



## Transforming India through Modern Infrastructure

12

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164 Vande Bharat Trains making railway travel modern and high-speed

Construction of Mega Infrastructure Projects like Atal Setu, Sudarshan Setu, Chenab Rail Bridge and Bogibeel Bridge

CBC 37101/13/0002/2627

## Iran, US Set To Sign Peace Deal In Geneva



### Agencies

Washington: The United States and Iran have finalised a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to end more than 100 days of conflict, terminate a U.S. naval blockade against Iran and reopen the strategic Strait of Hormuz, marking the most significant diplomatic breakthrough between the longtime adversaries in decades.

The agreement, brokered by Pakistan and Qatar after months of indirect negotiations, is

scheduled to be formally signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil supply passes, is expected to reopen following the signing ceremony, easing concerns over prolonged disruptions to global energy markets.

Trump Hails "Great Deal" U.S. President Donald Trump announced the breakthrough on Truth Social, declaring that the agreement would restore maritime traffic and | [More on P6](#)

## CM Signals Fresh Movement On Reservation Proposal, Cabinet Nod Soon

Says NC To Go Ahead With Jantar Mantar Protest Over Statehood

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government's reservation proposal is set to return to the Cabinet after the Centre sought clarifications on the recommendations submitted earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Omar said the government has prepared its response to the queries raised by New Delhi and the matter will be placed before the Cabinet within the next few days for approval before being sent back to the Centre.

"The reply is ready. Within two or three days there will be a Cabinet meeting which will approve the response and send it back to Delhi," he said. The Chief Minister said the government had already completed its exercise through the Cabinet Subcommittee constituted to examine the reservation issue.



According to Omar, the committee prepared its report, which was approved by the Cabinet and subsequently forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor before being sent to the Central Government for consideration.

However, the proposal was later returned after the Centre sought certain clarifications.

"Whatever we had to do, we did it. The Cabinet Subcommittee prepared the report and after Cabinet approval it was sent to the Lieutenant Governor, who forwarded it to Delhi. The

Central Government sought some clarifications and returned the file," he said.

The reservation issue has emerged as one of the most closely watched matters in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly among students, job aspirants and various social groups seeking changes in the existing reservation framework.

While Omar did not disclose the nature of the clarifications sought by the Centre or the contents of the government's response, his remarks indicate that the proposal has once again

### CM Directs Round-the-Clock Muharram Preparedness

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday directed all departments to ensure seamless arrangements for Muharram-2026 across Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on uninterrupted power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation and efficient traffic management. Chairing a high-level review meeting in Srinagar, the Chief Minister said extensive groundwork for Muharram observances had already been undertaken at the district, divisional and departmental levels and stressed the need to complete all remaining works well in time. "The preparations for Muharram have not started today. Extensive

## Muharram To Begin On June 17 In J&K

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The month of Muharram-ul-Haram, marking the beginning of the Islamic New Year, will commence in Jammu and Kashmir from Wednesday, June 17, Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir Nasir-ul-Islam Farooqi announced on Monday.

Speaking to reporters, the Grand Mufti said no authentic reports regarding the sighting of the Muharram crescent moon were received from any part of the Union Territory on Monday evening.

"In view of the non-sighting of the crescent moon, the first day of Muharram-ul-Haram will be observed on June 17, Wednesday," he said.

The Grand Mufti extended greetings to the Muslim community on the advent of the Islamic New Year and prayed for peace, prosperity and communal harmony across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

He also highlighted the spiritual significance of Muharram, urging people to draw inspiration from its values of sacrifice, patience and righteousness.

Farooqi appealed to people to promote

### UAE Releases \$3bn; US Set to Unfreeze \$12bn

The United States and the United Arab Emirates have begun steps to release billions of dollars in Iranian assets as part of a broader framework linked to a peace deal between Tehran and Washington, according to media reports. The first tranche of approximately \$3 billion in Iranian foreign-exchange assets has already arrived in Tehran from the UAE, while Iran's Mehr news agency | [More on P6](#)



### PM Modi Welcomes US-Iran Deal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, and hoped the implementation of the pact will help restore peace in the region | [More on P6](#)

### MUHARRAM POSTS

## Police Register Case Over 'Provocative' SM Content

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police in central Kashmir's Budgam district have registered a case against unidentified individuals for allegedly circulating provocative social media content aimed at hurting religious sentiments and promoting enmity between communities ahead of Muharram.

In a statement, police said an FIR (No. 163/2026) has been registered at Police Station Budgam under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) following credible inputs regarding the circulation of objectionable videos | [More on P6](#)

## LG Releases Amarnath Yatra Guide Book 2026



### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday released the 15th edition of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra Guide Book 2026 at Lok Bhavan, highlighting efforts to ensure a safe and seamless pilgrimage experience for devotees.

The guide book,

brought out by the Tourism Federation of Jammu, provides pilgrims with information on registration procedures, accommodation facilities, safety protocols, medical services, emergency contacts and Yatra disciplines along both routes to the holy cave shrine.

Speaking on the occasion, the | [More on P6](#)

## 9 Gulmarg Hoteliers Face ED Summons In PMLA Case

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar, June 15: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned nine prominent hoteliers from Gulmarg, including Grand Mumtaz and Radisson Group owner Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai alias Chaya, in connection with an ongoing money laundering investigation linked to alleged irregularities in land transactions in the world-famous tourist resort.

Sources said the summons were issued under provisions of the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA), directing the hoteliers to appear before the agency and furnish financial and property-related documents.

Besides Chaya, those summoned include Mushtaq Ahmad Burza and Manzoor Ahmad Burza of the ITC Group, Nazir Ahmad Mir of M and Co, Manzoor Ahmad Khan of Hotel Khalil Palace, Abdul Hamid Dar of Hotel Mama Palace, Syed Musadiq Shah of Hotel Royal Park, Ibrahim Khan of Kolahoi Greens and Sadaf Shah of Hotel Alpine Ridge.

According | [More on P6](#)

## Land Subsidence Damages Houses, Roads In Rajouri

### Press Trust Of India

Jammu: At least half-a-dozen structures, including some residential houses, suffered damages following land subsidence in Kotli-Kalaban village of Manjakote area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Monday.

The land sinking phenomenon has affected an area spanning nearly 2.5 kilometres over the past



48 hours, causing cracks in houses, roads and agricultural fields, the officials said.

They said Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri Abhishek Sharma along with a team of officers visited the spot to examine the situation, while the Public Works Department has pressed men and machines to clear the main road which got blocked due to land sinking.

Officials said one family has been shifted to a safer location as a precautionary measure

amid close monitoring of the situation as concerns persist over the possibility of further damage in the coming days.

The exact cause of the incident can only be determined after a detailed geological investigation, they said.

Locals have blamed use of heavy machinery by contractors engaged in construction of a new highway passing through | [More on P6](#)

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Official WhatsApp No. 99990 41935



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that the registration number plate of my motorcycle has been lost/misplaced. Vehicle Registration No.: JK01AU8020 Vehicle Model: Hero Splendor+ Owner's Name: Zahid Hussain Sultan Address: Saïda Kadal, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir  
If anyone finds the above-mentioned number plate, kindly hand it over to the nearest Police Station or contact the owner. Any misuse of the lost number plate after the date of this publication shall be the sole responsibility of the person using it, and the owner shall not be held liable.  
Place: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir  
Signature of Owner: inf

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that I, Shahnaz Bano, D/o Mohammad Abas Kath & Aziza Begum, resident of Chek Bagh, Akhoo Mohalla, Srinagar (J&K), was registered with the Jammu & Kashmir State Board of School Education under Registration No. NI230084001.  
I am applying for the issuance of my original/discharge certificate from the concerned authority for official purposes. If any person has any objection regarding the issuance of the said certificate, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.  
Place: Srinagar inf

**UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**

**NOTICE**

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he has lost his University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s:-  
Name: **Haamid Hussain**  
S/o: **Mohd Ashraf Mir**  
Reg No.: **61963-Ang-2010**  
Certificate/s Lost: **B.A I<sup>st</sup>/II<sup>nd</sup>/III<sup>rd</sup> Year Marks Card**  
Roll No. **54699/71366/18107906**  
Session/Year: **Annual 2013/Bi-Annual 2015/ Dec-Jan 2018**  
Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of the notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.  
**Sd/-Asstt. Controller of Examinations (Certificates)**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 9469375828 the name is entered as ASHA BEGUM while my actual name is AISHA BEGUM. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
**AISHA BEGUM**  
W/O FAROOQ AHMAD WANI  
R/O GULWANPORA BUDGAM mcb

**SIR SYED MODEL SCHOOL  
PALAPORA BUDGAM KASHMIR-191111**

(SCHOOL U-DISE: 01040900905)

Email: ssmsschoolpalapor@gmail.com  
Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dated. \_\_\_\_\_

**List of managing body members  
SIR SYED MODEL SCHOOL PALAPORA BUDGAM KASHMIR**

| S.No | Name of the member    | Parentage                    | Residence            | Qualification | Occupation   | Designation in MB   |
|------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1    | Ghulam Qadir Bhat     | Mohammad Jabar Bhat          | Gudsathu Budgam      | Matric        | Business     | Chairman            |
| 2    | Manzoor Ahmad Bandroo | Gh Mohi ud din Bandroo       | Banderpora Khansahab | M.A B.Ed.     | Pvt. Teacher | Principal In School |
| 3    | Javaid Ahmad Bhat     | Ghulam Rasool Bhat           | Dreygam Khansahab    | M.A B.Ed.     | Pvt. Teacher | Staff Member        |
| 4    | Farooq Ahmad Bhat     | Nazir Ahmad Bhat             | Gudsathu Budgam      | M.A           | Pvt. Teacher | Staff Member        |
| 5    | Fayaz Ahmad Shah      | Ghulam Nabi Shah             | Palapora Budgam      | Graduate      | Business     | Parent member       |
| 6    | Farida Bano           | W/o Gulam Mohi ud din Ganale | Palapora Budgam      | 10+2          | Housewife    | Parent member       |
| 7    | Shafiya Jan           | W/o Shabir Ahmad Rather      | Harinoo Khansahab    | M.A B.Ed.     | Housewife    | Ex. Member          |
| 8    | Mehraj ud din Bhat    | Ali Mohammad Bhat            | Bugroo Khansahab     | Graduate      | Business     | Ex. Member          |

Chairman  
Sir Syed Model School  
Palapora Budgam

mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Sajda Begum, W/o Mohammad Amin Lone, R/o Ray, Tehsil Shopian, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my correct name is SAJIDA BEGUM, whereas my name has been wrongly recorded as SAJIDA BANU in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3246 6828 9333. Both names refer to one and the same person.  
Sajda Begum  
W/o Mohammad Amin Lone  
R/o Ray, Shopian. fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no : JK01M 4847 (Santro Car). Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Habibullah Bhat  
S/O Samad Bhat  
R/o Palhallan Pattan fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as SEHRAN FAYAZ Parentage FAYAZ AHMAD PARAY while his actual name is SEHRAN FAYAZ PARRAY S/O FAYAZ AHMAD PARRAY. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
**FAYAZ AHMAD PARRAY**  
F/O SEHRAN FAYAZ PARRAY  
R/O OMPORA BUDGAM  
CELL. 8803911819 mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that I have lost my Electric Contractor Card of Firm SSB bearin Number 1/W/C/TS/129/24 of Air force wing Budgam while travelling from Air Force Gate to Lalgam Gate. Now I want to apply for the Duplicate, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
**ABDUL MAJEED DAR**  
S/O GHULAM NABI DAR  
R/O LALGAM BUDGAM  
CELL. 9469375828 mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have applied for the issuance of a Fertilizer and Pesticides Licence. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lal Mandi, Srinagar within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.  
Humaira Manzoor  
D/o Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh  
R/o Palhallan, Pattan. FKO

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
Public Works (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA**

NO: T-1/EEA/2026-30

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

Dated: 15/06/2026

**CORRIGENDUM**

Subject: -  
1. Construction of Boys Toilet at PS Ghulbagh (S.No.278).  
Reference: -  
1. This office e-NIT No. 30/EEA/R&B/of 2026-27/2013-23 Dated 15-06-2026.

