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Amarnath Yatra Security

MHA Team To Visit J&K On June 20-21



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A high-level team of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir on June 20 and 21 to review security and other preparedness measures for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to commence on July 3. Sources said the delegation

will comprise senior officials from key security and intelligence agencies, including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and other wings of the MHA. According to sources, the team will assess security arrangements and overall preparedness for the 57-day annual pilgrimage in | [More on P6](#)

CRPF Sets Up Mountain Rescue Teams

KO Web Desk

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has readied a specialised Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) to provide emergency assistance to pilgrims undertaking the annual Amarnath Yatra through the Baltal route in Jammu and Kashmir. The 30-member team will be equipped with essential rescue and medical aid equipment, including | [More on P6](#)

The US-Iran Deal — But What's Actually in It ?



KO Web Desk

Srinagar — A leaked copy of the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran has revealed the most detailed picture yet of the proposed framework to end more than three months of war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and

pave the way for a broader settlement between the two long-time adversaries. The text, according to Saudi Arabia-based Al Arabiya English, outlines a sweeping package of commitments ranging from an immediate cessation of hostilities and sanctions relief to future

PM Flags Impact of West Asia Crisis On Developing Nations

Proposes New Global Connectivity Initiative at G7 Summit

KO Web Desk

New Delhi- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday proposed a new framework to boost connectivity and trade among G7 nations, India and countries of the Global South, while warning that the ongoing crisis in West Asia could have long-lasting consequences for developing economies. Addressing an outreach session of the G7 Summit, Modi proposed the creation of the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and



Trade (IMPACT), a framework aimed at promoting infrastructure development, trade and economic cooperation across regions. Drawing inspiration from the India-Middle East-Europe

INDIA BELIEVES IN INTEGRATION, NOT FRAGMENTATION; PARTNERSHIP, not protectionism; and shared prosperity, not uncertainty."

Economic Corridor (IMEC), the Prime Minister said the initiative could support connectivity projects in Africa, Latin America and Pacific Island nations. "Combining the capital

of the G7, India's talent, and the ownership of countries in the Global South, we could consider creating the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade, or IMPACT," Modi said. He said the proposed initiative should focus on building corridors that connect trade, technology, energy and economic opportunity. The Prime Minister also highlighted the economic fallout of the West Asia crisis, saying disruptions in fuel, fertiliser and food supply chains would | [More on P6](#)

Trump Praises Modi As 'Tough Negotiator'

Press Trust Of India

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday praised Prime Minister

Narendra Modi as a "very tough negotiator" and said he would visit India in the future, as the two leaders met on the sidelines of the G7

Summit here. Responding to a question on how close the two countries were to finalising a trade deal, Trump lauded Modi's | [More on P6](#)

Art 370 Move Brought New Security Paradigm In J&K: HM

Says Zero-Tolerance Policy Strengthened National Security

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi-led government has fundamentally transformed India's national security architecture over the past 12 years through a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, cross-border operations, the abrogation of Article 370 and sustained efforts to curb insurgency and Left Wing Extremism.

In a statement marking 12 years of the Modi government, Shah said India has emerged as a strong and secure nation capable of protecting its citizens and responding firmly to threats against its sovereignty. Highlighting the government's approach towards terrorism, Shah said India has moved away from what he described as a defensive posture and adopted a strategy of swift and decisive action against security threats.

He cited surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor as examples of India's willingness to target terrorist infrastructure beyond its borders. According to the Home Minister, Operation Sindoor represented a significant shift in India's response doctrine, with security forces destroying nine terror camps and eliminating more than 100 terrorists. Shah said the operation reflected the government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and reinforced India's deterrence capabilities. Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, Shah described the



abrogation of Article 370 as a landmark step towards strengthening national integration and internal security. He said the decision helped establish a new security framework and contributed to greater stability in the region. He also said incidents of stone pelting in Jammu and Kashmir had declined significantly, while security infrastructure along the country's borders had been strengthened. According to Shah, nearly 93 per cent of the border with Pakistan and around 80 per cent of the border with Bangladesh has now been fenced to improve surveillance and prevent infiltration.

Naxal Violence Declines

The Home Minister said Left Wing Extremism has witnessed a sharp decline during the past decade, with several districts previously affected by Naxal violence recording significant improvement. He said thousands of insurgents had | [More on P6](#)

SURGICAL STRIKES, AIR STRIKES AND OPERATION SINDOOR as examples of India's willingness to target terrorist infrastructure beyond its borders.

J&K Moves Closer To Pvt Universities Framework

Agencies

Srinagar: The Higher Education Department has drafted the Rules for the Private Universities Act, 2026 and forwarded them to the Finance Department for concurrence. The department, in consultation with the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, has prepared the draft rules. "The draft rules have been sent to the Finance Department for its concurrence since they have financial implications," they said, adding that the rules have been framed to establish a clear framework for the

functioning, accountability, and financial management of private universities. An official further revealed that once the Finance Department gives its approval, the rules will be formally notified. In the 2026-27 budget session, the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the Jammu & Kashmir Private Universities Act-2026. The Act provides a legal framework for establishing and regulating private universities in Jammu & Kashmir. As per the law, private universities can be set up by registered societies | [More on P6](#)

2 Killed, 11 Injured In Twin Road Accidents

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two persons were killed and 11 others, including four tourists, injured in two separate road accidents in Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said. In the first incident, a vehicle skidded off the Aru-Pahalgam road and plunged into a deep gorge in south

Kashmir's Anantnag district, resulting in the on-the-spot death of two persons and injuries to six others. Officials said the injured were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated further investigation. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)

Cyber Criminals Are 'Parasites', Must Be Dealt With Harshly: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Cyber criminals are "parasites" who take money from innocent investors to dupe them and we have to be very harsh with them, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said. The observations came from a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana which was hearing a plea filed by a man seeking clubbing of some FIRs lodged against him in different states. "You people (cyber criminals) are parasites and you take money from innocent investors and dupe them. For cyber criminals, we have to be very harsh," the CJ observed.



The CJ said victims of such crimes were always pan-India. "You cheat someone in Tamil Nadu, then you go to Jammu and Kashmir and then to the North-East," the CJ said, adding it would be in the society's interest that cyber criminals are kept behind the bars. | [More on P6](#)

Centre Launches 2 Portals For Cyber Fraud Victims

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched two new portals to strengthen the fight against cyber-crime and provide relief to victims, a police official said on Wednesday. The Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) and the Money Restoration Module (MRM) are these two new portals. Deputy Commissioner | [More on P6](#)

DIET Study Flags Alarming Drug Abuse Trends Among Srinagar Students

Peer pressure emerges as leading cause; majority unaware of treatment and rehabilitation services

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A comprehensive study conducted by the District Institute of Educational Research and Training (DIET), Srinagar, has raised concerns over growing drug and substance abuse among secondary and higher secondary school students in the district, highlighting significant awareness gaps and the influence of peer pressure on adolescents. The study, titled "Drug and Substance Abuse in Secondary and Higher Secondary School Students of District Srinagar - An Empirical Study for



Prevention and Intervention", examined the awareness, causes, prevalence and impact of substance abuse among

students and recommended a range of school-based interventions to address the issue. Researchers noted that drug

abuse has emerged as a major social challenge and that Kashmir has not remained immune to the problem despite efforts by parents, teachers, religious leaders and community stakeholders to curb the menace. The study covered students from Classes 9 to 12 in 10 secondary schools and 10 higher secondary schools across Srinagar, including both boys' and girls' institutions. Out of a student population of 7,552, a sample of 3,100 students was selected through random sampling. Data was collected through structured questionnaires | [More on P6](#)



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Faster Skin Firmness Loss In Delhi; Linked To Pollution, Hard Water: AI-Led Study

Press Trust Of India

Delhi residents have the highest levels of skin firmness loss in the country, with pollution, hard water and prolonged exposure to UV radiation emerging as major factors behind faster skin ageing, according to a new study.

The study, conducted by Ningen Skin Sciences in collaboration with Auriga Research and claiming to be one of India's largest AI-led skin studies, analysed 21,373 adults across 725 cities to understand skin health patterns across the country.

Researchers used AI-powered facial scans through the SkinSensAI platform to evaluate 12 skin health parameters, including wrinkles, dark circles, firmness, elasticity, dehydration and pigmentation.

According to the findings, Delhi recorded the highest skin firmness severity score in India at 4.11 out of 5, compared to Kolkata's 3.49 and the national average of 3.62.

Researchers said this means Delhi residents showed around 18 per cent greater firmness loss severity than those in Kolkata. The result is based on a comparison of average firmness scores and suggests that environmental factors may be contributing to faster skin ageing in the capital.

Delhi also recorded an elasticity loss score of 3.99 out of 5 and a dark circle severity score of 3.80 out of 5. The report attributed the trend to Delhi's environmental conditions, including high pollution levels, hard water and UV exposure.

According to the study, the city's air quality index frequently ranges between 200 and 400, while water in many areas records total dissolved solids (TDS) levels between 300 and 500, factors that may contribute to collagen damage and reduced skin elasticity.

Researchers said the findings highlight the need for region-specific skincare approaches and identified anti-pollution skincare solutions as a key requirement for Delhi.

The findings are part of what researchers described as one of India's



largest AI-led skin studies, conducted between 2023 and 2025 using AI-powered facial analysis. The research has also been published in the peer-reviewed journal Cureus.

At the national level, the study found that 79 per cent of Indians live with at least one moderate skin concern, while nearly 70 per cent suffer from dehydration. Researchers identified the overlap between oily and dehydrated skin as one of the most underserved gaps in the country's skincare market.

Dark circles emerged as one of the most widespread concerns, affecting 66.6 per cent of participants, with genetics, pigmentation and lifestyle factors playing a bigger role than lack of sleep.

The study also found that wrinkles begin developing as early as the 20s rather than the 40s, questioning a common perception about ageing.

Men were found to age 22 per cent faster than women and recorded 23.5 per cent more UV spots, the largest gender gap observed in the study, which researchers linked to lower

sunscreen use and greater cumulative sun exposure. They recorded worse scores across firmness, elasticity, wrinkles and UV-related pigmentation.

The findings further suggested that genetics account for around 45 per cent of skin health outcomes, while the remaining 55 per cent is influenced by modifiable factors such as lifestyle habits and skincare routines, it added.

Researchers also reported that AI-guided skincare routines showed visible improvements within eight to 12 weeks, highlighting the potential of personalised interventions in improving long-term skin health.

Regional differences were evident across the country. While Delhi recorded the highest firmness loss, Kolkata showed the highest oiliness levels, and Pune reported some of the highest dark-circle severity scores.

The study covered adults aged 18 years and above and was designed to establish population-specific benchmarks for Indian skin.

