



# Kashmir Bleeds Again on BLOODY TUESDAY

## 28 Killed, 10 Injured in Pahalgam Terror Attack

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / UNI

**PAHALGAM (. APR 22)** Terrorists on Tuesday carried out a major carnage in this world famous tourist destination in Kashmir by targeting vacationers, leaving at least 28 people dead and around 10 injured.

The massive attack, suspected to have been carried out by a terror outfit based in Pakistan, came significantly at a time when US Vice President JD Vance is visiting the country.

The biggest terror attack in Kashmir since the February 2019 strike at CRPF convoy targeted tourists who were enjoying the beauty of Baisaran meadow, a picturesque but non-motorable location some kilometres away from the main town of Pahalgam at around lunch time.

According to eye-witnesses, the terrorists were 4 in number and specifically targeted the tourists from various parts of the country. They included women and children.

While there was no official word on the number of casualties, sources confirmed that at least 28 people were killed and nearly 10 injured.

The slain people included two foreigners and two locals.

A police officer said the site of the incident was not accessible by vehicles and security forces were rushed to the spot on foot.

Pallavi, a tourist from Shivamogga in Karnataka, whose 48-year-old husband Manjunath was killed in the attack, said, "It still feels like a bad dream".

"Three to four people attacked us... I think, it happened around 1.30 pm....," said Pallavi, who along with her husband and a minor son were here on a vacation.

"He (Manjunath) died on the spot, in front of my eyes. I told them - kill me too. You've already killed my husband. One of them said, 'I won't kill you. Go tell this to Modi'," she added.

Considering the gravity of the attack, Union Home Minister Amit Shah rushed from Delhi to Kashmir in the evening to hold a security review meeting.

Earlier, Shah briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is on an official visit to Saudi Arabia from today.

Both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister vowed that the perpetrators of the crime would not be spared.

Modi, in a post on X, strongly condemned the attack and said "those behind this heinous act will

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### Hours after Pahalgam terror attack, HM Shah arrives in Srinagar

CM Omar briefs him at airport; will chair security review meeting at Raj Bhavan, to visit Pahalgam on Wednesday

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 22:** Hours after the deadly terror attack, which left 28 civilians, mostly tourists, dead at Pahalgam in South Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar on Tuesday to review the security situation.

Officials told the news agency—the Home Minister was received by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhakar and others at the airport.

Sources said that the Chief Minister briefed the Union Home Minister about the Pahalgam attack at the airport itself.

Shah drove straight to the Raj Bhavan where he will chair a high level security meet.

The security review

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### Security beefed up across J&K, high alert in Delhi after Pahalgam attack

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 22:** Security has been heightened across Jammu and Kashmir, while Delhi has been placed on high alert following a deadly terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran meadow that left dozens of people dead on Tuesday.

The attack occurred around 2:30 Pm when a group of terrorists, wearing combat uniforms, opened fire on tourists in the upper reaches of Baisaran, a popular trekking and picnic spot in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Most of the slain are said to be non-locals, who had come to the Valley as part of a larger travel group.

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### Pahalgam Attack: CCI Jammu calls for Jammu Bandh today

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, APR 22:** The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu, led by President Arun Gupta, has announced a complete Jammu Bandh on Wednesday, (April 23, 2025) to protest the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Anantnag district.

The attack, which occurred at Baisaran meadow, claimed dozens of lives, mostly tourists from various states, and left several others injured, marking it as one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in recent years.

According to the news agency—, the bandh call has received widespread support from various organizations, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal, who staged protest marches across Jammu on Tuesday evening to condemn the attack.

The VHP and Bajrang Dal have extended their full support to the CCI's bandh initiative, urging citizens to join

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### Prez Murmu, PM Modi, HM Amit Shah, Rajnath, Rahul, EAM condemn Pahalgam attack

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 22:** President of India Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other top leaders of the country condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday.

According to the news agency— President Droupadi Murmu said that the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir is shocking and painful.