Please read village name as, "Gulabbagh" Instead of "Ghulbagh"

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-  
Technical officer

DIPK-2158/26  
DATED: 15-06-2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-042009005240 issued in favour of JAVID IQBAL TANTRAY Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD TANTRAY  
Whereas an application has been received by one JAVID IQBAL TANTRAY Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD TANTRAY wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as JAVAID AHMAD TANTRAY Parentage GH MOHAMMAD Which needs to be changed as JAVID IQBAL TANTRAY Parentage GHULAM MOHAMMAD TANTRAY.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir  
mcb

**IN THE COURT of EXECUTIVE  
MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE**

In the case of: Ishfaq Ahmad Mir S/o. Mohammad Shaban Mir R/o. Zaloor Zainagar Tehsil Zainagar ... (Applicant)

Versus

C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore (Registrar of Births and Deaths) ... (Non-Applicant)

**Notice To Public At Large**

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this cot seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of The Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/applicant's 07-01-2023 (dd/mm/yyyy) at Mohammad Azaan Mir S/o. Ishfaq Ahmad Mir as 07-01-2023 at mother & Child Hospital Sopore  
Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event, he/she shall file the same before the court in person or through counsel within days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day.  
fko Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Spore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,  
**OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE GENERAL**

High Court Complex, Jammu Kammu. 18000 (Nov-April) High Court Complex, Srinagar, 190019 [May-Oct]  
Phone No. [Srinagar] 0194-2473146. Fax-0194-2455120 [Jammu-0191-2533317, Fax-0191-2536063]  
website: www.advgenik.gov.m F-mail inktrss-jk-advocatepeneralagik.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS**

Sealed quotations are invited from registered firms/manufacturers of furniture for the repair of officer chairs and other furniture items are lying in the office of the Advocate General, at Srinagar Wing on emergent basis. The quotations must reach in the office of undersigned within five (05) days from the date of publication of this notice in the leading newspapers. The quotations shall be opened by the committee already constituted on the next working day at 2pm in presence of bidders.

The quantity of repairable chairs/other furniture items may be increased or decreased as per requirement. The repairable officer chairs and other furniture items can be inspected during office hours (10:00 AM to 4:30 PM) on any working day. The repair work shall be completed within ten (10) days from the date of issuance of the work order by the successful bidder (L1). The Sealed quotations shall be accepted by hand, through postal services and through courier services also under proper receipt. The repair work of official furniture items can be cancelled/rejected without assigning any reason.

DIPK-2146/26  
DATED: 15-06-2026

Accounts Officer  
Advocate General, J&K

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Mrs. Raja Begum, W/O Gull Mohd Sheikh, R/O Breynt Batpora, Anantnag, is applying for fixation/correction of her Date of Birth in official records on the basis of the Age Certificate issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Anantnag. Any person having any objection to the proposed Date of Birth may submit the same with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the Date of Birth as determined by the competent authority shall be deemed acceptable to all concerned.

Raja Begum  
Breynt Batpora, Anantnag. jkca

**CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES  
AND TRAINING (CCRT)**

Ministry of Culture, Government of India  
Plot No. 15 A, Sector - 7, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075

**AWARD OF SENIOR/JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING  
PERSONS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE FOR THE BATCH YEAR 2026-27**

Offline applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for the award of Junior and Senior Fellowship for undertaking research oriented projects in the field of Performing, Literary, Visual/Plastic Arts and New Areas related to Culture.

Applications are invited for the year 2026-27 with effect from dated **15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026**. There are 200 Junior & 200 Senior Fellowships for this year. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and Application Module are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and CCRT.

[www.indiaculture.nic.in](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in) & [www.ccrtindia.gov.in](http://www.ccrtindia.gov.in)

**ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

**The last date for submitting the completely filled application form by post or by hand etc. to the above mentioned address of CCRT, New Delhi is 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2026.**

**CBC 09127/11/0005/2627**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In compliance with the order dated 28.10.2025 passed by the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama, public notice is hereby issued regarding certain gold ornaments recovered in connection with FIR No. 245/2021 of Police Station Pulwama. The recovered items include one gold neck dore (set), gold chains, gold bangles (kadas), pendants (pounds), gold rings, one pair of jumkas with moti (pearls), and one pair of solid gold bangles. Any person claiming ownership or lawful entitlement to any of the aforesaid items is directed to appear before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama, with relevant proof and supporting documents. Failure to lodge a claim may result in further proceedings as per law.

By Order of the Court  
Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Mohammad Shaheen Bhat, S/o Gh. Mohammad Bhat, R/o Yall, Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby declare that I was born on 08-03-1993 at my residence in Yall, Kunzer and no Birth Certificate has ever been issued in my favour by any Government Department or Authority. I am applying for issuance of my Birth Certificate before the competent authority. If anybody has any objection regarding the particulars stated above, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period, failing which the matter shall be proceeded with as per law. fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Mohammad Shaheen Bhat, S/o Gh. Mohammad Bhat, R/o Yall, Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby declare that I was born on 08-03-1993 at my residence in Yall, Kunzer and no Birth Certificate has ever been issued in my favour by any Government Department or Authority. I am applying for issuance of my Birth Certificate before the competent authority. If anybody has any objection regarding the particulars stated above, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period, failing which the matter shall be proceeded with as per law. fko

Website: www.jkdsd.in

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

**Directorate of Skill  
Development, J&K**

Jammu: Vikram Chowk, Jammu 180004 Phone: 0191-2435190  
Srinagar: Bemina Srinagar 190018 Phone: 0194-2491613

Subject:- Extension of admission notice 2026-27/28.

In continuation to this Directorate admission notice issued under endorsement No.DSD/401/Trgs/2026/e-7905971/829-925, dated: 26-05-2026, the last date for submission of online applications alongwith the hard copies for admission in Government/Private ITIs of UT-JK, for the academic session, is 2026-27/28 hereby further extended upto 30th June, 2026.

Assistant Director Trainings  
Skill Development, J&K

NO.DSD/401/Trgs/2026/1018-1110  
DIPK-2169/26  
Dated: 15-06-2026

## 'Refined' Doesn't Mean Healthier: GMC Sgr Dispels Cooking Oil Myths

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dispelling a common misconception among consumers, the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has said that refined oil should not automatically be considered healthier than other cooking oils, stressing that the overall impact on health depends largely on the type of oil chosen, how it is used, and the quantity consumed.

In a public health awareness campaign, the department said many people associate the term "refined" with purity and superior health benefits. However, experts said that refining is merely an industrial process designed to improve appearance, taste, and shelf life, and does not necessarily make oils better for heart health. The refining process may also reduce naturally occurring antioxidants and beneficial compounds such as Vitamin E and polyphenols.

According to the advisory, accessed by Kashmir Observer, the label "refined" can often mislead consumers into believing a product is automatically healthy, clarifying that nutritional value depends more on fatty acid composition and cooking usage rather than whether the oil is refined or unrefined. Even healthier oils can become harmful if repeatedly heated, excessively used for deep frying, or reused multiple times, generating harmful oxidation products that may increase cardiovascular disease risk, it said.

"Most adults should limit visible oil consumption to around two to three tablespoons per day, depending on physical activity level," the department said. It explained that invisible fats naturally present in milk, dairy products, eggs, meat, fish, nuts, seeds, cereals, and pulses contribute significantly to total daily fat consumption and should not be overlooked.

The department identified mustard oil as one of the best choices for routine cooking due to its favourable fatty acid profile and presence of omega-3 fatty acids. Rice bran oil was recommended for occasional frying because of its high smoke point and cholesterol-lowering properties. Groundnut oil was listed as a healthy alternative due to its richness in monounsaturated fats, while soybean and sunflower oils were recommended for periodic rotation rather than exclusive use. Olive oil was suggested for salads, dressings, and low-to-medium heat cooking, while ghee was advised only in limited quantities to enhance flavour.

The advisory cautioned against frequent consumption of hydrogenated fats, vanaspati (dalda), repeatedly reheated oils, and processed foods rich in palm oil, which increase bad cholesterol and elevate heart disease risk.

The department said there is no single "perfect" cooking oil. Instead, families should focus on using healthy oils in moderation, rotating different oils occasionally, and keeping total

## Treat Public Funds as 'Sacred Trust': CM to Newly Appointed JEs Calls Upon New Recruits to Uphold Integrity

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday handed over appointment letters to 132 newly recruited Junior Engineers (Civil) of the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department at a function held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Addressing the appointees and their families, the Chief Minister described the occasion as a significant milestone in the lives of the young engineers and urged them to view their appointment not merely as a government job but as a solemn responsibility towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating the new recruits across Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah said that the appointment orders represented the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and sacrifices made by their families. He emphasized that public expectations and aspirations were attached to every government appointment and called upon the engineers to discharge their duties with honesty, integrity and professional commitment.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir expect us to use public resources responsibly and deliver quality services and infrastructure. Every rupee spent by the government belongs to the people and must be utilised judiciously for their welfare," the Chief Minister said.

Highlighting the crucial role of engineers in development, he said that roads, bridges, hospitals and other public assets created today should stand the test of time and serve future generations. He stressed that quality should never be compromised in the execution of public works.

"If a hospital is built, it should serve people for decades. If a bridge



is constructed, it should remain strong and reliable for generations. Citizens have every right to expect durable and quality infrastructure from us," he said.

The Chief Minister urged the newly appointed engineers to remain guided by professional ethics and personal accountability throughout their careers. He said that true satisfaction comes from performing one's duties honestly and efficiently, adding that every public servant must strive to ensure that they can look back at their day's work with a sense of fulfilment and integrity.

CM Omar Abdullah observed that the young engineers would play an important role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir over the next three decades of service. He encouraged them to leave behind a legacy of quality work and meaningful contributions to the region's development.

Referring to the challenges often faced in public service, the Chief Minister said that ideal conditions do not always exist and officers must be prepared to work effectively even in difficult circumstances. He maintained that sincerity of purpose and commitment to public welfare should remain the guiding principles in every situation.