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K) , Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for a D-Class contractor card in the office of SE PWD(R&B) circle Baramulla. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may contact the above mentioned office within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice ; falling which, no objection shall be entertained.

Name...Mudasir Ahmad Bhat
 S/O. Abdul Rahim Bhat
 R/O. Kreshama, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla
 Cell.. 7780963907/9596034975

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) Gulshan Akhter to (New name) Gulshan Akhter. In future I will be known as (New Name) Gulshan Akhter. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Roheena Akhter, W/o Tanveer Ahmad Ganie, R/o Awalawa, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as "Rohi Jan" instead of my correct name "Roheena Akhter". That "Rohi Jan" and "Roheena Akhter" refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. I have applied before the concerned authorities for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records and all other relevant documents.

If any person has any objection regarding the aforesaid correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the correction shall be deemed genuine and valid for all purposes.

Sd/-
 (Roheena Akhter)
 W/o Tanveer Ahmad Ganie
 R/o Awalawa, Tehsil Kunzer,
 District Baramulla, J&K

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Suhail Ahmad Pandit, S/o Abdul Rashid Pandit, R/o Russo, Tehsil Narbal, District Budgam, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as "SUHAIL AHMAD PANDITH" instead of my correct name "SUHAIL AHMAD PANDIT". That "SUHAIL AHMAD PANDITH" and "SUHAIL AHMAD PANDIT" refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. I am applying before the concerned authorities for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records.

If any person has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the correction shall be deemed genuine and valid for all purposes.

Sd/-
 (Suhail Ahmad Pandit)
 S/o Abdul Rashid Pandit
 R/o Russo, Tehsil Narbal, District Budgam

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Adhaar No 6738 7638 8708 Now I want to change my name from TABISH RASHID (Old Name) to TABISHITA RASHID (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- TABISHITA RASHID
 D/O:- ABDUL RASHID DAR
 R/O:- GURTANG NARKARA , BUDGAM
 Jammu And Kashmir- 190018

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, F/o Abrar Farooq, R/o New Colony Largam, Shopian, hereby notify the general public that the address of my son, Abrar Farooq, studying at Eternal Success School, Memender, Shopian, has been wrongly recorded in the school records as "Bongam", which is incorrect.

The actual and correct address of my son, as per his Aadhaar records, is "New Colony Largam, Shopian". Henceforth, the same may be read and recorded in all school and official records.

If anybody has any objection to the said correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
 Farooq Ahmad Bhat
 F/o Abrar Farooq
 R/o New Colony Largam, Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulzar Ahmad Mir, F/o Riyan Gulzar, R/o Mastpora, Shopian, Tehsil Kella, hereby notify the general public that the name of my son has been wrongly recorded in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8804 2637 4693 as "Arian Gulzar", which is incorrect.

The actual and correct name of my son, as per his birth records, is "Riyan Gulzar". Henceforth, he shall be known and identified by the name Riyan Gulzar for all official and legal purposes. If anybody has any objection to the said correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
 Gulzar Ahmad Mir
 F/o Riyan Gulzar
 R/o Mastpora, Shopian, Tehsil Kella

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to transfer the PDD electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 60067836381593, presently standing in the name of my deceased father, Late Asadullah Mir, R/o Mazehama, Tehsil Magam, District Budgam, in my name, namely Farooq Ahmad Mir, S/o Late Asadullah Mir. If anybody has any objection regarding the proposed transfer, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
 Farooq Ahmad Mir
 R/o Mazehama, Budgam
 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Bhat, R/o Wani Gam Pain, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Kreeir, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my daughter's name has been inadvertently recorded as "Sana Rashid" in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3063-4723-5971, which is incorrect. Her actual and correct name is "Sana Rashid".

Henceforth, she shall be known and identified by the name Sana Rashid for all purposes. Any person having any objection may file the same before the competent authority within the prescribed period.

Abdul Rashid Bhat
 Father of Sana Rashid
 R/o Wani Gam Pain, Pattan, Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Misba Rashid, D/o Abdul Rashid Mochi, R/o Ussan Khoie, hereby notify the general public that my mother's name has been wrongly recorded in my JKBOSE records as "Nageena Begum" instead of her correct name "Nighat Begum".

The correct name of my mother is Nighat Begum, and the same may be read and recorded for all purposes. Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same before the Joint Secretary, JKBOSE, Sub-Office Baramulla within the prescribed period.

Misba Rashid
 D/o Abdul Rashid Mochi
 R/o Ussan Khoie

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shahid Rashid Mochi, S/o Abdul Rashid Mochi, R/o Ussan Khoie, hereby notify the general public that my mother's name has been wrongly recorded in my JKBOSE records as "Nigeena Begum" instead of her correct name "Nighat Begum".

Henceforth, the correct name of my mother shall be read and recorded as Nighat Begum for all purposes. Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same before the Joint Secretary, JKBOSE, Sub-Office Baramulla within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
 Shahid Rashid Mochi
 S/o Abdul Rashid Mochi
 R/o Ussan Khoie

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bisma Rashid, D/o Abdul Rashid Mochi, R/o Ussan Khoie, hereby notify the general public that my mother's name has been wrongly recorded in my JKBOSE records, Baramulla as "Nageena Begum" instead of her correct name "Nighat Begum".

This notice is being published for correction of my mother's name in the records of JKBOSE, Baramulla. If anybody has any objection to the said correction, he/she may file the same before the Joint Secretary, JKBOSE, Sub-Office Baramulla, within the prescribed period, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
 Bisma Rashid
 D/o Abdul Rashid Mochi
 R/o Ussan Khoie

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 121005039 Session: Annual /Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed My father's & Mother's Name as Mohd Afzal Mir & Mumtaza instead of Mohammad Afzal Mir & Mumtaza Bano respectively



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Magam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Sahil Abbas Mir
 Father's name: Mohammad Afzal Mir
 Mother's Name: Mumtaza Bano
 DOB: 05-05-2011
 Residence: Haft Chinar Magam Budgam
 Mobile no: 9103500644

bmg_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I intend to transfer the electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 0206030024758, installed at Jamia Mohalla, Magam, from Zahoor Ahmad Mir to Raja Akhter, W/o Late Ashaq Hussain Mir, R/o Astanpora, Magam.

If any person has any objection regarding the proposed transfer of the said electricity connection, he/she may submit the same before the concerned office of the Power Development Department (KPDCL), Beerwah, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained and the connection shall be transferred accordingly.

Raja Akhter W/o Late Ashaq Hussain Mir
 R/o Astanpora, Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing reg no: JK16B 2036 from Hanji Bugh to Snookalipora . 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 Ganderbal within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

1st Owner Manzoor Ahamd Ganaie
 S/O Mohammad Yousof Ganai R/O Tulmullah Ganderbal
 2nd owner Mer Imtiaz Alam S/O Ali Mohd Lone
 R/O Hanji Bough

fko

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Tender Notice

eNIT No STD-II / 34 of 2026-27 Dated 17-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "Augmentation of Receiving station BK Pora."

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Augmentation of Receiving station BK Pora.	59340.00	Rs 29.67 Lacs	09-07-2026; 4:30pm

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 18-06-2026; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	18-06-2026; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	09-07-2026; 4:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-06-2026; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	09-07-2026; 4:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	10-07-2026; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 59340.00 (Rupees Fifty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Only)

3. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids.

4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.

b. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly on line on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.

6. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.

7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.

8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) class III (b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

10. Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

11. The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/ Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 Sub Transmission Division-II,
 Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Div Com Reviews Preparations for International Yoga Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess and finalize arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day across the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Director AYUSH, Director SKICC, and senior officers from various departments, including Health, School Education, Sports Council, Fire & Emergency Services, Traffic Police and other stakeholder agencies.

The flagship event is scheduled to be held at the SKICC on June 21 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM.

Reviewing the preparations, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Director AYUSH to ensure the timely distribution of yoga mats and T-shirts among participants.

He further instructed the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and Deputy Director Planning (DDP) to formulate a comprehensive transportation plan to facilitate the smooth movement and punctual arrival of participants at the venue.

Deputy Commissioners apprised the chair of district-level arrangements, including the organization of yoga sessions at prominent tourist destinations and iconic locations, as well as provisions for live streaming of the event across all districts.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed logistical arrangements at the main venue, including the installation of a public address system for the National Anthem, installation of LED display screens, instructor platforms, drinking water facilities, sanitation arrangements, besides distribution of refreshments to participants after the culmination of the event.



Srinagar Chokes under Growing Traffic Burden as Tourist Rush, Infrastructure Gaps Take Toll

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Traffic congestion in Srinagar has reached alarming levels this summer, with residents and tourists alike expressing frustration over gridlocked roads, particularly along the city's key tourist corridors, raising concerns about infrastructure inadequacies and urban planning failures.

A video that recently went viral on social media captured the growing traffic woes of Srinagar through the experience of a visiting tourist. Frustrated by the congestion, the tourist remarked that traversing the city had become an ordeal, saying it took nearly an hour to cross through Srinagar and that pedestrians could move faster than vehicles on the city's clogged roads.

"For crossing through the city it takes you an hour, by simply walking you walk faster than cars, I didn't find the management right," the tourist said in the video.

The visitor further noted that he had not encountered such severe traffic bottlenecks even in Delhi, a city known for its heavy traffic, raising questions about the effectiveness of traffic management in Srinagar.

The concerns have resonated across social media, with political leaders, journalists and public commentators pointing to the mounting pressure on Srinagar's road network amid a record tourist influx.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti highlighted the growing number of tourists arriving in Kashmir by road rather than by air, linking it to the worsening traffic situation.

"The sudden traffic surge in Srinagar this year especially Boulevard - Nishat route has a lot to do with tourists driving into the Valley instead of flights. Given the state of congested roads & Kashmir's fragile environment caps on tourist cars must be introduced. Neither Kashmir's streets nor can our ecology handle this huge rush. Hope the government takes note," she posted on X.

Veteran journalist Ahmed Ali Fayyaz also drew attention to the unprecedented rush of tourists and its impact on Srinagar's roads.

"Srinagar fully sold out. This time not for cheap. No room available at any hotel, any houseboat. Hotels, houseboats, Shikaras, taxis... all have raised rates 500% to 1000%. The 1.5 km drive from Dalgate to Nehru Park is now a 40-minute drive due to permanent traffic jam, huge tourist rush and the successive Governments' lack of will to widen Boulevard to a 4-lane road," Fayyaz wrote on X.

The Boulevard Road along the banks of Dal Lake has emerged as one of the worst-affected stretches, witnessing long queues of vehicles throughout the day as tourists flock to gardens, houseboats and other attractions. Similar congestion is being reported on city roads connecting the airport, commercial hubs and major residential areas.

