifteen years ago, we just filled crates and hoped someone would buy," Adil says, tucking the phone into his pocket. "Now people ask for my fruit. They ask for me by name."

There are still hailstorms to fear, loans to repay, roads that barely hold trucks. But the orchard, once cut off from the world, is no longer invisible.

Every post, every photo, every order is a kind of resistance - a way of saying, we are still here, and we're not waiting anymore.

Dr. Waseem Ahmad is a writer based in South Kashmir. He can be reached at waseembhatspm@yahoo.com.

The Persian Breath in Kashmiri Prayer

Days after Valley remembered its Persian mohsin, the sky over Iran turned red. In the silence, a plea emerges: who still hears the heartbeat of history?

Dr Syed Eesar Mehdi

Kashmir lately remembered Ameer Kabir, the saint who crossed snow-clad mountains to cradle masses in the arms of faith.

That beloved Persian priest brought to our vale not just Islam, but an imagination, an aesthetic, and a whisper of Shiraz in every saffron bloom.

The recitations during his urs this year, soft and aching, felt like homecoming.

And for a few tender hours, the Persian influence stirred again in the bones of Srinagar.

The calligraphy, the chinars, the kasabkari, the hush between two lines of a Rumi couplet.

We remembered who we were. Who we loved. And from where that love once came.

But remembrance, too, has its price. Just days later, the saint's homeland was torn open.

The war in Iran erupted like a wound being re-cut before it healed. And with it came a strange, collective mourning in the valley. Not from allegiance, but from ancestry. As if the bombs fell not just on Tehran, but on our memory and mirror.

I do not write from Qom. I write from Kashmir. And yet, I write as if the fire touches my own breath. For what else is Iran-e-Sageer if not a fragment of that ancient flame?

Iran is not just being bombed. It is being forsaken for showing spine.

Michel Foucault, that cold watcher of revolutions, once walked Tehran's alleys and saw what others refused: a spiritual

uprising. "Political spirituality," he called it. A revolt not for bread, but for meaning.

And today, that meaning is under attack. Not just with drones, but with distortion.

When Israel bombs Gaza, they say it is defense. When Iran mourns the dead and sends aid, it is aggression. Hypocrisy is not hidden anymore; it is worn like a medal.

As John Mearsheimer would argue, this is realism with claws. Power only tolerates obedience. Kenneth Waltz, too, warned that nuclear arms are only permissible when they lie in the hands of allies. Noam Chomsky, with his calm fury, has said it for decades: American policy doesn't seek peace. It seeks submission.

And Iran refuses. That is its crime. Not its theology, but its defiance.

In the silence that followed the saint's recent urs, I sat by the Jhelum and heard Iqbal's thunder again: Yehi sada thi azal se, na kar taghafil mujhe / Sunai deta hai behr-i-Khuda ki dharkan se.

(This cry has echoed since the beginning—do not ignore me / I can hear it in the ocean of God.)

But we have grown deaf and dumb. And yet, Iran—flawed, fatigued, furious—still stands.

It does not just fight with missiles. It fights with memory. With metaphysics. With a Qur'anic longing that empire cannot digest.

Talal Asad reminds us: Islam is not only belief. It is a tradition. A living, breathing resistance to modernity's violence. A refusal to forget who we were.

Wael Hallaq, in The Impossible

State, grieves that no Muslim state truly upholds Islam as a moral project. Perhaps. But if there is one still burning at the edge of erasure, it is Iran.

This war is not just against territory. It is against testimony.

When I was a child, I asked my father about Karbala. Why did no one come? He paused and said: Because we slept.

We are still sleeping when debating Iran on sectarian lines, while children in Rafah are pulled from rubble. We scroll past Gaza and accuse Iran of ambition.

Darwish once wrote: We suffer from an incurable malady - hope. But I fear it is not hope that afflicts us. It is forgetfulness.

Forgetfulness that turns heroes into heretics. That turns allies into enemies.

This war will not be remembered for who fired first. It will be remembered for who stood last.

And if Iran falls, make no mistake, it will not be a state that collapses, but a voice. A possibility. A defiant echo of Karbala in modern form. The world will call it geopolitical loss. But those of us in Kashmir will know: it is a betrayal of the faith.

The kind of faith Ameer Kabir carried over mountain and river, so many centuries ago. The kind that still lives, even now, in the silent grief of Iran-e-Sageer.

Dr Syed Eesar Mehdi is a Research Fellow at International Centre for Peace Studies, New Delhi, India. The views expressed here are his own. He can be reached @ eesarmehdi@gmail.com

In Loving Memory of Agha Sajad Ali Qazalbash

In Kashmir, an elder isn't just family, he's tradition, memory, and mercy. His silence is louder than any elegy.

Syed Nayeem Abbas

It's hard to describe someone who felt like the heart of every room.

But I have to try, even as my hands tremble and my throat tightens. Because when someone like Agha Sajad Ali Qazalbash leaves, it isn't just a death. It's a break in the rhythm of life.

We called him Sajad Mamu. He wasn't just my uncle. He was my friend, the one I looked for in every gathering.

And now I look, and he's not there.

He passed away on Sunday, June 15, 2025, after a sudden head injury. That's the fact of it. But the truth of his life is far deeper than the moment it ended.

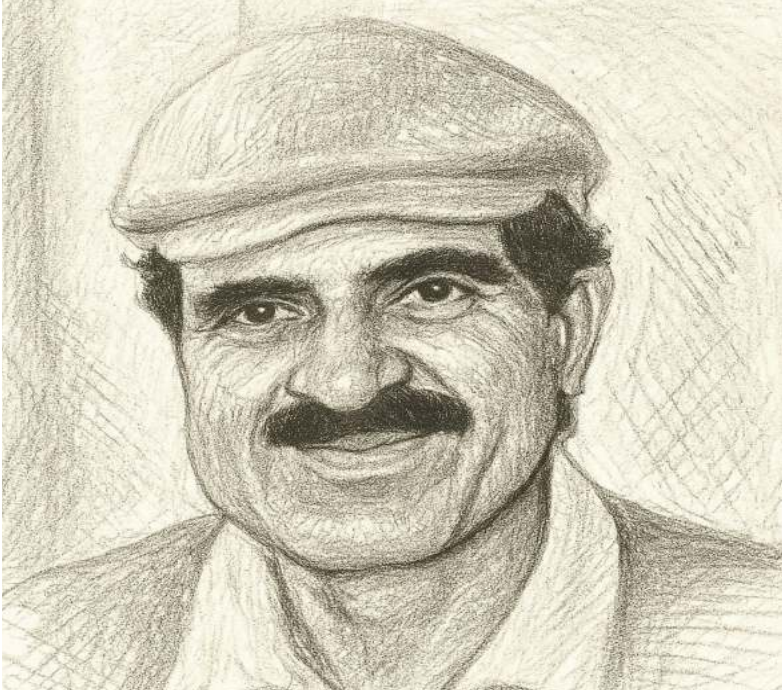
Born in Alamgari Bazar, he lived in Lal Bazar, in a home that never felt cold. His laughter echoed through the narrow lanes of our neighbourhood. He didn't need to say much to make you feel loved. Just a look, a smile, a joke told in that gentle, teasing way of his. He believed that humour was a kind of kindness, and he gave it freely.