"It is a dastardly and inhuman act which must be condemned unequivocally. Attacking innocent citizens, in this case tourists, is utterly appalling and unpardonable. My heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their dear ones and my prayers for the quick recovery of the injured," President of India said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, condemned the attack and said that those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice and will not be spared.

"I strongly condemn the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being provided to those affected. Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice...they will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable and it will get even stronger," Narendra Modi wrote.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed anguish over the attack and said that those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared.

"Anguished by the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. My thoughts are with the family members of the deceased. Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared, and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences. Briefed PM

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### J&K mourns death of tourists in Pahalgam terror attack LG, CM, LoP Sharma, MLAs, politicians, Mirwaiz, KCCI, fruit growers condemn cowardly act; express solidarity with bereaved families

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 22:** Cutting across the lines people from all sections of society, including politicians, business leaders, religious clerics, fruit growers and others condemned the terror attack in South Kashmir's Pahalgam area, which claimed many lives and left several others injured.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha while expressing shock and grief over



the cowardly terror attack on tourists, according to the news agency said, "Perpetrators won't be spared."

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X: "I strongly condemn the cowardly terror

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### Pahalgam Attack: Locals organize candle light march across Kashmir to express sympathy

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 22:** In a heartening show of resilience and unity, the people from multiple areas across Jammu and Kashmir organized candle light protests to express their sympathy with the tourists, who were attacked by the terrorists in Pahalgam area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

As per the news agency—

locals from Pahalgam organized a peaceful candlelight march to express their solidarity with the victims and send a message of peace to the world.

Scores of locals, including youth, shopkeepers, ponywallas, and hotel owners, gathered in the town square with candles and placards reading "We Stand for Peace" and "Tourists Are Our Guests." The march

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## Restoring traffic within 24 hours govt's priority: CM Omar

Urges MoCA to keep check on air ticket prices; fuel tankers convoy to be sent through Mughal Road

■ HT News Network

**RAMBAN, APRIL 22:** In a significant outreach to the people affected by the recent cloudburst in Ramban district, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the affected areas for the second consecutive day to personally assess the situation and oversee ongoing relief and restoration efforts.

The Chief Minister conducted an aerial survey of the damage caused at Dharmkund and along National Highway-44, accompanied by colleagues and concerned officers. He later visited various severely impacted locations, including Seri, Boli Bazar, Main Bazar Ramban, and the area surrounding



Government Higher Secondary School Ramban.

During his visit, the Chief Minister interacted with affected families and assured them of all possible support. He emphasized

that the immediate restoration of NH-44 is the topmost priority and directed the district administration Ramban to expedite the damage assessment process, covering death cases, structural losses, property damage, agricultural losses and livestock casualties.

The Chief Minister assured that relief compensation will be provided by the J&K Government to all those affected by the cloudburst. He further stated that the J&K Government is committed to supporting the victims during this difficult time and will seek assistance from the Central Government to ensure timely and adequate relief measures are extended to the affected families.

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## Joint Parliamentary Committee on "One Nation, One Election" to visit J&K in June

Proposed legislations seek amendment in J&K Reorganisation Act

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, APR 22:** The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the concept of "One Nation, One Election," which aims to synchronize Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, plans to visit J&K in the month of June.

As part of a series of study tours, the panel headed by Lok Sabha MP P. P. Chaudhary intends to visit the Union Territory in June to get feedback on the legislations brought by the Union Government for holding Lok Sabha and state polls together.

The proposed legislations also seeks to make amendments in section 17 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 to align J&K's state poll cycle with Lok Sabha elections.

The bill specifies that simultaneous elections will take effect from an "appointed



date" to be notified by the President following the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election. Since the first sitting of the Lok Sabha elected in 2024 has already taken place, the earliest possible appointed date for simultaneous elections would coincide with the first sitting of the House elected in 2029. Consequently, simultaneous polls could

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### 28 DEAD

be brought to justice. They will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed."

He added, "Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable and it will get even stronger."

The Prime Minister also expressed condolences to the families who lost their dear ones and said all possible assistance is being provided to those affected.

Shah, in his post on X, "Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared and we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences."