Radio jockey and social commentator Nasir attributed the crisis to years of inadequate planning rather than seasonal tourist pressure alone.

"Srinagar's traffic Crisis didn't happen overnight. It's must tourists, haphazard parking, or poor planning. It's the result of years of neglect, delayed infrastructure, and collective apathy towards a city that kept growing while its roads stood still," he posted.

Urban planners and residents argue that Srinagar's road infrastructure has failed to keep pace with the rapid increase in vehicle ownership and tourism-related traffic. The city's narrow roads, limited parking facilities and absence of effective public transport alternatives have compounded the problem.

With the peak tourist season underway and Muharram and other major events approaching, many fear the situation could worsen unless immediate measures are taken. Suggestions ranging from stricter traffic management and dedicated parking zones to regulating tourist vehicle inflow and accelerating road expansion projects are increasingly finding support among stakeholders.

For now, however, commuters continue to spend hours navigating traffic snarls, with Srinagar's scenic charm increasingly overshadowed by the growing challenge of urban congestion.

Footpaths Turn into Shop Extensions, Pedestrians Forced Onto Roads

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Footpaths across several commercial areas of Srinagar are increasingly being occupied by merchandise displayed outside shops, forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads and raising concerns about public safety and civic management.

A visit to various markets revealed that shopkeepers have extended their commercial activity beyond designated premises by placing cartons, household goods, electronic appliances and other merchandise on pedestrian pathways, substantially reducing the space available for public movement.

In many locations, the problem is compounded by vehicles parked adjacent to footpaths, leaving pedestri-

ans with little option but to step onto roads shared with moving traffic.

Some concerned citizens said the practice has become ubiquitous in major markets and shopping hubs, affecting schoolchildren, elderly citizens, women and persons with disabilities the most. They alleged that despite periodic anti-encroachment drives, obstructions routinely reappear within days.

They argue that footpaths are intended exclusively for pedestrian use and their conversion into commercial display areas undermines both public convenience and road safety. They warned that continued acquiescence to such practices could further erode already limited pedestrian infrastructure in the city.

JKAACL Releases Poetic Collection by Sanjay Pandita

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday released 'Saffron Winds', a collection of poems in English authored by noted writer, columnist and literary figure Sanjay Pandita, at an impressive function held in the Academy's Seminar Hall in Srinagar.

The event was attended by eminent writers, poets, scholars, academicians and literary enthusiasts from across the Valley. Renowned writer, academician and Convenor of the Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board for Kashmiri, Prof. Shad Ramzan presided over the function, while distinguished poet, writer and translator Dr. Satish Vimal was the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, and Dr. Abid Ahmad, Editor, JKAACL.

The book was formally reviewed by noted academic and literary critic Prof. Basharat Bhat.

In his address, Prof. Shad Ramzan described 'Saffron Winds' as a significant contribution to contemporary Kashmiri literary sensibility articulated through the medium of English poetry. He observed that the collection embodies a distinctive poetic voice marked by emotional depth, aesthetic refinement and cultural rootedness. Referring to the poet's engagement with memory, identity and displacement, he remarked that the poems successfully capture the beauty, pain and resilience associated with Kashmir and its people.

Dr Satis Vimal, while speaking on the occasion, described 'Saffron Winds' as a poignant and evocative collection that transforms memory, longing and belonging into compelling poetry. He further said that through a refined

poetic language, Sanjay Pandita preserves the cultural soul of Kashmir while speaking to universal human experiences, adding that the poems are marked by sincerity of emotion and artistic restraint, allowing readers to journey through landscapes of exile, remembrance and hope.

Presenting a detailed review of the book, Prof. Basharat Bhat termed 'Saffron Winds' a valuable addition to the growing corpus of Indian English literature. He noted that the collection presents Kashmir in its totality—its breathtaking landscapes, collective memories, aspirations, social realities and cultural ethos—through a sensitive and compelling poetic idiom. He observed that the poems strike a fine balance between personal reflection and collective experience, enabling readers to engage with universal human emotions through distinctly Kashmiri imagery and symbolism.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS)

Fresh NIT No: 16/R&B of 2026-27 Dated: 17-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Ac-count	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender Call
1	Macadamization of Khan Mohalla Zandpal and Ganiwani road.	39.27	1100/-	78540/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	A/B	R&B Deptt.	3rd
2	Macadamization of link roads of Mamooosa.	38.82	1100/-	77640/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	A/B	R&B Deptt.	3rd
3	Up-gradation of Batpora Ogmuna via Solpora incl. inner links with Solpora to Gonipora.	38.84	1100/-	77680/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	A/B	R&B Deptt.	3rd
4	Macadamization of inner links at Pinjoora with Jamia Masjid Bonpora and Pethpora.	38.51	1100/-	77020/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	A/B	R&B Deptt.	3rd
5	Macadamization of Chanpora, Rathi mohalla road.	58.87	1600/-	117740/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	AAV	R&B Deptt.	3rd
6	Macadamization of Reram to Chandibugh road with inner links of Kunzer.	38.93	1100/-	77860/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	A/B	R&B Deptt.	3rd
7	Macadamization of Sonium inner links.	38.93	1100/-	77860/-	20 days	C&T 2026-27	A/B	R&B Deptt.	3rd

Position Of AAA - Accorded
Position of T.S.- Accorded
Position of funds:- committed

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

2.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18-06-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	29-06-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30-06-2026 11:00 AM

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)

The tender / bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

43. Any Typographical error shall be corrected and paid as per SSR of 2022.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

No: R&B / Divn/ Tang/1443-53 Sd/-
Technical Officer
DIPK-2257/26 Dated: 17-06-2026

HELP

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- 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
02 Muharram
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 34
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5: 32
Magrib 47
agrib 7:47
ISHA 9: 29

This Day In History

- 618 - Coronation of the Chinese governor Li Yuan as Emperor Gaozu of Tang, the new Emperor of China, initiating three centuries of the Tang Dynasty's rule over China
- 860 - Rus Vikings attack Constantinople
- 1155 - Pope Adrian IV crowns Frederick I Barbarossa Roman-German Emperor
- 1264 - The Parliament of Ireland meets at Castledermot in County Kildare, the first definitively known meeting of this Irish legislature
- 1316 - Peace of Fexhe: prince-bishop Adolf II of Mark and Luikwe towns
- 1538 - Treaty of Nice: ends war between Emperor Charles V & King French I
- 1541 - Irish parliament selects Henry VIII of England as King of Ireland
- 1574 - Polish King Hendrik of Anjou secretly leaves Poland
- 1580 - States of Utrecht forbid catholic worship
- 1583 - Richard Martin of London takes out first life insurance policy, on William Gibbons; premium was £383
- 1629 - Sea battle at Dungeness: Piet Heyn beat the Dunkirkers, commerce raiders in the service of the Spanish Monarchy
- 1639 - Treaty of Berwick: Ends the First Bishops' War between England and Scotland
- 1682 - William Penn founds Philadelphia, US
- 1757 - Battle at Kolin Bohemia: Austrian army beats Prussia

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The Investor's Dilemma in Kashmir

The success of Kashmir's emerging investment culture may hinge on whether first-time investors receive guidance before confronting their first major market decline.



Irshad Mushtaq

India's mutual fund industry has entered a remarkable phase of growth. Assets under management have climbed from 13.82 lakh crore in May 2016 to about 81.58 lakh crore in May 2026, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). The industry now serves roughly 27.66 crore folios, including more than 21 crore equity, hybrid and solution-oriented accounts largely driven by retail investors.

Those numbers tell a story of rising financial participation. They also raise a more important question for new investors, especially in Kashmir: what actually determines long-term investment success?

Many people assume the answer lies in finding the lowest-cost mutual fund. Cost certainly plays a role. The larger challenge, however, lies in investor behaviour.

A difference of a few basis points in expenses can improve returns over time. A single emotional decision during a market crash can erase years of savings.

Consider two friends in Srinagar. Adil and Bilal each begin a monthly SIP of 5,000 in the same equity mutual fund. Adil chooses the direct plan through a low-cost digital platform. Bilal invests through a local mutual fund distributor and enters the regular plan.

The portfolio remains identical, but the difference lies in the route and the cost.

Many actively managed equity funds in India show a gap of roughly 0.3 to 0.7 percentage points between direct and regular plans.

A direct plan may have a total expense ratio of 1.20 per cent, while the regular version of the same scheme may charge 1.60 to 1.80 per cent. On every 1 lakh invested, that translates into roughly 300 to 600 annually.

Viewed through a spreadsheet, Adil appears to have made the superior choice.

Then a market correction arrives, fear spreads, and headlines grow darker.

Adil redeems his holdings, but Bilal receives a call from his adviser, who explains previous market declines, discusses the logic of compounding and



persuades him to continue his SIP. At that point, the debate changes completely. The key question becomes: who paid the higher price?

This distinction holds particular significance in Kashmir because mutual fund participation remains small.

AMFI's state-wise data for January 2026 shows Jammu and Kashmir accounting for only about 11,706 crore in mutual fund assets. Roughly 81 per cent of that money sits in equity schemes and 19 per cent in non-equity products. Compare that with the national picture.

In January 2025, India's mutual fund assets stood at roughly 64.7 lakh crore. Maharashtra alone accounted for about 27.47 lakh crore, representing more than 42 per cent of the total.

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh together controlled more than 71 per cent of India's mutual fund assets.

Kashmir remains at an early stage of adoption. That reality makes the quality of first experiences especially important.

The structure created by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is straightforward. Every mutual fund scheme must provide both direct and regular plans. The underlying portfolio remains the same.

Direct plans involve investing directly with the asset management company or authorised platforms. Since no distributor commission is paid, expenses remain lower and net asset values gradually rise relative to equivalent regular plans.

Regular plans involve a registered mutual fund distributor, bank, independent financial adviser or full-service broker. The asset management company pays a trail commission, which forms part of the scheme's expenses. In-

vestors therefore face a slightly higher expense ratio.

The mathematics behind the difference is simple. A direct plan charging 1.20 per cent annually costs 1,200 on a 1 lakh investment. A regular plan charging 1.60 per cent costs 1,600. The gap equals 400 every year for every 1 lakh invested. On 10 lakh, the difference reaches 4,000 annually before the effects of compounding.

Long investment horizons magnify those savings. Financially literate investors who understand asset allocation, risk and market cycles can benefit substantially from direct plans. They gain lower costs and avoid potential commission-driven product recommendations.

That advantage becomes meaningful only when accompanied by discipline.