He worked as Deputy Secretary at the JK Board of School Education, but work was never just a job to him.

He did things the honest way. No shortcuts, no arrogance. He believed in being fair, even when no one was watching. People trusted him. Colleagues respected him. But more than anything, they liked him.

When someone was in any trouble, he was there, without waiting to be asked. It didn't matter if it was a distant cousin or a stranger. He just showed up, offering his time like it was nothing. But we knew it was everything.

His house was always open. The door might as well have been left unlatched. If you were hungry, you were fed. If you were lonely, you were heard.



If you were grieving, he sat with you in silence and made it feel less heavy.

He loved the Ahlulbayt with a depth that shaped everything he did. Muharrem wasn't a season to him. It was part of his soul. He didn't just recite duas; he tried to live them. His faith wasn't loud. It was steady, constant. A light, not a spotlight.

The day he died, it felt like someone had unplugged a lamp that had always been on. That kind of loss doesn't come with instructions. The tea tastes flatter. The rooms echo more. Even the laughter that remains feels lament.

For the Agha and Syed family, he was the thread that held the fabric tight. We didn't realise it until it loosened.

I still expect him to walk in. I still think of things I want to tell him. And sometimes I catch myself smiling at an old memory, only to feel the weight of his absence fall again.

I pray that wherever he is, he's at peace. I hope he's with the ones he loved, wrapped in mercy and light. And I hope that we, the ones left behind, can carry forward the compassion and courage he showed every day.

He wasn't just part of our story. He was the story. And now, even in silence, he continues to teach us what it means to love.

The author is a nephew of the late Agha Sajad Ali Qazalbash

The Matchmaker of Budgam

In a world of profit-driven promises, a Budgam man arranges marriages the good old way.

Gowher Bhat

Mohamad Ayoub leans back on a plastic chair outside his shop in Kaziipura, a quintessential Kashmiri village in Budgam district. He watches the road as if waiting for someone, though no one in particular is expected.

Behind him, shelves of salt, lentils, and oil cans line the walls. His store is small but steady, like the man himself.

He's not just a shopkeeper. For the last fifteen years, Ayoub has been something else too.

This Budgam matchmaker is not the usual kind with a database or office, but a trusted connector of families. He doesn't charge a rupee, and doesn't advertise. He simply listens, remembers, and gently

brings people together.

"Almighty has given me enough," he says, gesturing toward the shop and the orchard beyond. "I don't need anything more. I do this work for humanity."

In a place where weddings can be costly and matchmaking has become an industry of middlemen and deception, Ayoub's social cause stands out.

He arranges marriages for families who can't afford dowries or matchmaker fees. He never promises more than what is true. And he stays until the families are sure.

"He never lied," says Asmat Mehraj, who got married through Ayoub's help three years ago. "He just introduced us and left the rest to us. I'm married and happy because of him."

It sounds simple. But in Kashmir, where rising costs and broken engagements are common, it's not.

Many women are rejected after a failed engagement. Some are left in debt by matchmakers who vanish after payment. That's how Ayoub met Humaira.

Her first two engagements had ended badly, both arranged by agents who took money and told half-truths.

"People looked at me differently after that," Humaira says. "I thought I'd never get married."

Then Ayoub visited her home. "He didn't just find me a good man," she says, "he gave me some money for the wedding. I'm happily married now."

Ayoub works only in Budgam. He knows every alley and apple field, every family and reputation.

"I don't work outside the district," he says. "I don't know those places. How can I introduce someone when I don't know who they are?"

He rattles off village names like a local cartographer - Wathoora, Panzan, Chadoora, Hayatpora. He prefers walking or riding his bike. When someone calls, he visits, listens, asks careful questions, then leaves to think.

"I visit both families myself," he says. "Then I tell them to take their time. When they agree, I stay with them through the whole process."

There's no notebook. No phone app. Everything is in his head.

"He knows who is honest," says Riyaz Baba, who lives nearby. "He knows whose son is back from college, whose daughter is strugg-

ling to find a match. He connects people quietly. That's why we trust him."

Matchmaking remains a mission for this man, even as he earns his living from a modest provision store and two transport vehicles that ferry goods between villages.

During harvest season, his orchards provide work to dozens of young men seeking a source of income.

"He gave my brother work during apple season," continues Riyaz. "Then connected him to another orchard owner for the next month. It isn't just about marriage. He helps in many ways."

Ayoub doesn't talk much about numbers. But by conservative estimates, he has arranged over fifty marriages. Most involved girls from struggling households. Many

involved men with unstable jobs, no land, or limited education. He never turned anyone away.

"No NGO helps me," he says. "No one funds me. I don't even ask. This is between me, the families, and God."

Ayoub speaks softly and smiles often. He shuns attention, but when social tensions arise, he's the one people turn to.

As a token of love, he gets a call months later from a new mother. Sometimes, it's a message from a groom who's found work and wants to thank him.

"When a marriage works out, when they're happy, it feels like a river flowing inside me," he says, explaining what keeps him going. "That feeling is everything."

The author is a Pulwama-based writer and educator.

Sahar Emami: Anchor in the Line of Fire

KO Web Desk

Srinagar – In a moment that has captivated viewers world-wide, Iranian news anchor Sahar Emami became a powerful symbol of defiance and composure after an Israeli missile struck the headquarters of Iran's state broadcaster during her live news bulletin.

The attack, which took place Monday night during a live broadcast on IRINN (Islamic Republic of Iran News Network), plunged the newsroom into chaos. The screen behind Emami flickered and went dark, the studio trembled, and the feed was briefly cut. Off-camera voices could be heard shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) as explosions rocked the building.

But what followed stunned viewers across Iran and beyond.

Within minutes, Emami returned to the anchor desk, composed and unshaken,



resuming the broadcast with poise and clarity—despite the sound of blasts still echoing in the background.