He said he held a meeting with the officials concerned via video conferencing.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha who oversees security and law and order in the Union Territory, said that a search operation has been launched to trace the attackers.

This is the first major terror attack in J&K since 2019.

The last major terror attack took place on February 14, 2019 when a local suicide bomber Adil Dar of Jaish-e-Mohammad rammed his explosive-laden car into CRPF bus at Lethpora Pulwama leaving 40 personnel of the force dead. The attack was followed by Balakote air strikes.

A day later Pakistan retaliated and it triggered a brief dogfight. The Pulwama attack had brought India and Pakistan at the brink of war.

In July 2017, eight pilgrims on the way from Amarnath Cave were killed and over a dozen were injured in a terror attack in south Kashmir. UNI MJR/AKK ARN—

### PM

Shri@narendramodi ji about the incident and held a meeting with the concerned officials via video conferencing. Will shortly leave for Srinagar to hold an urgent security review meeting with all the agencies," the Union HM wrote.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a post said that this dastardly attack on innocent civilians is an act of cowardice and highly reprehensible

"Deeply anguished by the news of terrorist attack in Pahalgalam (Jammu & Kashmir). This dastardly attack on innocent civilians is an act of cowardice and highly reprehensible. My thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families," Rajnath wrote.

In a post, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi said that the attack on tourists in Pahalgalam is condemnable and shocking. He expressed sympathies with the victim families and also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The whole nation stands united against the terrorism. The government instead of claiming normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir should take stringent measures to act tough against the perpetrators so that no such attack takes place in future, he added.

External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar in a post condemned the attack. "Condemn the cowardly terror attack in Pahalgalam. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims. Pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," he wrote—

### HM

meeting, sources said, will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Director IB, ADGP CID, IGP CRPF, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Srinagar based Chinar corps and other top officials.

The Union Home Minister will visit the terror attack site at Baisaran in Pahalgalam on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Suchendra Kumar also arrived in Srinagar to review security situation, defence sources told KNO

They said the Army Commander will be briefed by local formation commanders on the present security situation in Kashmir. He was in New Delhi for a security conference.

Pertinently, earlier in the day terrorists opened fire at Baisaran famed meadow near Pahalgalam town this afternoon.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the terror attack as "much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years"—

### SECURITY

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the security forces have launched a large-scale search and cordon operation in the area to trace the attackers.

"Checkpoints have been increased on highways and entry routes across the Valley, and surveillance has been intensified in major urban centres as well as in rural belts close to forests and highlands," he added.

More senior police and paramilitary officials have been sent to Pahalgalam to oversee security arrangements, the official added.

A senior government officer from Delhi said that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is expected to take over the case, with a team scheduled to arrive in the region on

Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the security has been intensified across Udhampur district. At Jakhani Chowk, one of the key entry points, security forces have set up additional checkpoints and are conducting strict checking of vehicles.

The deployment of personnel has been increased in the area to ensure enhanced vigilance and prevent any untoward incident. The official said the measures are part of a broader security review being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Another senior security official said that security measures have been increased across the Kashmir Valley, from the northern to the southern regions, with heightened vigilance, including drone surveillance and additional deployment of forces.

Meanwhile, government sources said a high alert has been issued in Delhi and other major cities across the country. Security agencies have been instructed to stay vigilant, increase patrolling, and monitor crowded public places, transport hubs, and tourist spots as a precautionary measure following the Pahalgalam attack, they said—

### JAMMU

in solidarity to demand justice for the victims and stringent action against the perpetrators of this heinous act.

In a statement, CCI President Arun Gupta described the attacks as "a barbaric assault on humanity and an attack on the spirit of Jammu & Kashmir tourism." He called for unity among the people of Jammu to send a strong message against terrorism.

"This bandh is a collective stand against those who seek to disrupt peace and harmony in our region. We urge the government to identify and punish the culprits swiftly and ensure the safety of all citizens and visitors," Gupta said. He further appealed to all traders, businesses, and citizens to observe a complete shutdown to honor the victims and press for immediate action.