SEBI's data on futures and options trading provides a striking illustration of the behavioural challenge. Between FY22 and FY24, around 93 per cent of more than one crore individual equity derivatives traders recorded net losses. Aggregate losses exceeded 1.8 lakh crore, while average losses approached 2 lakh per trader. Follow-up analysis found that about 91 per cent of retail traders continued to lose money in FY25, with losses exceeding 1.05 lakh crore during that year alone.

Those figures do not describe mutual funds. They reveal something more fundamental: easy market access does not automatically produce good outcomes.

Many young investors focus intensely on saving a few hundred rupees in fees while paying far less attention to decisions that can cost several lakhs. The same psychological tendencies that damage traders can also harm mutual

fund investors.

Panic selling, performance chasing, excessive switching and concentrated bets often inflict far greater damage than a modest expense ratio.

This is where a capable adviser earns his fee.

A good distributor studies family circumstances, income stability and financial goals. He helps determine an appropriate mix between equity and debt. He assists with documentation, nominations and compliance. Most importantly, he acts as a behavioural coach during periods of market stress. That role resembles preventive medicine more than product distribution.

Suppose an investor pays an additional 0.40 per cent annually through a regular plan. On a 5 lakh portfolio, that amounts to roughly 2,000 per year. If an adviser prevents one panic exit during a sharp correction, discourages a speculative small-cap obsession or keeps SIP contributions running through difficult markets, the value created can exceed the additional cost many times over.

Kashmir's investment landscape makes this distinction particularly important. Financial literacy continues to develop. Social talks often influence investment decisions. One painful experience can discourage an entire family from participating in capital markets for years.

The strongest path forward therefore lies in matching the investment route to the investor rather than treating one model as universally superior.

Direct plans suit investors who understand fund categories, asset allocation and market volatility. They work especially well for those willing to study products carefully and maintain discipline during market declines.

Regular plans suit first-generation investors, busy professionals and families seeking guidance. The additional expense functions less as a charge and more as payment for judgement, structure and emotional support.

India's mutual fund industry will continue to expand. Kashmir's participation will grow alongside it. The central challenge is not choosing between direct and regular plans. It is building investors who stay invested.

Saving 0.5 per cent each year is valuable, but staying committed through a 30 per cent market decline is transformative.

For many Kashmiri families taking their first steps into financial markets, that distinction could shape their financial future far more than any expense ratio ever will.

The author is a Srinagar-based financial educator.

KO VIEW

World Cup Fever

A group of college students huddles around a phone screen in a campus corridor. A café table turns into a heated debate over which team has the strongest midfield. Office colleagues keep checking updates between meetings. Late at night, living rooms stay lit long after midnight as families and friends gather to watch the biggest football tournament on earth.

That is what the FIFA World Cup looks like in Kashmir. Football has always enjoyed a special place in the valley's sporting culture. Long before social media and streaming platforms changed the way people followed sports, football grounds attracted huge crowds. Matches at SP College, Polo Ground, Eidgah and many local fields drew supporters who followed the game with passion and pride. Local football stars enjoyed a following that rivaled any celebrity.

Those memories still live on. The faces may have changed and the stadiums may now be thousands of miles away, but the excitement remains much the same.

As the World Cup unfolds in the United States, football once again becomes a major talking point across Kashmir. Young fans track results, study team lineups, discuss tactics and follow the latest developments from their favourite players. Older supporters revisit stories from earlier tournaments, recalling unforgettable goals, famous upsets and legendary names that defined entire eras of football.

The tournament brings a unique energy to public life. Cafés fill with supporters backing different nations, and campuses buzz with predictions about who will lift the trophy. Friendly arguments break out over star players and coaching decisions. WhatsApp groups remain active deep into the night as supporters react to dramatic goals and unexpected results.

Support for national teams often runs deep. Some cheer for Brazil because of its rich football tradition, others back Argentina, France, Germany, Spain or Portugal because of a favourite player or a style of play they admire.

Match days bring excitement, anticipation and plenty of banter among friends.

Football also sparks something larger than sporting interest in the valley. Young players who spend their evenings on local grounds closely watch how elite footballers move, pass and think during a game. The World Cup becomes both entertainment and inspiration. Discussions from television screens often continue on neighbourhood pitches the following day.

Perhaps that is why the tournament feels different from most global events. It draws people into a shared experience. People who support different teams, belong to different age groups and come from different walks of life find common ground in the game.

Thousands of miles separate Kashmir from the World Cup venues, but the tournament feels remarkably close. Through late-night screenings, animated debates, score updates and passionate support, football once again brings a familiar excitement to the valley.

For a few weeks, Kashmir does more than watch the World Cup. It lives it.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

Beyond Sanctions

Recent tensions in the Middle East have renewed attention on Iran's geopolitical role, but the larger question is whether the world will continue to isolate a major scientific community or engage it in solving humanity's shared challenges.

Explosive events in the Middle East have revealed, once again, how quickly the standing of nations can change.

Countries viewed through the narrow lens of sanctions, isolation, or geopolitical rivalry often emerge in unexpected ways when confronted with crisis.

Political fortunes rise and fall, international perceptions shift, and strategic calculations evolve. Such moments bring to mind a timeless Quranic verse: "To Allah belongs all sovereignty. He bestows honour upon whomsoever He wills and humbles whomsoever He wills."

Much of the discussion surrounding the recent confrontation involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has focused on military capabilities, regional influence, and diplomatic consequences.

Analysts have examined battlefield outcomes, strategic deterrence, and shifting alliances. A more important lesson sits beneath those debates.

Whatever one's political views, the episode has reinforced a reality that the international community can no longer dismiss: Iran has become a country whose capabilities, ambitions, and national confidence command attention.

Military endurance, however, provides only a partial measure of national strength.

Lasting influence grows through contributions to human progress. Countries earn enduring respect when they advance knowledge, improve lives, and expand humanity's collective understanding of the world.

Knowledge possesses a unique quality among human achievements. Territory changes hands, political systems evolve, and alliances

form and dissolve. But scientific discovery grows stronger when shared.

Ideas developed in one country frequently improve life far beyond its borders. Medical breakthroughs cure patients thousands of miles away. Agricultural innovations increase food production in distant regions. Technological advances connect people who may never know the names of the researchers responsible for those achievements.

Modern history provides abundant evidence. Europe and North America transformed their own societies through sustained investment in education, scientific inquiry, and technological innovation.

Their laboratories, universities, and research institutions generated advances that revolutionized medicine, transportation, communications, agriculture, and industry.

Human life expectancy rose dramatically, childhood survival improved, and access to information expanded on a scale previous generations could scarcely imagine.

Those gains became part of humanity's shared inheritance.

A simple lesson emerges from this history: when societies invest in knowledge, people everywhere benefit.

Viewed through that lens, Iran's experience deserves serious consideration.

For decades, Iran has lived under varying forms of sanctions, restrictions, and international pressure.

Despite those obstacles, the country has continued to educate scientists, engineers, phy-



Iran's experience demonstrates what determined investment in education and research can accomplish under difficult circumstances. Greater cooperation could unlock even greater contributions

sicians, researchers, and innovators. Iranian institutions have produced significant work in medicine, pharmaceuticals, engineering, nanotechnology, and other advanced scientific fields.

Academic achievement persisted even under conditions that would have discouraged many nations.

This achievement needs attention irrespective of political disagreements.

Iran's most striking accomplishment during recent decades lies in its commitment to developing scientific and educational capacity while operating under extraordinary external constraints.

Universities continued training students, researchers continued conducting studies, and scientific institutions continued building expertise.

That reality invites a larger question. Public debate often focuses on how Iran

managed to advance despite restrictions. A more useful question asks how much more the country could contribute through greater engagement with the global scientific community.

History points toward a clear answer.

Scientific progress flourishes through collaboration. Researchers build upon one another's work. Universities gain strength through academic partnerships. Innovation accelerates when ideas move freely between institutions, countries, and cultures. Discovery thrives in environments where knowledge circulates widely and scholars engage one another openly.

Political isolation may achieve certain strategic objectives, but scientific advancement follows a different logic.

Laboratories flourish through exchange, researchers thrive through cooperation, and knowledge expands through connection.

That principle holds particular significance at a time when humanity faces challenges that transcend national borders.

Climate change, emerging diseases, food security, water shortages, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development present problems of immense complexity.

Every society possesses part of the solution. No country possesses all of it.

That's why global challenges demand global intelligence.

Scientific engagement therefore should remain distinct from political rivalry whenever possible. Governments understandably pursue security, stability, and national interests. Those objectives can coexist with policies that

encourage peaceful scientific development and academic exchange.

Human talent represents one of the world's most valuable resources. Treating scientific communities as partners in progress strengthens everyone.

Iran's scientific achievements under difficult circumstances illustrate the depth of talent within its universities and research institutions.

Expanded academic partnerships, collaborative research projects, scientific exchanges, and technological cooperation could generate benefits extending far beyond Iran itself. Researchers working together frequently produce outcomes that none could achieve independently.

The choice confronting the international community extends beyond sanctions policy or diplomatic strategy. It concerns the future direction of global knowledge.

Will nations encourage broader cooperation among scientists, researchers, and innovators? Or will political divisions continue limiting opportunities for collaboration that could improve lives worldwide?

Human history tells a story of ideas moving from one society to another, enriching each place they touch. Nations rise and fall, alliances change, and political disputes occupy headlines for a season. But knowledge endures long after those conflicts fade from memory.

An interconnected world faces problems that demand collective intelligence and shared effort. Scientific potential, wherever it exists, should be viewed as an asset for humanity.

Iran's experience demonstrates what determined investment in education and research can accomplish under difficult circumstances. Greater cooperation could unlock even greater contributions.

Perhaps the time has come to move the conversation beyond sanctions and toward scientific cooperation.

Such a shift would serve humanity's future.

The author is an advocate practicing before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and writes on legal, political, and social issues.

Startup Kashmir Founder at TEDx

In this recent TEDx talk, a defiant downtown techie who captained Kashmir's entrepreneurship movement as a mentor argues that thriving startup cultures emerge when ordinary people choose action over waiting for perfect conditions.



Twenty years ago, shortly after college, I started an IT company with two friends. It was the first company of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir. We were young and inexperienced, though we possessed something many founders possess in abundance: optimism.



Shahid Ansari

The most important question I have ever asked young people is one that rarely appears in a textbook or examination hall: What problem do you want to solve before you die?

She most important question I have ever asked young people is one that rarely appears in a textbook or examination hall: What problem do you want to solve before you die?

Schools often ask students what marks they hope to score, which degree they plan to pursue, or what profession they hope to enter. Those questions have their place.

But the question that changes lives is different.

It asks people to identify a problem that bothers them enough to spend years trying to solve it.

That question sparks entrepreneurship, social movements, and any ecosystem that produces new ideas.