"What happened was a desperate attempt by the Israeli regime to silence freedom of speech," Emami declared. "If the news network building is struck, the voice of truth will not be silenced. We will continue our work, and the national media will keep broadcasting with strength."

Ahmedabad Plane Crash

Centre's Probe Panel To Submit Report In 3 Months

Press Trust Of India

Pune: A high-level multi-disciplinary committee formed by the Centre to investigate the Ahmedabad Air India plane crash will submit its report within three months, Union minister Murlidhar Mohol said on Tuesday.

The Air India operates 34 Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. The safety checks of 12 of them have been done and no issue has been found so far, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation told reporters here.

He also expressed hope that an analysis of the plane's black box data will provide clues about the cause of the crash.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft (AI171) with 230 passengers and 12 crew members crashed into the complex of a medical college moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on June 12.



One person survived the crash, while 241 on board and 29 on the ground were killed, as per officials.

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 compliances. The panel headed by Union

Home Secretary Govind Mohan will not be a substitute to other probes being conducted by relevant organisations, the Civil Aviation Ministry had said.

Asked about the probe status, Mohol said, "The investigation is underway and several small details will be investigated. Many things will come to light after downloading the 'black box'. A committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of the Union Home

Secretary to investigate the matter. The report will be submitted within three months."

The doomed aircraft's black box—which includes the Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder—has already been recovered and may hold vital clues to understanding what led to the disaster.

Mohol said, "The Air India operates a total of 34 Dreamliner aircraft. Orders have been given to inspect and investigate all the 34 carriers. Of them, 10 to 12 carriers have been inspected so far and no issue has been found in them yet." The minister also said that hospital authorities in Ahmedabad have collected 270 DNA samples and 70 to 80 bodies have been handed over to their relatives.

Probe agencies were looking into all possible causes for the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential wing flap issue.

The high-level panel, chaired by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, has deliberated on various possibilities that could have led to the Ahmedabad crash at its first meeting in Delhi, sources said on Monday. The panel heard the opinion of various stake-holders about the possible causes and deliberated on steps to be taken to check future occurrence of such accidents by formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Since a separate investigation is also being carried out by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AARB), which is looking into the technical aspects of the crash, the panel discussed about the possible causes and lesson to be taken from it, the sources said.

The United States' National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has also launched a parallel probe into the crash, drawing several international experts to the accident site.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump Threatens

superiority of the "American made, conceived, and manufactured 'stuff'" with Iran's "good spy trackers and other defensive equipment" of non-American origin.

The incendiary rhetoric followed last week's Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, which the White House had initially distanced itself from. Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a statement emphasizing that the operation was carried out unilaterally by Israel. However, Trump's Tuesday posts suggested U.S. involvement, at least in the aerial campaign.

"We now have complete and total control of the skies over Iran," Trump reiterated online, directly linking American military technology to the current dominance in Iranian airspace.

The statements represent a sharp uptick in confrontational language from the U.S. president, raising new questions about Washington's role in Israel's recent military operations — and the potential for further escalation in the region.

Trump Slams

Trump, who cut short his appearance at the G7 summit in Canada, made one thing clear: he didn't leave to play diplomat — he left to deal with war.

"Publicity-seeking President Emmanuel Macron... mistakenly said I left the G7 Summit to work on a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. Wrong! He has no idea why I'm on my way to Washington, but it has nothing to do with a ceasefire. Much bigger than that. Whether purposely or not, Emmanuel always gets it wrong. Stay tuned!"

The explosive post on Trump's Truth Social account came hours after Macron told reporters that Trump was involved in a peace push, claiming, "an offer was made, especially to get a ceasefire."

But Trump didn't just deny it — he torched the entire premise.

"I'm looking for something better than a ceasefire," he told reporters aboard Air Force One. "A real end — not a pause. I'm not in the mood to negotiate."

Instead of playing peace broker, Trump doubled down on threats. He warned Iran to "talk before it's too late," praised Israeli airstrikes, and made clear that if Tehran was expecting diplomacy, it was in for a rude awakening.

This all comes as the Israel-Iran conflict spirals out of control. Now in its fifth day, the war has seen over 220 Iranians killed in relentless Israeli strikes and 24 deaths reported in Israel. On Tuesday, Israeli forces announced they had taken out another Iranian general, while Iranian missiles landed near Tel Aviv.

As bombs fell, Trump was wheels up — ditching the G7 early and refusing to sign onto any joint statement on the crisis. His early exit threw diplomatic efforts into disarray and left allies scrambling.

Macron tried to frame it as a behind-the-scenes peace play. Trump made sure the world knew: he's not talking peace — he's preparing for something bigger.

"Obvious reasons," Trump said when asked why he left the summit. "Bigger things than photo ops and empty talk."

Trump also dismissed congressional testimony from National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard, who told lawmakers in March that U.S. spy agencies did not believe Iran was building a nuclear weapon.

"I don't care what she said," Trump said. "I think they were very close to having it."

Behind closed doors, Israeli officials are lobbying the U.S. to join the fight — especially to hit Iran's underground nuclear facility at Fordo, which only

American firepower can reach. So far, Trump hasn't committed troops, but his tone suggests the clock is ticking. —Rans Asia News

Contact Embassy,

mission also advised all Indian nationals and PIOs who can move out of Tehran using their own resources, to move to a safe location outside the city.

"All Indian Nationals who are in Tehran and not in touch with the Embassy are requested to contact the Embassy of India in Tehran immediately and provide their Location and Contact numbers. Kindly contact: +989010144557; +989128109115; +989128109109," the Embassy of India in Tehran said in a post on X.

The post came as the conflict between Israel and Iran intensified as they traded strikes on a fifth day.

US President Donald Trump left the G7 summit in Canada a day early to rush back to Washington. Trump also warned Iranians to evacuate Tehran, underscoring the danger to its 10 million residents.

The Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi said a 24x7 Control Room has been established in the ministry in view of the ongoing developments in Iran and Israel.

"The contact details of the control room are as under: 1800118797 (Toll-free), +91-11-23012113, +91-11-23014104, +91-11-23017905

+91-9968291988 (Whatsapp) and situationroom@mea.gov.in," it said in statement.

In addition, the Embassy of India in Tehran has set up a 24x7 emergency helpline with contact.

"For call only: +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109; For WhatsApp: +98 901044557, +98 9015993320, +91 8086871709, Bandar Abbas: +98 9177699036, Zahedan: +98 9396356649," it added, PTI

Israel attacked Iran early Friday targeting its nuclear, missile and military infrastructure. Iran later launched retaliatory strikes on Israel.

