

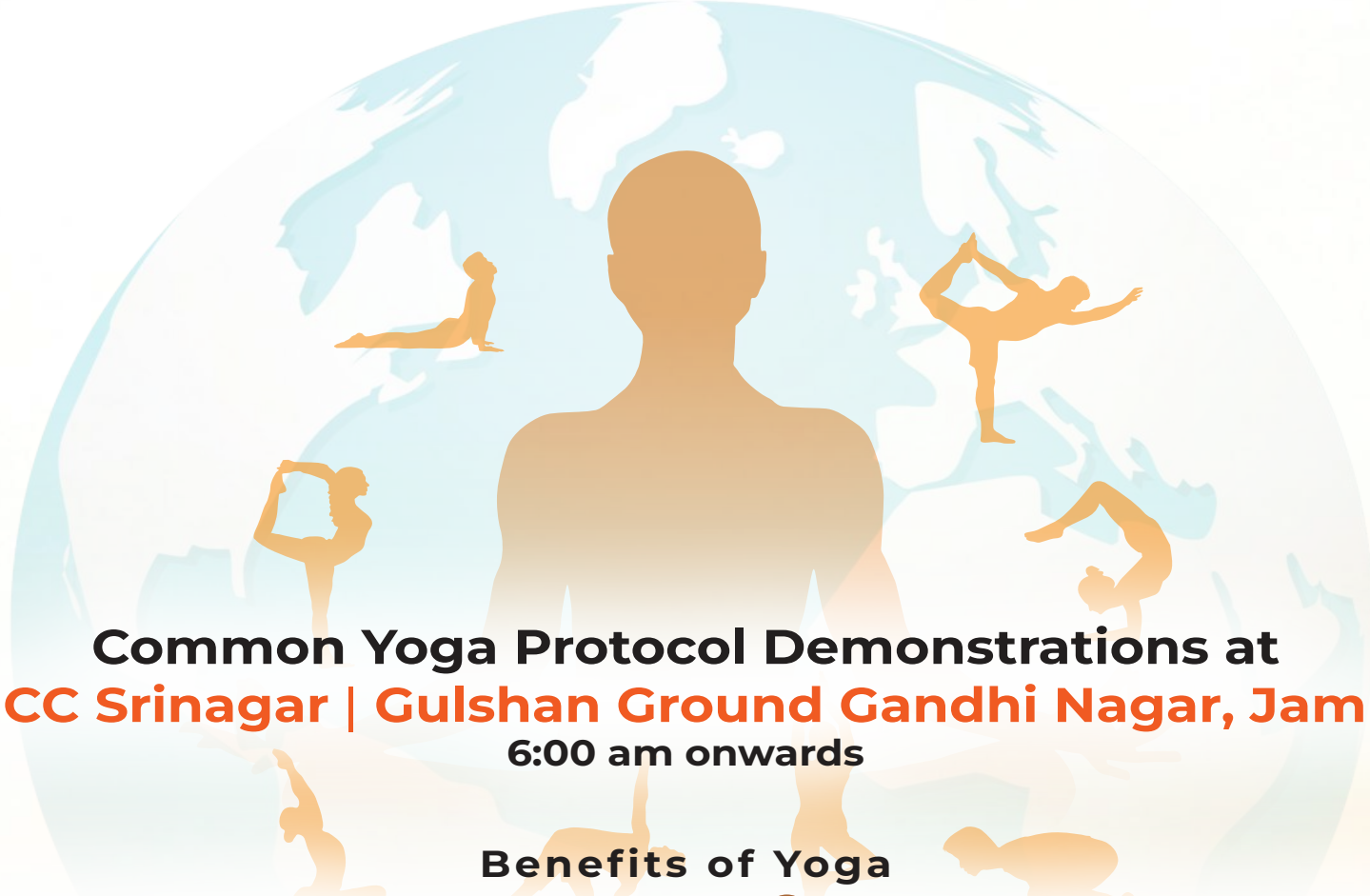


BE A PART OF THE GLOBAL WAVE  
OF WELLNESS AND UNITY

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

YOGA FOR ONE EARTH, ONE HEALTH

— 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2025 —



**Common Yoga Protocol Demonstrations at  
SKICC Srinagar | Gulshan Ground Gandhi Nagar, Jammu  
6:00 am onwards**

#### Benefits of Yoga

- Improves flexibility and strength
- Reduces stress and anxiety
- Boosts energy and sleep quality
- Enhances focus and emotional balance
- Supports overall health and immunity

**Department of Information & Public Relations  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir**



@informationprjk



Information & PR, J&K



@diprjk



@dipr\_jk





To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Saturday | 21-06-2025

2

## Study Suggests Ultrasound Of Thigh Shoulder Muscles Could Help Detect Stage Preceding Prediabetes

Press Trust of India

An ultrasound of one's thigh or shoulder muscle could help detect insulin resistance, a stage that often precedes prediabetes, a study suggests. Ultrasounds of muscles of 25 patients -- who were also checked for insulin resistance -- showed that their muscles appear "unusually bright", lead author Steven Soliman, director of musculoskeletal radiology fellowship at the University of Michigan, US, said. "We found it interesting that most of these patients (with bright ultrasound images) have type 2 diabetes. Seeing this pattern, we often thought, 'This patient must have diabetes'," Soliman said. "More importantly, many were unaware of their condition until we verified with their electronic records and confirmed with their bloodwork that they indeed had type 2 diabetes or pre-

diabetes," the lead author added. For this study, published in the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine, the team analysed 300 images of the participants' ultrasound and found an increased brightness or 'muscle echo intensity', which suggests that the quality of muscle has changed due to increased fat. Eight participants had insulin resistance, and seven had "impaired insulin sensitivity". Initial findings from a muscle biopsy also suggested that the bright ultrasound images may indicate an excess accumulation of fat and possibly fibrosis, potentially affecting muscle health and function, the researchers said. The study, therefore, highlights the potential of an ultrasound of muscles -- a non-invasive procedure -- in predicting the development of prediabetes or diabetes earlier than current diagnostic methods, they added.

The team had previously demonstrated that a higher muscle echo intensity could help accurately detect prediabetes and type 2 diabetes, regardless of age and duration of disease.

An elevated muscle echo intensity was seen in patients not diagnosed with prediabetes or diabetes. Some of them showed an increased muscle echo intensity before their blood test revealed a higher HbA1c -- a measure of average blood sugar levels over the last two to three months, the researchers said. The team added that while the ultrasounds could detect insulin resistance and impaired insulin sensitivity, muscle echo intensity (or brightness of ultrasound images) was not linked with M values -- insulin sensitivity measured using a clamp test, which assesses how well the body uses glucose and is sensitive to insulin.

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Application of Mohd maqbool para s/o Ab Aziz para R/o Nehalpora for issuance of income dependency Certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE..

IT is inform to general public that applicants income dependency Certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicant is residing in village Nehalpora and monthly income of applicant family is 9500.The family members who are dependent upon applicant's income are as under..

Name of Dependent	Age (In Years)	Occupation	Relationship with the Applicant	Marital Status
RAJA BEGUM	42	HOUSE WIFE	WIFE	MARRIED
TAHIRA MAQBOOL	30	HOUSE WORK	DAUGHTER	UNMARRIED
TASLEEMA BANO	28	HOUSE WORK	DAUGHTER	UNMARRIED
SYIDA MAQBOOL	28	HOUSE WORK	DAUGHTER	UNMARRIED
AABIDA MAQBOOL	22	STUDENT	DAUGHTER	UNMARRIED
MOHAMMAD JIBRAN	07	STUDENT	SON	UNMARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rafiq Ahmad Falay , father of Feeha Batool R/o Ganowpora, Shopian, want to change my ward's name, namely Feeha Batool, in Aadhaar and other school records from (Old Name) Batoola Rafiq to (New Name) Feeha Batool.

If anybody has any objection, they can contact the concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar or concerned School Authorities within 7 days.

FKO

## The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

### New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 11th) under Roll No.: 233012089 Session: Annual 2025 Year 2024-25 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/ Board/ parent, against my father's name as Syed Altaf Ahmad Instead of Syed Altaf Hussain Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Syed Owais Altaf

F/N: Syed Altaf Hussain

M/N: Syed Zubaidain

DOB : 10-10-2009

Residence: Check-i-Noor pora Awantipora

CELL: 9682366715

LAA

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shareefa Bano D/o Mohd Sultan Khan R/o Mughama Born at Babagund Mamoosa with verified date of birth 15/07/1982 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

FKO

### OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE

#### 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 166/B&D/T/2025

Date: 20/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Mehr-u- nisa , D/o, Abdul Majeed Khan R/o Zalora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self who was Born on 23/03/2008 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar

Executive Magistrate

Bomai

fko

## NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID 0204040030661 & Installation No. 8219742378 registered in the Name of Mohamamd Yaseen Beigh S/o Ghulam Nabi Beigh R/o Bilal Colony Soura, Srinagar is to be transferred in Name of Mohammad Muzaffar Beigh S/o Ghulam Nabi Beigh R/o Bilal Colony Soura, Srinagar. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Division II. (Khanyar) & Electric Sub .Division. (Hawal), maximum within a week from the date of its publication.

Media Line Ads

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

#### MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmchcdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender

e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/23/e-tendering,  
Dated: 20-06-2025

(Short-term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/ experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: --

Name of Work	Est. Cost	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1.Repairs to radiator assembly of 500 KVA Dg set in Boiler House at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar	44500/-	100	10	04 MCS of 2025 Dt:08.05.2025	06 of 06/25 (AEE SD-IST)	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department
2.Repairs to vacuum air compressor system at Govt. Super Speciality Hospital, Srinagar	54400	100	10	04 MCS of 2025 Dt:08.05.2025	M&HDS/ TS/12 of 06/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 20.06.2025 (16.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 20.06.2025 (16.00 hrs)
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 20.06.2025 (18.00 hrs) to 27.06.2025 (13:00hrs ) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 27.06.2025 at 15.00 (hrs)

DIPK-2765/25 Dated: 20.06.2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
M&HD, Srinagar

No: : M&HDS/TS/ 1739-43

### ازنیابت یوئی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب محشیف مجار ولد علی نجار ساکنہ گنگی پورہ بمراہطگلکی OBC  
تخت 174 SRO تخت پرمٹگلکی ماشوق

اشیتہار ہرخاض وعام

مجاہد مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرفٹیکیت بذمرہ  
قام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے  
جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی نجاڑات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن گنگی پورہ میں  
رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پرمشتل ہے

شیر احمد چو پان ولد غلام محمد الدین مزدوری 45 سال  
نازہ بیگم زوجہ شیر احمد گھریلو کام 43 سال  
غلام محمد الدین ولد عبدالرحیم چو پان عمر رسیدہ 80 سال  
سیرت شیر دختر زیر تعلیم 15 سال  
بازل شیر پسر -- --  
مدیہ شیر دختر -- 05 سال

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرفٹیکیت حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی  
6,000 روپے تک ہے سرفٹیکیت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیاریا  
عزیز یا دووہ بعد مشترک اخبار سادات دن کے اندر نامدر آئے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حد کو دفتر کی اوقات  
کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عید کو کنبہ عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

FKO

نایب تحصیلدار

### ازنیابت یوئی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب محشیف مجار ولد علی نجار ساکنہ گنگی پورہ بمراہطگلکی OBC  
تخت 174 SRO تخت پرمٹگلکی ماشوق

اشیتہار ہرخاض وعام

مجاہد مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرفٹیکیت بذمرہ  
قام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے  
جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی نجاڑات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن گنگی پورہ میں  
رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پرمشتل ہے

محمد شفیع مجار ولد علی نجار ترکھان 60 10000  
نیکمیل بیگم زوجہ محمد شفیع نجار گھریلو کام 55  
غفران نجار پسر محمد شفیع مزدوری 32  
مرگلی ماشوق پسر زیر تعلیم 12  
شائستہ بیگم زوجہ محمد عرفان گھریلو کام 28  
ادیب جان دختر محمد عرفان شیر خواہر 02

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرفٹیکیت حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی  
10,000 روپے تک ہے سرفٹیکیت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیاریا  
عزیز یا دووہ بعد مشترک اخبار سادات دن کے اندر نامدر آئے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حد کو دفتر کی اوقات  
کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عید کو کنبہ عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

FKO

نایب تحصیلدار



## Kashmir Is Slowing Down. And The Thyroid May Be To Blame

This overlooked health crisis is swelling necks, clouding thoughts, and draining energy across Kashmir.

Fiza Masoodi

Srinagar: The lump wasn't supposed to be there. A teacher found it while straightening Amina's collar in a Kupwara classroom. The nine-year-old didn't react. Her family hadn't noticed. But that small swelling was a sign of something much bigger.



That swelling was a goiter, a telltale sign that something deep inside her body had gone off balance. And she's not alone.

A 2022 district health survey in Kupwara examined 2,700 schoolchildren. More than 270 had goiters. One in ten. Among ten-year-old girls, the number jumped to one in seven.

Goiters, once thought to be a

condition of the past, are visible again in Kashmir classrooms.

Zoom out, and the picture gets worse. Across four districts — Kupwara, Shopian, Bandipora, and Ganderbal — recent government data puts the average goiter rate at 12.6 percent.

That's more than double the World Health Organization's threshold of concern.

According to WHO, anything above 5 percent in schoolchildren means a population is facing iodine deficiency.

Behind these numbers lies a chain of daily decisions, and daily neglect. Salt, the main source of dietary iodine in India, is often stored in open bags or near heat. In many Kashmiri homes, it's added too early while cooking,

destroying what little iodine it carries.

Household salt samples tested in Kupwara revealed an average of just 6.3 parts per million, less than half the legal minimum.

It doesn't end there. In urine tests from the same district, 10 percent of children had too little iodine in their bodies. But more than 30 percent **| More on P10**

## Srinagar Breaks Temp Record For 2nd Straight Day

Hits 35.5°C, Hottest June Day Since 2005



Ansar Hussain

Srinagar: For the second straight day, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, witnessed record-breaking heat as the maximum temperature touched 35.5°C on Friday, the hottest June day in nearly two decades.

The temperature has surpassed Thursday's high of 35.2°C, making today the hottest day of the season so far. According to independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng, Srinagar has recorded its highest June temperature since June 25, 2005. **| More on P10**

## Just a Pause, Op Sindoor Not Yet Over: DM

Arrives On 2-day J&K Visit | Says New India Will No Longer Be Victim Of Terrorism

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that Operation Sindoor is proof that New India is assertive, resolute and will no longer be a victim of terrorism.

Singh, who arrived here on a two-day visit on Friday, will attend International Yoga Day events on Saturday, and interact with the armed forces personnel at the Udhampur Cantonment.

"Operation Sindoor is proof that New India is assertive, resolute and will no longer be a victim of terrorism. It will respond with strength and strategy," Singh said while interacting with soldiers at the Northern Command headquarters here.

"India will no longer tolerate terrorism and give a befitting reply if its unity and integrity



is harmed. Operation Sindoor is not over yet. This is just a pause. I want to tell this to my neighbouring country," he added.

India's change in policy towards terrorism is a result of unmatched valour and dedication of the country's soldiers, said the defence minister, who was accompanied by Chief of Army Staff, General

Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, and senior Army officers.

Singh also commended the precision, coordination and courage of the armed forces and intelligence agencies in destroying terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), asserting that India's change in

policy towards terrorism is a result of their unmatched valour and dedication.

Singh described Operation Sindoor as not just a military action but a warning to the terrorists across the border and those who support them.

He defined the life of a soldier as one filled with courage and sacrifice, saying the nation will forever remain indebted to the services rendered by the armed forces in their duty for the motherland.

At a 'Barakhana' – a collective feast organised by the armed forces – held on the eve of International Yoga Day, the defence minister urged the force personnel to keep focusing on physical and mental well-being, underlining the importance of strength and wellness in a soldier's life.

"If you are strong, our borders will be **| More on P10**

## J&K Bank Renews MoU With J&K Govt

Offers Enhanced Banking Services To Employees

Observer News Service

Jammu: J&K Bank on Thursday renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the J&K Government to provide a comprehensive range of customised financial services to all permanent government employees.

The MoU was signed at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu by Rajesh Dubey, Deputy General Manager of J&K Bank, and Trikansh Bhushan, Under Secretary in the J&K Finance Department, in the presence of key officials including the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, Advisor Finance Department S L Pandita, and Government Liaising Officer Atul Sethi.