My own journey began with that question in Kashmir, under circumstances that would have persuaded many people to give up.

Twenty years ago, shortly after college, I started an IT company with two friends. It was the first company of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir. We were young and inexperienced, though we possessed something many founders possess

in abundance: optimism.

The early years brought struggle. Then things began to improve.

International clients came on board, new contracts followed, and the business gained momentum. We felt that we were building something substantial and sustainable.

Then one day everything stopped.

When I reached the office, I learned that internet services and telephone lines had been shut down. Clients could not contact us, and we could not contact them.

Emails stopped, conversations ended, and projects stalled.

Relationships that had taken years to build disappeared almost overnight.

The business collapsed.

My partners made a sensible decision. They left and built successful careers in the United States. Their choice made perfect sense. Many talented Kashmiris have made similar decisions over the years.

I chose a different path.

I stayed in a place with frequent power cuts, unreliable communications and limited access to the outside world. Looking back, I sometimes wonder whether that decision came from courage or stubbornness. Either way, it changed my life.

The years that followed became the most productive period I have ever experienced.

Working with a mathematician friend, I immersed myself in a problem in recreational mathematics that had remained unresolved for nearly three centuries. We eventually found a solution. That work led us toward the development of an algorithm for an artificial intelligence engine.

People often assume innovation depends primarily on infrastructure, funding or access to informa-



I stayed in a place with frequent power cuts, unreliable communications and limited access to the outside world. Looking back, I sometimes wonder whether that decision came from courage or stubbornness. Either way, it changed my life.

tion. Those factors help, but my experience taught me that human curiosity remains the most powerful force in the innovation process.

We worked without the advantages that founders in major technology hubs take for granted. There was no high-speed internet connection, no online research community and no endless stream of digital resources. We relied on determination, long hours and a desktop computer powered by an Intel Celeron processor.

Another challenge emerged after we completed the work: How do you introduce an idea to the world when you cannot send an email?

We burned our research onto CDs, typed letters, addressed envelopes by hand, and mailed our work from Srinagar to researchers, institutions and companies in different countries.

Weeks later, responses began to arrive.

Researchers wrote back, industry leaders took notice, and our AI engine eventually reached Texas Instruments, the company behind the world's first calculator.

National newspapers covered our work, and recognition came through a route that would seem unimaginable to many young entrepreneurs today.

Those years taught me a lesson that has remained with me ever since: constraints do not suppress creativity, they often produce it.

During my career, I have worked with multinational corporations in Europe and the United States and met some of the brightest people in technology. The work I remain most proud of emerged during a period when conditions were hardest.

Scarcity forced focus, obstacles pushed us toward unconventional solutions, and limitation became a source of invention.

That lesson becomes clearer when we look at one of the most famous stories in the history of innovation.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Samuel Pierpont Langley received substantial funding from the US government to solve the challenge of human flight. He held prestigious academic positions, attracted extensive media attention

and assembled talented teams. Public interest was immense, and resources flowed toward his efforts.

Several hundred miles away, Orville and Wilbur Wright operated a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio.

They had no government grant, and no major institutional backing. Their team possessed little formal status and few financial resources.

But history remembers who flew first.

The Wright brothers succeeded because their motivation ran deeper than recognition.

Langley sought a breakthrough, while the Wright brothers pursued a mission. They believed flight could transform the world and devoted themselves completely to making it possible.

People often assume that innovation ecosystems emerge when governments spend enough money or investors write enough checks.

Capital helps, so do policy and infrastructure. But none of those elements create an ecosystem on their own.

Human beings create ecosystems.

My work with Startup Kashmir has reinforced that conclusion repeatedly. After years of mentoring young entrepreneurs, I have come to believe that thriving startup cultures rest on three foundations.

The first is the ability to notice problems.

Entrepreneurs see the world differently. Most people learn to tolerate inefficiencies. Entrepreneurs become curious about them. They ask why something works poorly, why a process remains difficult, or why a problem has persisted for so long.

Many of the world's most influential companies began with that instinct.

Google emerged from frustration with finding information, Airbnb grew from unused living spaces, and Uber addressed frustrations around transportation.

Great companies often begin with simple observations that others overlook.

Kashmir contains countless problems waiting for solutions. Those solutions will emerge only when more people develop the

habit of paying attention.

The second foundation is community.

Innovation rarely thrives in isolation. Ideas gain strength when people challenge them, improve them and build upon them together.

Startup ecosystems do not begin inside impressive buildings. They start in exchange between friends, students, mentors and collaborators.

Silicon Valley grew through networks of people sharing knowledge, supporting one another and learning together. The same principle applies anywhere in the world.

Someone sitting beside you today could become your future cofounder, partner or mentor. Strong

possible after they start.

Kashmir's story often gets told through the language of limitation. My experience has shown me another story.

It is a story about people who continue building despite setbacks. It is a story about imagination thriving under pressure. It is a story about individuals who choose action when circumstances provide few guarantees.

That spirit reminds me of a verse by Allama Iqbal that has guided me through some of the most difficult periods of my life: "Yaqeen mohkam, amal peham, mohabbat faateh-e-alam — Jihad-e-zindagani mein hain yeh mardon ki shamsherein."

Firm faith, consistent action and love for one's work.

Those words sustained me through shutdowns, failures and uncertainty. They continue to guide my work today.

Technology changes, so do markets and business models, but purpose endures.

People who identify meaning-



Kashmir's story often gets told through the language of limitation. My experience has shown me another story. It is a story about people who continue building despite setbacks. It is a story about imagination thriving under pressure. It is a story about individuals who choose action when circumstances provide few guarantees.

communities multiply the impact of individual talent.

The third foundation is action.

Many people spend years waiting for ideal conditions. They wait for more money, more confidence, more knowledge or greater certainty.

Progress usually begins long before any of those things arrive.

Large ventures often start as small experiments. A discussion sparks an idea, a notebook fills with sketches, a student builds a project, a group chat turns into a team, and a prototype becomes a company.

People consistently overestimate what they need before they begin and underestimate what becomes

ful problems, build communities around solutions and begin before conditions seem perfect will always create the future.

Kashmir has all the ingredients needed for that future. The next chapter depends on whether more young people decide to write it.

— Shahid Ansari is the Founder and CEO of Startup Kashmir, working to strengthen entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir through mentorship, global linkages, and ecosystem development. This Tedx talk was slightly refined for readability and flow.



Working with a mathematician friend, I immersed myself in a problem in recreational mathematics that had remained unresolved for nearly three centuries. We eventually found a solution. That work led us toward the development of an algorithm for an artificial intelligence engine.

India-EU Free Trade Deal To Be Signed By Year-End

Leaders Push for Early Implementation, Stronger Strategic Ties

Agencies

Paris: India and the European Union will sign their ambitious free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of this year, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on Wednesday after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.

The meeting was also attended by European Council President Antonio Costa and focused on accelerating economic cooperation, expanding strategic ties and advancing key

connectivity initiatives.

"Since we have concluded the mother of all trade deals, we have been moving fast to deliver on our commitments. We will sign the Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year and accelerate work on an investment agreement," Von der Leyen said in a social media post.

The FTA, which was finalised following negotiations concluded earlier this year, is expected to significantly boost trade and investment between India and the EU. Officials said the agreement will reduce tariffs on 99 per cent of Indian exports to the

European market while lowering duties on more than 97 per cent of EU exports to India.

The European Union estimates that the pact will save European exporters up to four billion euros annually in tariffs.

Prime Minister Modi said the discussions focused on deepening economic engagement and strengthening the India-EU strategic partnership.

"During our talks, we discussed how to further deepen economic linkages in the times to come. Our growing cooperation can play an important role in strengthening peace, stability

and prosperity in today's global environment," he said.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the leaders emphasised the need for the early signing and implementation of the agreement, saying it would unlock major opportunities for trade and investment while contributing to diversification of global supply chains.

The leaders also reviewed progress on the India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda adopted earlier this year and agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas such as security, defence and connectivity.

Intermittent Rains In J&K Till June 22: MeT

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department on Wednesday forecast a spell of generally cloudy weather accompanied by intermittent rain, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, while warning of possible hailstorms and flash floods at isolated vulnerable locations.

Director of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said weather conditions are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy on June 17, with light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning

and gusty winds likely at many places, particularly during the afternoon.

From June 18 to June 22, the Union Territory is expected to witness generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds at many locations, he said.

The weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy between June 23 and June 25, with chances of light rain, brief showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places, the official added.

The department has advised orchardists to carry out spray operations during

the early morning hours to minimise weather-related disruptions.

People have also been urged to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, overhead power lines and old trees during periods of inclement weather.

As a precautionary measure, boating activities and Shikara rides have been suspended during thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds.

The MeT Department said isolated areas may witness hailstorms accompanied by brief intense showers over the next five days. It also cautioned that heavy downpours at some locations could trigger flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

MHA Team To

both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions. "The MHA meeting in Jammu is expected on June 20, followed by a similar review meeting in the Kashmir division on June 21," sources said.

The visit comes days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level security review meeting in New Delhi on June 12 to assess preparations for the pilgrimage.

During the meeting, Shah directed security agencies and officials to ensure a safe and smooth Yatra, stressing that the safety of pilgrims remains the top priority of the Narendra Modi-led government.

The Home Minister called for a comprehensive multi-layered security grid along both Yatra routes through close coordination between the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies.

He also emphasised the use of modern technology to strengthen security arrangements and directed officials to ensure extensive deployment of drones, CCTV surveillance systems and advanced monitoring mechanisms to improve situational awareness and threat response capabilities.

Shah further instructed that senior officers from CAPFs and the Jammu and Kashmir Police be stationed at key camp locations to maintain continuous oversight of arrangements throughout the pilgrimage period.

In addition to the Yatra routes, the Home Minister asked officials to strengthen security at major tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safety of pilgrims and visitors.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which attracts thousands of devotees from across the country, will begin on July 3 and continue for 57 days. Authorities have intensified preparations to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage amid challenging terrain and security considerations

CRPF Sets Up

oxygen cylinders, portable stretchers, ropes, medicines for high-altitude sickness and drinking water.

"The teams will be deployed at strategic locations along the Baltal route. They will assist pilgrims who require basic medical care or help due to exhaustion or injury," CRPF Deputy Inspector General and Yatra Nodal Officer Sudhir Kumar said.

Kumar, who is overseeing the pilgrimage arrangements for the third time, said the MRTs will also support other relief and rescue agencies during emergencies such as landslides or flash floods.

The specialised teams have become a regular feature along the Baltal axis since last year and have been instrumental in providing oxygen, first aid and other assistance to pilgrims and personnel engaged in managing the pilgrimage.