The Chief Minister also advised the new recruits to serve wherever they are posted and avoid seek-

ing transfers immediately after appointments. He urged them to embrace opportunities to work in remote and underserved areas and ensure that people living in far-flung regions receive the same quality of services and infrastructure as those in urban centres.

"Take care of the people living in remote areas. Through your work, leave a lasting mark on Jammu and Kashmir. Let the quality of the roads, bridges and public infrastructure you build become your identity and contribution to society," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, while congratulating the newly appointed Junior Engineers and their families, said that the appointments carried immense responsibility towards the people and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged the engineers to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, transparency and integrity in their work and stressed that there should be no compromise on quality under any circumstances.

"As Junior Engineers, you will play a vital role in preparation of DPRs, project execution, billing processes, quality testing, monitoring and supervision of developmental works. Ensure that every project entrusted to you is executed with technical excellence and within stipulated timelines," he said.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 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**  
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
30 Zil-Hajj  
1447

| PRAYERS |       |
|---------|-------|
| FAJR    | 3: 34 |
| ZUHR    | 12:31 |
| ASR     | 5: 31 |
| Magrib  | 7:46  |
| ISHA    | 9: 28 |

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is informed to the General public that I Nazir Ahmad Wani R/O:- Kultoora applying for the issuance of Date of Birth Certificate (DOB) of my daughter namely Sobia Nazir .Her DOB is 07-11.2010. As per School and Chokidar record . If anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the (BDO) Block Development Office Langate Distt Kupwara within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Nazir Ahmad Wani F/O. Sobia Nazir  
R/O :- Kultoora .Tehsil. Langate . Distt :Kupwara. fko

## ACB Files Chargesheet against Engineer, Wife in Disproportionate Assets Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said it has filed a chargesheet against a Junior Engineer of the J&K Housing Board and his wife for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said that the ACB produced a chargesheet in FIR No. 18/2020 for offences under Section 5(1)(e) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Section 109 RPC at Police Station ACB Srinagar before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Cor-

ruption, Srinagar.

The chargesheet has been filed against two accused persons, Tariq Ahmad Ganie, Junior Engineer, J&K Housing Board, son of Ghulam Qadir Ganie and his wife, Mst. Rukhsana Jan, an Anganwadi worker in the ICDS Department. Both are residents of Aalai Gund, Chandergam, Tral, and are accused of acquiring disproportionate assets.

The spokesperson said the case was registered following a verification conducted by the Bureau against Tariq Ahmad Ganie over allegations of acquiring assets beyond his known sources of income, including huge transactions amounting to crores of rupees through

various bank accounts.

"The investigation conducted by Police Station ACB Srinagar against the accused public servant and his wife, who is working as an Anganwadi worker in the ICDS Department, has substantiated the allegations levelled against them," the spokesperson said.

He said that after obtaining the requisite sanction from the government for prosecution of the public servant, the chargesheet against both accused persons was presented before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, for judicial determination. The next date of hearing has been fixed for July 8, 2026.

## DC Budgam, SSP Srinagar visit Nowgam Railway Station

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy visited Nowgam Railway Station to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the visit, the officers conducted a comprehensive inspection of the facilities being established at the railway station for the convenience of pilgrims traveling through rail. The preparedness of various departments was reviewed with a focus on ensuring seamless movement and facilitation of Yatris arriving through the station.

## Sakeena Itoo Inaugurates Medical Camp at Zadibal



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated a comprehensive medical camp at Zadibal here aimed at ensuring accessible healthcare services and emergency medical preparedness for devotees and the general public during the sacred month.

The medical camp has been established by Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura as part of Government's extensive prepara-

tions for Muharram-ul-Haram. The camp will provide a range of healthcare services including general medical consultations, health screening, first-aid assistance, emergency care support, distribution of essential medicines and public health awareness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that the Government is committed to ensuring adequate healthcare facilities and seamless medical services during Muharram. She stated that special arrangements are being put in place across key congregation points and procession routes to cater to the healthcare needs of mourners and visitors.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**  
**CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.**

Subject: Constitution of District Level Inspection Committee(s) for Inspection of Hostels functioning in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

**Government Order No.1060-JK(GAD) of 2026**  
**Dated:09.06.2026**

Sanction is hereby accorded for constitution of District Level Inspection Committee(s), comprising the following, for inspection of Hostels functioning in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir:-

| Sl. No. | Additional District Development Commissioner                | Chairperson |
|---------|---|-------------|
| 1.      | Additional District Development Commissioner                | Chairperson |
| 2.      | Programme Officer, ICDS                                     | Member      |
| 3.      | Assistant Commissioner Development                          | Member      |
| 4.      | District Social Welfare Officer                             | Member      |
| 5.      | Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs | Member      |

*The Committee may co-opt any other officer(s), as per requirement.*

**Terms of Reference:**

- i. To conduct monthly inspections of all hostels functioning within the district.
- ii. To assess the quality and safety of food being provided to hostel inmates and compliance with food safety standards.
- iii. To assess hygiene, sanitation, cleanliness and overall living conditions within hostel premises.
- iv. To inspect kitchen facilities, drinking water facilities and waste disposal mechanisms.
- v. To assess the adequacy and condition of hostel infrastructure, including accommodation, toilets, bathrooms, electricity, ventilation and safety arrangements.
- vi. To assess the maintenance of registers, records and accounts relating to hostel management, expenditure and procurement and to verify utilization of funds and adherence to financial rules and procedures.
- vii. To recommend suitable remedial measures for improving management, safety, welfare and living conditions of hostel inmates.

*The District Level Committee(s) shall submit monthly comprehensive inspection reports containing findings and recommendations to the Deputy Commissioner concerned, who shall review the findings and recommendations and furnish the report, along with recommendations, to the concerned Administrative Department(s) for appropriate action.*

**By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.**

Sd/-  
**(M. Raju) IAS**  
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government  
Dated:09.06.2026

No. GAD-ADM0IV/94/2026-09-GAD

**DIPK-2171/26      DATED: 15-06-2026**

Form No 3  
[See Regulation -13 (1) (a)]

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
**CHANDIGARH (DRT I)**  
**2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35**  
**Sector-17 A, Chandigarh**  
Case No. OA/113/2026

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 33977

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED**  
**VS**  
**M/S IMTIYAZ AHMAD ZARGAR**

To,  
(1) M/S Imtiyaz Ahmad Zargar  
Office at: Saraf Kadal,  
Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190002

Also at:  
Opp. D.M.C Bank Saraf Kadal Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190002 (H.No 119 BSF Colony, Chanapora Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190015)

(2) Mr Imtiyaz Ahmad Zargar  
S/o: Mr Abdul Rahman Zargar (Alias Abdul Rehman Zargar) R/o: Saraf Kadal Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190002

Also at:  
Presently H.No 119, BSE Colony Chanapora Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir 190015

(3) Mr Khurshid Ahmad (Alias Khurshid Ahmad Paloo) (Alias Khurshid Ahmad Patloo)  
S/o: Mr Ghulam Nabi (Alias Ghulam Nabi Paloo) (Alias Ghulam Nabi Patloo) R/o: Indira Nagar Sonwar Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-190004

**SUMMONS**

Whereas, OA/113/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 06.04.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 2545058.93/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

- (i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 24.07.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 07.04.2026

**Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons**

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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# The Government Job Era Is Over

As courts fill with aspiring business owners rather than job seekers, a new generation in the valley is choosing to build rather than wait.



Miyan Mohammad Arif



These efforts demonstrate adaptation to present realities.

Kashmir's talent runs deep. Artisans produce world-renowned carpets, pashmina shawls, papier-mâché, walnut wood carvings, embroidery, and other crafts that sustain thousands of families while preserving heritage.

Horticulture forms the backbone of rural life, with apples, cherries, almonds, walnuts, and saffron gaining international acclaim.

Modern storage, export networks, and better market links could expand these sectors and create fresh opportunities.

Tourism brings another source of vitality. Recent seasons show strong visitor numbers that support hotels, restaurants, transport operators, guides, artisans, and traders. The sector generates both direct and indirect livelihoods and can strengthen whole communities when managed thoughtfully.

Challenges, however, remain substantial.

Many aspiring entrepreneurs face hurdles securing finance because banks demand guarantees and documentation that prove difficult for young applicants. Mentorship stays scarce, business training feels inadequate, and market connections and investor networks lag.

These disparities slow momentum even as determination grows. The region holds enormous potential. Stronger infrastructure, reliable internet, improved transport, and business facilitation would accelerate progress. Industrial estates, IT parks, food processing units, skill centres, and startup incubation hubs could multiply chances for innovation.

Education needs alignment with these demands. Curricula heavy on theory and examinations leave limited room for practical skills, entrepreneurship training, industry exposure, and career preparation.

Vocational programs focused on information technology, digital services, artificial intelligence, tourism management, healthcare, renewable energy, agriculture technology, and modern crafts would equip young people more effectively.

Women participation forms a vital piece in this matrix.

Educated women bring talent and drive that often waits for support. Women-led handicraft enterprises, online platforms, and self-help groups can boost household incomes and broaden regional growth.

Government bodies, private enterprise, educational institutions, financial organisations, and civil society share responsibility for building this environment. Investment in connectivity, tourism promotion, and startup ecosystems can reshape economic possibilities.

Young people themselves carry critical agency. They show increasing willingness to learn, adapt, and use digital tools, remote work, freelancing, and global networks that open doors beyond traditional employment.

Kashmir's greatest asset remains its people, especially its youth. Their intelligence, creativity, and determination stand ready. With genuine opportunity, encouragement, and stability, talent can flourish.

I continue to meet these young clients in court. Their files are records of devotion, defiance, and the determination to build a future on their own terms.

Every business registration, licence application, and compliance document tells the same story: a young Kashmiri choosing to shape their own destiny rather than wait for it to be shaped by others.

The author is an advocate practicing before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar. He can be reached at arifpir201@gmail.com.

### KO VIEW

## Bring Back Springs

Cities around the world are rediscovering a lesson they once ignored. Streams buried beneath roads are being uncovered, while wetlands drained for construction are being restored.

Urban planners in countries such as South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom are investing heavily in reviving natural water systems that earlier generations sacrificed in the name of development. Seoul's Cheonggyecheon stream is perhaps the best-known example.

Once covered by concrete and an elevated highway, it was restored and turned into a functioning water corridor. Similar efforts are underway elsewhere as governments confront rising temperatures, water stress and the limits of engineering solutions alone.

Kashmir should pay attention. A region long associated with lakes, rivers and freshwater springs now faces growing concerns about water availability.

Reduced snowfall, changing weather patterns, shrinking wetlands and the gradual retreat of Himalayan glaciers have raised questions about how Kashmir will meet its future water needs.

Scientists have repeatedly warned that climate change is altering water cycles across the Himalayan region, with direct consequences for communities that depend on them.

But still, public discussions often focus on large water bodies, while springs receive far less attention despite their vital historical role.

Thousands of villages and neighbourhoods once relied on these natural sources for drinking water, irrigation and daily use. Many have disappeared beneath roads, housing colonies and commercial developments. Others survive in neglected conditions, cut off from their recharge zones or clogged by pollution and waste.

Research conducted by scientists from the University of Kashmir found that the valley possesses thousands of springs with significant potential to support future water security. Their findings also pointed to growing pressures from land-use change, population growth and environmental degradation.