The renewed agreement reaffirms J&K Bank's role as the Preferred Banker to the UT Government, ensuring a slew of employee-centric benefits. These include zero-balance salary accounts, free

Read Full Story On P8

### School Timings Changed

The authorities here on Friday announced change in school timings within municipal limits of Srinagar and elsewhere in Kashmir Valley from June 21. "Consequent upon the approval conveyed by the competent authority, all Government and Private Recognized Schools within the **| More on P10**

## LG Urges Public To Embrace Yoga On Int'l Yoga Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the occasion of the 11th International Day of Yoga, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his greetings to the people, urging them to adopt Yoga as a way of life for better health and societal harmony.

In his official message, the Lieutenant Governor lauded this year's Yoga Day theme — "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" — as a reflection of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global vision of collective well-being.

"This year's theme underscores the importance of holistic health and unity," said LG Sinha. "Our ancient values have always emphasized the well-being of individuals, and Yoga is a time-tested pathway to achieving harmony of body and mind."



Marking the decadal celebration of International Yoga Day, he called on citizens to embrace Yoga not just as a form of physical exercise, but as a lifestyle that contributes to a peaceful and healthier society.

"Yoga is a gift of India to the world," the LG remarked. "Let us all practice Yoga for a healthier lifestyle and healthier Jammu Kashmir."

The 11th International Day of Yoga is being **| More on P10**

## Trump's Iran Flip-Flop Fueled by Failed Strikes: Report

KO web Desk

Srinagar: President Donald Trump signaled Thursday that he may delay a decision on striking Iran's nuclear facilities, citing a "substantial chance" for renewed negotiations — a notable shift just days after weighing a direct U.S. military intervention.

The apparent flip-flop comes amid the seventh day of open warfare between Israel and Iran, and just as a Bloomberg satellite investigation casts doubt on the effectiveness of Israeli military strikes to dismantle Iran's fortified nuclear infrastructure.

A Bloomberg investigation, supported by satellite imagery and nuclear experts,



revealed that Israel's week-long air assault on Iran's nuclear infrastructure has caused only limited, repairable damage. The report raises significant doubts about the effectiveness of any military option short of a full-scale U.S. operation, potentially

### Moscow's Chilling Warning: Hands Off Khamenei

Trans Asia News

The Kremlin issued a stark warning Friday, declaring that any attempt by the U.S. or Israel to assassinate Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei would trigger "serious and dangerous consequences" across the Middle East and beyond. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, speaking to Sky News, slammed talk of regime change as "unacceptable,"

### Iran Lifts Airspace Restrictions To Evacuate 1,000 Indians

In a special gesture, Iran has lifted airspace restrictions for three charter flights to evacuate about 1,000 Indian nationals, mostly students, from the Iranian **| More on P10**

### 500 Kashmiri Students To Arrive In Special Flights

In view of the escalating war between Iran and Israel, at least one thousand Indian students including 500 learners from Kashmir are likely to board three **| More on P10**

## Is Aga Ruhullah Forming A New Political Party?

Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: A speech by National Conference (NC) MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi in north Kashmir's Sopore has reignited speculation over whether the outspoken parliamentarian is preparing to float a new political party, something his close aides have firmly denied.

Addressing the gathering, Ruhullah said, "I am looking for those people who will walk with me to bring accountability to the system—those who will stand for credibility."

The remarks triggered speculation on social media and in political circles, with many interpreting his words as a subtle hint toward forming a separate political platform.

However, when contacted by Kashmir Observer, sources close to Ruhullah dismissed the claim.

"Aga Ruhullah meant that the environment isn't conducive for us to take a stand. Do you want people who are just 'yes boss' types, or those who will resist and fight for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir?" one source said.



Asked about the viral claim that he is launching a new party, Ruhullah, according to his close aides, responded: "Whoever is claiming that a new party is being formed, ask them, what is the name of this party?"

Speaking to reporters after the Sopore event, Ruhullah clarified that his remarks were not about organisational shifts but about the larger political environment.

"I was talking about changing the quality entirely. I am not talking about organisations; It is not about organisations. It is about the quality of the politics, it is about the polity of the state," he said.

The Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar said **| More on P10**

## Withheld Reservation Report: Para Threatens Street Protests

Report Needs Legal Review, Not Political Pressure, Says Omar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader and Pulwama MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para on Friday accused the Jammu and Kashmir government of deliberately evading the reservation issue by withholding the report of the cabinet sub-committee, and warned of street protests if the report is not made public.

In a strongly worded post on X, Para said, "By hiding this report, the NC government is abdicating its responsibility and keeping the people of J&K, especially its youth, in the dark."

He said the government's

continued silence on the report amounted to evasion, and that PDP would have no choice but to launch peaceful protests across the region if transparency is not ensured.

"If this deliberate evasion continues, we will be left with no choice but to take this peaceful struggle for the rights of our youth to the streets across Jammu and Kashmir," he warned.

The opposition leader emphasized that secrecy has no place in a democracy. "Democratic institutions draw their legitimacy from transparency and accountability, not concealment," he said.

Para urged the government

to table the report in the Legislative Assembly, saying, "The government has no legal or moral ground to withhold the sub-committee's report on the rationalisation of reservation. The RTI Act clearly mandates that public authorities must proactively disclose information."

"This report must be tabled in the Assembly, which is the House of the People of Jammu and Kashmir and not the fiefdom of any political party," he added.

Highlighting the importance of the report, Para said it directly impacts the lives and futures of the region's youth, who deserve to know **| More on P10**

## CM Rejects Proposal To Divert J&K Water To Other States

Cites Local Scarcity & Punjab's Past Refusal To Share

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday firmly opposed the Centre's proposed plan to divert surplus water from the Union Territory to other states, saying J&K has the first right over its own resources.

Omar made it clear that no permission will be given as of now for any proposal to build a canal to divert surplus water to



other states. "Nobody will give it

(approval). As of now, I am not going to give approval to it. Let us be allowed to use our water first, then we will talk about others," Omar said.

He was replying to a question on the central government's proposed construction of a 113-km canal to transfer surplus water from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan to prevent it from flowing to neighbouring Pakistan. **| More on P10**

### Train Demand Soars, CM Seeks Capacity Hike

Omar Abdullah, who on Friday returned to Srinagar via the Vande Bharat train from Katra, said that a request will be made to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the Railway Ministry to increase the

capacity of trains.

The chief minister had travelled on the Vande Bharat train from Srinagar on Thursday along with his father and National Conference president Farooq Omar and his advisor **| More on P10**

### CM Presses LG to End Power Confusion

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday clarified that he has never claimed the Lieutenant Governor (LG) holds all powers, and urged the LG to sign and return the cabinet-approved business rules to end ambiguity over power distribution in the Union Territory. "I have never said that the LG has all the powers. The Lieutenant Governor himself has stated that his responsibilities are limited to security and law & order. This is **| More on P10**



## Bird-Hit, Safety Checks Ground 9 Air India Flights

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A bird-hit on an Air India flight from Delhi to Pune on Friday forced the cancellation of its return leg — one of several disruptions as the airline grapples with a growing operational crisis.

According to multiple media reports, the bird strike happened during the landing at Pune Airport. The aircraft landed safely, and all passengers were unharmed.

After the bird hit was detected, the aircraft was taken out of service for a thorough inspection. As a safety measure, the return flight from Pune to Delhi was cancelled.

At least eight other flights, including four international services, were cancelled the

Hyderabad.

Air India said four domestic flights — AI874 from Pune to Delhi, AI456 from Ahmedabad to Delhi, AI-2872 from Hyderabad to Mumbai, and AI571 from Chennai to Mumbai — have been cancelled.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has stepped up inspections of Air India's Boeing 787 fleet, leading to cascading delays and groundings. On Tuesday alone, 13 Dreamliner-operated flights were cancelled, and aircraft like AI-159 — the revised number for the ill-fated Ahmedabad-London route — remain grounded amid continued unavailability.

Passengers across domestic and international sectors have faced delays, refunds, and



same day due to intensified maintenance and safety checks following the June 12 Dreamliner crash on the Ahmedabad-London Gatwick route that killed 271 people, including over 30 on the ground.

The international flights to be cancelled were AI906 from Dubai to Chennai, AI308 from Delhi to Melbourne, AI309 from Melbourne to Delhi, and AI2204 from Dubai to

rebookings as Air India struggles to stabilize operations under heightened scrutiny.

Air India said its teams on the ground are making alternative arrangements for the passengers to fly to their respective destinations at the earliest.

It has also offered full refunds on cancellation or complimentary rescheduling to passengers, the airline said.

## India To Organise Yoga Day Events In 191 Countries

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI : India will organise thematic events and programmes in 1,300 cities across the globe to mark the International Day of Yoga on Saturday, showcasing the nation's ancient tradition and soft power.

The Indian High Commission in Pakistan is also organising a yoga event in Islamabad on the occasion, according to a statement issued on Friday by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the cultural arm of the Ministry of External Affairs.

"On the 10th anniversary of International Day of Yoga, we will practically cover every country in the world where yoga events are being organised. In some countries like the US, we are hosting multiple events across various cities," ICCR's Director General, K Nandini Singla, was quoted as saying in a statement.

The ICCR will organise various yoga events and programmes in 191 countries on June 21 to mark the IDY, with more than 2,000 events to be hosted at 1,300 locations, cov-

ering multiple cities in various nations, it said.

Additionally, the ICCR is also hosting 'Yoga Bandhan', a signature event of IDY 2025, where 17 yoga gurus and practitioners from 15 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Russia, China, South Africa, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea, will lead the Yoga Day events across India, Singla said.

In Delhi, yoga events will be led by these foreign yoga gurus at Jantar Mantar, Qutub Minar, Purana Quila and Humayun's Tomb, while similar 'Yoga Bandhan' programmes will be organised at iconic locations in Lucknow, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bhopal, Gwalior and other cities, she added.

Just as yoga is a 'union' between 'Atma' and 'Paramatma', 'Yoga Bandhan' seeks to 'unite India and the world', the ICCR's DG said.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that yoga has come full circle. Yoga went from India to these countries. People abroad learnt yoga, and today they have come back to India to lead yoga demonstrations by Indian people in India," Singla added.



Smoke rises from a building of the Soroka hospital complex after it was hit by a missile fired from Iran in Beersheba, Israel, Thursday, June 19, 2025. (AP/PTI)

## Trump To Decide In 2 Weeks Whether Us Will Directly Attack Iran

AP

Washington: President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will decide within two weeks whether the US military will get directly involved in the conflict between Israel and Iran given the "substantial chance" for renewed negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme, as the two sides attacked each other for the seventh day.

Trump has been weighing whether to attack Iran by striking its well-defended Fordo uranium enrichment facility, which is buried under a mountain and widely considered to be out of reach of all but America's "bunker-buster" bombs. His statement was read out by White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

Earlier in the day, Israel's defence minister threatened Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei after Iranian missiles crashed into a major hospital in southern Israel and hit residential build-

ings near Tel Aviv, wounding at least 240 people.

Israel's military "has been instructed and knows that in order to achieve all of its goals, this man absolutely should not continue to exist", Defence Minister Israel Katz said.

As rescuers wheeled patients out of the smoldering hospital, Israeli warplanes launched their latest attack on Iran's nuclear programme.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he trusted that Trump would "do what's best for America".

Speaking from the rubble and shattered glass around the Soroka Medical Centre in Beersheba, he added: "I can tell you that they're already helping a lot."

A new diplomatic initiative appeared to be underway as Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi prepared to travel on Friday to Geneva for meetings with the European Union's top diplomat and counterparts from the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Britain's foreign secre-

tary said he met at the White House with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and envoy Steve Witkoff to discuss the potential for a deal that could cool the conflict.

"A window now exists within the next two weeks to achieve a diplomatic solution," Britain's David Lammy said in a social media post after Thursday's meeting.

The open conflict between Israel and Iran erupted last Friday with a surprise wave of Israeli airstrikes targeting nuclear and military sites, top generals and nuclear scientists. At least 657 people, including 263 civilians, have been killed in Iran and more than 2,000 wounded, according to a Washington-based Iranian human rights group.

Iran has retaliated by firing 450 missiles and 1,000 drones at Israel, according to Israeli army estimates. Most have been shot down by Israel's multi-tiered air defences, but at least 24 people in Israel have been killed and hundreds wounded.

## Fearful Of Iranian Missiles, Many Sleep In Israel's Underground Train Stations

AP

RAMAT GAN, Israel: Aziza Melech felt her body relax for the first time in days when she settled onto her inflatable mattress in an underground station of Israel's light rail system on a recent evening. For the next few hours, at least, the 34-year-old event planner wouldn't need to run every time a siren warning of Iranian missiles sounded.

Since the war began a week ago with Israel's airstrikes on Iran, families with young kids, foreign workers, and young professionals have brought mattresses and sleeping bags, snacks and pets into the stations each evening.

Repeatedly running for shelter

On Wednesday night, in a station that straddles Tel Aviv and neighboring Ramat Gan, parents settled in their kids with stuffed animals, while young people fired up

tablets loaded with movies. Many walked in carrying boxes of pizza. Workers set out snacks and coffee.

It was Melech's first night sleeping in the brightly lit train station, and she was joined by her friend Sonia Shraibmen.

"We're not sleeping because of the anxiety and because of the sirens that are happening during the nights," said Shraibmen. "It's very scary to run every time to the shelter."

That morning, Shraibmen fell on the street while rushing to a nearby shelter, and decided to move somewhere where she wouldn't have to get up and run each time her phone blared.

Melech said the scene, with hundreds of people in their pajamas in the train station, reminded her of her grandfather's stories from World War II. "Now, we'll be able to tell our grandkids

about this," she said.

The war between Israel and Iran began on June 13, when Israel launched airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites as well as top generals and nuclear scientists.

More than 600 people, including over 200 civilians, have been killed in Iran and more than 2,000 wounded, according to a Washington-based Iranian human rights group. People in Tehran have also packed into metro stations as strikes boomed overhead.

Iran has retaliated by firing 450 missiles and more than 1,000 drones at Israel, according to Israeli army estimates. Those strikes have killed have killed 24 people and injured hundreds in Israel. Missiles have struck 40 different sites, including apartment buildings, offices and a hospital, according to authorities.

## Woman Doesn't Need Husband's Nod For Passport: HC

Press Trust Of India

Chennai- The Madras High Court has held that it is not necessary for a woman to get the permission of her husband and take his signature before applying for a passport before the authority.

Justice N Anand Venkatesh gave the ruling in a recent order while disposing of a petition filed by Revathy. She sought a direction to the authorities to issue a fresh passport without insisting signature from her husband in a time bound manner.

The case of the petitioner was that she got married in the year 2023 and that there was a matrimonial dispute between the parties which resulted in her husband filing a petition before a local court, seeking for the dissolution of the marriage. This petition was pending.

The petitioner, applied for a passport in April this year before the Regional Passport Office (RPO) in the city. It was not processed and when enquired, the petitioner was informed that she must obtain the signature of her husband in Form-J and only thereafter, the application will be processed by RPO.

The RPO also took into consideration the pending dispute between the petitioner and her husband before the Court. It was under these circumstances, she filed the present petition.

In his order, the judge said that in the considered view of this court, the application submitted by the petitioner seeking a passport has to be processed independently.

"It is not necessary for a wife to get the permission of her husband and take his signature before applying for a passport before the authority", the judge added.

He said this insistence made by the RPO shows the mindset of the society in treating women who were married as if they were chattel belonging to the husband. It was quite shocking that the passport office was insisting for the permission of the husband and his signature in a particular form in order to process the application submitted by the petitioner for the passport.

Already the relationship between the petitioner and her husband was in doldrums and the RPO was expecting the petitioner to get the signature of the husband. Virtually, the RPO was insisting the petitioner to fulfill an impossibility, the judge added.

The judge said the petitioner after marriage does not lose her individuality and a wife can always apply for a passport without the permission or signature of the husband in any form. "The practice of insisting for permission from the husband to apply for a passport, does not augur well for a society which is moving towards woman emancipation. This practice is nothing short of male supremacy", the judge added..

The judge directed the RPO to process the application submitted by the petitioner and issue a passport in her name on her satisfying the other requirements.

This process shall be completed within four weeks, the judge added.

## Delhi Cops Bust Fake Degree Racket, 5 Arrested, Forged Documents Seized

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Delhi Police has busted a large-scale fake degree racket and arrested five people for their alleged involvement in fabricating and distributing forged academic certificates, an official on Friday said.

The operation has led to the recovery of hundreds of counterfeit documents from multiple universities across India, police said.