90 Kashmiri

Urmia Medical University, had been studying in Iran and were moved out of Tehran through arrangements made by the Indian Embassy.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi said Indian students were relocated from Tehran for safety reasons and have been provided support throughout the process. "Indian students in Tehran have been moved out of the city for reasons of safety, through arrangements made by the Embassy. Some Indians have also been facilitated to leave Iran through the border with Armenia," the MEA said in a statement, adding that the Embassy remains in constant touch with the Indian community and that further advisories may be issued given the fluid situation.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), the evacuated students arrived in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, and have been accommodated in hotels. "All Indian students who crossed the Iran-Armenia border are now safe in Yerevan. This includes around 90 students from Kashmir and 20 others from various Indian states," JKSA National Convenor Nasir Khuehami said.

He added that their flight to New Delhi is scheduled for Wednesday, with coordination underway between Indian authorities and local officials in Armenia.

Meanwhile, the JKSA has appealed to External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar for the swift evacuation of the remaining Indian students, many of whom are still stranded in Iranian cities amid the worsening conflict. "The situation is deteriorating fast with ongoing airstrikes, missile barges, and fear across Iran. Hundreds

of Indian students, especially from Jammu and Kashmir, remain stuck," the association warned.

The Indian Embassy in Tehran has also informed universities that arrangements are in place and students may now be permitted to leave campuses. "We have made arrangements for their evacuation. They may be permitted to leave the university," the Embassy said in its communication to educational institutions.

With tensions showing no sign of de-escalation, Indian authorities remain on high alert to ensure the safety of nationals in the region.

Airports Close Across

take him to the border as the conflict between Iran and Israel intensified.

"Flights, markets, everything is closed, and I am living in the basement of a small hotel," Hussein told The Associated Press by cellphone on Monday. "I am trying to get to the border by taxi, but they are hard to find, and no one is taking us."

Israel launched a major attack Friday with strikes in the Iranian capital of Tehran and elsewhere, killing senior military officials, nuclear scientists, and destroying critical infrastructure. Among the targets was a nuclear enrichment facility about 18 miles from Qom. Iran has retaliated with hundreds of drones and missiles.

The dayslong attacks between the two bitter enemies have opened a new chapter in their turbulent recent history. Many in the region fear a wider conflict as they watch waves of attacks across their skies every night.

The conflict has forced most countries in the Middle East to close their airspace. Dozens of airports have stopped all flights or severely reduced operations, leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded and others unable to flee the conflict or travel home.

Airport closures create 'massive' domino, tens of thousands stranded

"The domino effect here is massive," said retired pilot and aviation safety expert John Cox, who said the disruptions will have a huge price tag.

"You've got thousands of passengers suddenly that are not where they're supposed to be, crews that are not where they are supposed to be, airplanes that are not where they're supposed to be," he said.

Zvika Berg was on an El Al flight to Israel from New York when an unexpected message came from the pilot as they began their descent: "Sorry, we've been rerouted to Larnaca." The 50-year-old Berg saw other Israel-bound El Al flights from Berlin and elsewhere landing at the airport in Cyprus. Now he's waiting at a Larnaca hotel while speaking to his wife in Jerusalem. "I'm debating what to do," Berg said.

Israel has closed its main international Ben Gurion Airport "until further notice," leaving more than 50,000 Israeli travelers stranded abroad. The jets of the country's three airlines have been moved to Larnaca.

In Israel, Mahala Finkleman was stuck in a Tel Aviv hotel after her Air Canada flight was canceled, trying to reassure her worried family back home while she shelters in the hotel's underground bunker during waves of overnight Iranian attacks.

"We hear the booms. Sometimes there's shaking," she said. "The truth, I think it's even scarier ... to see from TV what happened above our heads while we were underneath in a bomb shelter."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office warned Israelis not to flee the country through any of the three crossings with Jordan and Egypt that are open to the Israeli public. Despite having diplomatic ties with Israel, the statement said those countries are considered a "high risk of threat" to Israeli travelers.

Iran on Friday suspended flights to and from the country's main Khomeini

International Airport on the outskirts of Tehran. Israel said Saturday that it bombed Mehrabad Airport in an early attack, a facility in Tehran for Iran's air force and domestic commercial flights.

Many students unable to leave Iran, Iraq and elsewhere

Arsalan Ahmed is one of thousands of Indian university students stuck in Iran, with no way out. The medical student and other students in Tehran are not leaving the hostels where they live, horrified by the attacks with no idea of when they'll find safety.

"It is very scary what we watch on television," Ahmed said. "But scarier are some of the deafening explosions." Universities have helped relocate many students to safer places in Iran, but the Indian government has not yet issued an evacuation plan for them.

Though airspace is still partially open in Lebanon and Jordan, the situation is chaotic at airports, with many passengers stranded locally and abroad with delayed and canceled flights even as the busy summer tourism season begins. Many airlines have reduced flights or stopped them altogether, and authorities have closed airports overnight when attacks are at their most intense. Syria, under new leadership, had just renovated its battered airports and begun restoring diplomatic ties when the conflict began.

Neighboring Iraq's airports have all closed due to its close proximity to Iran. Israel reportedly used Iraqi airspace, in part, to launch its strikes on Iran, while Iranian drones and missiles flying the other way have been downed over Iraq. Baghdad has reached a deal with Türkiye that would allow Iraqis abroad to travel to Türkiye — if they can afford it — and return home overland through their shared border.

Some Iraqis stranded in Iran opted to leave by land. College student Yahia Al-Suraifi was studying in the north-western Iranian city of Tabriz, where Israel bombed the airport and an oil refinery over the weekend.

Al-Suraifi and dozens of other Iraqi students pooled together their money to pay taxi drivers to drive 200 miles (320 kilometers) overnight to the border with northern Iraq with drones and airstrikes around them.

"It looked like fireworks in the night sky," Al-Suraifi said. "I was very scared."

By the time they reached the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, it was another 440 miles (710 kilometers) to get to his hometown of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

Back in Tehran, Hussein said the conflict brought back bitter memories of 20 years of war back home in Afghanistan.

"This is the second time I have been trapped in such a difficult war and situation," he said, "once in Kabul and now in Iran."

'Kashmir Open

to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 people—most of them tourists—the chief minister said the impact went beyond the immediate tragedy. "To call it unfortunate would be an understatement. It impacted not just 26 families directly but also affected the confidence of many more. Just when the season had begun to look promising, the downturn by mid-June was quite telling," he said.