Recent years have seen encouraging efforts by local communities and government agencies to clean and protect several water bodies. Such initiatives have generated awareness and revived public interest in environmental conservation.

Cleaning alone, however, cannot address the scale of the challenge. Authorities need to identify and map vulnerable springs, protect recharge areas from encroachment, regulate construction around natural water sources and revive traditional channels that once sustained local ecosystems.

Development projects should include environmental planning that protects existing water systems rather than replacing them.

Housing colonies, roads and new infrastructure remain important for a growing population. Sustainable growth depends on recognizing that natural assets are infrastructure too.

A spring that continues to recharge groundwater and provide clean water delivers lasting public value beyond any construction project.

Many countries are now spending enormous sums to recover the natural systems they once erased. Kashmir still has an opportunity to protect what remains and restore what has been lost before that task becomes far more difficult.

# The Burden of Power

Structural constraints are real, but voters increasingly judge leaders by tangible improvements in employment, governance and everyday life.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

The sharpest political attacks often come from opponents, but the most revealing ones come when critics and allies begin saying the same thing.

That is the position Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah finds himself in today.

Political pressure is mounting, public frustration is growing, and questions about governance are beginning to eclipse the optimism that surrounded the National Conference's return to power after the 2024 elections.

Recent remarks from Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma captured this changing atmosphere.

Sharma mocked Abdullah by calling him a "Chief Tourist" rather than a Chief Minister, portraying him as a leader more visible at public events than in government offices.

The comment carried the sarcasm typical of political combat, but its significance lies elsewhere.

The BJP has increasingly framed Abdullah as detached from day-to-day governance and focused on symbolism rather than administration.

What makes the criticism more consequential is that a similar sentiment emerged from within the broader National Conference ecosystem.

Party MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi quipped that anyone wishing to meet the Chief Minister should organize a marathon because Abdullah seems most visible at marathon events around the country.

Political jokes rarely alter governments, but repeated criticism from rivals and voices within one's own camp can signal something more serious: growing unease about leadership, accessibility and performance.

Perception, however, is only part of the story. The larger issue is the widening gulf between public expectations and government delivery.

The National Conference returned to office carrying extraordinary political expectations. Its manifesto spoke directly to some of Kashmir's deepest concerns.

Statehood restoration, protection of identity, employment opportunities, relief for daily wagers, justice for contractual lecturers and a renewed democratic voice formed the core of its political message.

Voters invested hope in those promises during a period of profound political transition. But reality has proven far more complicated.

Jammu and Kashmir in 2026 operates under a political structure very different from the one that existed before 2019. Constitutional authority remains heavily concentrated in New Delhi. Statehood remains pending. Article 370 occupies a place in political memory, while practical politics moves in a different direction.

National Conference leaders continue raising these issues, though the Centre has shown little inclination to move at the pace many supporters anticipated.

That leaves Omar Abdullah facing a difficult balancing act.

A confrontational approach toward New Delhi risks administrative friction. A softer approach risks disappointment among supporters who expected stronger political advocacy.

Neither path provides an easy route forward. And meanwhile, everyday governance concerns continue to accumulate.



Youth dissatisfaction over reservation policies remains visible. Unemployment continues to weigh heavily on educated young people searching for opportunities. Thousands of highly qualified contractual lecturers face uncertain professional futures despite years of academic achievement. Daily wagers employed by government departments continue waiting for durable solutions.

These issues have clear administrative implications and political consequences.

Politics in Jammu and Kashmir has always operated through emotion as much as policy. Employment, recruitment, infrastructure and public services quickly become linked to larger questions of trust, identity

and public confidence. Local grievances rarely remain local for long.

Many ruling-party legislators reportedly face increasing pressure from constituents who expected faster progress after the elections. Constituency politics leaves little room for explanations about structural constraints. Citizens evaluate governments through outcomes they can see and experience.

The BJP clearly recognizes this vulnerability.

Sharma's remarks formed part of a broader effort to present the National Conference government as ineffective, divided and uncertain of its direction.

Repeated suggestions that the government may struggle to complete its full term seek to

create an atmosphere of political instability, whether such predictions prove accurate or not.

But history suggests caution before making forecasts about Jammu and Kashmir politics. Governments have survived periods of extraordinary turbulence. Others have collapsed despite appearing secure. Political certainty remains rare.

Still, public perception exerts powerful influence. Once an administration appears inaccessible or ineffective, criticism gains credibility with remarkable speed.

Abdullah's challenge therefore extends beyond managing opposition attacks.

His task is to demonstrate visible governance within the constraints of the present political framework.

Citizens understand that constitutional limitations exist, but they also expect leadership that produces tangible results despite those limitations.

Kashmir's young voters did not cast ballots solely for speeches about history. They voted for jobs, recruitment, responsive government, stability and visible leadership.

Public patience remains strongest when people see progress in their daily lives.

That is why the real threat facing the National Conference does not come from a nickname coined by an opponent.

It comes from the burden of expectations created by its own promises.

Political symbolism can inspire voters, but effective governance keeps their confidence.

The author is a teacher and researcher based in Gowhar Pora Chadoora J&K. He can be reached at bhatashraf@gmail.com.

# Healing Through Humanity

Without a clinic or title, Zahid Ashraf is creating spaces for hope and emotional recovery in Kashmir.



Gowher Bhat

Zahid Ashraf lives in a modest neighbourhood tucked between the dusty roads of Zafran Colony, Sempora, a short drive from Srinagar. His home doesn't have a signboard, and he doesn't call himself a therapist. Still, people come.

They come with heavy hearts, scattered thoughts, and stories they haven't told anyone else. Zahid listens. That's where it starts.

"I'm not a doctor," he says, "but I can sit with someone and say: what you're feeling, it's okay. It has a name. And it can get better."

Zahid, 29, studied psychology in college but never pursued a clinical license. Instead, he made mental health his way of serving people. He talks to those who are hurting, gives them books, tells them they're not alone. And sometimes, when they're ready, he connects them to a therapist.

One of them was Ubaid Manzoor, a 22-year-old who used to sit in silence for hours, lost in his own head. "I didn't know what was happening to me," Ubaid says. "I would get angry without reason. I stopped talking to friends. I thought I was broken."

Zahid noticed him during a neighbourhood gathering. They talked. Then they talked again. "He gave me a book on depression," Ubaid recalls. "And he said, read just a few pages. I did. That's when

it clicked. This is what I've been going through."

For weeks, Zahid met Ubaid over tea. Sometimes they walked. Sometimes they cooked. Eventually, Zahid helped him book an appointment with a professional. "I was scared," Ubaid says. "But Zahid bhai went with me the first time. He didn't have to, but he did. Now, I smile more. I talk. I feel lighter."

This isn't a formal program. There's no funding, no office, no team. Zahid works alone, often out of his own pocket. He keeps a growing collection of books on anxiety, grief, trauma, and healing. He lends them out, always making sure the person knows they can return it anytime, or keep it.

In his own words, "A book can be the first friend that tells you: you're not crazy."

Sometimes, he hands people a sketchbook. Or tells them to write a poem. Other times, he teaches them to cook. "Cooking helps you focus," he says. "You cut vegetables, you smell the spices, you stay in the moment." In Kashmir, where food is tied to memory and emotion, he finds it an easy doorway to peace.

His house smells of cardamom most evenings. The living room has more books than furniture. On the wall, there's a framed piece of calligraphy that reads: Sabak phir padh sadaqat ka, adalat ka, shujaat ka — lines from a famous poem about truth, justice, and courage.

Zahid doesn't speak in big statements. He speaks slowly, gently, often pausing mid-sentence to search for the right word. But his actions are clear. He volunteers at the local mosque, calls the azan, helps sweep the floors when no one's watching. Last winter, when heavy snow blocked access to a family's house nearby, Zahid and a few boys cleared the path with shovels.

"Kids in the area respect him," says Imtiaz, a neighbour. "He



**In one session at a rural school in Pulwama, he asked students to draw what fear looked like. One girl drew a locked door. Another drew a shadow. When they talked about the drawings, some of the children started to open up. "One boy said his uncle died in front of him," Zahid recalls. "He'd never spoken about it. Not once."**

never preaches. He just helps."

In recent years, Zahid started travelling to villages outside Srinagar with NGOs. He doesn't take a salary. He teaches children and parents about emotional well-being. He talks about what sadness

feels like, what stress can do to the body, and why it's okay to cry.

In one session at a rural school in Pulwama, he asked students to draw what fear looked like. One girl drew a locked door. Another drew a shadow. When they talked about

the drawings, some of the children started to open up. "One boy said his uncle died in front of him," Zahid recalls. "He'd never spoken about it. Not once."

Mental health services in Kashmir remain scarce. According

to a 2015 survey by Médecins Sans Frontières, nearly 45 percent of the population shows signs of psychological distress. Self-harm cases have lately surged. Therapists are too few, and stigma keeps many away.

"People here don't use the word depression," Zahid says. "They say, 'mera dil ghabraata hai'. They say, 'mujhe neend nahi aati'. We have to meet them where they are."

He doesn't claim to fix anyone. "I'm not the solution," he says. "I just help them see that there is one."

What sets Zahid apart isn't just what he does, it's how he does it. There's no urgency, no saviour complex. He waits. He listens. He treats people like they matter, not like they're a case to be solved.

"I think of it like watering a dry plant," he says. "You don't pull the leaves and say, grow. You give it sunlight. You wait."

Back in his neighbourhood, more young people are following his example. A cousin of his recently started reading about trauma and wants to study counseling. A group of local boys have begun volunteering at old-age homes. Zahid doesn't call this a movement. But it's moving.

When asked why he keeps doing this, even with no money or formal backing, he shrugs. "It's just what makes sense to me," he says. "I know how it feels to be lost in your head. If I can sit with someone for an hour and help them feel seen, that's enough."

In a place like Kashmir, where stories of pain often go unheard, Zahid Ashraf is building an archive of hope. Not in files or statistics, but in faces that start to smile again. In hands that learn to write, or draw, or cook. In voices that say, for the first time, "I think I need help."

He doesn't call it healing. He just calls it being human.

—The author is a Pulwama-based English language instructor.

## Raiyar-Ich Rising

Away from popular narratives, this Budgam village demonstrates how tourism, education and local initiative can drive lasting progress.



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

The first light touches Raiyar-Ich and the village stirs with birdsong.

Lush forests wrap the slopes, while the Sukhnag River murmurs through the valley like a gentle melody. Stars crowd the clear night sky, and bees hum among vibrant blooms.

This corner of Tehsil Khansahib in District Budgam feels alive with colour and calm. Travellers who arrive here discover more than scenery. They meet a community rooted in generations of harmony.

Raiyar-Ich sits just 12 kilometers from Srinagar's bustling Lal Chowk, but it belongs to a different pace.

The village forms a Panchayat Halqa with nine wards, including Bhatti Mohallah, Dinda Mohallah, Tantray Mohallah, Sheikh Mohallah, and Khan Mohallah. Locals trace the name to Kashmiri words: "Rai" for lost and "Yaar" for friend.

Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali sent his companions outward from these forests to share teachings, then walked alone toward the Dreygam cave.

That spirit of connection and journey still guides the place. Residents welcome visitors with genuine warmth and live by traditions that bind them together.

Nearby Doodhpathri draws global attention with its meadows and streams. Raiyar-Ich gains from that



**Raiyar-Ich already shows how recognition of Doodhpathri ripples outward in positive ways. With infrastructure that matches its appeal, the village can welcome more guests while keeping its character intact.**

fame while adding its own draws: Mujpathri, Sotchal Pathri, Arizal, and hidden spots that invite exploration.

The cool evening breeze carries freshness, while traditional maize bread, fragrant rajma, and rich walnuts mark local tables. Families raise livestock on time-honoured grazing lands and tend orchards that have

sustained them for centuries.

Tourism now supplements these roots. Hotels, guides, and small businesses employ young people and bring steady income to households. The shift feels organic rather than imposed.

Budgam itself holds deep layers. Once larger, the district contributed

land to Srinagar. Its spiritual heart beats at Charar-e-Shareef, the shrine of Sheikh-ul-Alam. Tosamaidan, Sukhnag, and other landscapes wait for more visitors. Raiyar-Ich sits at the center of this web, a peaceful hub for surrounding areas. Its people see progress within reach. They built on natural gifts and now seek tools to

secure the next chapter.

Education stands high among those needs. The existing high school serves many villages, but students travel daily to Khansahib for higher studies. Families shoulder those costs with effort. Upgrading the school to higher secondary level would keep learning close and open doors wider.

Livestock remains vital for the village. Protecting grazing areas preserves a way of life that feeds families and maintains the landscape.

Skill centers focused on computers and practical trades would equip unemployed youth for broader careers. Housing schemes that reach deserving homes would improve daily

comfort and signal real commitment to rural futures. Road work on the Bhatti Mohallah-Tangnar link would ease movement, connect tourists to authentic experiences, and spark new economic flows.

Each request grows from lived reality, as locals know their land and ally it takes to thrive there.

Visitors experience this directly. They walk forest trails at dusk and feel the air soften tension. They share meals with hosts who treat strangers like friends, and witness a place where cultural richness and natural abundance meet daily effort.

Sustainable tourism builds on this foundation. It rewards preservation instead of extraction, and spreads benefits through the community instead of concentrating them.

Raiyar-Ich already shows how recognition of Doodhpathri ripples outward in positive ways.

With infrastructure that matches its appeal, the village can welcome more guests while keeping its character intact.

The path forward lies in partnership. Government schemes for skills and housing, targeted road projects, and educational upgrades can unlock potential that already exists here.

Local leaders understand the balance. They see tourism as an ally to farming and herding rather than a replacement. They envision their children playing in a park, studying nearby, and returning to contribute.

Raiyar-Ich embodies what thoughtful progress looks like in Kashmir: measured, community-led, and deeply tied to the environment.

Travelers seeking authenticity find it in these hills. They discover a village that works with nature instead of against it, and meet families proud of their walnuts and their welcome.

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# Trump's G7 History: Insults, Clashes and Awkward Moments

## Agencies

Washington: President Donald Trump is heading to France on Monday to meet with an ideologically diverse group of world leaders who have at least one thing in common: All have either found themselves the target of Trump's ire, or have been forced to negotiate awkward moments with the US leader.

Several of the G7 leaders have faced Trump's wrath for questioning his war of choice with Iran. Trump has beefed with some over tariffs. And the leaders of Japan and Germany have endured sitting through clumsy asides by Trump about dark moments in their countries' histories.

During three days of talks in the bucolic French Alps, the leaders are expected to discuss the newly minted agreement aimed at ending the Iran war, Chinese trade policy, and Russia's war in Ukraine. It's also a chance to take measure of their relationship with Trump at a moment when the US leader seems more determined than ever to go it alone on matters of global consequence.

The dynamics of the summit are not unlike a family holiday gathering where "there's an uncle you don't quite like," said Max Bergmann, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and

## International Studies.

"And no one wants to have a confrontation, even if things get quite passive-aggressive at times," Bergmann said. "But, you know, there's always the possibility that things might snap, and it might get rather dramatic."

Here's a look at some of the notable moments of public friction and uncomfortable exchanges between Trump and his fellow G7 leaders.

Starmer is no Churchill in Trump's eyes

Trump's criticism of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has focused on the United Kingdom's reluctance to assist US military strikes on Iran, British immigration policies, and the country's renewable energy strategies.

But his most cutting jab at Starmer came after the Labour Party leader initially declined to allow US military jets to use a British base in the Indian Ocean for the bombardment of Iran. "This is not Winston Churchill that we're dealing with," Trump said of Starmer, comparing him unfavourably to Britain's revered World War II-era prime minister.

Trump in the first days of the Iran war tore into the prime minister after the UK placed the aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales on advanced readiness status to potentially deploy to



the Middle East.

"We don't need people that join wars after we've already won!" Trump said on social media.

The prime minister who Trump likes to call governor Trump has fumed about trade imbalances with Canada, frequently opines about annexing Canada and making it the "51st state," and has taken to referring to Prime Minister Mark Carney as "governor."

His sharpest rhetoric toward the leader of America's northern neighbour came after Carney at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, condemned coercion by great powers on smaller countries without mentioning Trump's name.

"Canada lives because of the United States," Trump said in his own remarks at Davos. "Remember that, Mark, the next time you make your

statements."

Carney has tried to remain even-keeled over Trump's jabs. The prime minister told reporters earlier this month that Trump was an "exceptionally active user of social media" and that he was not going to respond to everything he posts.

Trump mocks Macron's marriage and questions France's reliability During an Easter lunch at the White House in April, Trump criticised France and other NATO countries' resistance to assisting the US-Israel war against Iran.

In the midst of the aside, Trump referred to viral video footage from last year which captured Macron's wife, Brigitte, appearing to push the French president's face away as they were getting off a plane during a visit to Vietnam.

Trump told the audience that Brigitte treats Macron "extremely badly" and said that the French president was "still recovering from the right to the jaw."

Macron afterward told reporters that the couple had been simply joking around and said Trump's comments were "neither elegant nor appropriate."

Trump regularly regales audiences with his prowess as a deal-maker by recounting conversations he's had with Macron about trade irritants, mimicking Macron's responses in an exaggerated accent. In Trump's retelling, Macron always quickly capitulates.

The conservative premier who Trump suggests lacks courage

Until recently, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had been held in high regard by Trump.

In October, Trump was effusive in his praise of the conservative premier when world leaders gathered in Egypt for a summit to discuss post-war Gaza, calling her "a very successful, very successful politician" and "beautiful."

But Trump has since changed his tune as Italy declined to assist the United States in the war against Iran and after the premier chastised Trump for feuding with Pope Leo XIV about the conflict.

"Do people like her? I can't believe it," Trump said of Meloni, to Milan newspaper Corriere della Sera. He added: "I thought she had courage. I was wrong."

An awkward historical reference in the Oval Office

Trump hasn't offered any direct criticism of Japan's Sanae Takaichi since she took office in October.

But some of his commentary during Takaichi's first White House visit left the prime minister in an awkward position.

When asked by a Japanese reporter why he didn't tell allies in Europe and Asia before the US attacked Iran, Trump casually invoked Pearl Harbour to defend his decision.

"Who knows better about surprise than Japan?" Trump said with Takaichi by his side. "Why didn't you tell me about Pearl Harbor, OK?"

Trump's remark surprised many people in Japan, who had grown accustomed to American presidents avoiding harsh discussion of Japan's surprise strike on the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii that pushed the US into World War II. His predecessors have instead focused on deepening ties with Japan, which became an ally after the war.

Takaichi, a hard-line conservative, received a mix of praise and criticism at home for not reacting to the comments by Trump, letting them pass with

a glance at her ministers seated nearby.

Chancellor's Iran war criticism infuriated Trump

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz set off Trump in April when he posited the US was "being humiliated" by Iran and criticised the US for going into the war without any strategy, saying that also made it harder to end the conflict.

Trump hit back on social media the following day, saying Merz "should spend more time on ending the war with Russia/Ukraine" and "fixing his broken Country, especially Immigration and Energy."

Days later, the Pentagon announced it would pull some 5,000 US troops out of Germany and Trump hinted he'd look to cut the US military presence "a lot further."

Trump also had an awkward exchange with Merz when the chancellor visited the White House last year on the eve of the solemn anniversary of D-Day, the start of Allied operations which led to the liberation of Western Europe, the defeat of Nazi Germany and end of World War II.

Merz noted the anniversary while making the case that the US was once again in a position to help end a conflict with enormous stakes for Europe -- Russia's war against Ukraine -- when Trump interjected that D-Day was "not a pleasant day for you."

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Iran, US Set

end the blockade imposed during the conflict.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all," Trump wrote.

In a subsequent post, Trump said he was authorising the removal of the naval blockade and the reopening of the strategic waterway.

"I hereby fully authorise the toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz and, simultaneously, authorise the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade. Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!"

Trump later clarified that the Strait would formally reopen following the signing ceremony on Friday.

Describing the accord as a historic achievement, Trump said:

"This Great Deal will bring Peace and Security to the whole Region. Many presidents have tried to make Peace with Iran, and all have failed before me."

"The Leaders of the Region have, for the first time, found a President who can help them achieve real Peace."

Speaking to reporters in France on Monday, Trump confirmed that U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance would lead the American delegation at the Geneva signing ceremony.

"I may be involved, I may not," Trump said when asked whether he would attend the event personally.

He added that the full text of the memorandum would be released "pretty soon ... sometime after Friday."

Vance to Lead U.S. Delegation

Vance said the framework agreement had already been digitally signed on Sunday by both sides and that Friday's ceremony would formalise the accord.

"We already signed the deal digitally yesterday," Vance said during an interview on ABC News' "Good Morning America."

According to a senior U.S. official quoted by The New York Times, Trump and Vance electronically signed the agreement alongside Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's lead negotiator.

Vance said the complete text of the agreement would likely be made public later this week.

Iran Confirms End of War

Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) confirmed that the text of the memorandum had been finalised after what it described as difficult and intensive negotiations.

"Based on the approval of the Supreme National Security Council, the text of the memorandum of understanding regarding the end-of-war negotiations (Islamabad talks) between Iran and the United States was finalized on the evening of June 15," the council said.

The statement said the agreement provides for:

"The immediate and permanent end of the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon."

It also confirmed: "The naval blockade against Iran is terminated immediately and completely."

Pezhshkian Calls Deal a Victory

President Masoud Pezhshkian welcomed the agreement and said Israel's reaction underscored its significance.

"The concern and anger of the Zionist regime over this process is a clear sign of the success and victory of the Iranian nation. With divine grace, this path will continue with strength," Pezhshkian said during a nationwide conference on Monday.

The president praised the efforts of Iran's negotiating team, including chief negotiator Baqer Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, describing the breakthrough as a major diplomatic achievement.

He said the agreement reflected unprecedented unity among Iran's political leadership and armed forces.

Pezhshkian added that full implementation of the accord and adherence by both sides could pave the way for resolving broader regional disputes and create "a new situation on the international arena."