"The accused were running a highly organised syndicate that operated through coaching centres and educational consultancies, primarily in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), offering fake and backdated degrees, mark sheets and migration certificates in exchange for hefty payments from students," said Special Commissioner of Police (CP), Crime Branch, Devsh Chandra Srivastava.

The officer said that 228 forged mark sheets, 27 fake degree certificates and 20 counterfeit migration certificates purportedly issued by

various universities across the country were recovered during the operation.

"In addition, 20 mobile phones and six laptops were seized, which upon forensic inspection, revealed more than 5,000 to 5,500 soft copies of similar fake academic documents, including degrees in BA, B.Sc, B.Com, B.Tech, BAMS, B.Ed, MBA and MA," he added.

The operation was initiated after a team received credible information regarding certain institutions in Delhi and surrounding areas offering fake degrees in exchange for money, police said.

"Acting on this tip, a team first apprehended Vicky Harjani, the alleged kingpin of the racket and owner of Paramhans Vidyapeeth in Netaji Subhash Place (NSP). A search of his vehicle and office premises led to the recovery of 75 forged academic certificates linked to universities in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu," said the Special CP.

## Husband Away For Work, UP Woman Kills 2 Children To Go On 'Honeymoon' With lover

Press Trust of India

A 24-year-old woman in Rodkali village here allegedly, with the help of her lover, killed two of her children because she considered them to be an obstacle in her love affair, police said on Friday.

Muskan, the woman, has been arrested, while the purported lover, Junaid, is on the run, they said.

Muskan's two children, son Arhan and daughter Enaya, aged five and one, were found dead Thursday in their home in suspicious circumstances, Senior Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar told reporters.

"Investigation revealed the

mother's involvement in the deaths, and she was taken into custody. During interrogation, she confessed to the crime," said the Officer.

Muskan said she found her children to be an obstruction in her starting a new life with her lover, Junaid, so she decided to kill them, Kumar said.

"She gave them poison, which caused their death," the officer added.

Muskan had been in an illicit relationship with Junaid for a long time. Her husband, Waseem, is currently working in Chandigarh.

The couple allegedly planned to go for a "honeymoon" after killing the two children, police said.

## IPS Officer's Husband Held in Rs 7.4 Crore Fraud Case

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police on Wednesday arrested Purushottam Chavan, husband of an IPS officer, for allegedly duping a Surat-based businessman and others of Rs 7.42 crore.

EOW officials took Chavan, already arrested in another case, into their custody in the evening. Chavan, married to IPS officer Rashmi Karandikar, allegedly accepted money from the businessman with a false promise of selling plots from 'government quota' at a discounted rate, he said.

He also allegedly promised to help the businessman get contracts for supplying T-shirts to the Maharashtra Police Academy, the official said. Last month, the EOW had arrested Chavan in a similar case where he is accused of duping sev-



eral persons of Rs 24.78 crore by promising to sell government quota flats in Mumbai, Thane, and Pune at concessional rates.

Chavan, married to IPS officer Rashmi Karandikar, allegedly accepted money from the businessman with a false promise of selling plots from 'government quota' at a discounted rate, he said.

Investigation revealed the mother's involvement in the deaths, and she was taken into custody. During interrogation, she confessed to the crime



## Commissioner SMC Conducts Review Meeting On Capex Budget Estimation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to discuss the Capital Expenditure (Capex) budget estimation for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of SMC, with discussions centered on strategic planning, accurate project cost assessments, and effective project executions.

“He underscored the importance of cost accuracy, timely approvals, and seamless project execution, aligning infrastructure goals with the broader vision for a resilient and inclusive Srinagar.

departments/Wings of SMC to submit detailed and realistic cost estimates in the coming days to facilitate timely execution of projects. He also encouraged teams to explore innovative



During the meeting, Commissioner emphasized that transparent and well-structured budgeting is essential for driving sustainable urban development and improving public service delivery.

He underscored the importance of cost accuracy, timely approvals, and seamless project execution, aligning infrastructure goals with the broader vision for a resilient and inclusive Srinagar.

Haseeb directed all

financing mechanisms and stressed the need for strong monitoring systems to ensure accountability and optimal use of public funds.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment to citizen-centric governance, the Commissioner noted that this review marks an important step toward building a smarter, more efficient, and sustainable Srinagar in the upcoming financial year.

## Tyndale Biscoe School Refutes Harassment Allegations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a strong rebuttal to recent media reports circulating across television channels and social media platforms, the Principal of Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson School (TBMS), here in Srinagar, has issued a detailed clarification, dismissing as "baseless and misleading" the allegations of harassment levelled by a female teacher who recently resigned from one of the institutions run by TBMS.

According to KNT, the management took exception to the manner in which the teacher's resignation was portrayed, suggesting that she was subjected to harassment by a male academic supervisor. "This portrayal is factually incorrect and grossly misleading," the school said in a statement, firmly clarifying that the supervisor in question is,

in fact, a female, not male, as projected by certain media houses.

"The teacher has stated a highly distorted factual position in her resignation, apparently aimed at maligning the unblemished image of TBMS, its management and faculty," reads the statement issued by the Principal. "The resignation letter available with the school management clearly mentions the supervisor's gender as female."

The school further alleged that certain news outlets, for the sake of TRP and sensationalism, aired the resignation as a case of male-female harassment without conducting any factual verification. The principal emphasized that the teacher never submitted any written complaint or grievance during her tenure, and that her accusations emerged only at the time of resignation.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE  
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 165/B&D/Tz/2025      Date: 20/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

PUBLIC NOTICE

This office has received a written application from Sheikh Tanveer Haq, S/o, Sheikh Suliaman, R/o Zaloora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of her daughter Andleeb Zuhrah, who was Born/Death on 29/07/2014, as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if any one has any objection, he/she may file the same before undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Naib Tehsildar  
Executive Magistrate  
Bomai

fko



## Muharram Preparations Inspected At Khomeini Chowk

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In line with the directives of the Commissioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, Joint Commissioner SMC (Adm), Nuzhat Khurshid conducted a comprehensive inspection of Muharram arrangements in Khomeini Chowk Bemina.

During the visit, Nuzhat engaged with senior citizens and local representatives to evaluate the preparedness for the upcoming Muharram Ul Haram 2025 observances. The discussions focused on key civic issues such as repairing damaged manholes around the Imam Bargah, macadamization of lanes, installation of street lights, development of Imam Bargah Park, and ensuring the availability of 24/7 drinking water.

Immediate directions were issued to enhance sanitation, cleanliness, street lighting, and water supply during Muharram gatherings. Particular emphasis was placed on the installation, repair, and maintenance of street lights to ensure the safety and well-being of mourners, especially during evening processions.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating a smooth and respectful Muharram observance

## Admin Sets Up 24x7 Control Room

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to facilitate the public during the upcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, district administration Srinagar has established a dedicated 24x7 Control Room at the DC Office Complex.

The Control Room has been set up by the order of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo to ensure better facilities to the people, effective inter-departmental coordination for seamless religious observances. The control room shall func-

tion under the overall supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed.

General public can contact the Control Room (Emergency Operation Centre), on the Landline Phone number 0194-2457543 and 0194-2457552. They can also contact through WhatsApp Nos. 9103998355, 9103998356 and 9103998357 for any assistance.

Citizens are encouraged to reach out to these numbers for any assistance related to ensuring basic facilities en-route to Muharram-ul-Haram processions.

by working in close coordination with all stakeholders. SMC remains prepared to provide full support and essential civic services to ensure a peaceful and dignified commemoration of this significant religious occasion.

The visit was undertaken,

with senior officials including the Executive Engineer City Roads Division, Executive Engineer Drainage Circle, Executive Engineer Electric, Chief Sanitation Officer, Sanitation Officer, and the concerned Ward Officer present on the tour.

## 25-Year-Old Youth Stabbed in Ahmada Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 25-year-old youth was admitted to SKIMS Soura on Friday after being stabbed in Ahmad Kadal area of Central Kashmir's

Srinagar district on late night. An official told JKNS that the injured has been identified as Shahbaz Hussain a resident of Gulshan Bagh, Ahmada Kadal. He said that, Shahbaz was attacked with a knife by a person

known to him. "He was shifted to SKIMS Soura for medical treatment where his condition has been described as stableoff" Police has taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation is underway.

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender  
e-NIT Nos. MICD/33 dated: 20-06-2025.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in two cover reputed Mechanical/Electrical SSI unit holders/contractors/fabricators/firms having sufficient relevant experience of similar nature of work (i.e. for repairing of HT Motors etc.) for following works respectively. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

e NIT No.	Name/ Particulars of the work	Name of Division	Quantity.	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Validity of Rates
MICD/33 of 2025-26 Dated: 20.06.2025.	Servicing/Repairs to 750 kW,6.6 KV HT old model Vertical Slip Ring Motor (Unit-III) at Lift Irrigation Scheme Koil Stage 2nd	Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar	As per requirement	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 1500/-	90 days

Position of funds: Demanded under ARD.  
AAA Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle I & F.C Department Srinagar's No: - 13-MCO of 2025-26 dated: - 08.05.2025.  
Key/critical Dates:

Date of Hosting In Web site/ Publish date	20/06/2025 (1600Hrs)		
Document download/sale start date	20/06/2025 (1600 Hrs)	20/06/2025. (1600Hrs)	Bid submission end date
Bid opening date	Bid submission start date	28/06/2025 (1600 Hrs)	27/06/2025 (1500 Hrs)

Each tender should be accompanied with an Bid declaration Form/Cost of tender document in the form of as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar In absence of Bid declaration form, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website http://jktenders.gov.in. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

DIPK-2769/25  
dated: 20-06-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mech. Irri. Const. Division,  
Srinagar.

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

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATIONS

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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
24 Zil-Hajj  
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 35
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 32
Magrib	7:48
ISHA	9: 30

## This Day In History

- 1307 - Külüg Khan is enthroned as Emperor of China and seventh Great Khan after defeating rival factions and succeeding his uncle Temür Khan
- 1529 - Battle of Landriano: Imperial-Spanish forces under Don Antonio de Leyva, Duke of Terranova, beat a French army under Francis de Bourbon, Comte de St. Pol
- 1547 - Great fire in Moscow, 2-3,000 killed
- 1572 - Garrison under Adrian of Swieten conquers Gouda
- 1582 - The Incident at Honn -ji takes place in Kyoto, Japan
- 1607 - 1st Protestant Episcopal parish in America established at Jamestown
- 1661- Treaty of Kardis: Russia & Sweden sign peace treaty
- 1768- 1st US bachelor of medicine degree (Dr John Archer) Agreement Constitution of the United States
- 1824- Greek War of Independence: Egyptian forces capture Psara in the Aegean Sea.
- 1826- Manliots defeat Egyptians under Ibrahim Pasha in the Battle of Vergas.
- 1834- American inventor and businessman Cyrus Hall McCormick patents the reaping machine
- 1849- Battle at Waghausel: Prussian troops beat Baden rebels
- 1904-The US Republican Party nominates Theodore Roosevelt for President, but not without opposition from those whom he calls 'malefactors of great wealth'
- 1907 -E W Scripps founded United Press
- 1921- The UK, the Dominions, and India, become the British Commonwealth of Nations
- 1940- The first successful west-to-east navigation of Northwest Passage begins at Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 1941- 2nd French troops occupies Damascus Syria
- 1945- US defeat Japanese forces on Okinawa during WW II
- 1948- 1st stored computer program run, on Manchester Mark I
- 1956- Anti-protons detected in the atmosphere
- 1975- Soyuz 19 returns to Earth
- 1985- American, Brazilian & West German forensic pathologists confirm skeletal remains exhumed in Brazil were Nazi Dr Josef Mengele
- 1993- English mathematician Andrew Wiles proves last theorem of Fermat
- 1993-STS-57 (Endeavour) launches into orbit
- 2000- Section 28 (outlawing the 'promotion' of homosexuality in the United Kingdom) is repealed in Scotland with a 99 to 17 vote.
- 2001- Total solar eclipse in Madagascar-Indian Ocean (4m56s)
- 2001- A federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, indicts 13 Saudis and a Lebanese in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 American servicemen.
- 2004-SpaceShipOne becomes the first privately funded spaceplane to achieve spaceflight.
- 2006 -Pluto's newly discovered moons are officially named Nix & Hydra.
- 2013- 15 people are killed and 20 are injured after a suicide bomber attacks a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2015-Hackers ground 1400 passengers by attacking IT system at Warsaw Chopin airport in Poland
- 2015- 94 people die & 45 are hospitalized after drinking moonshine in Mumbai, India.
- 2015- Hackers ground 1400 passengers by attacking IT system at Warsaw Chopin airport in Poland
- 2018- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden becomes the second world leader to give birth in office, to a daughter
- 2018- Sara Netanyahu, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is charged with fraud
- 2020- New archaeological discovery announced near Stonehenge of a large circle of shafts surrounding a village 2500 BC, largest prehistoric structure in Britain
- 2020- Saudi Arabia bans international visitors from making the Islamic Hajj pilgrimage in 2020 due to COVID-19



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

Rise In Heart Attacks

A quiet crisis is unfolding in Kashmir: Heart attacks, once whispered about as an old man’s disease, are now claiming people in their 30s and 40s. According to a study published in the Indian Heart Journal, 7.5% of Kashmiris over 40 already suffer from coronary artery disease, a figure alarmingly high by national standards. Hospital records paint an even grimmer reality: one in every five heart attack patients in the Valley is under 45. In winter, cardiac emergencies double, straining an already fragile health system.

How did we get here? Doctors and studies are attributing this to stress, poor diet, tobacco, drugs, and fragile healthcare, especially in rural areas. This, as a report published in this paper shows, has put many people at risk far earlier than they should be. Smoking, fried food, and the other bad lifestyle choices are the usual suspects, but experts also point out that years of conflict are also one of the critical factors. Unemployment and uncertainty have stoked anxiety. This has created a mental health crisis, a contributor to heart ailments.

Add to this a growing drug menace: an official study in 2022 found nearly 8% of Kashmiri youth hooked on opioids and hard drugs. Or, for that matter, a 2016 study by the Doctors Without Borders revealed that nearly 1.8 million people in the region suffered from mental health disorders. But it is clear that the number may have substantially risen since then. We need to have a proper study to get an estimate of how many are afflicted by the disease now. Inadequacy of the mental health services has only created a significant treatment gap.

The crisis is reversible, but only if we act. Health authorities must roll out mandatory heart screenings in schools and colleges, revive traditional healthy eating habits and run relentless awareness campaigns. Tobacco use too must be targeted. Mental health must be prioritized. This is a multipronged fight and the UT’s health department needs to take a lead in this. And this fight has to be on two fronts: one, urging people, especially our youth, to adopt a better lifestyle. Two, upgrade the health infrastructure to ensure swift medical attention to the people when they suffer from heart attacks. This would require a deliberate, long-term effort by the government. The issue demands sustained policy focus, stronger healthcare infrastructure, and immediate community outreach.

Junaid Maqbool

“Kashmiri doctors have reported a steady rise in teenage girls being diagnosed with PCOS. Could the ink in our food be part of the reason?”

The Ink in Your Samosa

Hot pakoras wrapped in yesterday’s headlines might feel nostalgic, but the ink could be harming your gut, hormones, and heart. It’s time to unwrap the truth.

On a Srinagar afternoon, a street vendor hands a customer a piping hot potato snacks, folded neatly in a piece of yesterday’s newspaper. It’s a scene repeated every day across Kashmir.

From Baramulla to Anantnag, from Pulwama’s halwai shops to evening snack stalls in Lal Chowk, food wrapped in newsprint feels familiar, even comforting.

But that warm, oily snack comes with something more than spice.

Hidden in the ink are chemicals that, once transferred to hot food, may be affecting your body in serious ways.

Modern printing ink isn’t just ink. It’s a mix of chemicals, some of them toxic. While these chemicals help words and images stick to paper, they’re not meant for your plate.

Mineral oils, for instance, are found in almost all printing inks. They may contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These compounds are linked to cancers of the skin, lungs, and bladder.

According to the European Food Safety Authority, exposure to PAHs through food remains one of the most concerning public health risks.

And it worsens when the food is oily, hot, or wet, exactly how most Kashmiri snacks are served.

Lead, once common in printing inks, has been reduced in newer publications. But older or regional newspapers, still widely used by vendors, may still carry it.

Lead, even in small amounts, has a devastating impact on brain development. A child regularly eating food from such sources could be unknowingly exposed to developmental delays, attention problems, or learning difficulties.

