

JAMMU & KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY
आसिफ नबी डार का कार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE ASIF NABI DAR

Reference No. PDR/2021/2026

Dated. 20 May 2026

PRESS RELEASE

SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR – Kashmiri socio-political activist Asif Nabi Dar has issued a sharp condemnation and an urgent appeal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and airline authorities regarding the blatant exploitation and harassment of Kashmiri Haj pilgrims.

Despite paying premium fares for premium international flight services, hundreds of elderly and vulnerable pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir are reportedly being subjected to sub-standard domestic services and sudden, arbitrary baggage reductions.

According to Asif Nabi Dar, the airlines have breached their contractual obligations by operating standard domestic aircraft and amenities for a high-value international spiritual journey. To compound the pilgrims' misery, the airline management has heavily restricted baggage allowances at the eleventh hour.

"The Haj is a deeply sacred, emotional, and once-in-a-lifetime journey for which these pilgrims have spent their hard-earned life savings," said Asif Nabi Dar. "To charge them international rates, force them into domestic-grade seating, and then snatch away their baggage allowance is not just a logistical failure—it is a moral bankruptcy. We will not stand by and watch our elders be harassed."

Immediate Restoration of Baggage: The airline must instantly reinstate the full, promised international baggage allowance, ensuring pilgrims can carry their essential belongings and holy Zamzam water without penalty.

Financial Compensation: A partial refund must be issued to all affected pilgrims for the severe downgrade in flight class and service quality.

Ministry Intervention: The Haj Committee of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation must immediately step in, penalize the erring airlines, and station ground-support staff to prevent further mistreatment of Kashmiri passengers.

Asif Nabi Dar has warned that if the airline management fails to rectify these issues immediately, a formal complaint will be lodged with the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, and widespread democratic protests will be mobilized to safeguard the rights and dignity of the pilgrims.

Media Contact:

Name: Asif Nabi Dar

Designation: Socio-Political Activist, J&K