Military Declares Victory

Iran's military leadership portrayed the agreement as a strategic victory over Washington and Israel.

The Khatam al-Abniya Central Headquarters said the conflict had demonstrated the failure of U.S. and Israeli objectives.

"The Iranian people and their fighters have proven that the wretched American and Zionist enemies have no choice but to accept defeat and surrender," the headquarters said.

Senior commanders nevertheless warned that Iran remained prepared for renewed conflict if attacked again.

Major General Ali Abdollahi said Iran's armed forces still had their "finger on the trigger" and would respond decisively to any future threat.

Lebanon Strike Threatens Fragile Calm

The diplomatic breakthrough came amid renewed regional tensions after Israel carried out fresh airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, an area considered a Hezbollah stronghold.

The attack triggered strong reactions in Tehran, where officials warned that Lebanon remained a central component of any broader regional settlement.

Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said an Iranian response was "imminent" and warned that attacks on Lebanon crossed Iranian red lines.

"Lebanon and its resistance are the very life of Iran," he said.

Nuclear Talks Deferred

Under the agreement, the most contentious issues surrounding Iran's nuclear programme remain unresolved.

Officials said the memorandum establishes a 60-day negotiation period during which both sides will seek a broader settlement covering uranium enrichment, nuclear monitoring and the disposition of Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpiles.

Iran has maintained that future negotiations must protect its sovereign rights while focusing on sanctions relief and economic recovery.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated that any future regional security arrangement excluding Iran would be unsustainable.

"Any new security arrangement in West Asia that disregards the Islamic Republic is bound to fail," he said.

Pakistan and Qatar Credited

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose government played a central mediating role alongside Qatar, announced earlier that a peace agreement had been reached after intensive negotiations.

"Peace has never been this close as it is now," Sharif said.

The SNSC formally thanked both Pakistan and Qatar for their mediation efforts.

The agreement traces its origins to a ceasefire brokered on April 8 that was repeatedly extended while negotiations continued.

Markets Watch Hormuz Reopening The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is expected to be one of the most immediate consequences of the agreement.

The narrow waterway, which serves as the transit route for nearly 20% of global oil shipments, had become a focal point of concern during the conflict.

If successfully implemented, the accord could restore normal shipping flows and remove one of the most significant geopolitical risks facing global energy markets.

However, questions remain over whether the broader agreement can survive continuing tensions involving Israel, Hezbollah and Iran's regional allies, as well as the difficult nuclear negotiations scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. --With inputs from AP, PTI, TANS

### UAE Releases \$3bn

reported that a 14-point memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States envisages the release of up to \$24 billion in frozen Iranian assets during a 60-day negotiation period.

According to the report, half of that amount, or roughly \$12 billion, would be made available to Iran before formal negotiations begin. The document has not been independently verified or officially confirmed by either side.

The reported financial arrangements come days after US President Donald Trump announced that Washington and Tehran had reached a peace agreement aimed at ending months of conflict and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy shipping route whose operations were severely disrupted during the war.

Iranian and regional media reported that a private Emirati aircraft carrying approximately \$3 billion in Iranian funds landed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport in recent days, marking the first phase of a broader asset-release mechanism.

Flight-tracking data cited in the reports showed that a Boeing 737-7JZ BBJ, registered A6-RJF and operated as a private Emirati aircraft, flew directly from Abu Dhabi to Tehran last Monday.

The UAE is reportedly facilitating the gradual release of about \$10 billion and \$20 billion in Iranian assets under a financial arrangement designed to support regional economic stability and assist implementation of the wider diplomatic understanding.

Neither Emirati authorities nor US officials have publicly confirmed the transfer.

Mehr reported that the memorandum calls for the release of \$24 billion in frozen Iranian assets during a 60-day negotiation process that would begin after the agreement is signed.

However, Axios quoted a senior U.S. official as disputing claims that funds would be released before Iran fulfils its commitments under the deal.

"This is a pay-for-performance deal," the official said, adding that no frozen funds would be released without Iranian compliance.

The differing accounts underscore lingering uncertainty over the timing and conditions of sanctions relief and asset releases, despite signs of a diplomatic breakthrough between the long-time adversaries.

Analysts say the release of frozen assets will be among the earliest and most closely watched indicators of whether the emerging agreement can translate into lasting de-escalation and economic normalisation across the region.

### PM Modi Welcomes

and ensure the freedom of navigation.

President Donald Trump has announced that the US and Iran have finalised a deal to end their 107-day war, which triggered a global energy crisis. The peace agreement is scheduled to be signed on June 19 in Switzerland, according to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"I welcome the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, which has caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries. India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said India looks forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement.

### CM Signals Fresh

moved forward in the administrative process after a period of uncertainty.

The Cabinet's approval of the response is expected to be the next step before the proposal is sent back to the Centre for further consideration.

Statehood Protest Plan Unchanged

The Chief Minister also reiterated that the

National Conference will go ahead with its proposed sit-in protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session to press for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is no change in that plan. We are still fully committed to the one-day protest at Jantar Mantar at the beginning of the monsoon session to remind the Centre of the promise of statehood it has made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Supreme Court, Parliament and in many public statements," Abdullah said.

His remarks come days after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, where he raised the issue of statehood and sought central support for accelerating development in the Union Territory.

Asked whether the recent meeting with the Prime Minister had altered the party's plans, Abdullah said the decision to hold the protest remains unchanged.

He said the discussions with the Prime Minister focused on the restoration of statehood, the financial position of Jammu and Kashmir and measures required to expedite developmental projects.

"We discussed statehood, the financial situation of Jammu and Kashmir and ways to accelerate the development process. We hope the outcomes of these discussions will benefit the people," he said.

The National Conference has been consistently pressing for the restoration of statehood, arguing that commitments made by the Centre in Parliament, before the Supreme Court and through public statements should be fulfilled at the earliest.

### CM Directs Round-

unity, mutual respect and collective well-being in society.

Muharram-ul-Haram is the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar and holds special religious significance for Muslims across the world. The month is observed with solemnity and reflection, particularly in remembrance of the values of faith, patience and supreme sacrifices of Prophet of Islam's household in plains of Karbala.

### Police Register Case

and misleading content on social media platforms.

According to police, the content was allegedly intended to spread hatred, create division among communities and disturb public order.

An investigation has been launched to identify those responsible for creating and circulating the material, the statement said, adding that strict legal action will be taken against those found involved.

Police also appealed to the public to exercise caution and responsibility while using social media and refrain from creating, sharing or forwarding content that could hurt religious sentiments or inflame communal tensions.

"Anyone found indulging in such activities will be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law," the statement said.

Reiterating its commitment to maintaining peace and communal harmony, Budgam Police said all necessary measures are being taken to preserve public order and ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the district during the Muharram period.

### LG Releases

Lieutenant Governor appreciated the Tourism Federation of Jammu and associated organisations for their continued efforts in facilitating the annual pilgrimage.

He said their collaborative work has helped make the Shri Amarnathji Yatra a safe, smooth and spiritually fulfilling experience for devotees.

Chairman of the Tourism Federation of Jammu, Rajesh Gupta, informed the gathering that preparations for the Yatra are underway and that regular Aarti ceremonies, inspired by the success of the Jammu Tawi Aarti initiative,

have now been expanded to several religious sites across the region, including Surinsar Nag Mandir, Baba Kailakh Dev Sthan, Purmandal, Ghagwal, Jatwal and Raghunath Mandir.

He said arrangements have been made in coordination with Jammu Smart City Limited for the continuation of regular Aarti from June 29. Poojan at the venue and Langar services at the Current Registration Counter in Jammu will also begin on the same day.

The Tourism Federation has also planned a documentary showcasing upgraded facilities for pilgrims along the entire Yatra route, from Lakhampur to the holy cave shrine. The documentary will highlight infrastructure improvements and create awareness about safety measures and Yatra discipline.

The guide book has been designed and printed by ESPA FEE Private Limited for free distribution among pilgrims.

The event was attended by officials from the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, representatives of tourism and travel trade bodies, members of Shri Amarnathji Yatra Welfare Society and other stakeholders associated with the pilgrimage.

### 9 Gulmarg Hoteliers

to sources, the hoteliers have been asked to appear before the agency beginning Monday, with one individual scheduled to appear each day. The ED has sought details of bank accounts, movable and immovable assets, revenue records, lease deeds, income tax returns for the last five years and documents relating to applications filed under the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Roshni Act.

The summons, issued under Sections 50(2) and 50(3) of the PMLA, also warn that failure to appear or produce the required records could invite penal action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Speaking to reporters, Mushtaq Chaya confirmed that he had submitted the documents sought by the agency.

"I have furnished all the documents that were asked for. However, I did not appear personally today," he said.

While the summons do not specify the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) or the exact allegations under investigation, sources said the nature of documents sought indicates that the probe is linked to alleged irregularities in the transfer of land under the erstwhile Roshni scheme in Gulmarg.

According to sources, the investigation traces its roots to FIR No. 08/2009 registered by the then Vigilance Organisation Kashmir, now the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). The case pertains to alleged criminal conspiracy involving public servants and private beneficiaries in the conferment of ownership rights over prime state land in Gulmarg through alleged manipulation of records and violation of statutory procedures.

Investigators had alleged that ownership rights over around 35 kanals and six marlas of prime land in Gulmarg were granted to beneficiaries in violation of provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership Rights to the Occupants) Act, 2001.

Sources said the ED is examining whether the alleged transfer of prime land generated unlawful financial gains that could qualify as proceeds of crime under the money laundering law.

The agency has not issued any official statement regarding the investigation. (inputs from agencies)

### Land Subsidence

the area for the ground subsidence. The sudden land movement has triggered panic among local residents, who have urged the authorities to conduct a comprehensive study and take immediate steps to safeguard lives, property and infrastructure.

## CM Omar Hopes US-Iran Deal Holds Until Formal Signing

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he hoped the agreement to end the US-Iran war holds until the formal signing of the accord.

Official signing of the accord to permanently end the more than three months old confrontation in the Gulf region will be held in Switzerland on Friday.

"Neither you nor I know what is in that peace deal. Perhaps, the United States, Iran, and to some

extent Pakistan know what is in it. We will have to wait till Friday," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday evening announced that a deal was finalised to end the 107-day war with Iran, which triggered a global energy crisis.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

He said the deal would reopen the Strait of Hormuz and end the US naval blockade on Iranian



ports. "I hereby fully authorise the

toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz and, simultaneously, authorise the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade. Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Trump said.

However, in a subsequent post, Trump said the Strait of Hormuz will open on Friday after the official signing of the agreement.

As per PTI, Abdullah said he hoped that nothing would be done to derail the peace deal until Friday.

"We hope that this war stops for good and the Strait of Hormuz

is opened. The injustice done to Iran -- since they did not start the war -- and the losses to their assets suffered in the strikes also need to be mentioned (in this deal)," he said.

Asked about preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra, Abdullah said, "We welcome the pilgrims. We hope they have a good pilgrimage".

The annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir will commence on July 3, 2026, and conclude on August 9.

## Sidhu Meets Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** Former cricketer and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu called on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here on Monday.

Sidhu met the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir at the latter's Gupkar residence, NC sources said.