In Kashmir, where educational pressures are already high, such risks deepen the crisis.

Another chemical to worry about is BPA (Bisphenol A), which mimics hormones in the human body. It’s been linked to early puberty in girls, PCOS (polycystic ovarian syndrome), and infertility in men.

Kashmiri doctors have reported a steady rise in teenage girls being diagnosed with PCOS. Could the ink in our food be part of the reason?

It doesn’t stop there. Phthalates, another ink component, are known hormone disruptors. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs),

released from ink solvents, can worsen asthma or respiratory allergies, especially in children and the elderly.

In 2016, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued an advisory warning against using newspapers for wrapping, serving, or storing food. Their concern was based on several studies that showed harmful chemicals migrating from ink to food.

But on the streets of Kashmir, that advisory went largely unnoticed.

In fact, in a 2021 pilot study by the Department of Environmental Sciences at a northern Indian university, food samples wrapped in newspaper were found to have

cheap, easy, and available. And because no one’s really told them not to.

Food-grade wrapping, like butter paper, foil, or banana leaves, comes at a cost. Vendors often run on tight margins. But with growing evidence of health risks, this trade-off is becoming harder to ignore.

For consumers, the change starts with a simple ask: “Can you use something else instead of newspaper?”

It’s a small question, but repeated enough times, it shifts practice. Carrying your own wrapping for street food may sound like a stretch, but so did cloth bags once.

Vendors, too, can be part of the solution. Some have already started using recycled brown paper or

“Modern printing ink isn’t just ink. It’s a mix of chemicals, some of them toxic. While these chemicals help words and images stick to paper, they’re not meant for your plate.”

significantly higher levels of PAHs and Lead than those stored in food-grade material.

Another alarming connection is the rising cases of early heart disease in young Kashmiris.

A 2023 study at SKIMS (Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences) found increasing oxidative stress among youth, which can be linked to long-term exposure to environmental toxins, including those found in food packaging.

The problem with ink-laced food is that it doesn’t taste different. There’s no smell or visible warning. But its impact shows up silently.

It starts with stomach troubles, like acidity or cramps. Then mood disorders, from irritability to anxiety, linked to hormone imbalances caused by BPA and phthalates.

And then allergic skin reactions, especially in children who eat with their hands. Also, long-term fertility issues, particularly among men exposed to hormone disruptors during adolescence.

The damage builds over time, with every newspaper-wrapped snacks, every paratha rolled in yesterday’s headlines.

But why do vendors still use newspapers?

The simple answer is: it’s

foil. A handful of Srinagar shops now offer snacks in paper bowls or biodegradable wrappers. These examples show change is possible, especially if supported by policy.

The Jammu and Kashmir Food Safety Department has issued notices in the past, but enforcement remains spotty. Awareness campaigns, subsidies for packaging, and vendor training programs are missing.

Meanwhile, harmful habits continue unchecked on our streets, silently impacting an entire generation’s health.

We’ve read enough. It’s time to stop eating ink.

A samosa shouldn’t come with a side of toxins. Nor should tradition come at the cost of thyroid issues in young girls or high blood pressure in teenage boys.

If the pandemic taught us anything, it’s that public health begins with the everyday choices we make, and the ones we ignore.

Newspaper tells stories. But when it wraps our food, it becomes part of a story we never asked for. Let’s not eat it.

Junaid Maqbool is a researcher in Immuno-Oncology. He can be reached at junaidmaqboollectures57@gmail.com

Kashmir Must Break the Syringe Cycle

From rehab centers to remote villages, Kashmir’s drug crisis is turning into a full-blown generational catastrophe.

Prof. Jamsheeda Zaroo

There was a time when the biggest fear in Kashmir was getting caught in crossfire. That fear hasn’t vanished, but something else has crept in, something less visible, yet just as dangerous.

The Valley is now facing a different kind of war, one that’s unfolding inside its neighbourhoods, classrooms, and hospital wards. It doesn’t involve slogans or standoffs. It involves syringes, pills, powders, and silence.

Drug addiction is tightening its grip across Kashmir. The shift didn’t happen overnight, but its presence is undeniable now.

Walk into a de-addiction centre in Srinagar and you won’t just see statistics. You’ll see teenagers with sunken eyes, young women battling withdrawal, and parents who never imagined their child would end up here.

Hospitals are seeing more cases than they can manage, and the numbers are rising with every passing month.

According to the J&K police, drug-related arrests have gone up dramatically in the last few years. More than 10,000 cases were registered under the NDPS Act in 2023 alone.

Healthcare professionals say hero-

in is now the most common substance among patients, and the majority of users are under 30. Many of them started using before they were even old enough to vote.

This isn’t just about personal choices gone wrong. The crisis is deeply rooted in the circumstances young people are growing up in.

Kashmir has lived through decades of political uncertainty, frequent shutdowns, and emotional exhaustion. Those who came of age in the last two decades have seen more disruption than stability.

For many, drugs offer a way to feel numb. For others, they offer a break from boredom, anxiety, or the constant weight of expectations in a place that promises little and delivers less.

Unemployment makes things worse. Youth joblessness in Jammu and Kashmir is among the highest in India, hovering around 18.3%.

But that number hides the larger picture: thousands of educated young people waiting for job calls that never come.

In this void, frustration builds. Dreams shrink. Time becomes a burden. Drugs slip in, not as rebellion, but as relief.

The supply chain has grown more organized, too.

Heroin, synthetic opioids, and

“Walk into a de-addiction centre in Srinagar and you won’t just see statistics. You’ll see teenagers with sunken eyes, young women battling withdrawal, and parents who never imagined their child would end up here.”

pharmaceutical sedatives now move across Kashmir with disturbing ease. Officials say much of it comes through smuggling routes from across the border. Some security agencies call it “narco-terrorism,” accusing Pakistan-backed networks of flooding the Valley with drugs to destroy its youth from within.

Whether or not every packet traces back to a plan, the effect is real. It’s numbing lives silently, steadily, and across every social line.

Families are struggling to keep up. Addiction isn’t just hurting users; it’s tearing apart the people around them. Many parents feel ashamed. Others are in denial. Some hide the problem until it’s too late.

that happens to “other families.” It’s happening in cities and villages alike, in upper-class homes and working-class lanes.

It’s not someone else’s crisis, it’s everyone’s.

The solutions have to be multi-layered. There’s a need for more de-addiction centers and trained professionals. But equally important is the work that happens before a young person picks up drugs for the first time — inside classrooms, at home, in the streets where they spend most of their time.

Schools should include drug education in a way that’s honest, not moralistic. Teachers and parents need tools to spot the early signs. Community-based mental health programs must be part of everyday life, not just emergency responses.

And there has to be hope. Real, tangible opportunities — jobs that aren’t just announcements, programs that don’t stop at training but lead to actual employment.

When young people feel like they matter, they are less likely to give up. When they believe their future has shape, they don’t reach for ways to escape the present.

The author is Principal at Ramzaan College of Nursing, Galander Pampore.



# When Parenting Misses the Heart

Parenting in Kashmir is often inherited, not learned. And the cost is silently carried by our children.

Farzana Nisar

I was seven when I first learned that silence can sting more than words.

I'd accidentally dropped a glass of water, and the room stiffened. My mother looked away. My father didn't speak. I still shudder to recall that cold moment making my small body fold in shame.

I spent years thinking I was careless. I grew up watching every step, careful not to take up too much space. That carefulness stayed.

Now, when I watch five-year-old Zaid, I see that same confusion flicker across his face.

He's the kind of child who runs before he thinks, climbs everything he's told not to, and laughs from his stomach. He's joy in motion. But also, according to most grown-ups around him, Kherifeh—mischievous.

The label sticks, like dust on his scraped knees.

A few days ago, he chased a sheep outside his home, slipped, and fell. His father rushed out. For a second, he looked worried. Then he snapped.

"Are you out of your mind?" the man shouted, grabbing Zaid by the arm. A hard slap landed on his back. Zaid didn't cry from pain. He looked stunned, like he'd expected something else, maybe arms, not anger.

This happens every day in homes across Kashmir. Children fall, and instead of comfort, they get correction. They get told off for being children. They get taught that love can come with shouting, and protection can hurt.

Zaid's parents love him. They send him to school, keep him warm, feed him well. But they don't see the damage in their response. They think they're teaching him how to be good. What they're really doing is teaching him how to be scared.

And I understand why. They're repeating what they were shown.

So did my parents. They didn't hit. But they withdrew affection when we failed to follow rules. They withheld praise when we tried our best but fell short. I thought they were right. I still fight that belief some days.

It took me years to realise that obedience isn't the same as respect, and soft-spoken kids aren't always understood children.

Now that I've come of age, I find myself facing the same questions: How do I raise my children differently when my own instincts were shaped by fear? How do I learn what I was never taught?

We prepare for careers, degrees, driving tests. But we have no cultural manual for parenting. We just wing it by inheriting habits, old hurts, and good intentions. And that shows, especially here, in Kashmir.

We don't talk about emotional parenting. We avoid breaking cycles. We overlook the difference between discipline and damage.

Psychologist Waseem Kakroo sees this every day. "Parents in Kashmir still equate authority with harshness," he told me. "They think correction means control. But it often comes from unresolved emotional issues they've carried from their own childhoods."

He says many of us are stuck in that loop. Repeating what hurt us, because it feels familiar. "Parenting," Kakroo continued, "is not instinct alone. It's a skill. And skills require learning."

But where do we learn? Unlike in Western countries, where parenting classes and support circles are part of public life, in Kashmir, we're left to figure it out behind closed doors. There's no space to talk about emotional connection, no

room to ask how to be softer, how to listen better, how to raise a child without fear.

Instead, children grow up hearing that crying is weakness, that feelings must be swallowed, that respect must be earned with silence.

And then we wonder why so many young people carry invisible scars into adulthood.

We're told not to question our elders. But what if they were hurting too?

What if we stopped seeing parenting as something you just do, and started treating it as something you can get better at?

Children aren't miniature adults. They're still learning what the world means. And every time they're met with a slap instead of support, that learning gets shaped by fear. They don't stop loving us, they stop trusting themselves.

I look at Zaid and wonder what he'll remember: the sheep, the fall, or the slap?

I hope, someday, someone explains to him that it wasn't his fault. That he wasn't too much. That he didn't deserve to be scolded for being curious.

I hope we start doing it differently. For our children. And for the children we once were.

After all, parenting, at its heart, is not about control. It's about presence, listening, sitting beside a crying child and saying, "I'm here. You're safe." Even when we're tired, even when we weren't shown how.

It's hard to change what's inherited. But it's possible. And it's necessary. Before another child falls and gets punished for trying to fly.

*The author is the News Editor at Kashmir Observer, overseeing daily news coverage and editorial direction.*

# A Mother's Bold Goodbye

Gaslighted, dismissed, and told to be patient, Hania's story exposes the invisible violence that hides behind "happy marriages in the valley.

Gowher Bhat

It was a blistering summer day in Pulwama. The sky was open and clear, and schoolchildren were filing into classrooms under tall walnut trees. Hania stood at the blackboard, white chalk in hand. Her voice was soft but steady, her smile practiced. She looked like someone in control.

But inside, she was quietly rebuilding a life undone by love.

For three years, she had lived with a man who never hit her, never screamed at her in public, never left a mark anyone else could see.

Yet every day, he chipped away at her, word by word, silence by silence.

"He would send long messages when we were dating," she said. "Did you eat? I love you. No one can love you like I do." I thought that was love. I was 24. It felt real.

They married within a year. From the outside, it looked right. A thoughtful husband, a quiet teacher, a peaceful home. But after the wedding, she noticed the small controls.

"He didn't like my friends. Said they were too modern," she said. "Then he asked me to quit teaching. Said it was to protect me. And I thought, that must be love, right?"

It wasn't.

What followed wasn't loud. It was slow. He criticized how she cooked, how she spoke, how quickly she picked up the phone. He didn't yell. He withdrew. He gave her the cold shoulder for days. Then he'd come back crying.

"He'd kiss my forehead and say sorry. I forgave him. Every time," she said. "I kept thinking, maybe I was being difficult. Maybe if I tried harder."

But she began forgetting who she was. She couldn't trust her own memory.

"He'd say something cruel and then swear he never said it. I thought I was going crazy. I started writing things down, just to stay sane."

This was gaslighting. She didn't know the term back then. All she knew was that she had stopped dreaming, stopped speaking, stopped being herself.

Kashmir is a place where silence is mistaken for strength. Where daughters are told to adjust. Hania heard it from everyone.

"My mother told me to be patient. My in-laws said I was imagining things. Friends told me not to talk about my marriage," she said. "So I stopped."

On Instagram, she smiled in pictures. At fam-

ily functions, she laughed. But inside, she was drowning.

Then one January night, she curled up in the cold bathroom floor while her toddler slept in the next room. "I looked in the mirror," she said, "and I didn't see a person. Just a shadow."

She didn't cry loudly. She didn't wake anyone. But in that moment, she made a decision.

"I couldn't let my daughter grow up thinking this was what marriage looked like."

She left soon after, with the help of her cousin and therapist. She packed her bags and walked out just with her daughter.

"I had nothing," she said. "But I had my will."

She found a small flat with two rooms, leaking tap, and weak heating. But it was hers. It was safe. She started teaching again. She cooked for herself. Watched old Bollywood films with her daughter. Wrote in a journal. And above all, laughed again.

"I remembered what joy felt like," she said.

In Kashmir, where emotional abuse is rarely named and often buried under talk of honour and family, Hania's story is rare. Many women stay. Cultural silence, economic dependence, fear of gossip keep them from leaving.

And because abuse doesn't always look like bruises, people don't see it.

Hania broke the silence. She didn't just leave. She spoke.

"I don't want sympathy," she said. "I want people to understand. Real love doesn't confuse you. It calms you."

She tells women to trust their gut. To speak. To leave if they need to. She doesn't pretend it's easy.

"You're not weak for staying," she said. "But if you choose to leave, that takes a different kind of strength."

Now, she walks the same streets she once crossed with her head down. Her daughter holds her hand. Her chalk-stained fingers carry stories, not shame. Her classroom is full of life again.

She teaches maths and language. But she also teaches something else. That it's okay to start over. That it's okay to say no. That silence isn't strength.

And maybe that's the legacy. She didn't just survive. She showed what survival looks like, in a society that often expects women to suffer silently.

*The author is a Pulwama-based writer and educator.*

# The Farewell That Silenced a College

In Kashmir countryside, a dedicated educator's transfer stirs tears, stories, and the lingering weight of goodbye.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

In the far south of Kashmir, where roads wind between poplar trees and school bells echo faintly across paddy fields, a college gathered for a farewell.

The man at the center of it, Dr. Ishתיaq Ahmad Shah, was leaving after years of service. He wasn't retiring, just moving, as government officers often do.

But the moment didn't feel routine. It felt like the end of something fragile and meaningful.

Government Degree College Frisal isn't a place you're likely to read about. It sits silently in the Kulgam district, far from the capitals of power. Its buildings are modest, its needs many.

But for the students who walk there every day, some from villages miles away, it is an anchor. And Dr. Shah, during his tenure, had become its most stable part.

His transfer came through official channels, a simple order directing him to take charge at another college, this one in Qazigund, a small highway town known mostly as a stopover on the way to Srinagar. It wasn't a surprise.

Transfers in the public education system are expected, sometimes even necessary. They balance staff shortages, shift leadership, and try to stir progress.

But Frisal wasn't ready.

When the farewell was announced, the faculty began planning something respectful, maybe even formal. It quickly became something else.

Students began writing notes. Former graduates called in, asking if they could attend. Teachers who'd once worked with Dr. Shah returned just to say goodbye. Despite ongoing exams, the assembly hall filled slowly, then fully.

Dr. Muzaffar Yousuf, a long-time faculty member, opened the event with a gentle speech. He didn't need notes. He talked about Dr. Shah as a principal who listened, who stayed late, who asked not just how classes were going but whether



the drinking water was cold, whether the students had chairs.

Others followed. Department heads. Young lecturers. Non-teaching staff. Each one told a small story. They spoke of decisions made quietly, of problems solved without fanfare, of a man who seemed always present, even when silent.

Miss Mehnaza Jan, an assistant professor of economics, walked to the podium with a sheet of paper in her hand. She didn't read a word. She looked at the room, tried to speak, and then returned to her seat in tears.

Dr. Riyaz Ahmad, who teaches sociology and anchored the program, described Dr. Shah as "a leader who never raised his voice but always got things done."