The VHP and Bajrang Dal, during their protests, raised slogans in support of the Indian Army and demanded decisive measures to eliminate terrorism in the region.

VHP leaders emphasized that such attacks are an attempt to destabilize the region's economy and tourism, a vital lifeline for Jammu & Kashmir.

Bajrang Dal activists echoed similar sentiments, pledging their support to the bandh and calling for heightened security to prevent future incidents.

The bandh has also been supported by other groups, including the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Shiv Sena (UBT), Dogra Front, Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, and various market associations.

Meanwhile, the authorities have beefed up security across Jammu to maintain law and order, with additional police and paramilitary forces deployed in sensitive areas.

The CCI Jammu, VHP, and Bajrang Dal urged all residents, traders, and organizations to participate in the bandh to express solidarity with the victims' families and to demand a terror-free Jammu & Kashmir.

The bandh will see the closure of all shops, businesses, and commercial establishments across Jammu, with public transport likely to be affected—

### LG, CM

attack on tourists in Pahalgalam. I assure the people that those behind this despicable attack will not go unpunished. Spoke to the DGP & Security officials. Army and J&K Police teams have rushed to the area and launched search operations. Directed the district administration and the health officials to provide immediate medical attention to those admitted at Pahalgalam. An injured tourist has been evacuated to GMC Anantnag. I pray for the speedy recovery of all the injured."

In a separate post, the LG said that the perpetrators of this attack will have to pay a heavy price. "Anti-terror ops launched to neutralise terrorists. Entire nation is angry & blood of our forces is boiling. I want to assure the nation that perpetrators of Pahalgalam attack will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act. My heartfelt condolences to bereaved families," Office of J&K LG wrote on X.

CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH  
Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound shock and anguish over the horrific terrorist attack on tourists at Pahalgalam earlier today.

Describing the assault as an "abomination," the Chief Minister stated that targeting innocent tourists is an act of sheer brutality and inhumanity.

"This attack on our visitors is an abomination. The perpetrators of this attack are animals—inhuman and worthy of contempt. No words of condemnation are enough," the Chief Minister said in a strongly worded statement.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended his heartfelt sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives in the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The Chief Minister has been in constant touch with senior officials and has spoken to the Minister of Health, Sakina Itoo, who immediately rushed to the hospital to over-

see treatment and support arrangements for the injured.

He further announced that he would be flying back to Srinagar immediately to personally monitor the situation and ensure all possible assistance is extended to the victims and their families.

"I've spoken to my colleague @sakinaitoo and she has moved to the hospital to oversee arrangements for the injured. I'll be flying back to Srinagar immediately," he said.

Also, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the phone about the tragic incident at the Pahalgalam tourist resort.

DyCM, SURINDER KUMAR CHOUDHARY Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary in a post termed the attack as a heinous act and said that those responsible are barbaric and devoid of humanity.

"I'm utterly horrified by this attack on our people. It's a heinous act, and those responsible are barbaric and devoid of humanity. Words fall short in expressing the outrage this deserves. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the victims," Surinder Choudhary wrote.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION SUNIL SHARMA  
Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly and BJP leader, Sunil Sharma condemned the attack and prayed for the early recovery of the injured persons.

"Strongly condemn the cowardly and barbaric terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgalam, Kashmir. Praying for the early recovery of the injured. My thoughts are with all those affected," Sunil Sharma wrote.

MIRWAIZ MOULVI UMAR FAROOQ

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Moulvi Umar Farooq in a post on X said that such violence is unacceptable and against the ethos of Kashmir. "Deeply disturbing news from Pahalgalam of a cowardly attack on tourists that has resulted in tragic loss of life. Such violence is unacceptable and against the ethos of Kashmir which welcomes visitors with love and warmth. Condemn it strongly. Thoughts and prayers with the families of victims and wishing speedy recovery to the injured," Mirwaiz wrote.

TARIQ HAMEED KARRA

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra also strongly condemned the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgalam, calling it "highly condemnable".