A senior CRPF officer said the MRT, along with other rescue teams, will be flagged off from Srinagar on Thursday for deployment along the route.

The 57-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 3. Pilgrims can reach the shrine through the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district or the shorter but steeper 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Meanwhile, security arrangements for the pilgrimage have also been significantly strengthened. Officials said 670 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will be deployed for the Yatra in addition to personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Last year, 581 CAPF companies were deployed for the annual pilgrimage. Officials said the number has been increased this year in view of the security assessment carried out following the Pahalgam terror attack in 2025.

Each CAPF company comprises an operational strength of approximately 72 to 75 personnel.

PM Flags Impact

disproportionately affect developing countries.

"If we truly want to strengthen international solidarity, the most vulnerable countries should not bear the burden of these crises alone," he said.

Modi called on international financial institutions to create support mechanisms that would help developing countries absorb economic shocks and maintain economic resilience.

Emphasising inclusive development, the Prime Minister said economic growth should

not be measured solely through GDP figures or trade volumes.

"The real question is who is growth for, who is it with, and in what direction," he said.

Modi also proposed the creation of a Global Skills Partnership to leverage the strengths of younger economies and address workforce shortages in ageing societies.

Highlighting India's development model, he said the country's growth story is rooted in inclusion and democratic empowerment.

"India believes in integration, not fragmentation; partnership, not protectionism; and shared prosperity, not uncertainty," the Prime Minister said.

India attended the G7 Summit as a guest country at the invitation of the French presidency.

Trump Praises

negotiating skills. "Very close," Trump said while speaking alongside Modi. "We have been there for a little while. He is a very tough negotiator. One of the toughest."

Praising the prime minister in his trademark style, Trump said, "He is the most beautiful looking man, he looks so nice, he is like an angel. But actually he is just tough, he is a killer."

"But he looks so good, he gets you by surprise. People say he is such a nice man, I say he is very tough, he is a tough trader," the US president said, as Modi sat beside him smiling and visibly amused.

Trump also said Modi loves the Indian people while also referring to the "Howdy, Modi!" event held in Texas in 2019.

As Modi interjected with a reference to the "Namaste Trump" event held in Ahmedabad in 2020, Trump said, "We will be going to India some time in the future."

The remarks came during a press briefing after talks between the two leaders on the sidelines of the G7 Summit held in this French commune.

Their wide-ranging talks focused on the proposed bilateral trade deal, defence and security ties, and the West Asia crisis.

PDD Employee Sacked

and 212 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), along with Sections 7/27 of the Arms Act.

He is also named in FIR No. 66/2018 registered under Sections 147, 148, 149, 336, 427, 332 and 341 of the RPC, and FIR No. 78/2018 registered under Sections 147, 148, 149, 427, 307 and 341 of the RPC.

An official said the government remains committed to acting against employees found to be involved in activities prejudicial to the security and integrity of the nation.

"The government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards terror links and continues to take strict action in such cases," the official said.

The dismissal is the latest in a series of actions taken by the administration against government employees accused of having links with terror outfits or activities.

Art 370 Move

surrendered and the government had invested heavily in security operations, training programmes and rehabilitation measures in affected regions.

Northeast Sees Greater Stability

Shah also highlighted the government's efforts in the Northeast, stating that more than a dozen peace accords signed in recent years had helped reduce insurgency and improve stability across the region.

He said the decline in violence had enabled greater focus on development, infrastructure and connectivity projects.

Defence Production Triples
On defence preparedness, Shah said the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative had significantly strengthened domestic defence manufacturing.

He said defence production had increased from around Rs 46,000 crore in 2014 to nearly Rs 1.5 lakh crore, driven by policy reforms and a renewed emphasis on indigenous production.

The Home Minister said thousands of defence-related items had been identified for indigenisation, while investments in military modernisation, border infrastructure, defence satellites and indigenous weapons systems had enhanced India's strategic capabilities.

Shah said the achievements of the past 12 years reflected the government's commitment to safeguarding national interests and ensuring security across the country.

He asserted that India's response to security challenges now stands as an example of

decisive governance and national resolve.

J&K Moves Closer

and trusts. Sponsoring bodies must demonstrate financial stability, adequate land and infrastructure, and a clear educational vision.

The law also provides for the establishment of the J&K Private Universities Regulatory Authority, mandated to oversee compliance, conduct inspections, and monitor standards.

The Act further allows foreign higher educational institutions to establish campuses in J&K, subject to approval by the University Grants Commission (UGC). (KNO

2 Killed, 11 Injured

Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives.

"Pained by the loss of precious lives in the tragic road accident in Pahalgam. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members in this hour of grief," Sinha said in a statement. He directed the district administration to provide all necessary assistance to the affected families and ensure proper care of the injured.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed sorrow over the tragedy and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families.

According to an official spokesperson, the chief minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and for strength and courage to the families to bear the irreparable loss.

Expressing concern over the condition of the injured, Abdullah directed the authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment without any delay and asked the administration to extend all necessary support to the affected families.

In another accident, four tourists and a local driver sustained injuries after their vehicle overturned in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The accident occurred in the main market area of Tangmarg, the gateway to the famed tourist destination of Gulmarg.

Officials said all the injured suffered minor injuries and were provided medical treatment.

The US-Iran

negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme and a multibillion-dollar reconstruction initiative.

The memorandum, expected to be formally signed in Switzerland later this week, provides insight into the concessions and obligations accepted by both sides after months of conflict and mediation led by Pakistan and Qatar.

Immediate End to Hostilities

At the heart of the agreement is a commitment by Iran, the United States and their allies to bring an immediate and permanent end to military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon.

Both sides pledge not to undertake hostile action against each other in the future and agree to respect each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

The language effectively formalises the ceasefire arrangements that have largely held since April while extending them into a permanent framework.

Horzum and Naval Blockade
One of the most consequential provisions concerns the Strait of Horzum, the strategic waterway through which roughly one-fifth of global oil supplies pass.

The memorandum requires the United States to immediately lift its naval blockade against Iran and restore maritime traffic within 30 days.

Iran, in turn, agrees to facilitate the resumption of commercial shipping and undertake mine-clearing and other technical measures needed to restore maritime traffic to pre-war levels.

Major Economic Incentives
The text contains extensive economic benefits for Tehran.

The United States commits to issuing immediate waivers allowing exports of Iranian crude oil, petrochemical products and derivatives, together with associated banking, shipping and insurance services.

Washington also agrees, as part of a final settlement, to terminate all categories of sanctions against Iran, including unilateral American sanctions as well as sanctions linked to the United Nations Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The memorandum further envisages a reconstruction and economic development programme worth at least \$300 billion, to be financed by the United States and its regional partners.

A detailed implementation mechanism is to be developed within 60 days.

Frozen Assets to Be Released

Another significant provision concerns Iranian assets frozen abroad.

The document states that restricted Iranian funds will gradually be released and made fully accessible as negotiations progress.

According to the text, the funds would be placed at the disposal of Iran's Central Bank and could be used without restrictions, with the United States undertaking to issue all necessary licences and authorisations.

Nuclear Issues Deferred

While the memorandum contains a renewed Iranian commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons, it leaves many sensitive nuclear questions unresolved.

The fate of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and other nuclear-related matters would be addressed during negotiations on a final agreement.

Until then, Iran would maintain the current status of its nuclear programme while the United States would refrain from imposing new sanctions or expanding military deployments in the region.

The final negotiations are expected to last up to 60 days, with the possibility of extension by mutual consent.

US Troop Withdrawal and Final Settlement
The memorandum also includes a commitment by Washington to withdraw forces from areas surrounding Iran within 30 days of a final agreement.

A joint monitoring mechanism would be established to supervise implementation and compliance.

The final agreement would ultimately be endorsed through a binding resolution of the United Nations Security Council, giving the settlement international legal backing.

What Is Not in the Deal

Equally notable are the issues absent from the MOU.

The text does not address Iran's ballistic missile programme, regional alliances or broader security architecture in West Asia.

Instead, the focus remains narrowly on ending the conflict, restoring economic ties, re-opening maritime routes and creating a framework for future nuclear negotiations.

From War Aims to Peace Terms

The emerging framework also highlights the widening gap between the objectives Washington cited when it launched military operations against Iran and the terms now taking shape in the proposed settlement.

At various stages of the conflict, President Donald Trump and senior US officials said the war was aimed at destroying Iran's missile capabilities, crippling its defence-industrial base, eliminating the nuclear threat and curbing Tehran's support for regional allied groups such as Hezbollah.

The administration also sought to restore freedom of navigation through the Strait of Horzum and strengthen the security of US allies across the Middle East.

Iran, meanwhile, consistently maintained that any agreement must include an end to the war on all fronts, lifting of the naval blockade, sanctions relief, access to frozen assets, respect for Iranian sovereignty and guarantees against future military action.

The leaked memorandum suggests that several of Tehran's core demands have found their way into the framework, including sanctions waivers, the release of frozen funds, an end to the blockade and commitments to negotiate a broader lifting of sanctions.

By contrast, some of Washington's most ambitious objectives appear unresolved. The agreement postpones key nuclear questions to future negotiations, does not publicly address Iran's ballistic missile programme and contains no disclosed provisions requiring Tehran to sever ties with regional allies or dismantle networks that US officials frequently cited as a justification for military action.

For now, however, the leaked memorandum offers the clearest indication yet of the political, economic and security trade-offs underpinning the emerging peace agreement between Washington and Tehran.

Cyber Criminals

The top court refused to entertain the plea for clubbing of some FIRs lodged against the petitioner in different states.

The bench said the petitioner may approach the jurisdictional high court to seek relief.

Centre Launches

of Police (DCP) Bajrang Bansode said the GRM portal will help unfreeze bank accounts that have been wrongly frozen, while the MRM portal will facilitate the restoration of money lost by victims of cyber fraud.

"These portals will establish direct

coordination among the police, banks and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP). In case of cyber fraud, citizens should immediately contact the national cyber helpline 1930 or lodge a complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal," he said.

Bansode said the two applications have been launched by the MHA to address issues arising from cyber fraud cases and to provide timely relief to affected citizens.

Another official said the MRM portal has been designed to provide a convenient mechanism for victims of cyber financial fraud to seek the return of money that has been frozen or recovered following the registration of a complaint.

The GRM portal will handle grievances related to bank accounts that have been frozen, lien-marked or seized during cybercrime investigations. It will enable account holders to seek a review of actions taken against their accounts.

The official said the GRM module was introduced to address complaints from account holders whose bank accounts were frozen, placed under lien or put on hold due to suspicious transactions detected during cybercrime investigations.

The MRM portal allows victims of cyber financial fraud to apply for refunds of money that has been frozen or recovered after a complaint has been filed, the official added.