The words felt accurate. Dr. Shah's tenure had been marked

not by declarations but by follow-through, on timetables, infrastructure, faculty appointments, and the confidence that someone was paying attention.

When Dr. Shah finally stood to respond, he kept it brief. He thanked the staff and the students. He reminded them that colleges are not buildings but people. "You have given me more than I ever expected," he said. "If I have given anything back, I am grateful."

It is difficult to explain the significance of a principal's transfer to someone outside Kashmir, or outside any place where institutions must double as communities.

In a region often caught between political shifts and social uncertainty, schools and colleges become places of unusual emotional investment. They offer continuity where little else

does. And when a figure like Dr. Shah leaves, the loss feels personal.

At Frisal, the mood was somber. In the corridors, teachers spoke in low tones. In the staff room, someone had placed a framed photograph on the farewell on the table. The students lingered after the event, standing in clusters, sharing stories.

One student, a final-year undergraduate, summed it up quietly to no one in particular. "It's not that he solved everything," she said. "It's that he made us feel that someone was trying."

In a world of metrics and performance charts, this might not seem like much. But in this part of Kashmir, it means everything.

*The writer is a columnist based in Qazigund, Kashmir.*

# Gund's Green Gold

On the banks of the Nallah Sindh, a Kashmiri village stands at a crossroads. Will policymakers act before Gund's rich fields are lost to concrete and careless development?

Zain ul Abi Din Raina

Past the switchbacks of Sonamarg, where the Nallah Sindh cuts through pine and pasture, lies Gund. This captive countryside looks peaceful with orchards, farms, and the hush of alpine life.

But behind the meditative landscape is a slow unraveling no one can ignore anymore.

Gund, part of Ganderbal district, sits in a stunning pocket of Kashmir. Glacial streams water its edges, and the air stays crisp long into spring. This place could feed families, grow rare herbs, and bring visitors closer to the earth. It has all the right ingredients for sustainable farming.

But each year, more land lies unused. More young men leave. And slowly, concrete begins to win.

You may wonder: why does this matter?

Because in places like Gund, farming is not just tradition. It's survival. It's the main source of food and income for many. Tourism comes and goes. Factories don't exist here. But the soil still remembers how to grow.

Walk through its meadows in early summer, and you'll find patches of garlic, onions, peas, and cabbage. These aren't big crops. They're daily staples, and they grow well in Gund's cool climate.

In fact, with proper care, these could supply markets across the valley, and beyond.

The same goes for fruit. Gund's hills can grow apples, walnuts, even plums. With cold storage, good packaging, and better roads, these orchards could feed a new economy.

But help rarely comes. Farmers sell what they can, how they can, often at a loss.

Then there are the hidden treasures: lavender, thyme, valerian. These herbs don't need much water and are used in oils, teas, and medicines. They're already valuable. But here, they barely get noticed.

Add to that the possibility of agritourism. Imagine visitors spending a few days on a farm, picking fruit, sipping noon chai under walnut trees, and watching the sun fall behind snow-tipped mountains. That experience is priceless. Yet, it's not being built.



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE. GUND STILL HAS ITS GREEN GOLD.** But if we keep ignoring it, that gold will be buried under concrete, and lost forever.

Instead, what's growing fast in Gund is cement.

As land loses its farming value, families start to sell. A hotel here, a guest-house there. It may seem harmless. But over time, this unchecked construction eats into the green. It breaks up the land, threatens local water sources, and chips away at the mountain ecosystem. The Nallah Sindh doesn't just add beauty to the landscape, it feeds it. And it's at risk.

So what can be done? First, people need support in the form of real tools, irrigation channels, crop insurance, and loans that don't require middlemen.

A cold storage unit could save half the year's harvest from waste. A packaging unit could double a farmer's income. Training sessions on organic farming or plant-based products could keep the youth rooted instead of restless.

Most importantly, Gund needs protection as a living model, a zone for eco-farming, a place where growth doesn't come at the cost of nature. Where development is smart, not scattered.

It's not too late. Gund still has its green gold. But if we keep ignoring it, that gold will be buried under concrete, and lost forever.

The question now is simple. Will we let this happen? Or will we act before Gund becomes just another name in a report?

*The author is based in Gund, Sonamarg.*



## ‘CBDT Taking Action For Non-Responsive Taxpayers Having Foreign Income’



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Ministry on Friday said CBDT is taking action against people having foreign income and as many as 5,483 taxpayers have filed belated returns reporting foreign assets worth Rs 29,208 crore and additional income of Rs 1,089.88 crore.

Suitable action under the extant provision of law is under consideration for non-responsive taxpayers, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The finance ministry's statement comes amid reports that money deposited in bank accounts of Indian entities in Switzerland has increased in 2024.

Indian money parked in Swiss banks more than tripled in 2024 to 3.5 billion Swiss francs (nearly Rs 37,600 crore) on the back of a huge jump in funds held through local branches and other financial institutions, annual data released by Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday.

The ministry statement said that a total of 24,678 taxpayers reviewed their ITRs and 5,483 taxpayers filed their belated return for the assessment year (AY) 2024-25, reporting foreign assets of Rs 29,208 crore and additional foreign income of Rs 1,089.88 crore.

The initiative has resulted in

substantial growth of taxpayers reporting foreign assets and income in ITR for AY 2024-25, it said, adding that a total of 2.31 lakh taxpayers have reported their foreign assets and income in AY 2024-25, witnessing a growth of 45.17 per cent over 1.59 lakh taxpayers in AY 2023-24.

On account of various awareness initiatives and a system-driven approach, taxpayers are voluntarily declaring their foreign assets and income and are also revisiting their ITRs to offer correct income, it said.

In cases of continued non-compliance, the statement said, enforcement and statutory actions are being taken as per the law.

For AY 2024-25, it said, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) compared the data shared under Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOL) with the information about foreign assets and income filed in the ITRs by the taxpayers, for the purpose of verification.

The analysis covered all jurisdictions, including Switzerland, it said, adding that additionally, SMS and emails were sent to various taxpayers with a request to review their ITRs, where foreign assets and income were not reported in the appropriate Schedules of ITR.

In order to combat offshore tax evasion, tax jurisdictions cooperate among themselves and share relevant information about financial assets held by the citizens of other countries in their tax jurisdiction. India regularly receives information about foreign accounts and assets from more than 100 tax jurisdictions.

## J&K Bank Renews MoU with J&K Govt

Offers Enhanced Banking Services to Employees



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Reaffirming its longstanding partnership with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Bank today signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UT Government to provide a comprehensive bouquet of tailor-made banking facilities to all its permanent employees.

The MoU was signed by the Bank's Deputy General Manager Rajesh Dubey and Under Secretary (J&K Finance Department) Trikanish Bhushan at Civil Secretariat Jammu in presence of the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, Advisor Finance Department S L Pandita, and Government Liaising Officer Atul Sethi.

The renewed agreement cements Bank's position as the preferred banker for the UT Government, entitling its employees to a range of exclusive benefits including zero-balance salary accounts, free debit cards (with add-on cards

for spouses), concessional interest rates on loans and comprehensive Group Personal Accident Insurance cover. The agreement also facilitates faster credit delivery through integration of employee data, streamlining salary, pension disbursements, and improving loan servicing efficiency.

The J&K Government, in turn, reaffirmed its exclusive banking engagement with the Bank, granting the Bank "Preferred Banker" status and committing to provide integrated employee data to ease credit and service delivery.

Speaking on the occasion, the Bank's General Manager and Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar expressed his gratitude to the Government for their continued trust, saying, "We are truly thankful to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for renewing this strategic partnership that reflects their faith in our institutional capabilities. With a renewed focus on service excellence and digital innovation, we remain committed to

delivering financial empowerment and tailored solutions to every government employee in the UT."

"This MoU is a testament to our shared commitment to inclusive and customer-centric financial services. We are proud to support the dedicated workforce of the Government of J&K with benefits that go beyond conventional banking," he added.

Moreover, the host of benefits available to permanent government employees includes zero-balance savings accounts with no opening charges, free international debit cards (and add-on cards), waiver of loan processing charges on home, auto, education and personal loans, concession interest rates on personal loans, Overdraft facility up to 6 months' salary, housing loans up to ₹10 lakhs for repairs and renovations without mortgages, free digital and mobile banking services besides facilitating Demat and trading accounts through JKB Financial Services Limited.



**THIS MOU IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE AND CUSTOMER-CENTRIC financial services. We are proud to support the dedicated workforce of the Government of J&K with benefits that go beyond conventional banking."**

## MPC Minutes: RBI Guv Expects Rate Cut Front-Loading To Support Growth Amid Global Tension

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said front-loading of monetary policy rate action would give a clear signal and some certainty to the economic agents that the central bank is supportive of growth amid global tensions, MPC meeting minutes released on Friday said.

On June 6, the RBI governor-headed six-member panel reduced the benchmark short-term lending rate by 50 basis points, taking the total reduction to 100 bps in quick succession, besides a change in the policy stance to neutral from accommodative and liquidity infusion measures.

While five members voted for a 50 bps reduction in the repo rate during the three-day meeting (June 4-6), an external member of the panel, Saugata Bhattacharya, suggested a 25 bps cut.

Given a sharp reduction in inflation of about 3 percentage points over the past few months (6.2 in October 2024 to 3.2 in April 2025) and the projected reduction in annual



average inflation by almost one percentage point from 4.6 to 3.7 per cent, Malhotra voted for a 50 bps rate cut, the minutes showed.

"It is expected that the front-loaded rate action, along with certainty on the liquidity front, would send a clear signal to the economic agents, thereby supporting consumption and investment through lower cost of borrowing," he said.

On the change of monetary stance, he was of the opinion that a neutral stance would provide monetary policy with the necessary flexibility to cut, pause or hike policy rates in response to the evolving domestic and global economic conditions.

"This package of measures will provide some certainty in times of uncertainty and is

expected to support growth," Malhotra added.

The MPC consists of three RBI officials -- Governor Malhotra, Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta and Executive Director Rajiv Ranjan, and three government-appointed nominees -- Nagesh Kumar, Saugata Bhattacharya and Ram Singh.

As per the minutes, Deputy Governor Gupta was also of the opinion that a 50 bps reduction in repo rate should help foster policy certainty and faster transmission than a staggered rate cut and more effectively counter the challenges emanating from the global economy.

She also supported a change in stance from accommodative to neutral.

"This means that any further actions should be contingent upon incoming data and the evolving global uncertainties," Gupta said.

Ranjan said from the perspective of inflation, growth, transmission, global and most importantly signalling and imparting certainty perspective, a 50 bps cut is apt at this juncture.

## Make GST Registration Easier Using Technology Risk-Based Parameters: FM To CBIC

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday asked CBIC to make the GST registration easier, seamless, and more transparent for taxpayers, using technology and risk-based parameters.

Sitharaman, who chaired the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Conclave with the Principal Chief Commissioners, Chief Commissioners and Director Generals of the field formations, reviewed the performance of Customs and CGST zones on key indicators.

During the conclave, she directed the zones to prepare an action plan to improve various parameters, such as GST registration, processing of refunds, and handling taxpayers' grievances.

The finance minister also directed the CGST formations to launch targeted awareness campaigns among taxpayers, trade associations, and industry bodies regarding the mandatory documentation required for GST registration, particularly those related to the principal place of business, the finance ministry said in a statement.

This would help reduce rejections and delays in registration and enable faster processing of applications, she said.

She also directed CGST Zonal Heads to have a dedicated helpdesk for GST registrations to facilitate the taxpayers in the application process.

The finance minister also highlighted the need to ensure that GST Seva Kendras and Customs Turant Suvidha Kendras are well-staffed, accessible,



and properly maintained so that taxpayers receive timely and quality assistance.

Emphasising taxpayer trust, she called for a targeted and sustained focus on grievance redressal, ensuring the timely resolution of queries and complaints through improved systems and accountability.

Sitharaman also underlined the need for the speedy closure of investigations for Customs and CGST cases, and exhorted for an analysis on detection and recovery and to seek solutions to reduce the gap between detection and recovery.

At the same time, she emphasised the need to prevent tax evasion and wrongful input tax credit (ITC) claims.

The CBIC was asked to expedite the processing of GST and Customs refunds to ensure timely redressal and ease of doing business, especially for MSMEs and exporters.

Hailing that CBIC ranks in the top five out of 90 Central Ministries/Departments in CPGRAMS performance since February 2024, she underscored the importance of promptly addressing public grievances received through CPGRAMS.

The finance minister suggested that the CGST and Customs zones may dedicate teams to further expedite the resolution of grievances.

## Air India Cancels 8 Flights; Bookings Decline By Up To 20%



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** Air India on Friday cancelled eight flights, including four on international routes, due to operational reasons even as the impact of the Ahmedabad plane crash last week is becoming manifest on its overall bookings dropping nearly 20 per cent.

A London-bound Air India flight, AI-171 carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12. All but one passenger onboard the plane died along with nearly 29 on the ground when the aircraft crashed on a medical college complex shortly after the take-off.

In a statement on Friday, Air India announced cancellation of several flights -- Dubai-Chennai (AI906), Delhi-Melbourne (AI308), Melbourne-Delhi (AI309) and Dubai-Hyderabad (AI2204).

On domestic routes, Pune-Delhi (AI874), Ahmedabad-Delhi (AI456), Hyderabad-Mumbai (AI-2872) and Chennai-Mumbai (AI571) flights were cancelled.

The Delhi-Pune flight was cancelled after the airline, on its arrival from Delhi, detected

that it had a bird hit. Consequently, it was grounded for extensive inspection.

The airline also said it made all arrangements, including accommodation for the stranded passengers.

Refunds on cancellation or complimentary rescheduling were also offered to passengers, the airline said.

According to the tour operators body, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), bookings for Air India flights have declined by around 20 per cent on domestic as well as international routes while the average fares have dropped by 8-15 per cent in the aftermath of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash last week.

Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) General Secretary Rajiv Mehra also said that an up to 20 per cent decline in bookings has been observed for Air India flights while the fares have turned cheaper by about 10 per cent on certain sectors where there is high competition with other carriers.

An Air India spokesperson did not respond to a query seeking comments from the airline on decline in bookings.

## Govt Meets Stakeholders To Assess Impact Of Iran-Israel Conflict On Trade; Monitoring Situation



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The commerce ministry on Friday held consultations with key stakeholders, including shipping lines, exporters, container firms, and other departments, to assess the impact of the Iran-Israel conflict on India's overseas trade, an official said. The meeting was chaired by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal.

The participants informed that the situation in the Strait of Hormuz is currently stable and a ship reporting system is in place to monitor any incidents.

The freight and insurance rates are also being closely monitored, the official said. The commerce secretary emphasised the need to assess the evolving situation and its impact on Indian trade, the official said. He highlighted the importance of exploring all possible alternatives in response to the situation.

Exporters have stated that the war, if escalated further, would impact world trade and

push both air and sea freight rates.

They have expressed apprehensions that the conflict may impact the movement of merchant ships from the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

Nearly two-thirds of India's crude oil and half of its LNG imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has now threatened to close.

This narrow waterway, only 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, handles nearly a fifth of global oil trade and is indispensable to India, which depends on imports for over 80 per cent of its energy needs.

According to think tank GTRI, any closure or military disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would sharply increase oil prices, shipping costs, and insurance premiums, triggering inflation, pressuring the rupee, and complicating India's fiscal management.

The present conflict that began with an attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 had brought cargo movement through Red Sea routes to a halt due to attacks by Houthi rebels on commercial shipping.

Last year, the situation around the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping route connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, escalated due to attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants.

## A Pinch Of Pink Salt In India-Pak Trade

Press Trust Of India

**KARACHI:** The trade ban imposed by New Delhi after the Pahalgam terror attack put brakes on the export of Himalayan Pink Salt from Pakistan to India, but has also provided local traders an opportunity to explore new markets.

Pakistan is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of Himalayan Pink Salt. The Khewra pink salt mines in Punjab province is the largest mine in the country and has 30 processing units.

In 2024, Pakistan's total pink salt exports stood at 3,50,000 tonnes estimated to be worth USD 120 million.

After the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, India took a series of measures, including immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, used for move-

ment of certain kinds of goods. In retaliation, Pakistan too announced that "all trade with India, including to and from any third country through Pakistan, is suspended forthwith."

The trade ban hit the exporters of Himalayan Pink Salt, which is in high demand on the other side of the border. "India has been one of the biggest importers of Himalayan pink salt from Pakistan. The ban has meant zero exports to that country," Mansoor Ahmed, a senior director in Ghani International, one of the top exporters of pink salt and related products, said.