Talking to reporters in Jammu, Karra as per KNO questioned the BJP's repeated claims of normalcy in the region, stating that the ground reality paints a different picture. "On the one hand, the BJP claims that terrorism has been wiped out and the situation is peaceful. But such attacks expose the loopholes we have been highlighting for a long time," Karra said.

He highlighted that terrorism, which had shifted towards Jammu recently, appears to be returning to Kashmir, as evident by the Pahalgalam attack. "If the situation is so good, as claimed by the BJP, then why are such incidents still taking place," he asked.

Calling out the BJP for 'misleading the entire country', Karra demanded accountability from both the central government and the Union Home Ministry. "They owe an explanation not only to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but to the entire nation," he said.

Karra acknowledged the efforts of the security personnel in maintaining peace during elections and the Amarnath Yatra. However, he stressed that the recurring violent incidents undermine the BJP's narrative of peace and normalcy in the region.

"The government must clarify the actual situation on the ground. Selling an image of calm while the reality is different is not a sustainable or honest strategy," Karra said.

MEHBOOBA MUFTI

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti condemned the attack and said that such violence must be denounced. "I strongly condemn the cowardly attack on tourists in Pahalgalam, which tragically killed five and injured several as being reported for now. Such violence is unacceptable and must be denounced. Historically, Kashmir has welcomed tourists warmly, making this rare incident deeply concerning. A thorough investigation is needed to bring the perpetrators to justice and examine potential security lapses. Ensuring visitor safety is paramount, and steps must be taken to prevent future attacks. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families," she wrote.

SAJAD GANI LONE  
Handwara legislator and Peoples Conference (PC) Chief, Sajad Gani Lone condemned the attack and said that these terror attacks are aimed at yet again disempowering us economically. "Condemn strongly the dastardly and cowardly attack in Pahalgalam. For decades we have been identified with being great hosts. We have a history of hospitality. And some cowardly terrorists want to destroy it all. Tourism industry has suffered. And people involved in tourism have after a long time begun to restart their lives. They had begun to dream. And here are the ugly villains to shatter it all," Sajad wrote.

"Make no mistake. These terror attacks are aimed at yet again disempowering us economically. Those who do this are the worst enemies of Kashmiris. They defile our

history of hospitality, smearing our glorious past. And they are a curse on our present. They are enemies of our children of our young generation. We have to unitedly send a message that there is no tolerance for terror. Let us live our lives in peace and economic dignity. Please get out of our lives. These tourists are our revered guests," he added.

WAHEED-UR-REHMAN PARRA

PDP MLA from Pulwama, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra in a post said that this senseless violence serves no purpose. "Strongly condemn the terror attack in Pahalgalam. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families. This senseless violence serves no purpose, defies all sense and humanity. Kashmir has suffered enough," Parra wrote.

M Y TARIGAMI

Condemning the dastardly attack on tourists in Pahalgalam, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said the inhuman act of violence must be denounced in the strongest possible terms.

"Violence serves no purpose and must be condemned from all quarters. Such cowardly attacks on innocent civilians have no place in any civilised society. The perpetrators must be identified and brought to justice without delay," Tarigami said.

He further said that the attack on tourists, who had come to experience the beauty of Pahalgalam, is beyond words—deeply unfortunate and shocking.

ILTIIJA MUFTI

PDP leader, Iltiija Mufti also condemned the attack and termed it as shameful act of violence. "Strongly condemn the shameful act of violence that's claimed the lives of five & left many injured in Baisaran Pahalgalam today. Kashmiris have always welcomed tourists with open arms & this incident is most unfortunate. Request the media to conduct themselves responsibly & not unnecessarily kindle speculation which could in turn create a sense of panic amongst tourists visiting the Valley," she wrote.

SYED ALTAF BUKHARI

Apni Party President and former minister, Syed Altaf Bukhari said that targeting innocent tourists is an act of cowardice and a worst form of terrorism. "The terror attack in Pahalgalam has left us all deeply shocked and saddened. Targeting innocent tourists is an act of cowardice and a worst form of terrorism. I am sure that our security agencies will swiftly nab the perpetrators and bring them to justice. My thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a full and speedy recovery, and with their families for strength during this difficult time," he wrote on X.