DIET Study Flags

administered to students, teachers and Heads of Institutions and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

The findings revealed significant differences in awareness levels between male and female students. While nearly 68 per cent of boys were aware of the causes and consequences of drug abuse, less than half of the girls surveyed demonstrated similar awareness.

Awareness levels also varied across different localities of the district. Among boys, 53 per cent from uptown areas and 58 per cent from downtown areas reported awareness of drug abuse issues. Among girls, awareness stood at 41 per cent in uptown schools and 48 per cent in downtown schools.

The study found that students pursuing science subjects generally possessed a better understanding of the causes and harmful effects of drug abuse compared to those studying humanities and commerce.

Peer pressure emerged as the most significant factor contributing to substance abuse among students. Among boys, 46 per cent of secondary school students and 68 per cent of higher secondary students identified peer influence as the primary reason behind drug use. Curiosity, thrill-seeking behaviour, emotional stress and experimentation were also cited as contributing factors.

Among girls, peer pressure was identified as a major cause by 38 per cent of secondary school students and 43 per cent of higher secondary students. Academic stress and performance-related pressure were also highlighted as factors increasing vulnerability.

Although only a small proportion of students admitted to personal drug use, a considerably larger number reported being aware of other students involved in substance abuse. The study found that between 25 and 27 per cent of male students and 5.8 to 12 per cent of female students knew students who were using drugs.

Tobacco products, including cigarettes, emerged as the most commonly abused substances among adolescents. Other substances identified by respondents included morphine, opium and bang.

The study also highlighted a lack of awareness regarding treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Nearly 69 per cent of boys and 74 per cent of girls said they were unaware of any organisation or institution providing treatment, counselling or rehabilitation support for drug addiction.

Concluding that many students possess inadequate knowledge about the dangers and long-term consequences of substance abuse, the researchers called for comprehensive prevention programmes within schools.

The study recommended integrating drug awareness initiatives into the school curriculum, strengthening counselling services, promoting life-skills education, increasing parental and community involvement, and launching sustained awareness campaigns to prevent substance abuse among young people.

It stressed that schools must play a central role in addressing the growing challenge of drug addiction and ensuring early intervention and support for vulnerable students. (inputs from KNO)

CM Omar Unveils ₹100 Crore Development Package for Bandipora

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday gave Bandipora district a massive developmental boost by inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 18 major projects worth approximately ₹100 crore. These multisectoral projects span higher education, roads, bridges, clean drinking water, urban development, and agriculture infrastructure, aiming to directly address the key needs of the local population.

Major initiatives include the construction of the Government Degree College at Ajas (₹14 crore), a footbridge over the River Jhelum at Tundipora-Hakbara (₹10.62 crore), a female student hostel at Government Degree College Bandipora (₹10 crore), and a school building at Kaloosa (₹3.71 crore). Other works include the Markundal-Hajin road upgrade (₹7.13 crore), a water supply augmentation scheme (₹6.66 crore), a multi-storey car parking facility (₹3.74 crore), and residential apartments for Panchayati Raj Institution members.

During his visit, the Chief Minister chaired a high-level review meeting to evaluate the develop-



mental scenario, public service delivery and the progress of various schemes. The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo (through virtual mode), Javed Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan, MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta,

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, senior officers; Heads of Departments; and district officers.

Noting Bandipora's progress in the last financial year, Chief Minister Abdullah urged all departments to maintain their developmental momentum. He emphasised that the government has cleared administrative and financial approvals well in advance this year. This proactive step ensures that departments in Bandipora can utilise the work-

ing season fully and execute projects timely, rather than rushing at the end of the financial year. The Chief Minister added that this step is vital for the district due to challenging geographical and climatological conditions.

Highlighting Bandipora's rich natural wealth, the Chief Minister called for the scientific cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. He directed that the possibility of setting up a specialised industrial estate for medicinal herbs be explored.

This initiative is expected to enhance local entrepreneurship, create fresh jobs for the youth and add significant value to the district's natural resources.

Local lawmakers also raised constituency-specific demands regarding developmental aspects which the Chief Minister promised would be swiftly reviewed and resolved.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister distributed vehicles to beneficiaries under the UMEED initiative and inspected stalls set up by local self-help groups. He also met with the public delegations from Gurez, Tulail, and Sonawari, assuring them of timely and equitable redressal of their developmental concerns.

A special highlight of the visit was an open interaction between the Chief Minister and the students of Government Degree College, Bandipora. The session was hosted by a female student, followed by a lively interaction session where students asked candid questions about governance, jobs, and public policy. Praising the confidence of the students, the Chief Minister encouraged the young generation to actively participate in democracy and nation-building.

Publishing Security Visuals without Permission May Invite Action: Police

BARAMULLA: District Police Baramulla on Wednesday issued an advisory cautioning media persons, social media handlers, and freelance journalists against recording or publishing visuals that could compromise security arrangements in the district, officials said. In a statement issued, the police stated that the recording, publication, or circulation of videos and photographs of police personnel, security forces, official convoys, deployments, and protected movements should be strictly avoided if such content reveals sensitive operational details.

The advisory explicitly barred the disclosure of security protocols for officers and protectees, deployment strength and patterns, access control mechanisms, evacuation procedures, vehicle formations, escort arrangements, communication equipment, and command positions, officials added. Close-up visuals of personnel engaged in sensitive duties or any footage that could potentially expose operational tradecraft have also been prohibited.

Stressing upon the imperative of operational secrecy, the police cautioned that publishing such material without prior permission could compromise security, expose personnel to risk, and provide hostile elements with an opportunity to analyse procedures and plan adverse actions, they said.

While media coverage of public events and official programmes was welcome, it must be undertaken responsibly and without undermining operational security, the advisory said. Prior permission, it added, must be sought before recording police or security arrangements and officers on duty. (Observer News Service)

Tourist Vehicle Skids Off Road in Tangmarg

SRINAGAR: A tourist vehicle met with a road accident near the Tangmarg Public Park on Wednesday morning after its brakes reportedly failed, causing panic among passengers and locals alike. However, no loss of life was reported in the incident.

Official sources told KNS that a tourist tempo, bearing registration number JK01AV3629, was on its way from the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg to Srinagar when the driver lost control over the vehicle due to an alleged brake failure. The vehicle veered off the road and met with an accident near the Public Park in Tangmarg earlier in the morning.

Eyewitnesses said that the tempo hit a roadside barrier before coming to a halt, averting what could have been a major tragedy. Several passengers sustained minor injuries in the accident and were immediately rushed to the Sub-District Hospital Tangmarg for first aid and medical attention. Officials confirmed that all the injured are out of danger.

Soon after the incident, police personnel and local residents reached the spot and launched a swift rescue operation. All tourists were safely evacuated from the damaged vehicle. Senior police officials also visited the site and took stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the cause of the accident. Police have urged drivers, especially those operating tourist vehicles on hilly terrain, to ensure proper maintenance of their vehicles and strictly adhere to safety norms to avoid such incidents in future. (Observer News Service)

Awareness activities conducted under 100-Day Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan

SHOPIAN: As part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness and outreach activities were conducted across various educational institutions and community spaces in Shopian district to promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle and strengthen public awareness against substance abuse.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, youth, and members of the local community. Various awareness sessions, fitness activities, interactive programmes, pledge taking ceremonies, and outreach initiatives were organized to educate participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

As part of the campaign, activities emphasizing physical fitness, mental well being, and positive youth engagement were conducted in several schools and institutions across the district. (Observer News Service)

These programmes were also held in connection with 12th International Day of Yoga, highlighting the role of healthy habits and wellness in preventing substance abuse. (Observer News Service)

Respect, Dignity of Senior Citizens is Their Rightful Entitlement: Minister Sakeena



Observer news Service

JAMMU: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo remarked that respect for senior citizens is their rightful entitlement and not a favour as they have contributed immensely for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while felicitating senior citizens of Day Care Centre Roop Nagar Jammu during a grand function held at JKTC Banquet Hall at TRC Jammu, to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of senior citizens towards society.

The programme was attended by Director, Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Secretary, Advisory Board for Scheduled Castes; Joint Director, Poshan ICDS; Deputy Director (Administration), Social Welfare Department; Assistant Director, Social Welfare; and several other senior officers, besides a large gathering of senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasised that respect for elders is their rightful entitlement and not a favour. She observed that senior citizens devote their lives to nurturing families, educating future generations and contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of society. She stressed

that it is the collective responsibility of every individual and institution to ensure that elders receive care, respect and dignity within their homes and communities.

Reviewing the facilities available at the Day Care Centre, the Minister directed the concerned officers to establish a well-equipped library and create dedicated recreational spaces to promote the mental, physical and social well-being of senior citizens.

Highlighting the invaluable wisdom and experience possessed by the elderly, the Minister instructed officers of the Social Welfare Department to maintain regular interaction with senior citizens, listen to their concerns and ensure timely redressal of their grievances. She further directed the department to strengthen facilitation measures for senior citizens across public institutions and service delivery mechanisms.

The Minister underscored that senior citizens have made immense contributions towards the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir and deserve recognition, care and support at every level. She assured them of the Government's continued commitment to addressing their concerns and enhancing welfare initiatives aimed at improving their quality of life.

Transport Commissioner reviews Transport Preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan visited Sonamarg and Baltal to review the transport preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

He was accompanied by RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; ARTO Ganderbal, Anis Ahmed and other officers of the Transport Department.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner chaired a meeting of all stakeholders, including officers of the Transport Department, Traffic Police and transport operators and other concerned agencies. The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments and discussed measures required to ensure safe, efficient and hassle-free transportation facilities for the pilgrims.

The Transport Commissioner stressed that only road-worthy and fit vehicles should be deployed for Yatra duties and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely inspection and fitness certification of all vehicles proposed to be engaged for the pilgrimage. He emphasized that drivers engaged for the Yatra must possess the requisite driving skills, valid credentials and be well acquainted with the Yatra route, traffic regulations, safety protocols and emergency response measures.

Taking serious note of complaints regarding overcharging by transport operators, the Transport Commissioner directed strict adherence to the notified fare structure and warned that any instance of overcharging would invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of law.

The Transport Commissioner also reviewed the availability of vehicles for the Yatra and directed transport operators to ensure adequate deployment of vehicles to cater to the anticipated demand of pilgrims. He stressed the need for maintaining sufficient reserve capacity to address any surge in passenger traffic during the Yatra period.

As part of the visit, the Transport Commissioner inspected the Motor Vehicles Department Enforcement Post at Sonamarg and reviewed the enforcement and facilitation measures being undertaken by the department. He directed the field officers to maintain effective surveillance and ensure strict compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements.