Despite the setback, Omar struck an optimistic note, highlighting the resilience of the tourism sector. "Since the 2022 season, we've seen a surge in tourist vehicles. It was encouraging to see Srinagar bustling with activity, taxis with luggage on rooftops heading to Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and beyond," he said.

He stressed that Kashmir must aim beyond one-time visits. "We want tourists to return again and again. That's why your feedback is

essential—for improving the experience, enhancing infrastructure and expanding the adventure tourism potential," he told the delegation.

Omar said the government, in coordination with the Centre, is working on developing nine new tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir. "Both regions hold immense tourism potential, and both will be equally promoted," he added.

On connectivity, the chief minister acknowledged the rising popularity of new train services to Kashmir and promised to take up the issue of capacity constraints with the Ministry of Railways. "The demand is growing, and we will explore increasing train length and frequency," he said.

Omar also announced that previously shut destinations following the Pahalgam incident are being reopened in phases. "We have begun this process. It's a matter of restoring confidence—for tourists and for ourselves," he asserted.

The IATO, in a statement, lauded the Union Territory government's efforts to boost tourism. "The Department of Tourism has taken commendable steps to upgrade infrastructure, improve accessibility, enhance security, and create a tourist-friendly environment," the organisation said.

Citing dedicated tourism officers, trained police personnel, and round-the-clock support systems, the IATO said these efforts instil a sense of safety and comfort for visitors. It urged its members and the global travel fraternity to confidently promote Kashmir as a safe and vibrant tourist destination.

"We assure travellers that Kashmir is open, vibrant, and ready to host them. The valley, in all its natural splendour, is offering not just scenic beauty but a rejuvenating and secure holiday experience," it said.

The association appealed to media outlets and travel influencers to share the positive developments and help rebuild trust. "Pahalgam, Srinagar, and surrounding areas are absolutely safe for tourists. We were heartened to see that both government authorities and private stakeholders are working together seamlessly to ensure the safety, comfort, and memorable experiences of all visitors," it added.

Parks Reopen

Sinha on Saturday ordered the reopening of 16 parks — eight each in Jammu region and Kashmir Valley. He said the destinations would be reopened in a phased manner.

In the first phase, eight parks were reopened in the Kashmir valley.

Betaab Valley in Pahalgam and the parks near Pahalgam market, Verinag, Kokernag and Achabal gardens in Anantnag district, Badamwari Park, Duck Park near Nigeen, and Taqdeer Park near Hazratbal in Srinagar were reopened on Tuesday.

Similarly, eight destinations were reopened in Jammu region as well including Sarthal and Dhaggar in Kathua, Devipindi, Siyad Baba and Sula Park in Reasi, Guldanda and Jai Valley in Doda, and Pancheri in Udhampur.

A large number of school children welcomed the tourists at Verinag — a famous park in south Kashmir's Anantnag, the officials said.

"We were already feeling good and happy to have come here, but the reopening of the park and the welcome we got is very nice," a tourist from Patiali, Punjab said.

"We are happy that this park opened after so many days. We have come here with our families and we will visit the park to show them beautiful Kashmir," Barkat Ali, a tourist from Bikaner area of Rajasthan, said.

"It is a wonderful feeling and experience. We heard that the park was reopening today, so we came. But, the welcome we got is truly the best experience which we cannot express in

words," another tourist from Punjab said. They appealed the tourists to come to Kashmir in large numbers.

Tourist police personnel were also deployed to assist the visitors. Local MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir also welcomed the reopening of the park

Patwari's Lifestyle

Khan owned a Hyundai Venue car and a two-wheeler. The probe further uncovered substantial spending on loan repayments, and significant educational expenses, including the admission of one of his children to a medical college abroad for an MBBS degree, and another to a nursing college in Amritsar.

The agency further revealed that soon after the complaint was filed, Khan allegedly began securing large bank loans—amounting to around 75 lakh—seemingly to create a paper trail and conceal his disproportionate assets.

"These acts constitute criminal misconduct under Section 5(1)(e) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006," the ACB said in its statement. Accordingly, an FIR No. 03/2025 was registered on June 16 against Khan.

Searches were subsequently conducted at various locations linked to the accused, after obtaining warrants from the Anti-Corruption Court in Baramulla. During the raids, incriminating material was recovered, including receipts of gold purchases, invoices for iPhone 15 and 15 Pro, and documents relevant to the investigation.

The searches were conducted in the presence of magistrates and independent witnesses, as per legal procedure.

"The investigation is ongoing," the ACB said, adding that further action will follow based on the evidence collected.

Amarnath Yatra Routes

attracts thousands of devotees from

across the country.

Union Home Secy

and logistics plan for the 38-day pilgrimage, which draws lakhs of devotees each year. The deliberations covered every aspect—route protection, communication systems, disaster preparedness, and medical response—with an emphasis on seamless coordination between civil and security agencies.

The Home Secretary was briefed on the current security scenario and informed that surveillance and joint security drills have already begun along the Yatra routes. Vulnerable points have been identified, drone surveillance activated, and night patrolling intensified. A multi-tier security arrangement involving ground forces and aerial monitoring is set to be deployed across the pilgrimage track, including base camps, transit points, and the cave shrine.

Officials said a real-time response mechanism has been activated with enhanced intelligence-sharing protocols. RFID tracking for pilgrims, real-time weather updates, emergency evacuation systems, and dedicated health camps are among the measures already put in place.

This year's Yatra comes in the shadow of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead—prompting authorities to leave nothing to chance. Security forces have taken over route clearance operations, with convoys to the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam being escorted from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu.

Officials reiterated that ensuring the safety of every pilgrim is the government's top priority. "A close watch is being kept, and all arrangements have been made to guarantee a smooth and secure Yatra," a senior official present in the meeting said.

Amarnath Yatra 2025: LG Appoints Nodal Officers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday nominated two senior IAS officers as Nodal Officers for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025, assigning them specific responsibilities over the Baltal and Pahalgam axes respectively.

According to the Government Order by the Lieutenant Governor, "It is hereby ordered that the following officers shall be the Nodal Officers for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025 for the locations/axes indicated against each, in addition to their own duties, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS, Secretary to the Government, Science and Technology Department Baltal Axis. Mr. Rahul Yadav, IAS,



Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation Limited Pahalgam Axis," it reads.

The order further states, "The officers shall closely monitor and liaise with all concerned agencies involved in the conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, and shall report to the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board on a regular basis," reads the order.