As per PTI, they said the two leaders discussed the prevailing political situation in the country, developments in Jammu and Kashmir, and other matters of mutual interest. (Observer News Service)

## 10 Women Judicial Officers Nominated For Awareness Programme

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Monday nominated ten women judicial officers for participation in a Mega Awareness Programme on "Empowering Women and Strengthening Institutional Legal Support."

According to an order issued by the Registrar General, the programme will be held on June 20 at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The nominated officers will assist in various capacities during the event. Chairpersons of DLSAs of Kashmir Division have been assigned participation duties, while senior judicial officers, including Anoop Sharma, 2nd Additional District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, and Ms. Swati Gupta, Registrar Judicial, Jammu, have also been nominated. Ms. Preet Simran Kour, 4th Additional District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, will serve as the anchor for the programme.

The order further lists ten women judicial officers from different districts of Kashmir who will participate in the awareness initiative aimed at promoting women's empowerment and enhancing access to institutional legal support.

They include Ms. Masarat Rohi, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Anantnag; Ms. Kusum Lata Pandita, Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Srinagar; Ms. Anjum Ara, 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Ms. Mehreen Mush-taq, Principal Judge, Family Court, Srinagar; Ms. Fariqa Nazir, Special Mobile Magistrate, Pulwama; Ms. Lubna Sultan, Special Mobile Magistrate, Anantnag; Ms. Kamiya Singh Andotra, Special Mobile Magistrate, Srinagar; Ms. Shayesta Nazir, City Munsif, Srinagar; Ms. Bazila Bashir, Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Shopian and Ms. Farah Bashir, Principal Magistrate JIB Ganderbal.

The programme is expected to bring together judicial officers, legal service institutions and stakeholders to strengthen legal awareness and support mechanisms for women across the region. (Observer News Service)

## 2 Drug Peddlers Arrested in Anantnag: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its relentless drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police in Anantnag achieved significant success by apprehending two drug peddlers in separate operations and recovering contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, in the first action, a police party from Police Post Sherbagh, while conducting routine naka checking at Samal near Pehrur Crossing, intercepted a suspicious individual. During search, approximately 1.198 kilograms of charas powder was recovered from his possession. The accused was identified as Shahid Rafiq Nanda son of Rafiq Ahmad Nanda resident of Nandpora, Anantnag. Accordingly, FIR No. 179/2026 has been registered at Police Station Anantnag and investigation has been taken up.

In another operation, Police Station Bijbehara apprehended a drug peddler during naka checking at Kerikadal. The accused was identified as Mohd Shafi Lone son of Ghulam Mohi Din Lone resident of K. Kalan, Bijbehara. During his search, 56 grams of charas-like substance along with 6,000 cash believed to be proceeds of drug trafficking were recovered from his possession. In this regard, FIR No. 162/2026 has been registered at Police Station Bijbehara and further investigation is underway. (Observer News Service)

## DIG Traffic Kashmir Reviews Traffic Preparedness for SANJY-2026



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Traffic Kashmir Range, Haseeb Ur Rehman (IPS), on Monday conducted an extensive tour of South Kashmir to review traffic preparedness and assess the overall traffic management arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said that the DIG Traffic Kashmir was accompanied by SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, Liyaqat Ali, along with other senior officers of the Traffic Police and district police.

During the visit, the DIG held a series of meetings with senior officers of the Traffic Police, CRPF and local police at various Yatri Transit Camps, including Walnut Factory Levдора in Kulgam, Mir Bazar Food Depot and Nunwan Parking Area in Pahalgam, to review arrangements aimed at ensuring hassle-free vehicular movement during SANJY-2026.

The spokesperson said the DIG closely examined traffic congestion points and reviewed the movement of vehicles in high-density areas along

the Yatra route. He issued directions to SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, concerned DySPs Traffic and other officers and officials to ensure smooth traffic flow and minimize congestion during the annual pilgrimage.

The DIG emphasized the need for better inter-agency coordination, efficient deployment of manpower and proactive traffic management to ease vehicular pressure during the Yatra period. He stressed that the convenience and safety of pilgrims should remain a top priority and urged officers to adopt effective strategies to streamline traffic movement.

He further directed officials to take all necessary measures to enhance traffic discipline and ensure smooth movement for both pilgrims and the general public.

During the tour, the DIG also reviewed traffic arrangements at several key locations, including Toll Plaza Awantipora, Anantnag town, Navayug Tunnel, Yatri Transit Camp Mir Bazar, Walnut Factory Levдора, Qazigund, Pahalgam and other strategically important points along the Yatra route.

## Srinagar Airport Marks Yatri Suvidha Diwas with Passenger-Centric Celebrations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar International Airport on Monday said they have celebrated Yatri Suvidha Diwas with a vibrant mix of passenger-focused, cultural, and social initiatives.

They said the day witnessed enthusiastic participation from passengers, visitors, stakeholders, dignitaries and students, reflecting the airport's commitment to community engagement, service excellence, and social responsibility.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Airports Authority of India, Srinagar International Airport Celebrates Yatri Suvidha Diwas with Enthusiasm and Community Participation

He said Srinagar International Airport celebrated Yatri Suvidha Diwas on 15 June 2026 with great zeal and enthusiasm through a series of

passenger-centric, cultural, and social activities.

"The celebrations commenced with the rendition of "Vande Mataram", followed by a Plantation drive conducted in the esteemed presence of Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, SSP, Budgam, and other dignitaries," said the spokesperson.

He said passengers and visitors enthusiastically participated in various attractions, including vibrant Cultural performances in the Arrival Hall, an engaging Selfie point featuring government initiatives on development, and "Paint Your Ideas" canvas stations, where passengers showcased their artistic talents through paintings and sketches.

The spokesperson said a Cleanliness drive was organised to promote awareness about maintaining a clean environment. Health check-up camps for stakeholders and

passengers, along with a Blood donation camp, were also conducted within the terminal premises.

"Interactive quiz sessions added to the festive atmosphere, with winners receiving prizes for their participation. The occasion also recognised the invaluable contributions of the women workforce and other staff members whose dedication ensures the smooth functioning of airport operations."

He added, a special highlight of the day was the visit of students from neighbouring schools, including specially-abled children, who were given an opportunity to experience and learn about the airport environment. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, making the celebration both memorable and inspiring for all participants.

## Student Activists Flag Pending Reservation Policy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Student activists from across Kashmir on Monday raised concerns over the pending reservation policy issue and alleged irregularities in recent JKPCS recruitments, urging the government to ensure transparency and safeguard the future of aspirants.

Addressing a press conference after meeting Member of Parliament (MP) Aga Ruhullah Mehdi at his residence here, the student representatives, as reported by KNO, said the reservation policy introduced in 2024 was "anti-merit" and had adversely affected candidates belonging to the general category.

They said the issue was repeatedly taken up with the government and also raised by MP Ruhullah in Parliament. "The ruling dispensation had promised

in its election manifesto that it would address concerns regarding the reservation policy, giving hope to thousands of young aspirants," they said.

The students said that following a peaceful protest outside the Chief Minister's residence last year, a meeting was held with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who assured them that a sub-committee had been constituted and sought six months to examine the issue.

More than a year has passed since the committee's timeline ended, but there is still no clarity about its recommendations or the status of the file, they said.

Questioning the government's handling of the issue, the activists said, "What is the purpose of having an elected government if students have to continue running from office to office for answers on issues affecting their future?"

They alleged that authorities have been giving varying explanations regarding the status of the matter, at times stating that the file is with the Lieutenant Governor's office and at other times claiming it is pending with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"When the government can raise and pursue other political issues, why is it not showing the same seriousness towards the reservation issue that concerns thousands of young people?" they asked.

The student representatives also raised concerns over alleged irregularities in recent JKPCS lecturer recruitment examinations. They claimed that several aspirants from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir had expressed apprehensions regarding the recruitment process and demanded a fair and impartial investigation into the allegations.

## Vital Road to Kashmir's Largest Industrial Estate in Deplorable Condition



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The deteriorating condition of the Sangam-Lassipora road in south Kashmir's Pulwama district has once again come under the spotlight, with residents, commuters, transporters and industrial workers demanding immediate and complete macadamisation of the vital road stretch.

The stretch connects the SIDCO Industrial Estate Lassipora—the largest industrial estate in Kashmir—with the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44).

Locals told KNO, that the road has remained in a deplorable state for years despite repeated assurances from the authorities.

They alleged that every year, patchwork and temporary repairs are carried out on the road, but the repairs barely survive for a few weeks before potholes reappear, leaving the road damaged and unsafe once again.

Residents of Lassipora, Naina, Litter and adjoining areas said the road serves as a lifeline for thousands of people, including industrial workers, business owners, students, traders and daily commuters. They expressed concern that despite its strategic importance to Kashmir's industrial sector and connecting a vast area with Pulwama and the national highway, the road continues to suffer from official neglect.

"This road is the main gateway to the industrial estate and links it directly to the national highway. Hundreds of vehicles, including trucks carrying raw materials and finished products, use this stretch every day. Unfortunately, it is now riddled with potholes and uneven surfaces," a resident said.

Commuters said travelling on the road has become increasingly difficult, particularly during rainy weather when water accumulates in potholes, making them invisible to motorists and increasing the risk of accidents.

"Even a brief spell of rain

turns the road into a mess. Vehicles slow down considerably, and traffic congestion becomes a routine affair. The condition is not only causing inconvenience but also posing serious safety risks," said Shahid Ahmad, a commuter from Lassipora.

Drivers and transporters complained that the damaged road is resulting in frequent vehicle breakdowns and escalating maintenance expenses.

"We spend thousands of rupees every month repairing suspension systems, tyres and other vehicle components damaged by the road. The authorities keep filling potholes every year, but the repairs do not last. What is needed is complete macadamisation, not cosmetic patchwork," said a local cab operator.

Industrial workers and traders said the road's condition is adversely affecting movement to and from the industrial estate, which houses hundreds of industrial units and provides employment to thousands of people from different parts of the Valley.

"The road is of immense economic importance. It connects Kashmir's largest industrial estate with NH-44, yet it has been ignored for years. A proper road would not only ease transportation but also improve industrial activity in the area," said Nisar Ahmad, a trader associated with the estate.

## J&K Police Reunites Bengal Man With Family After 9 Years

Jammu: In a humanitarian gesture, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday reunited a 30-year-old mentally unsound man, who was stranded in the border district of Poonch for nine years, with his family from West Bengal.

The family of Sudesh Pal Topno, son of Abhiram Topno, who was unable to provide details about his family or place of residence, was successfully traced, leading to their reunion, police said in a statement. They said Topno had accompanied someone to Poonch for work around nine years ago and had been stranded there ever since. He had been surviving by doing odd jobs.

Police were able to establish his identity as a West Bengal native through sustained efforts, meticulous inquiry, and coordination with authorities in different states. After confirming all necessary details, Poonch Police formally handed over the man to his parents, the statement said. (Observer News Service)

## Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University

Rajouri (J&K) - 185234

### Admission Notification CUET (PG) - 2026

Registration opens for Admission to Postgraduate programmes

Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri invites **Online Registration** from the candidates who have appeared in Common University Entrance Test (CUET) being conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to the following Postgraduate programmes for the Academic Session 2026-27.