The issue of parking management was also discussed in detail. Directions were issued for earmarking adequate parking slots in consultation with the Traffic Police and other concerned agencies. The Transport Commissioner reviewed the proposed technology-based parking management system and emphasized the effective use of the dedicated mobile application for allocation, monitoring and management of parking slots to ensure orderly movement of vehicles and minimize congestion in the Yatra area.

Public Urges Govt to Open Kadlbal-Khanda Ring Road Ahead of Amarnath Yatra

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: Locals and civil society members from Pampore have urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately open the under-construction Ring Road stretch between Kadlbal Pampore and Khanda, arguing that the road is substantially complete and can provide immediate relief from mounting traffic congestion in the area.

In a public appeal addressed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister and Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, locals said traffic movement has become increasingly difficult due to ongoing works at Lasjan and Padshahi Bagh bridges.

The signatories maintained that the delay in opening the road has created an untenable situation for commuters, with long traffic snarls becoming a routine feature on the route.

According to the appeal, the issue has acquired added significance with the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra and

the ongoing Muharram period expected to increase vehicular movement across the region.

They further pointed out that the commencement of Vande Bharat train services has increased passenger inflow at Nowgam Railway Station, with tourists travelling onwards to destinations such as Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg frequently encountering traffic bottlenecks on the affected corridor.

They argued that prolonged congestion creates a deleterious impact on the tourism sector by leaving visitors with an unfavorable impression of transport infrastructure and connectivity.

As per KNT, the memorandum states that students, patients, office-goers and other daily commuters are among the worst affected and that opening the Kadlbal-Khanda stretch could significantly improve traffic circulation until the bridge works are completed.

The appeal has been issued by RDF Pampore, which urged the administration to take an expeditious decision

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION BARAMULLA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Fresh e-NIT NO: -05/EE/PMGSY/Bla/e-Tendering of 2026-27, Dated:- 17-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla invites e-tender for stage contracts on Percentage Basis from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.

S.No	Name of Work with Package No.	Advertised Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs.)	Cost of document (Rs in Rupees.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in Lacs.)	Period Of Contract	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of Tenders online	Class of Contractor
1.	Stage Contract of roads under the jurisdiction of PMGSY Division Baramulla on emergency basis (i.e.) byway of clearance of Snow, slides/slips other allied works required during maintenance of roads, failure of maintenance of road by regular contractor and any other emergent work likely to occur during financial year 2026-27.	11.50	600	0.23	2026-27	2nd	23.06.2026 At 1.00 PM	B,C&D

1. The important dates and time are as under:-

1.	Date of issue of tender notice	17-06-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-06-2026 at 04.00 PM to 23.06.2026 upto 12:30PM
4.	Bid submission start date	17-06-2026 at 04.00 PM
5.	Bid submission end date	23.06.2026 upto 12:30PM
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical/financial Bids (Online)	23-06-2026 at 1.00 PM

- Cost of Bid Form @ Rs. 600/- (non-refundable) only in form of treasury challan.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersjk.gov.in. The bidders are required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.Pmgstendersjk.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAS can use the same in this tender. Bids must be uploaded along with Scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 4 in shape of treasury challan favoring Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Baramulla by crediting the requisite charges to MN 0059-PWD (Revenue) and scanned copy of Bid Security as mentioned in column 5 pledged to Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla in shape of CDR/FDR/BG.
- All other terms and conditions shall be same as published in the Original NIT

DIPK-2231-26
DT: 17/06/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS SRINAGAR 10-KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR, J&K-190010

Subject: Selection of candidate for the post of "Child Psychologist" in Government Medical College Srinagar and Its Associated Hospitals on Academic Arrangement Basis in terms of S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated; 27.11.2020 - reg.

NOTICE

This office notified final selection list for the post(s) of Child Psychologist vide order No; 784-AH of 2026 Dated: 13-01-2026 and subsequently issued engagement order in favour of Ms. Nasirah Hamid D/o Abdul Hamid Bhat R/o Natipora Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar vide order No: 832-AH of 2026 Dated: 31-01-2026, however, the candidate failed to join within the stipulated time period.

Now in view of non-joining the Ms. Nasirah Hamid, the below tabled candidate, falling next in the merit list and under consideration zone for the post is hereby called upon to appear personally to the office of the Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar/ Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this Notice for submission of the necessary inputs/ documents for processing verification of their Character and Antecedents through online mode from Criminal Investigation Department(CID).

S. No.	Roll No.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Address	Merit obtained	Category
1.	010003	Gosia Nasir Khan	Nasrullah Khan	Dever Anderbugh Kupwara	53	OM

Further the candidate is informed to bring all the certificates/ documents viz, Qualification Certificates, Domicile Certificate, etc. in original

No. AH-GMCS/2026/2215-12
Dated. 16/06/2026

DIPK-2245-26
DT: 17/06/2026

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat [JKAS]
Administrator
Associated Hospitals Srinagar

World Cup Hat Tricks: Messi'S Was The Latest, An American Scored The First And Other Key Facts

AP

ATLANTA: At age 38 and playing in his sixth World Cup, Lionel Messi has his first hat trick in soccer's biggest tournament and Argentina's defense of the trophy is off to a flying start.

Messi's three goals in the 3-0 win over Algeria on Tuesday saw him become the joint highest scorer in men's World Cup history alongside Germany's Miroslav Klose with 16 in total. It was also the first hat trick of this year's tournament and the 55th in World Cup history.

Hat tricks used to have a very different meaning. The term "hat trick" is well-known to sports fans in the United States and, just like soccer, it is used in hockey to describe when a player scores three goals in one game. But it was originally used in cricket and is widely regarded to date back to 1858

when English bowler H.H. Stephenson took three wickets off consecutive balls. It is said that a collection was made and Stephenson was presented with a hat to mark the feat.

The term has since spread to other sports to not only describe three goals, but anything from three consecutive wins, championships or even defeats.

According to the NHL, "hat trick" was used by newspapers as early as the 1930s and the Hockey Hall of Fame traces it back to a promotion by Toronto businessman Sammy Taft offering a free hat to a player who scored three goals in an NHL game in the city.

Messi joins a list of greats to score World Cup hat tricks. Perhaps the biggest surprise is that it took Messi so long to record the latest feat in his trophy-laden career.

The game against Algeria



was his record-extending 27th in the World Cup, two more than Germany's Lothar Matthäus. His first appearance was in 2006.

Messi became the oldest player to score a World Cup hat trick and joined a list of greats that include Pelé, Eusebio, Gerd Müller, Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappé.

The next target will be to join an even more elite list of players to have scored multiple World Cup hat tricks.

Only four players have achieved that feat: Sándor Kocsis, Just Fontaine, Müller and Gabriel Batistuta.

The first World Cup hat trick was at the first edition of the World Cup in 1930 that American Bert Patenaude scored the competition's first hat trick in a 3-0 win over Paraguay. But it took several decades for it to be

officially recognized by FIFA because there was a dispute over the scorer of one of the goals.

According to the U.S. soccer federation, historian Colin Jose helped to convince FIFA to amend its records.

For a long time, England's Geoff Hurst was the only player to score a hat trick in a World Cup final as the Three Lions were crowned champion in 1966.

Mbappé emulated that feat in 2022, but he ended up on the losing team in Qatar against Messi's triumphant Argentina.

World Cup hat tricks are becoming less common. The most hat tricks in a single World Cup was eight in the 1954 edition. The only edition in which none were scored was in 2006.

The last time there were more than two hat tricks at a World Cup was back in 1986 when there were four.

New Zealand Squanders Strong Starts As England'S Green Attack Strikes At The Oval

AP

LONDON: New Zealand's most successful day on its tour of England was also its most wasteful on Day One of The Oval test on Wednesday.

The Black Caps were an encouraging 291-7 at stumps but six of those wickets were gifted to England's most inexperienced bowling attack in decades.

England is trying to clinch the three-match series after winning the first test at Lord's by 115 runs on a pitch that was rated "unsatisfactory."

New Zealand's batters still appeared to be scarred by that match. The likes of captain Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls — filling the No. 3 hole left by the retired Kane Wil-



liamson — Rachin Ravindra and Tom Blundell — the first Kiwi to score a fifty in the series — wasted solid starts on a pitch that lost its early spite as expected.

was worked over by Jofra Archer in a dramatic last hour, was 49 not out with Kyle Jamieson on 6.

England's attack from Lord's was decimated by suspensions and injury, leaving Archer, playing his first test since before Christmas, to lead Josh Tongue, Matthew Fisher, playing his second test, and Sonny Baker, one of three debutants.

All impressed. They were fast and mostly tight, although the 44 extras given away were tied for the third highest score on New Zealand's board.

The depth of New Zealand's largesse was proven by Jacob Bethell, the part-timer who bowled the first spin in the series and remarkably took 2-8 from five overs.

Shafali, Mandhana Headline India'S 95-Run Win Over Netherlands

Press Trust of India

LEEDS: Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma sizzled with the bat as India coasted to an emphatic 95-run win over the Netherlands in their Women's T20 World Cup match here on Wednesday.

The Indian opening duo of Mandhana (74 off 47 balls) and Shafali (55 off 38 balls) slayed a hapless Netherlands attack to fire India to 209/5, their highest total in the tournament history.

The pair shared a 115-run stand off 70 balls after Netherlands put the opposition in to bat.

The Netherlands were never in the run chase despite promising knocks from skipper Babette de Leede (28 off 27 balls) and Sterre Kallis (18 off 13 balls) before being bundled out for 114 in 17.3 overs.

From India's point of view, the biggest scare came when off-spinner Shreyanka Pa-

til was stretched off the field after twisting her ankle while fielding off her very first ball of the evening.

India next face a much tougher opponent in South Africa in Manchester on June 21.

On her World Cup debut, pacer Nandani Sharma had a productive outing. She had opener Heather Siegers caught at cover for a memorable first wicket in her first ICC game.

Deepti Sharma, star with the ball against Pakistan, stuck in her first over having Phebe Molkenboer caught at mid-off.

Netherlands' de Leede and Kallis played a few crisp strokes before departing in quick succession.

It was a procession thereafter as India completed the formalities. The wily Shree Charani was too good for the opposition's middle and lower-order and was also on a hat-trick in the 17th over. She was all over Netherlands after trapping Robine Rijke in her third over.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month

Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
5	3.0L
10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus

Duration (Years)	Invested Amount	Corpus	Money grows to
5	₹3.1L	₹4.1L	1.4x
10	₹6.0L	₹11.6L	2.9x
15	₹9.0L	₹25.9L	4.3x
20	₹12.0L	₹51.8L	6.5x
25	₹15.0L	₹97.5L	10.5x
30	₹18.0L	₹1.9Cr	-

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