DTO Shopian Organises Training Programme On 'Pension Suvidha'



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: In a move to strengthen the digital governance of financial services and in line with the directions of the Director General Accounts & Treasuries J&K, District Treasury Office Shopian today conducted a training programme on the newly launched Pension Suvidha portal for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the district at Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The training programme was held to facilitate the transition to electronic processing of pension services of retiring government employees through the Pension Suvidha software application.

The training programme was chaired by District Treasury Officer Shopian, Muzaffar Ahmad Rather who briefed the participants about the key features of the new pension system and

emphasized the importance of speedy and error-free pension case processing and urged all DDOs to ensure full compliance with the new digital procedure.

DDOs were guided on various aspects of the portal including login procedures, uploading of documents, digital verification, and submission of pension cases through the online platform.

DDO informed that the implementation of the Pension Suvidha Portal will bring greater transparency, efficiency, and speed in pension-related matters and will benefit both departments and retiring employees alike.

The program was also attended by Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. (Dr. Shafiq Ahmad), ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie and other officers and officials of the departments including Treasury office Shopian.

Speaker Legislative Assembly Visits Kargoom, Palpora



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Charar-i-Sharief constituency in Budgam district.

The Speaker reviewed the progress on various ongoing developmental projects and had a first-hand appraisal of the pace and quality of work. He emphasized the importance of expediting the execution of these projects to ensure their timely completion.

As part of his outreach efforts, the Speaker held public interaction programmes at Kargoom and Palpora, where he met with the local residents and listened to their concerns and demands.

The locals expressed appreciation for the visit and raised issues

related to infrastructure, public services and basic amenities.

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and departmental heads to ensure prompt service delivery and effective grievance redressal mechanism. He stressed the need for responsive governance that reaches the people at grass-roots level.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker stated, "The government is committed to reach the people at their doorsteps. Along with the district administration, we aim to understand the needs of the community directly and work together to address them."

He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards inclusive development and citizen-centric governance, highlighting the importance of on-ground engagement for effective administration.

Fire Breaks Out In Noor Bagh Sgr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A major fire broke out in Pamposh Colony of Noor-bagh area in Srinagar late Tuesday evening, damaging multiple residential houses, officials said.

An official told KNO that the fire call was received at 10:35 PM, and the first team and Headquarters was dispatched within a minute.

He said soon additional reinforcement was also sent at the

spot due to the intensity of the fire. "As per initial inputs, three to four residential houses are involved in the blaze. Firefighting operations are underway," he said.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses from the area said the locality is congested and the fire appears to be spreading rapidly, raising fears of further damage.

Moreover, the cause of the fire and extent of damage were not ascertained when this report was filed.

AMARNATH YATRA 2025

Sakeena Itoo Assesses Medical Setup At Chandanwari Base Camp

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday chaired a high level meeting at Pahalgam here to review the healthcare arrangements for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra (SANJY)-2025.

During the meeting, the Minister focused on the provision of quality and accessible health facilities for the Yatris.

Addressing the officers, the Health Minister underlined that Amarnath Yatra is not only a significant spiritual event but also a high-altitude pilgrimage that requires meticulous planning in terms of healthcare delivery. She underscored the need for coordinated efforts to ensure deployment of sufficient medical personnel, timely operationalization of base hospitals, establishment of emergency response units and availability of ambulances along all vital points of the Yatra route.

The Minister stressed upon the health department to ensure that all identified health facilities like base hospitals at Pahalgam and Chandanwari are fully functional well ahead of commencement of the Yatra. She stressed on the need for round-the-clock services, availability of essential medicines, oxygen support systems, mobile medical units and rapid response teams to meet any medical emergencies.

The Minister also instructed the concerned departments to conduct mock drills and capacity-building sessions for medical and paramedical staff to handle altitude sickness, trauma care and emergency evacuations efficiently. She called for close coordination between the Health Depart-



ment, Disaster Management Authority, SDRF, and other allied agencies to ensure real-time response and effective management during the Yatra. The Minister further emphasized on the importance of public awareness regarding health advisories as well as do's and don'ts during the Yatra.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards providing state-of-the-art healthcare support during the Yatra.

During the meeting, the Minister was briefed about the current status of preparations, including infrastructural upgrades, provisioning of equipment and deployment of human resources at designated health facilities.

Chief Medical Officer, Anantnag, presented a detailed action plan outlining the deployment of specialist doctors, paramedics, critical care units and diagnostic support across all medical camps. He also informed the meeting about the establishment of control rooms and referral linkages with tertiary care hospitals in case of emergencies.

Later, the Health Minister visited Chandanwari Base Camp Hospital and took stock of its functioning.

During the visit, she inspected different sections of

the hospital and took first hand appraisal of the services available for the devotees. She interacted with medical officers, paramedical staff and support teams deployed at the camp, reviewing their readiness to cater to the influx of pilgrims expected during the yatra season. She emphasized on the critical need for timely medical intervention, availability of emergency equipment and round-the-clock services at the high-altitude facility. She also directed the concerned departments to ensure cleanliness, hygiene and proper waste disposal mechanisms around the hospital premises.

Meanwhile, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with several tourists at the picturesque Betaab Valley. During the interaction, the Minister spoke about rich cultural heritage, breath-taking natural beauty and enduring spirit of Kashmiri hospitality that continues to attract travellers to the region. She appealed to the tourists to promote the Kashmir valley as a safe and peaceful destination and take a message of positivity from here to their respective places.

The tourists appreciated the approachable demeanour of the Minister and expressed admiration for the local culture, serene landscapes and the warmth of the people.



AMARNATH YATRA IS NOT ONLY A SIGNIFICANT spiritual event but also a high-altitude pilgrimage that requires meticulous planning in terms of healthcare delivery."

Govt Aims To Make J&K An Industrial Hub: Dy CM



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government, under the stewardship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, is embarking on ambitious plans to establish Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging industrial destination with proper mounting of new vision for business growth in the current fiscal.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, while addressing the "New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS); Implementation Conference and Strategy Workshop 2025" at Sanat Ghar, Bemina.

The conference was organised by the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, with an aim to bring together the key stakeholders from across J&K to celebrate the achievements under the NCSS-2021 and chart the course for the coming financial year.

Commissioner Secretary I&C, Vikramjit Singh, was the Guest of Honour while Director I&C Kashmir, Khalid Majeed, senior officials and General Manager besides other concerned officials from District Industries Centres (DICs) were present in the Conference.