#### 1/2 Year Post Graduate (PG) Programmes

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBA</li> <li>• MBA Hospitality &amp; Tourism</li> <li>• MCA ( 2 years)</li> <li>• M.Sc. IT</li> <li>• M.Sc. Mathematics</li> <li>• M.Sc. Botany</li> <li>• M.Sc. Biotechnology</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M.Sc. Zoology</li> <li>• M.Sc. Microbiology</li> <li>• M.Sc. Environmental Sciences</li> <li>• M.Sc. Physics</li> <li>• M.A. Arabic</li> <li>• M.A. Islamic Studies</li> <li>• M.A. Urdu</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M.A. English</li> <li>• M.A. Economics</li> <li>• M.A. Education</li> <li>• M.A. Hindi</li> <li>• M.A. Persian</li> <li>• M.A. Gojri</li> <li>• M.A. Pahari</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

• Online admission form can be filled at <https://bgsbucuet.samarth.edu.in/pg/> along with a fee of Rs 200/-.

• Final year/semester students whose qualifying examination result is not declared are also eligible to apply.

• For any further information, the candidate(s) may contact: 7780927045 / 8803600838 or write us at [admissions@bgsbu.ac.in](mailto:admissions@bgsbu.ac.in)

❖ **Last Date to Register: June 30, 2026**

NO: BGSBU/AC/2026/46

Date: June 12, 2026

DIPK-NB-767-26

DT: 15/06/2026

**Coordinator**

**Admission Cell**

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

#### (MECHANICAL), PW(R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR

ENGINEERING COMPLEX (PMGSY BUILDING), RAJBAGH SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190008

#### CANCELLATION

Subject:- Supply, Installation And Testing And Commissioning of HVAC system at New High Court Rakh-i-Gund Aksha

Reference:- This office e-NIT No.R5B/MDCK/NIT/26. Dt:- 28.01.2026

With reference to the e-NIT cited above, it is hereby notified that only a single bid has been received through the e-tendering process against the subject work during the first call (1st Call). In order to ensure wider participation, enhanced competition, and greater transparency in the tendering process, the tender for the above-mentioned work is hereby cancelled. A fresh tender for the said work shall be floated separately in due course.

No. XENMC/Sgr/879-83

Dated:- 13.06.2026

DIPK-2154-26

DT: 15/06/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

PW(R&B) Mechanical Division

Central Kashmir

MATCH PREVIEW: IRAN VS NEW ZEALAND

# Iran Seek Statement Victory Over New Zealand in Group G Clash

Fazal Ansari

**SRINAGAR** – War, uncertainty and logistical hurdles have shadowed Iran's World Cup preparations, but Team Melli arrive in Los Angeles with momentum, unity and a chance to turn adversity into inspiration against New Zealand.

**Match Overview**

Competition: FIFA World Cup 2026, Group G.  
Kick-Off: Tuesday, 16 June 2026, at 06:30 IST.  
Venue: Los Angeles Stadium, Inglewood, California, United States.  
Capacity: 70,492.  
FIFA Rankings: Iran (#20) | New Zealand (#85).

**Key Insights & Historical Data**

In the Asian qualifiers leading up to the tournament, Iran topped their group, suffering only one loss and two draws across 10 games. Due to logistical arrangements, the Iranian national team is utilising a base camp in neighbouring Mexico and travelling across the border to the United States for their group stage matches. New Zealand has failed to score a

single goal in their last two matches. Showcasing a concerning defensive trend, New Zealand has conceded a goal in all 11 of their most recent games.

**Player Metrics & Availability**

Reflecting a positive mindset within the squad, Alireza Jahanbakhsh confidently stated, "Iran will play with smiles on our faces".

**Recent Team Form**

**Iran's Last Five Results:** Win 3-1 (vs. Gambia), Loss 1-2 (vs. Nigeria), Draw 0-0 (vs. Uzbekistan), Draw 0-0 (vs. Cape Verde), Win 2-0 (vs. Tanzania).  
**New Zealand's Last Five Results:** Loss 1-0 (vs. England), Loss 4-0 (vs. Haiti), Win 4-1 (vs. Chile), Loss 0-2 (vs. Finland), Loss 2-0 (vs. Ecuador).

**Group G Action Kicks Off: Iran Looks to Capitalize on New Zealand's Defensive Woes in Los Angeles**

Head Coach Amir Ghalenoei's "Team Melli" comes into the tournament carrying steady momentum. Having topped their group during the Asian qualifiers with just one loss in 10 matches, Iran has built a resilient



**Predicted Lineups**

| Iran (4-4-2)   | New Zealand (4-2-3-1)  |
|--|--|
| <b>Coach:</b> Amir Ghalenoei   | <b>Coach:</b> Darren Bazeley                                   |
| <b>Alireza Beiranvand</b>  | <b>Max Crocombe</b>  |
| <b>Ramin Rezaeian, Shoja Khalilzadeh, Hossein Kanaani, Milad Mohammadi</b> | <b>Tim Payne, Finn Surman, Michael Boxall, Liberato Cacace</b> |
| <b>Mohammad Mohebi, Saeid Ezatollahi, Saman Ghodds, Mehdi Ghayedi</b>      | <b>Joe Bell, Marko Stamenic</b>                                |
| <b>Amir Hosseinzadeh, Mehdi Taremi</b>                                     | <b>Matthew Garbett, Sarpreet Singh, Elijah Just Chris Wood</b> |

foundation. Despite logistical hurdles that required the squad to base their training camp in Mexico and commute to the US West Coast for games, they have remained focused. Their recent warm-up fixtures yielded mixed but respectable results, including a commanding 3-1 victory against Gambia and a 2-0 win over Tanzania, alongside scoreless draws against Uzbekistan and Cape Verde. The squad's mood appears distinctly buoyant, an attitude perfectly summarized by Alireza Jahanbakhsh, who declared that Iran will "play with smiles on our faces".

In stark contrast, Darren Bazeley's New Zealand enters the competition seeking immediate answers to significant structural woes. The All Whites have endured a punishing recent schedule, suffering multi-goal defeats to Haiti (4-0), Finland (2-0), and Ecuador (2-0), and securing just one bright spot in a 4-1 triumph over Chile. Most concerning for the coaching staff, New Zealand has failed to find the back of the net in their last two outings and has alarmingly conceded goals in each of their previous 11 games.

Tactically, Iran is predicted to de-

ploy a classic 4-4-2 formation. Alireza Beiranvand will start in goal, positioned behind a sturdy backline featuring Shoja Khalilzadeh and Milad Mohammadi. A midfield quartet anchored by Saeid Ezatollahi will aim to control the tempo and feed the potent attacking duo of Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh and Mehdi Taremi.

New Zealand will likely respond with a structured 4-2-3-1 setup. Goalkeeper Max Crocombe will be shielded by defenders including Michael Boxall and Liberato Cacace. Joe Bell and Marko Stamenic are expected to anchor the defensive midfield, while Sarpreet Singh and Elijah Just will be tasked with creating much-needed opportunities for veteran striker Chris Wood to end their collective scoring drought.

For a Team Melli squad forced to navigate intense political scrutiny and logistical roadblocks, this off-pitch adversity may ultimately serve as the catalyst that forges an unbreakable, unifying strength on the field.

**Match Prediction:**  
IR Iran 3:0 New Zealand

## World Cup: South American Teams Start Off On Wrong Foot

AP

**PHILADELPHIA:** South American teams have got off to disappointing start to the World Cup, failing to produce a win in three games.

Ecuador lost to Ivory Coast 1-0 on Sunday in Philadelphia. Brazil drew 1-1 with Morocco on Saturday, and Paraguay was routed 4-1 by tournament co-host the United States.

Comments from coaches after the underwhelming results struck a similar tone.

Ecuador coach Sebastián Beccacece called it a "very painful situation." Paraguay coach Gustavo Alfaro referred to his team's loss as a "very painful lesson."

Coach Carlo Ancelotti said five-time World Cup champion Brazil cannot lose heart: "You don't win a World

Cup based on your first match."

Uruguay plays its first game Monday against Saudi Arabia, defending champion Argentina takes on Algeria on Tuesday and Colombia is against Uzbekistan on Wednesday.

South America has a proud soccer tradition, and is the only continent other than Europe to produce World Cup champions.

The slow start to the tournament of some South American nations contrasts to a solid opening performance by North American teams on home soil.

"The U.S. won this match very clearly and fairly," Alfaro said after Paraguay's opening loss. "They dominated tactically, technically and physically as well. They have answers to everything you throw at them."

Adding to the victory by the U.S.,

Mexico kicked off the World Cup with a 2-0 win over South Africa, and Canada earned its first World Cup point after a 1-1 draw with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ecuador, making its fifth World Cup appearance and aiming to reach the knockout round for the second time, was playing a virtual home game at Philadelphia Stadium, where most of the capacity crowd of 68,274 wore the team's yellow jerseys.

But La Tri saw its 19-game unbeaten streak end with its first loss since a 1-0 defeat to Brazil in September 2024.

"I'm very sorry we did not give our fans the joy they came to seek," Beccacece said. "It was an unfair defeat, played out in a fantastic stadium atmosphere. We have to process it, put what happened behind us, focus on what lies ahead, and — I believe — keep the faith."

Ecuador captain Enner Valencia said the team remains hopeful despite the loss.

"We're keeping our heads held high knowing that this is just the beginning," he said, "and there's still a tournament ahead of us."

After the game, Ecuador goalkeeper Hernan Galindez spoke about the unpredictability of the World Cup opening games and how they shouldn't necessarily be a marker of the tournament's finishing results.

"In the last World Cup, we won the first game and then were left out," he said. "Argentina, in the last World Cup, lost the first game and won the World Cup, so nothing guarantees you anything."

## Sweden's Ayari Celebrates Goal With Nod to Tunisian Heritage

AP

**MONTERREY (MEXICO):** After he opened the scoring in Sweden's 5-1 victory over Tunisia in the World Cup on Sunday night, Yasin Ayari chose not to celebrate. Instead, he raised his hands in apology.

The gesture was a way of paying respect to his heritage.

The 22-year-old Ayari was born in Solna, Sweden, to a Tunisian father, Azzouz Ayari.

Ayari, who represented Sweden at the youth level, was given the chance to switch allegiances and play for Tunisia ahead of the 2022 World Cup, but he declined.

When asked about his son's choice to represent Sweden, Azzouz Ayari told Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet earlier this year

that he agreed with the decision. "No, I wanted him to play for Sweden," Azzouz Ayari said. "He must feel like he's giving back to the country that took care of him."

On Saturday, Tunisia coach Sabri Lamouchi also offered support to Ayari.

"I know him and his brother," Lamouchi said. "He made a choice; I have a lot of respect, and he's a very good player. We wish him after the game best of luck, but that is after the game."

In the final seconds, Ayari scored a second goal with a long-range shot to the left corner. He celebrated more enthusiastically, sliding on his knees while cupping his ear with his hand toward the Sweden fans behind the goal.

The fans certainly believe he made the right decision.

# MI Securities

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