"For years, Indian importers imported raw Himalayan pink salt from Pakistan and then it was refined, packaged and marketed/exported to other countries as a finished Indian product at higher prices," Mansoor claimed.

That is why India was ranked among the top three exporters of salt with Pakistan and China, he said, adding, "It is only Pakistan, not India or China that produces Himalayan Pink Salt."

However, Pakistan's top exporters of pink salt are not alarmed by the ban as it also offers a silver lining for them.

Saima Akhtar, chairperson of the Pakistan Salt Manufacturers Association (SMAP) said that Pakistan's Himalayan pink salt is already in huge demand globally due to its perceived health benefits and culinary uses.

"When we exported it to India, the salt was sold in the Indian retail market for INR 45 to 50 per kg. But now apparently, it is being sold as high as INR 70 to 80 per kg," she said.

As per the SMAP data, 3,789 shipments of Himalayan Salt were exported by Pakistan from November 2023 to October

2024 marking a growth rate of 10 per cent compared to the preceding 12 months.

The India-Pakistan trade relations had already soured after the Pulwama terror attack, following which India raised the import duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from Pakistan.

Saima said while India was an attractive market for Pakistani exporters, the heavy tariffs meant feasibility of businesses went down for exporters and importers both.

Since 2019, when relations hit a low between the two

countries, trade has suffered, she pointed out.

"The available figures we have shows that bilateral trade fell to USD 1.2 billion in 2024 from a peak of nearly USD 3 billion in 2018," she added.

Ehsan Malik, CEO of Pakistan Business Council said that Pakistan imported fruits, vegetables, pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals and sugar from India. "Bottom line is our imports have been higher than our exports to India and Pink Salt has been our main export."

He quoted India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry India's data to say that exports to Pakistan in April 2024 - March 2025 were estimated to be around USD 600 million, while imports were a meagre USD 0.42 million.

Malik, however, noted that these were all official figures which ballooned if one took into account the unofficial trade be-

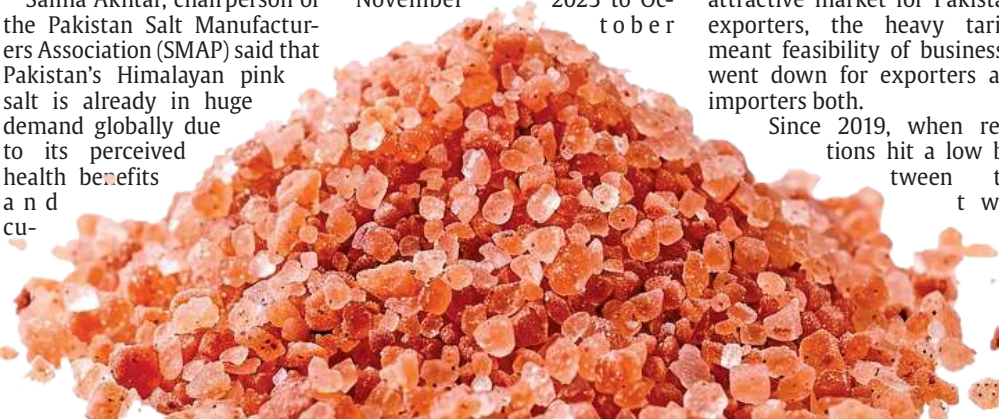
tween the two countries.

He noted that substantial volumes of Indian goods reach Pakistan through unofficial channels, often via third countries, bypassing formal trade restrictions and vice versa.

Shehzad Javed, CEO of Ittefaq Companies, one of the key producers and exporters of Himalayan Pink Salt, said that Pakistani pink salt exports to China had increased in the first quarter of 2025.

Around 13.64 million kilograms of salt worth USD 1.83 million was exported to China, a 40 per cent increase from the same period in 2024, Javed said.

"We are now pursuing increased exports to USA, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Australia, Turkey, Netherlands, Italy, UK, Germany, Brazil, UAE, Japan, Singapore, Chile, South Africa, Russia, which are major importers of pink salt," he said.





## Cold Storage Units Vacant As Growers Cash In Early



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant turnaround from last year's sluggish market, Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage units in Kashmir are now almost empty, with over 99% of stored apples already sold—well on time. Thanks to strong early-season demand and timely dispatches, the growers have managed to reap decent profits despite a modest dip in prices.

Speaking to KNO, the growers and industry stakeholders say the early clearance of cold storage stock reflects not just better market conditions but also a maturing understanding among growers of when and how to sell.

"Last year, cold storage units weren't cleared for nearly 10 months. This time, everything has moved at a good speed," said Mehraj Ahmad, a manager at a CA unit in Lassipora. "We now have only about 1% of the stock left, which too will be cleared in the next few days."

In 2024, about 20% of the apples stored in these facilities remained unsold for over 10 months due to competition from cheaper imported apples and market saturation.

"Demand picked up from January itself much before the scheduled time," said Javed Ahmad, an apple grower from Shopian. "Even though rates dipped by around Rs 200 per box compared to peak prices at one

stage but at the end stage rates went very high and growers reaped good returns this year.

The ability to sell at will rather than in distress has been a game-changer, Mehraj emphasized. "Cold storage has empowered growers. They're no longer at the mercy of the market's worst days. This flexibility is invaluable."

Kashmir has around 50 CA storage units, primarily in the SIDCO Lassipora industrial estate, with a combined capacity of storing nearly 3 lakh metric tonnes of apples. Given the Valley's annual apple production of over 20 lakh metric tonnes, these facilities play a crucial role in post-harvest management, price stabilization, and farmer income.

Growers also credit better market coordination and buyer confidence for this year's positive outcomes.

"We managed to sell our produce earlier, and that made a big difference," said Abdul Rashid, another grower. "Last year, some of us had to wait months with no buyers. This year, most sold their stock before April."

However, stakeholders stress that more work remains. "We need to improve our grading and packaging," Mehraj said.

"Imported apples still dominate some markets due to their polished presentation, even though our produce is superior in taste. We can't ignore their appearance in this competitive landscape."

## DC Ganderbal Reviews Departmental Preparedness for SANJY-2025



Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** In view of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra (SANJY)-2025, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore held a comprehensive meeting to review the preparedness of line departments and key stakeholder agencies along the Baltal route.

The meeting, held in the VC Room of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, witnessed participation from senior district officers and representatives from essential service providers including BEACON, BSNL, Jio and Airtel.

At the outset, the DC took a department wise review of essential services such as mobile connectivity, water supply, shelter sheds, medical facilities, electricity, RFID counters, street lighting, sanitation facilities, and registration of ponies and service providers.

Departments presented de-

tailed progress reports regarding arrangements being put in place to ensure a safe and smooth Yatra experience for the pilgrims.

While expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, the DC emphasized the need to expedite remaining works to meet the fixed deadlines. He reiterated the district administration's firm commitment to provide seamless and safe facilities for all pilgrims undertaking the Yatra.

The Assistant Director Fire & Emergency Services was instructed to ensure that all tents, langars, and other establishments adhere to prescribed fire safety protocols, and that fire audits are conducted without fail as per laid down guidelines.

Similarly, the Assistant Labour Commissioner was directed to fast-track the registration of service providers, ensuring adequate manpower is available for Yatra.

## Khyber Cement Bags Top Award for Sustainable Mining & Environment

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Khyber Cement has been recognised with a series of prestigious accolades during the 34th Mines and Mineral Conservation Week, organised by the Indian Bureau of Mines for the Dehradun Region. The awards reaffirm Khyber Cement's position as a frontrunner in responsible mining and industrial leadership.

The company secured four awards: first prize for Mineral Conservation, first prize for Reclamation and Rehabilitation, third prize for Sustainable Development, and third prize for Overall Performance. A powerful reflection of Khyber's steadfast commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community-conscious practices. These awards were received by Mr. Riaz Trambo, Director of Operations at Khyber Cement, and Mr. Myser Ahmed Khan, Chief of Mines at Khyber Cement, both of whom have played a pivotal role in aligning Khyber Cement's operations with the highest bench-

marks of excellence.

Speaking on the achievement, Mr. Riaz Trambo, Director of Operations, shared, "At Khyber, we believe that true progress is rooted in responsibility. These recognitions are a reflection of our long-standing promise to preserve and protect the land that sustains us. This honour belongs to every member of the Khyber family who works with sincerity and purpose."

Myser Ahmed Khan, Chief of Mines, added, "These awards reaffirm the core values we uphold in our mining operations, safety, sustainability, and scientific precision. I'm proud to be part of a team that doesn't just meet standards, but consistently sets new ones for others to follow."

With each milestone, Khyber Cement continues to set new benchmarks in industrial responsibility and sustainable progress. These accolades are a testament to Khyber's unwavering pursuit of excellence, its respect for nature, and its role as a trusted pillar of progress in the region.

# What Exactly Did Iran Do To Provoke Israel?: CM Omar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday asserted that war anywhere is not a good thing as he questioned Israel's compulsion to attack Iran.

The National Conference leader also said that Jammu and Kashmir should have the right to use its waters and underlined that, as of now, there is no intention to divert surplus water to other states.

Omar was interacting with the media after inaugurating an outreach office -- Raabta -- in Jammu to ensure efficient grievance redressal and informed decision-making through data-driven monitoring and strategic communication.

Asked about the Israel-Iran conflict, Omar said, "This is not a good thing. War anywhere is



not a good thing. What exactly did Iran do that forced Israel to attack? The sooner this conflict ends, the better".

Taking a dig at Israel, he said, "Two months ago, the US intelligence chief said that Iran is nowhere close to building a nuclear bomb. That was the evidence then. And now, after two months, Israel has suddenly launched an attack on Iran."

He said that although the war is between Iran and Israel,

more than 6,000 Indians have been trapped.

"We are evacuating them one by one. Ninety students (from J-K) have already been brought out, and another 400 have reached safer locations. Efforts are on to evacuate more than 6,000 students, out of which 1,400 are from Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Asked about some of the 90 students -- who landed in Delhi on Thursday morning after being evacuated from Iran -- complaining about the condition of buses in which they were taken to Kashmir, he admitted that the vehicles arranged initially "weren't up to the mark".

"As soon as we were informed, we arranged proper vehicles, and they are now reaching their homes... Officials there have been told to be more careful in the future," he said.

## Dir School Edu Kashmir Visits Uri

Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo conducted an extensive tour of various schools in Uri and adjoining areas, particularly focusing on those affected by recent cross-border shelling.

In a significant gesture of encouragement and outreach, sports kits were distributed among the students of these impacted schools to promote physical well-being and boost morale.

A mega function was organized at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Uri where students, staff, and dignitaries gathered to witness the event.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Itoo emphasized the department's strong commitment to ensuring quality education in far-flung and border areas of Kashmir. He highlighted the importance of introducing digital platforms and modern infrastructure like Atal Tinkering Labs, which aim to transform the educational experience and prepare students for the challenges of the future.

"Remote and border regions of Kashmir are at the top of the department's priority list," Dr. Itoo stated, reaffirming that all possible facilities and support systems will be provided to these areas on a priority basis.

During the visit, Dr. Itoo also inspected several schools

in the region, personally reviewing the infrastructure, academic environment, and resources available to students and staff. He interacted with both students and teachers to assess needs and gather feedback to further improve the delivery of quality education.

The Director was accompanied by the Joint Director, North Kashmir, and other senior officers from the School Education department.

The visit reflects the department's ongoing efforts to bridge the educational gap in remote regions and foster an environment of learning, resilience, and opportunity despite the challenges posed by geographical and security constraints.

## Aspirants Seek CM's Intervention In 'Long-Delayed AP Recruitment Process'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Aspirants short-listed for the post of Assistant Professor in Hospitality and Catering in Jammu and Kashmir have appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah, to urgently intervene in the recruitment process that has remained stalled for over a year.

The recruitment was advertised by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) under Advertisement No. 17-PSC (DR-P) of 2023, dated May 15, 2023. While the written examination was held on June 9, 2024, and the results were declared on July 30, 2024—shortlisting 29 candidates for 11 posts—the interview process has yet to be scheduled, even after nearly eleven months.

In a collective representation addressed to the Chief Minister, the candidates have expressed growing anxiety and frustration over what they describe as an "unexplained and prolonged delay" in the selection process. They state that

the recruitment cycle has already stretched over two years and that the delay is pushing some aspirants close to the upper age limit for eligibility.

"All shortlisted candidates are highly qualified, holding PhDs, UGC-NET certifications, and substantial teaching and research experience," the letter reads. "We have cleared every stage and are only awaiting interviews. This unexplained stagnation has put our professional lives on indefinite hold and is causing emotional and psychological distress."

The candidates suspect that the delay may be linked to questions over the nomenclature of academic degrees held by applicants. In their letter, they clarify that no university within the Union Territory offers a postgraduate degree specifically named "Hospitality and Catering." Instead, aspirants have pursued closely allied degrees such as Tourism and Hospitality Management or Travel and Tourism Management, which are widely recognized as equivalent by academic and regulatory bodies,

including the UGC and AICTE.

"Denying us interviews over nomenclature would be unjust. These are the only viable postgraduate degrees available regionally. Penalizing us for structural limitations of the education system would be deeply unfair," the aspirants asserted.

The representation also notes that regional Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) do not offer postgraduate degrees, making tourism and hospitality degrees from local universities the only practical path for those aspiring to teach in the field.

Calling the situation disheartening in a region where public sector employment is already limited, the aspirants warn that such delays undermine trust in the recruitment system and damage the morale of educated youth.

They have requested the Chief Minister to direct the concerned authorities to expedite the interview process and adopt a pragmatic, inclusive view of relevant academic qualifications.

## CS Mandates IT Deptt For Swift Revival Of Unaudited Websites

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo convened a high-level meeting to review and enhance the cyber security framework for the government assets and websites in the Union Territory, marking a significant step towards fortifying the digital infrastructure.

The comprehensive discussion underscored the paramount importance of robust cyber resilience in the digital age.

The meeting was attended by all the administrative heads; Inspector General, Crime; Commissioner, JMC and SMC; SIO, NIC and other concerned senior officers.

The Chief Secretary unequivocally emphasized the urgent need to revive all the government websites and web

applications, previously rendered offline due to non-compliance with the essential audit and security parameters. He maintained that the prolonged shutdown of these critical digital platforms, even for security reasons, could not be taken for granted and directed for immediate measures for the earliest restoration. He enjoined upon the IT Department to submit the compliance reports from all departments every three days, specifically on Mondays and Thursdays.

Conducting a department-wise assessment of currently offline websites and applications, Dulloo directed the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and IT Department to take immediate action to restore these vital services online.

In a strong push for enhanced

data safety and security, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all the concerned authorities to restrict the official communications exclusively to authorized government email addresses, imposing a strict ban on the use of private email IDs for official business. He reiterated that the security of government data and cyber assets is non-negotiable and brooks no compromise.

Furthermore, he directed the swift migration of mini data centers, currently used by offices such as JPDCL, KPDC and SICOP, to more secure and centralized facilities for enhanced safety and security management.

Dulloo also assessed the proactive measures being undertaken by the IT Department and NIC to ensure overall safety of the Union Territory's digital assets and websites.

## Officers Assess Muharram Arrangements In Budgam



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, as part of the district administration's preparedness efforts in view of the ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram, various officers of district Budgam today visited Shia inhabited areas to take spot appraisal of arrangements for smooth conduct of processions and other related events.

In this connection, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah conducted a detailed inspection of various Shia-dominated areas in the district to ensure timely and comprehensive arrangements for the peaceful observance of the sacred month.

During the visit, ADC inspected Imambara Mirgund, Imambara Mahwarah, Imambara Ichgam, and various inner link roads in the Ichgam area. The inspection focused on assessing the availability and condition of essential public services and infrastructure in view of upcoming religious gatherings and processions.

ADC interacted with local residents, community elders, and representatives of religious organizations to gather inputs on necessary improvements. He directed the concerned departments to immediately address issues related to road repairs, sanitation, water and power supply, and availability of essential commodities.

He emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and proactive execution of all preparatory works within the stipulated timeline to ensure a hassle-free and respectful observance of Muharram.

Similarly, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Beerwah conducted extensive visit to various Shia localities in Tehsil Beerwah.

SDM inspected Imambaras at Sonpah and Iskenderpora

villages to assess on-ground preparedness and interact with locals regarding their requirements for the upcoming religious observances.

During the visit, SDM held discussions with community representatives and members of the public to understand their concerns and demands pertaining to essential services such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, ration distribution, and road connectivity.