The Deputy Chief Minister was informed that the scheme NCSS-2021, which will be operational till 31st March 2037, offers robust incentives for new units, existing units and those undergoing substantial expansion across manufacturing and service sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the transformative role of NCSS-2021 with a total financial outlay of ₹28,400 crore. He asserted that the momentum should

'Protecting Local Entrepreneurs Govt's Prime Concern'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary chaired a meeting to review the performance of Jammu and Kashmir Industries (JKI) at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir has vast potential for the industrial sector and there are many schemes which are imperative for the overall development of this sector. He directed the department to utilize all possible avenues for conveying objectives of the schemes under the Industrial sector to the people of J&K so that more people are made aware about the scheme. He also impressed upon proper hand holding of the budding entrepreneurs and artisans for constant facilitation of them at each level.

Emphasizing the importance of timely support to the unit holders and effective scheme delivery, the Deputy Chief Minister

stressed the need for prompt release of incentives and subsidies to local entrepreneurs and industrial units.

Highlighting the importance of sustainable industrial growth for economic stability and employment generation in J&K, the Dy CM asserted that the government is focused on encouraging fiscal accountability, transparency, efficient project implementation and infrastructure development. He maintained that J&K is poised for significant industrial growth, attracting investments and fostering a vibrant industrial ecosystem.

The Dy CM reiterated that the government is committed to improving the business environment and supporting entrepreneurs will be crucial in driving this growth forward.

Earlier, MD, Vikrant Gupta, gave a detailed presentation on the achievements, progress and future plans of JKI.

Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh, along with the concerned officials were present in the meeting.

The workshop also included a felicitation ceremony in honour of the top-performing DICs and Functional Managers/ IPOs and PIU Team from Ernst and Young under NCSS and IDS.

Earlier, a comprehensive presentation was displayed by the Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, on implementation status of NCSS and the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS), showcasing key milestones achieved and outlining targets for FY 2025-26.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by a networking session and focused discussions on operational challenges.



MP Aga Ruhullah Chairs DISHA Meeting At Ganderbal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Member Parliament from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday chaired the District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting in Ganderbal to review the implementation status and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) across the district.

The meeting witnessed a comprehensive review of development works and government schemes being implemented in various sectors.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, gave a detailed presentation highlighting achievements under different sectors including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, NRLM, Urban Livelihoods Mission, Rural Development, R&B, Handicrafts & Handlooms, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Jal Shakti, Power, and Labour & Employment.

The meeting was apprised of the physical and financial progress achieved under flagship schemes like MGNREGA, PMAY-G/U, SBM-G/U, RGSA, PMGSY, JJM, and CSS funding, among others. Progress under MPLADS and awareness initiatives under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan were also discussed.

Commending the efforts of the District Administration, MP Aga Ruhullah lauded the performance across multiple sectors and emphasized the untapped potential of the Agriculture and Allied sectors in Ganderbal.

He directed the District Officers of Agriculture and allied sectors to adopt modern agricul-

tural practices and technologies to maximize productivity and benefit the local population.

While reviewing the progress under JJM, MP directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to strictly adhere to the stipulated deadlines and expedite the pace of work in all areas where projects are underway to ensure uninterrupted access to safe and clean drinking water to the residents.

Interacting with officers, the MP stressed the importance of proactive governance, underlining that the core objective of all government schemes is public service and improved ease of living. He directed for efficient implementation of schemes to ensure benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries.

DDC Chairperson, Nuzhat Ishfaq, Vice-Chairperson and DDC members also participated in the meeting and raised several issues requiring urgent attention, including the completion of pending bridges, road widening projects, MRI facilities at District Hospital Ganderbal, completion of ongoing water supply schemes and early commissioning of the 93 MW Hydro Power Project.

Responding to the concerns, MP assured the members that these issues would be taken up at appropriate forums to ensure timely resolution.

He reiterated that achieving saturation under all schemes is essential to bring about tangible and sustainable improvements in the lives of the people.

Amongst others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer; CEO SDA and other district and sectoral officers.

Awareness Workshop On PMFME Organised At Bijbehara

Observer news Service

ANANTNAG: An awareness workshop under the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, also known as the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative, was organised today at Bijbehara Block in Anantnag district.

The event, conducted by the District Nodal Agency- Deputy Director, Fisheries Anantnag in collaboration with other allied line departments, as part of the ongoing ODOP initiative, aimed to inform and encourage students, local entrepreneurs, self-help groups (SHGs), and small-scale food processors to leverage the benefits of the PMFME scheme, launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Experts from the Agriculture, Horticulture, School Education, and Fisheries departments briefed the participants about the PMFME scheme and other government initiatives offering employment generation and entrepreneurship opportunities.

During the camp, over 30 participants registered on the spot. Students from Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Bijbehara, also took part and expressed interest in establishing or upgrading micro food processing units in the future.

This event marked the third in a series of five awareness programs scheduled in the district, in line with the district's objective of promoting the PMFME initiative across all blocks.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director Fisheries Anantnag, said that the PMFME scheme is designed to formalise and strengthen the unorganised micro food processing sector in India by providing financial, technical, and business support to both existing and new enterprises.

"In our district, we have already established more than 50 small-scale food processing enterprises with credit linkage of over Rs.3 crore, and more than five units with credit linkage exceeding Rs.0.50 crore in this constituency alone," he said.

Rana Reviews Water Supply Schemes In Pir Panjal Region

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of functioning of Water Supply Schemes in Pir Panjal Region at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting, which was attended by Director Finance, Director Planning, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, aimed to assess the current status of water supply infrastructure and identify the areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister emphasized the importance of meticulous planning for the ensuing year to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the residents of the region. He directed the concerned departments to prepare detailed plans, taking into account the region's specific needs

and challenges.

The Minister also stressed the need for regular water quality tests to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the public. He directed the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) officials to prioritize water quality monitoring and take corrective measures wherever necessary. The meeting also reviewed the progress on the ongoing projects of Water Supply Schemes in the region.

Rana expressed concern over delays and directed the concerned officers to fast-track the completion of these projects, ensuring high-quality workmanship.

The Minister also reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Pir Panjal Region. He emphasized the importance of community participation and involvement in ensuring the sustainability of water supply schemes.

Bumrah Ruled Out India Captaincy During IPL

Press Trust of India

LEEDS: The peerless Jasprit Bumrah has revealed that he had ruled out Test captaincy during the IPL itself as part of his workload management, and had informed the BCCI of his desire to prioritise his bowling responsibilities over leadership duties.

During an interaction with former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik on Sky Sports Cricket, Bumrah explained the thought process behind his decision to turn down the Indian Test captaincy.