He instructed all concerned departments to ensure timely action and coordinated efforts for fulfilling public needs ahead of Muharram.

He emphasized that the administration is committed to extending all necessary support to the Shia community and ensuring a respectful and well-managed environment throughout the month.

Also, Tehsildar B.K. Pora conducted an extensive visit to various Shia-dominated areas including Imambara Rakhshalina, Shalina, Summerbugh, Rakh-i-Suthu, and Kenihama to review the arrangements ahead of the holy month of Muharram.

He interacted with local residents and religious representatives to gather feedback and assess the requirements on the ground. Public was assured of the administration's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply, adequate ration distribution, sanitation, and necessary infrastructure repairs well before the commencement of Muharram.

Tehsildar instructed the concerned departments to remain proactive and submit specific action plans for their respective responsibilities. She emphasized that all arrangements should be completed in a time-bound manner and co-ordination among departments should be seamless to ensure peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram processions and gatherings.

## SDM Sumbal Reviews Muharram Arrangements At Religious Sites

Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** In view of the upcoming Muharram observances, and on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, conducted an extensive visit to Imambaras and other religious sites across the Sumbal sub-division.

During the visit, SDM assessed the preparedness regarding sanitation, water and power supply, medical aid, and security arrangements. He interacted with local religious leaders and community representatives to

take stock of the arrangements and noted specific requirements for timely redressal.

SDM assured that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of Muharram, and emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination to provide seamless support to the devotees.

He reiterated the district administration's commitment to creating a safe and respectful environment for religious gatherings and urged the public to uphold communal harmony during the holy days.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) MOHD AALIM BANDAY to (New Name) MOHAMMAD AALIM BANDAY. In future I will be know as (New Name) MOHAMMAD AALIM BANDAY

If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar with in 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

MTZ

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI**  
(EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TASEEN WASEEM MIR & BABAR WASEEM MIR S/O WASEEM MOHD MIR R/O WARIPORA BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 03/05/2017 & 30/01/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

FKO

KREERI



# Northern Railway Gives Rs 1 Cr Insurance To Deceased Employee's Family

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Northern Railway, under the leadership of General Manager, Ashok Kumar Verma, had approved a special salary package scheme in January 2025 to provide special security cover to its railway employees under which financial assistance can be provided to the family members in case of accidental death of the employee in an accident. Under this special salary package, General Manager of Northern Railway, Ashok Kumar

Verma handed over a cheque of 1 crore to the family of a deceased railway employee today. This cheque was given to the family of Sushil Lal, a loco pilot working in Moradabad Division of Northern Railway, who passed away on 11 March 2025 in an accident. The insurance amount was paid to his wife. The family was provided a cheque of 1 crore as accident insurance amount in addition to the settlement payment, ex-gratia amount by the Personnel Department of the Railways.

General Manager of Northern Railway, Ashok Kumar Verma appreciated this initiative of the Personnel Department of Railways. He emphasized that such initiatives will contribute significantly to the welfare of railway employees and their families. Undoubtedly, life cannot be compensated, but financial help for the future of the family will be of great help. This initiative reflects the commitment of the Railways towards the welfare of railway employees. Senior officers of Northern

Railway were present on this occasion, who expressed their condolences to the bereaved family. Dr. Ajay Soyai, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Moradabad Division Northern Railway and Himanshu Chauhan, Branch Manager, SBI Moradabad Branch made commendable efforts in this case. The Personnel Department of Northern Railway is always available for the welfare of its railway family colleagues, due to which the morale of the employees always remains positive.

World University Rankings 2026

# KIIT Tops in Odisha, Achieves Global Recognition In QS

Observer News Service

Kolkata: KIIT Deemed to be University has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the No. 1 position among all private universities in Odisha in the QS World University Rankings 2026, released recently. It has also been ranked 9th among India's premier private higher education institutions and earned a respectable global rank, marking its

debut in the prestigious global rankings. In its very first participation, KIIT has not only emerged as a strong contender on the international academic stage but also secured the 55th position in South Asia in the QS Asia University Rankings. This feat underscores KIIT's rapid rise in the global higher education landscape and its unwavering commitment to excellence in

teaching, research, innovation, and internationalisation. The QS World University Rankings 2026 evaluated over 1,500 top universities worldwide based on rigorous parameters such as Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty-Student Ratio, Citations per Faculty, International Faculty and Student Ratio, Research Network, Employment Outcomes, and Sustainability.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Kashmir Is Slowing

had too much. The gap between these two extremes signals a bigger problem: unpredictability. People don't know what they're getting. Some get none. Others too much. It's blind guessing, with real health consequences. And it's not just children. A 2021 study of 763 tribal adults in Kashmir's Gujjar-Bakarwal communities found that one in three had a malfunctioning thyroid. About 7 percent had overt hypothyroidism. Nearly a third had iodine deficiency. "They don't call it an illness," says Dr. Manzoor Mir, a physician in Ganderbal, a region with a large tribal population. "They just say they feel cold all the time. Or that their minds feel foggy. Or they're too tired to walk. But the numbers don't lie." Thyroid hormones power nearly every organ system — heart rate, temperature, mood, memory, metabolism. When those levels drop, so does everything else. And in Kashmir, something else is dragging them down: pesticides. In Shopian, where apple orchards spread like green waves across the landscape, growers spray chemical cocktails to protect fruit. These sprays contain organophosphates and organochlorines — both linked in global research to thyroid disruption. A large 2020 meta-analysis found people exposed to these chemicals had a 49 percent higher risk of developing thyroid disease. A parallel study from Government Medical College Srinagar showed that 35 percent of farmers exposed to pesticides in Shopian and Baramulla had neurological damage, a figure four times higher than non-exposed groups. Another study linked 70 percent of brain tumour patients in Kashmir to long-term pesticide exposure. In this context, the thyroid seems almost forgotten. But doctors are beginning to connect the dots. "They come in complaining of hair loss, fatigue, brain fog," said Dr. Ahsan Zahoor, who sees the pattern daily at his city clinic. "Routine labs show everything's 'normal.' But when we dig deeper — T3, T4, antibodies — the real picture emerges." Then there's the diet. Once full of fresh fish, pastured eggs, walnuts, milk, and greens, the Kashmiri plate is changing. Processed foods, sugary drinks, and deep-fried snacks are filling the gap. Essential nutrients, especially selenium, iron, and iodine, are vanishing from everyday meals. For families like Nazir's, an orchard farmer in his forties, the changes are personal. He felt himself fading: waking tired, moving slow, thinking slower. His bloodwork showed nothing wrong, until a full thyroid panel exposed the imbalance. His salt, tested on-site, showed almost no iodine. "It wasn't laziness," he said. "It was something missing." Some schools are starting to act. In Bandipora, teachers are showing parents how to store salt in airtight jars and add it after cooking. In Kupwara, health workers are testing both salt and urine during routine checkups. And in some clinics, thyroid panels, once rare, are becoming common. But experts say that's not enough. Kashmir uses more pesticides per hectare than any other region in India. More than 2.3 kg per hectare, often sprayed without protective gear or oversight. Food storage systems remain outdated. And iodine deficiency is rarely discussed, let alone prioritized in public discourse. "Kashmir's thyroid crisis is quiet and creepy," Dr. Ahsan continued. "It slows thought. It weakens bones. It clouds the mind. It makes children forget lessons and adults forget themselves." The daily signs are simply stark. In classrooms, necks are swelling. In fields, workers slow down. In homes, mothers struggle with fatigue they can't explain. And still, it's barely mentioned.

**Just a Pause,** strong. When the borders are strong, India will be strong," Singh said. A cultural programme was also

organised as part of the event.

### Rajnath To Attend

Forces personnel at Udhampur Cantt," Singh said in a post. The defence minister will be on a two-day visit to the Jammu region. The main IDY celebrations, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam. (PTI) **Srinagar Breaks** "After 1988, today's 35.5°C is the highest June temperature recorded in Srinagar since 25 June 2005," Keng said. The intense heatwave has now gripped the Kashmir Valley for the fourth consecutive day, disrupting daily life and prompting people to avoid venturing out during peak afternoon hours. Most parts of Kashmir recorded above normal day temperatures. Qazigund recorded a maximum of 34.5 degrees Celsius, seven degrees above the seasonal average, while the mercury in Kokernag town settled at a maximum of 33.6 degrees, 6.4 degrees above the normal, officials said. Pahalgam recorded a high of 30 degrees Celsius -- 5.2 degrees above the normal. Gulmarg tourist resort was the coldest place in the valley at 25.2 degrees Celsius, still 5.2 degrees above the normal. The Met office has said the heat wave will continue at scattered places in the valley on Saturday.

**School Timings** municipal limits of Srinagar city shall observe school timings from 08:00 AM to 1:00 PM, w.e.f 21.06.2025," read an order by Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK). With regards to the schools falling outside municipal limits, the order said that school timings shall be from 8:30am to 1:30 pm, the order added.

### LG Urges Public

celebrated across J&K with mass participation in Yoga demonstrations, awareness drives, and wellness activities in schools, government offices, and public spaces.

### Trump's Iran

informing Trump's change in posture. Speaking via White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Trump said he is "closely watching developments" and weighing U.S. involvement in what is now an all-out war between Iran and Israel — a war that has entered its seventh day with escalating casualties on both sides. The centerpiece of Trump's military dilemma is Iran's Fordow enrichment facility, buried under over 100 meters of mountain rock near Qom. It is considered impervious to all but America's GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator — the largest conventional bomb in the U.S. arsenal. Israel lacks the aircraft needed to deliver such munitions, and Trump is aware that even U.S. involvement would require major escalation. Meanwhile, Israel's latest retaliatory strike came hours after Iranian missiles struck Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba and nearby buildings, wounding at least 240 people. In response, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz issued a chilling threat toward Iran's Supreme Leader: "This man absolutely should not continue to exist." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he trusted Trump to "do what's best for America" but emphasized ongoing U.S. support: "I can tell you that they're already helping a lot."

The broader strategic picture remains grim. The Bloomberg analysis, based on satellite images taken up to June 17, shows Natanz and Isfahan facilities — key to Iran's nuclear fuel cycle — remain largely functional. While Israel's strikes damaged some external electrical components, experts say repairs could be completed in months. "They did damage but left a lot intact," said Robert Kelley, former IAEA inspector and U.S. satellite analysis lab director. Kelley emphasized the sophistication of Iran's nuclear defenses: "Any competent designer will have backup power. The problem is that Iran prepared for this decades ago."

At Isfahan, reportedly struck on June 15, imagery showed only minor impacts. More alarmingly, the 409-kilogram stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium stored there is now unaccounted for. UN inspectors confirm they have not had access to the site since the strikes began on June 13. "In a time of war, all nuclear sites are closed. No inspections, no normal activity can take place," IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told Bloomberg. Iran has since moved its enriched uranium under "special measures," potentially storing it in as few as 16 small canisters — making detection and tracking exceedingly difficult.

According to Iranian estimates, 657 people — mostly civilians — have died in Iran, and over 2,000 have been wounded, Israel reports 24 dead and hundreds injured with widespread material damage. Iran, according to one estimate, has so far pounded Israel with 450 missiles and 1,000 drones. Military censorship bars any reports about damage to 'sensitive' sites in Israel.

Meanwhile as military tensions crest, a diplomatic path may be forming. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi landed in Geneva for emergency talks with the EU and foreign ministers from the UK, France, and Germany. British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff at the White House, said: "A window now exists within the next two weeks to achieve a diplomatic solution." That timeline aligns with Trump's stated decision window — a window now shaped not only by geopolitics, but also by the hard reality revealed in satellite images: Iran's nuclear infrastructure was built to survive, and it has.

### Moscow's Chilling

warning that such a strike would ignite regional extremism, destabilize West Asia, and potentially draw in other global powers. "They will open Pandora's box," Peskov said.

His comments come as tensions surge in the ongoing war between Israel and Iran, now in its second week, and amid signs that the U.S. under President Donald Trump may deepen its involvement. Trump said this week that assassinating Khamenei was "not happening — at least not yet," confirming prior reports that he had rejected an Israeli plan to do so but has left the option open.

The Kremlin has grown increasingly alarmed, especially after Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz declared Thursday that eliminating Iran's top leadership was now part of Israel's war aims: "Such a man [Khamenei] can no longer be allowed to exist."

Russia and Iran signed a strategic partnership agreement in January 2025, and Tehran has supplied drones and missiles to Moscow for its war in Ukraine. While Israel has remained officially neutral on Ukraine, it has criticized Iran for aiding Russian aggression.

Peskov reiterated that any direct attack on Ayatollah Khamenei would be met with a "very negative" response from Russia, though he stopped short of outlining military retaliation. He stressed that Iran itself would likely take the lead in any response. "It will only lead to another round of confrontation and escalation," he warned.

Since Israel began targeting Iranian nuclear sites and senior officials on June 13, over 224 Iranian civilians have reportedly been killed, though independent confirmation is pending. Iran responded with large-scale missile and drone attacks on Israeli cities, escalating a war that is now drawing in wider global attention — and warnings from Moscow that it may not remain on the sidelines.

### Iran Lifts Airspace

city of Mashhad. Mohammad Javad Hosseini, the deputy chief of mission at the Iranian embassy, said more evacuation flights could be operated in the coming days to bring back Indians if required. The Indian nationals were moved to Mashad from Tehran following Israeli attacks on the Iranian capital city, PTI reported. The evacuation flights, to be operated by Iranian airline Mahan,

are being arranged by New Delhi and the first flight is scheduled to arrive in Delhi on Friday evening.

Another flight, carrying Indian nationals from Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat will also land in Delhi. The Indians returning on the flight had left Iran through a land border crossing.

India launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to bring back its nationals from Iran and Israel in view of the precarious security situation arising out of Iran-Israel hostilities.

The first charter flight carrying Indians is set to land in Delhi on Friday evening.

"We consider Indians as our own people. Iran's airspace is closed but because of this issue, we are making arrangements to open it for the safe passage of Indian nationals," Hosseini said at a media briefing.

"We consider Indian nationals to be our own people. They are like Iranians," he added.

"About 1,000 Indians, who were relocated from Tehran to Qom and then to Mashad, will be evacuated to New Delhi on three charter flights," Hosseini said.

"The first flight will land tonight at the New Delhi airport and there will be two more flights on Saturday," he said.

The Iranian diplomat said more such flights could be arranged in the coming days if required.

Hosseini said Tehran is in close contact with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian embassy in Iran to ensure safe evacuation of Indian nationals.

"We are arranging for the safe passage of Indians who want to leave via air or via road through three countries or directly from Iran," he said.

The Iranian diplomat also said that all Indians in Iran are safe. At the same time, he said a few Indian students sustained injuries after an Israeli air strike hit a students' dormitory in Tehran a few days back.

A total of 110 Indian students were brought back to India on Thursday after they were moved from Iran to Armenia through a land border crossing.

Hosseini said about 10,000 Indians are living in Iran and those wishing to return home are being evacuated.

The Israel-Iran military hostilities began more than a week back.

### 500 Kashmiri Students

special Mahan' air flights from Mashhad, Iran, to New Delhi.

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) in a statement said, "Three special Mahan Air flights are scheduled to bring back around 1,000 Indian students, including 500 Kashmiri students from Mashhad, Iran, to New Delhi tonight and tomorrow."

Nasir Khuehami, National Convenor JKSA said, "Three Mahan Air flights will bring Indian students back to New Delhi from Mashhad. A total of 1,000 students will be returning on these special flights."

He said, "Despite the closure of airspace, a special exception has been granted for the evacuation of Indian students. Around 500 Kashmiri students are among those returning."

About flight timings, Khuehami said, "The flights are scheduled to arrive on Friday night at 11:30 PM IST, Saturday morning at 10:00 AM IST, and Saturday evening at 4:30 PM IST." He added that, as these are special flights, the timings may be subject to change.

Regarding arrangements for travel from Delhi to Srinagar, he stated, "Transportation has been arranged. Deluxe AC buses are ready at Delhi Airport. The matter was taken up with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's advisor, Nasir Sogami, who confirmed that all concerned officers have been informed. Students will be directly facilitated from Delhi Airport to TRC Srinagar."

Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani also informed the Association that transport facilities are in place at Delhi Airport and all relevant departments have been duly informed.

Pertinently, the Embassy of India in Tehran on Monday had said that it has made arrangements for evacuation of Indian students and may be permitted to leave the Universities.

The Embassy of India, Tehran in an official communique to different universities said, "We have made arrangements for their evacuation. They may be permitted to leave the University, as being facilitated by the Embassy of India, Tehran. The Embassy of India, Tehran takes this responsibility for this planned movement and security of the Indian students."(KNO)

### Is Aga Ruhullah Forming

the quality of politics has "degraded" and changing political parties would not make a difference.

"The quality of politics that we have has degraded. It will not make a difference if you change the parties; we have seen people changing parties. Until you change the politics, we will continue to see this 'tamasha'. I request the society to stand for the reform and change the entire politics," he said.

"No one is satisfied with the quality of the polity in this state. I am totally not satisfied," he added.

The absence of NC leaders at the event also caught attention. Responding to this, Ruhullah said he was invited by civil society members and saw no reason to decline.

"I was invited by the organisers, who are part of civil society. Whether any political party comes or not, it was not for a political reason, even if it is my political party."

"If they felt it was not right to attend, they have their own choice, but if someone invites me, I will not ask them whether you have voted or not (for him)," he said.

He also called for the reservation report sent by the cabinet sub-committee to the law department to be made public. "It should be made public, discussion should be held on that with the people. If it has been sent to the law department, it should be concluded within a week," he said.

### Withheld Reservation

what decisions are being made about their rights and opportunities. "You Can't Hijack Legal Process": Omar

CM Omar Abdullah on Friday defended the government's handling of the reservation report, stating that it is a legal matter currently under the scrutiny of the Law Department, and cannot be rushed or politicised.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Omar said, "The Law Department has to examine it. You cannot hijack it. It is a legal document and needs proper legal review."

Taking on critics who accuse the government of delaying the process, the Chief Minister retorted, "If my intention was to buy time, I would have granted a six-month extension to the sub-committee. Do you possess any mechanism to compel me to finalise the report within six months? How many committees have finalised their report within six months?"

Omar launched a sharp attack on PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, accusing her of political opportunism on the issue of reservation. "With what face does the PDP speak about reservation? When she needed votes, Mehbooba Mufti imposed a ban on her party leaders from speaking on the issue. Should I show you her tweets where she clearly stated that 'nobody is authorised to speak on reservation?'"

"She was contesting from Anantnag-Rajouri and remained silent to secure votes from Rajouri and Poonch. That was a clear compromise," he alleged.

The Chief Minister also criticised People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone for his recent comments on reservation, calling them hypocritical. "What can I say about Sajad Lone? He was closely aligned with the government when the reservation rules were changed. At that time, our security was withdrawn, and we were evicted from government houses. He remained silent while continuing to live in a government house. Why didn't he speak then?"

### CM Rejects Proposal

"Right now, Jammu is facing water scarcity... There is no water in the taps. Why should I send water to Punjab? Punjab already has three rivers as per the Indus Water Treaty. Has Punjab

given us any water?" he said.

The chief minister highlighted that when Jammu and Kashmir was desperate for water, Punjab did not share water from the Ujh multipurpose project and Shahpur Kandi barrage.

"They made us suffer for years, and only after a prolonged struggle did they take some steps," he said.

"We will use it (water) first, and only then consider others' needs," he added.

Speaking about the Indus Water Treaty, he said the government is working on two key projects -- The Tulbul Barrage, work on which should resume soon, and the pumping of water from the Chenab River at Akhnor to supply drinking water to Jammu city.

Omar also expressed hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government will stand by their commitment to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are hopeful that the prime minister, who made a promise to the people and reiterated that promise during the Sonamarg event and afterwards too, and the government will stand by their commitment, and Jammu and Kashmir will get back its status as a state."

Asked if taking the legal route was under consideration, he said, "When the time comes to talk about legal options, I will call you."

On the issue of reservation in government services raised by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, he said, "How can Mehbooba Mufti speak on this issue now? Check her past tweets (posts on X); she remained silent on this earlier. Now she is showing fake sympathy."

He said the Law Department is examining the report on the issue of reservation. Once the report comes back, the Cabinet will hold discussions on it.

### CM Presses

why I am saying that the business rules accepted by the cabinet should be signed by the LG and returned to end the confusion over power distribution," Omar told reporters.

He reiterated that the elected government is responsible for all departments except security. "We have been saying that the Lt Governor has only one responsibility, i.e. to secure the people of J&K. The rest is our responsibility," he said.

The clarification comes days after LG Manoj Sinha, on June 14, outlined that only the Police Department falls under his direct control, while departments like roads, water, power, and agriculture fall within the purview of the elected government.

Omar also provided an update on the evacuation of people from Iran amid the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict. "We cannot evacuate everyone in a single night. No port or airport is open in Iran at present. We have been shifting the stuck people to safer places and then evacuating them back home," he said, adding that around 400 more students from J&K were expected to return today.

Commenting on the conflict, the chief minister questioned Israel's recent attack on Iran. "There was no reason to bombard Iran at a time when even the American intelligence chief has said Iran is nowhere close to building a nuclear weapon. This needs to stop, and issues should be resolved through dialogue," he added.

### Train Demand Soars,

Nasir Aslam Wani. They returned to Srinagar this afternoon.

Raising the issue of high demand for train travel, Omar said, "The number of passengers is high, but there are fewer trains."

A request will be made to the Railway Ministry and the Railway Minister to increase the capacity as the tickets are reportedly unavailable until next month, he added. Earlier on June 10, the National Conference president took his maiden ride on this train from Srinagar to Katra and said that he was overwhelmed to see Kashmir finally getting connected to the country's rail network.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express on June 6 after visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station as part of his visit to Jammu and Kashmir.



DAY 1

# Ton-Up Gill, Jaiswal Lead India To 359/3 At Stumps



Press Trust of India

**LEEDS:** Y Yashasvi Jaiswal and captain Shubman Gill announced their readiness to carry India's batting into the post Virat Kohli-Rohit Sharma era, striking marvellous hundreds to guide the visitors to a dominant 359 for three against a faltering England on the first day of the opening Test here on Friday.

Gill (127 batting) and Jaiswal (101, 159b) shared a 129-run partnership for a determined third wicket alliance that carried India to 221 from a slightly wobbly 92 for two after KL Rahul (42) and debutant B Sai Sudharsan (0) were dismissed in quick succession.

Rishabh Pant (65 batting) was keeping vigil with Gill at close.

But there was an underlying significance to the centuries of Jaiswal and Gill other than giving India a head-start on the first day of the newly-minted five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

This Indian batting line-up is a tad thin on experience after the recent retirements of former skipper Kohli and Ro-

hit, who played at the pivotal No. 4 and opening slots in their illustrious careers.

Both Jaiswal and Gill are not newcomers to the unforgiving Test arena, but there has been this widespread anxiety over how the 'New Gen' India stars would step into the big shoes of their predecessors.

But the portends are quite bright, if the day's innings by Jaiswal and Gill are anything to go by.

Jaiswal was the first to reach the three-figure mark, the fifth in his flourishing career, off 144 balls and Gill reached his own landmark off 140 balls in the final passage of the day, heralding the start of a new era in Indian cricket.

But the way they reached that point was entirely different. Jaiswal eschewed his natural flair as the first session offered its own share of assistance to the English bowlers in the shape of movement and carry.

However, it was an altogether different matter that the home bowlers were not prudent enough to exploit that offering, and later the pitch eased up considerably.

But a flaccid track and a fangless England attack without James Anderson or Stuart Broad could not take the sheen out of the knocks of Jaiswal and Gill.

It was not a typical Jaiswal innings where he simply played the bowlers around, but he showed admirable self-restraint, particularly outside the off-stump.

The left-hander was dismissed in that channel a couple of times while playing for India A against the England Lions in the recent tour matches, but here the 23-year-old did not repeat his mistakes.

He celebrated with gusto too — a roar and leap into the Headingley sky. England could not be blamed for imagining the Indian batter repeating his 712-run effort he managed last year during a home series.

If Jaiswal's innings was more about adaptation, Gill's knock was all about following his natural batting doctrine, which has its fundamentals in timing and elegance.

The right-hander played shots with minimum follow-through through on-side and with a flourish on the off-side.

## Budgam Schools Embrace Yoga Ahead Of Yoga Day



In anticipation of International Yoga Day 2025, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam has ramped up its initiatives to spread awareness about the importance of yoga among school children.

Students from various schools took part in guided yoga sessions during their morning assemblies, led by trained instructors from YSS. The sessions focused on proper posture, breathing techniques, and mindfulness, helping children grasp the essence of yoga in a practical and interactive manner.

To further engage students, many schools hosted creative competitions such as poster making and essay writing on yoga-related themes. Students also compiled informative scrapbooks featuring yoga poses, their significance, and health benefits.

With the support of teachers and physical education staff, students actively performed a number of essential yoga asanas and learned about the physical and mental wellness that regular yoga practice can bring.

## India, England Observe Silence For Plane Crash Victims

India and England players along with on-field umpires observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad ahead of the first Test here on Friday.

In the gruesome accident of the Air India flight to London, 270 people, including 241 passengers and crew on board, were killed on June 12.

Players of both teams also wore black armbands as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the crash in Ahmedabad last week.

"What happened in the aircraft (crash), I think the whole India was disheartened but at the same time the only thing from our side... we are going to be sticking with them, how we can make India happy again," vice-captain Rishabh Pant had told media here on Wednesday.

On the cricketing front, top-order batter B Sai Sudharsan became the latest Test entrant for India, and he will bat at No. 3.

India under new captain Shubman Gill are searching for their first Test series win on England shores since 2007.

## Bavuma Out; Maharaj To Captain SA In Zimbabwe

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has been ruled out of the two-Test series against Zimbabwe that starts in Bulawayo on June 28 after he failed to recover from a hamstring injury sustained in the World Test Championship final win over Australia at Lord's.

Bavuma was injured in the second innings of South Africa's five-wicket victory, soldiering on as he scored a crucial 66 in a match-winning third-wicket stand of 147 with centurion Aiden Markram.

Keshav Maharaj will captain the side in Bavuma's absence, with no replacement named in the squad for the latter.

The first Test will be played from June 28-July 2 at the Queens Sports Club, with the second also in Bulawayo from July 6-10.

**Revised South Africa squad:**

Keshav Maharaj (Captain), David Bedingham, Matthew Breetzke, Dewald Brevis, Corbin Bosch, Tony de Zorzi, Zubayr Hamza, Kwena Maphaka, Wiaan Mulder, Luan-dre Pretorius, Lesego Senokwane, Prenelan Subrayen, Kyle Verreynne, Codi Yusuf, and Lungi Ngidi (second Test only).

## India Tops WADA List Of Doping Offenders

India's doping woes came to the fore once again with the country topping the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2023 testing figures among countries which analysed 5,000 or more samples even as the sports ministry promised an "aggressive clean-up" and an amended Anti-Doping Act after addressing objections from the WADA.

India's positivity rate for banned substances stood at 3.8 percent -- 214 Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) from 5606 samples. The sample size was significantly higher from 2022 when 3865 tests returned an AAF rate of 3.2 percent.

Of the 5606 tests, 2,748 were conducted in competition. India's positivity rate for banned substances was significantly higher than China (28,197 samples, 0.2 percent AAF rate), USA (6798 samples, 1.0 percent AAF rate), France (11,368 samples, 0.9 percent AAF rate), Germany (15,153 samples, 0.4 per cent AAF rate) and Russia (10,395 samples, 1.0 percent AAF rate).

As compared to India's 214, France, Russia, USA, China and Germany recorded 105, 99, 66, 60 and 57 AAFs respectively.

Athletics leads the number of India's positive cases with 61 AAFs from 1223 samples.

# Sports Department's Yoga Wave Sweeps Across Districts



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In build-up to International Yoga Day 2025, the Department of Youth Services and Sports is spearheading a massive campaign across all sports zones of J&K to promote yoga for physical and mental well-being.

Under the overarching theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," schools and communities have been actively participating in yoga sessions, competitions, and awareness programs. The initiative, supervised by Secretary to Government, Department of YSS, Sarmad Hafeez, and Director General, Anuradha Gupta, has witnessed overwhelming enthusiasm from students, physical education teachers and citizens.

**DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Doda:** Over 1,185 students (625 boys and 560 girls) are undergoing intensive yoga training ahead of the mega event on June 21. Qualified YSS trainers are conducting sessions to ensure flawless participation.

**Ganderbal:** The 'Yoga Run-Up' initiative saw spirited participation, with GHSS Ganderbal (60 girls + 12 staff), BHS Shalabugh (72 students), and GHS Shalabugh (150 students) leading the charge.

**Anantnag:** Pre-event yoga

sessions were held across all zones, engaging thousands. Bijbehara (427 students), Verinag (530 participants), Achabal (925 attendees), and Mattan (940 students) stood out.

**Kishtwar:** A record-breaking 18,952 students performed yoga during morning assemblies in schools like GHSS Sounder, HSS Dool, and DMP HSS Kishtwar.

**Rajouri:** Community-wide pre-celebrations emphasized yoga's role in a balanced lifestyle, with events in parks, schools, and community halls.

**Reasi:** Awareness programs in Chassana, Pouni, and Arnas zones saw active involvement from students and locals, fostering a culture of holistic health.

Similar activities were organized across other districts of J&K.

In Baramulla, over 700 students demonstrated yoga at Eco Park Khadniyar in collaboration with the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Bandipora reported 1,380 participants practicing various asanas, while Hawal sports Zone in Srinagar conducted dedicated yoga awareness programs ahead of the main event.

While throwing light on the importance of the Yog, DG YSS said that the Department of YSS has integrated yoga into its annual activity calendar.



# PSG Go From European Glory To Club World Cup Woe

Agencies

**MIAMI:** European champions Paris St Germain arrived at the Club World Cup aiming to be crowned kings of the global game but defeat by Botafogo on Thursday showed the tournament will be a true test of their mettle and not just a celebratory lap of honour.

The Ligue 1 winners went down 1-0 to Brazilian champions Botafogo at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, a result that threw Group B wide open and deflated the mood in the PSG camp after their emphatic 4-0 win over Atletico Madrid in their opener.

Desire Doue, who scored twice in PSG's 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan in the Champions League final last month, said failing to take their chances had cost them.

"We weren't efficient," the attacking midfielder said.



"We had a lot of chances. They only had two or three shots and they scored. They were very efficient in front of our goal."

Botafogo's compact, aggressive approach exposed signs of fatigue in PSG's ranks after a long season in domestic and European football.

They had adjusted their schedule in California to allow players afternoons off to recover between training sessions.

Coach Luis Enrique also rotated his squad, starting without regulars Joao Neves, Nuno Mendes, Fabian Ruiz and Marquinhos, who were introduced after halftime in search of a spark.

But even with the reinforcements PSG failed to break through a determined Botafogo defence. The decisive moment came in the 36th minute when Igor Jesus beat Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Luis Enrique did not look for excuses and praised the Copa Libertadores champions for their approach.

"Botafogo were the best defensive side we've come up against all season — both in our league and in the Champions League. They were excellent," the Spaniard said.

"They were simply highly efficient, very compact, and always had the threat of hitting us in transition. They scored a great goal through Jesus, and that gave them a real injection of belief.

"We didn't create the number of chances we're used to. We're very accustomed to working against teams defending deep — but it's always difficult to break one down. In this case, Botafogo did it very well, and I congratulate them for it."

Despite enjoying long spells of possession, PSG lacked their usual sharpness and Doue said the defeat should serve as a wake-up call.



Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR OBSERVER



KO PODCAST

# OK OPTICIANS




STYLE YOU CAN AFFORD  
QUALITY YOU CAN SEE  
SHOP NOW

## New Year DHAMAKA Sale

UP TO 40% OFF

BLUE CUT JUST 299  
CRIZAL 1399 PROGRESSIVE JUST 800  
AT GONIKHAN MARKET 7006603055



## JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK EMPLOYEES UNION

AFFILIATED TO ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Camp office: P.C. DEPOT QAMARWARI SRINAGAR KASHMIR 190001

All Members,

### NOTIFICATION

In terms of Clause 20 (d) of the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Employees Union Kashmir The schedule of Activities to be carried by The Election Committee is notified as under:

Date of issue of Nomination Forms:	21.06.2025
Last Date for Filing of Nomination:	25.06.2025
Last Date for Withdrawal:	28.06.2025
Date for Issuance of List of contestants:	30.06.2025
Date of Polling:	12.07.2025

The elections will be held in terms of Clause 20 (f), (g), (h) and (i) of the constitution.

With Revolutionary Greetings

Sd/- Com Sajad Hussain  
Election Convenor

# 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