"There's no fancy stories to it. There is no controversy or a headlining statement that I was sacked. Before Rohit and Virat retired, I had spoken to the BCCI during the IPL about my workload going forward in a five-match series," Bumrah said.

"I've spoken to the people who have managed my back, I've spoken to the surgeon as well, who's always spoken to me about how

smart you have to be about the workloads.

"And then we came to the conclusion that I have to be a little smarter. So then I called the BCCI and said I don't want to be looked at in a leadership role, because I won't be able to give all matches coming to a five-match Test series," added Bumrah.

After Rohit's retirement and with Bumrah ruling himself out, the BCCI appointed Shubman Gill as the skipper of the Test team with his first assignment being the five-match Test series against England, beginning in Leeds on Friday.

During the interaction, Bumrah stressed on the need for continuity in leadership, particularly in a long series, something he would not be able to offer because of his heavy workload as the team's premier bowler.

"The BCCI was looking at me at (a) leadership (role). But then I had to say no as it's not fair for the team as well. It's not fair to the team if in a five-Test series, three matches

somebody else is leading and two matches somebody else is leading.

"I always wanted to put the team first, even if me being there as a player offers a lot more just not as a captain," Bumrah said.

"Captaincy is a position. But you always have leaders in the team and I wanted to do. Obviously, if I'm not careful, I don't know about the future, and I don't want to be in a situation where I have to abruptly go away from this format.

"So, I thought that for continuity, and it is only fair to the team that you know the team goes in that direction, where they look at long-term and I could help in whatever way," he added.

Bumrah acknowledged that leading the Indian Test team is a huge honour but added that he loves the game more than captaincy.



J&K Probables For Youth National Kabaddi Championship Named

The J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association announced the list of probables selected for a coaching camp ahead of the 1st Youth National Kabaddi Championship for Boys & Girls, scheduled to be held at Haridwar from June 28 to July 1, 2025. The teams from J&K will participate under the banner of J&KAKA in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

Boys Probables: Ankush Chib, Aditya Thappa, Adarsh Sharma, Vansh Kumar, Yasir Bashir, Danish Aliwaza, Kashif Altaf, Kunal Banotra, Bhupinder Singh, Aryan Sharma, Hamid Javid, Ankit Sharma, Shaan Karamat Aijaz, Vishal Kumar

Standby: Manik Atri, Rayees Ahmed

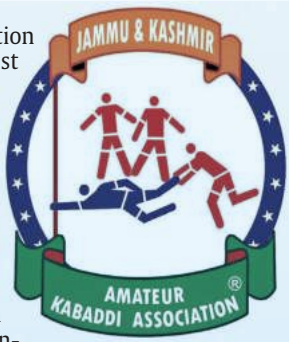
Coach: Ajit Singh; **Manager:** Mohd. Yakoob

Girls Probables: Vaibhavi, Sonakshi, Reetika Bhagat, Jyoti Devi, Eva, Samiksha, Sukriti, Sehrish, Naysa, Sunaina, Pari, Saniya Jan, Saika Tabasum, Arbeena Jan

Standby: Subrana, Vaibhavi

Coach: Nisha Rani; **Manager:** Archana Kousal

All selected and standby players must submit a fitness certificate from the Chief Medical Officer, NOC from parents and a domicile certificate before joining the camp at Kabaddi Stadium Jammu, ongoing until June 27.



India Reach Leeds Via Train, Rana Added As Cover

Pacer Harshit Rana has been included in the India Test squad as a cover and travelled with the rest of the team via train to reach Leeds, the venue for the series opener against England.

Rana was part of the India A squad and played the first unofficial test against England Lions in Canterbury. The tall pacer had made his debut in Australia last year but was not included in the 18-man squad for the five Tests in England.

The 23-year-old from Delhi has played two Tests, five ODIs and a T20.

Rana was seen exiting the Leeds train station with the rest of the squad members. The team had travelled to Leeds from London. The first Test begins at Headingley on June 20.

Scorching Heat Sparks Welfare Fears At Club World Cup

Soaring temperatures and oppressive humidity at the Club World Cup are fuelling concerns among players, coaches, and fans, with calls for additional cooling breaks and adjustments to match schedules.

Midday kickoff temperatures in Pasadena at the weekend approached 32 degrees Celsius (89.6 Fahrenheit), forcing players in the Paris St Germain v Atletico Madrid match to dig in early as the midday sun blazed on the Rose Bowl's uncovered stands and pitch.

Atletico's Marcos Llorente described the conditions as "terribly hot," saying "my toes were sore, my nails were hurting... it's incredible."

Fans, too, voiced concern.

The world players' union FIFPRO has suggested FIFA should revise scheduling, if needed.

District Level U-19 Boys Football Tournament Begins In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Level Inter-School Football Tournament for Under-19 Boys was inaugurated Tuesday at HSS Dailgam under the banner of the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag. The opening ceremony was graced by the District Youth Services & Sport Officer Anantnag, along with the Principal of HSS Dailgam, who jointly declared

the tournament open.

At Zone Anantnag, the Zonal Level Inter-School Cricket Tournament entered its sixth day at Sports Stadium Monghall and Rooh Stadium.

At Sports Stadium Monghall, the quarterfinal match between Smart Mission High School and CATS witnessed Smart Mission post 157 runs in 10 overs. In reply, CATS was restricted to 62 runs. Muneeb Afzal of Smart Mission remained

unbeaten on 59.

At Rooh Stadium, the first match saw MS Khahpora defeat HSS Furrar by 8 wickets. In the following match, Shemford School secured a 10-wicket victory against St. Peter's School.

Alongside these events, Zone Doru witnessed final matches of Inter-School Zonal-Level Competitions in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, and Volleyball (U-14 and U-17 for both boys and girls) at MS Chakpath.



District Level Badminton Concludes At Indoor Sports Stadium Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam successfully concluded its Inter-Zonal District Level Badminton Tournament for Boys Under-17 at the Indoor Sports Stadium Budgam on Tuesday. The event was organised under the directions of the District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone, as part of the department's continued efforts to promote sports and identify young talent across the district.

The tournament was officially inaugurated by the Activity Section of DYSSO Budgam in the presence of senior officials and field staff. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation

from boys representing various zones of the district, showcasing high levels of skill, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit.

Speaking on the occasion, officials emphasized the importance of such tournaments in shaping the sporting future of youth in Budgam. The Department reaffirmed its commitment to providing a robust platform for student-athletes and thanked all conveners, technical staff, and school representatives for their cooperation in the successful conduct of the event.

The matches were played in a spirited environment, and the event concluded with the distribution of appreciation and encouragement to the winners and participants.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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