HAKEEM MOHAMMAD YASEEN

Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front President Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen expressed shock and grief over the terrorist attack on a group of tourists in Baisaran Valley, Pahalgalam.

In his statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen said, "I am deeply saddened and shocked to hear about this heinous terrorist attack that claimed the life of a tourist and left several others injured. This attack is the worst form of terrorism and is highly condemnable." Such violence is unacceptable and against the ethos of Kashmir which welcomes visitors with love and warmth. Condemn it strongly.

Hakeem Yaseen expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.

State Secretary of Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), Sheikh Ashiq has said that the attack on tourists in Pahalgalam, is a deeply disturbing incident that has caused immense fear and harm to innocent people.

"Such acts of violence are unacceptable and condemnable, regardless of the perpetrator or their motives. My thoughts are with the victims and their families during this difficult time," he said.

KASHMIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has expressed deep anguish over the attack on tourists in Pahalgalam and strongly condemned this dastardly act of violence.

The KCCI demanded that authorities investigate this gruesome attack on a fast track basis and ensure that the culprits are swiftly brought to justice.

The Chamber extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragic incident and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured tourists. The KCCI has appealed to the authorities to provide the best possible medical treatment to all those affected.

The KCCI believes this targeted attack is clearly designed to harm Kashmir's reputation and undermine the flourishing tourism industry. Such acts of violence go against the hospitable nature of Kashmiri people who have always welcomed visitors with open arms.

The Chamber reiterated its commitment to supporting all measures that ensure the safety and security of tourists visiting the Kashmir Valley.

FRUIT GROWERS CUM DEALERS UNION

Also, the Management of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, an umbrella Body of all Fruit Growers Asso-

ciations of the Valley and the members of The New Kashmir Fruit Association Fruit Marketing Complex, Parimpora, Srinagar, strongly condemned the terrorist attack.

Such violence is unacceptable and against the ethos of Kashmir which always welcome visitors with love and warmth, a statement issued to KNO reads.

The Management of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union and the Members of The New Kashmir Fruit Association, Parimpora, Srinagar prayed with the families of victims and wished speedy recovery of the injured tourists.

The cowardly attack on tourists in Pahalgalam is strongly condemned and such violence is denounced always. Historically Kashmir welcomes tourists warmly making this real incident deeply concerning. A thorough investigation is needed to bring the perpetrators to justice ensuring visitors safely and steps must be taken to prevent future attacks, the statement reads.

Targeting innocent tourists is an act of cowardice and a worst form of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a full and speedy recovery and with their families for strength during this difficult time. This attack is not on tourists but on humanity—

### CANDLE LIGHT

moved through the main market, ending near the Lidder River, where participants held a moment of silence for those affected.

A local hotel owner said, "Tourism is our lifeline. Everything we have – our businesses, our livelihoods – depends on it. Without tourism, we can't do anything. That's why we are here, to show that Pahalgalam stands united against violence and in favor of peace and hospitality."

He said that terrorism of any kind has no space and all must work so that Kashmir continues to be famous for good things not bad.

Another local youth said, "We want to reassure all tourists that they are safe here. We condemn this attack in the strongest words and want the world to know that the people of Pahalgalam welcome everyone with open arms."

From Pahalgalam to Srinagar, Sopore, Baramulla, Handwara, and Kupwara, people took to the streets carrying candles and placards, expressing anguish over the attack and reaffirming Kashmir's age-old tradition of hospitality.

Protesters chanted slogans like "Stop Innocent Killings," "Tourists Hamari Jaan Hai," and "Stop Terrorism," demanding that those responsible for the massacre be brought to justice.

### CM

He instructed the administration and NHAI to intensify relief and restoration works and assured adequate financial assistance for the same. He further directed for clearing of link roads and removal of debris from residential areas, restoration of power supply and deployment of water tankers to ensure drinking water in affected localities. He also called for the enhancement of community kitchens (langars) to support displaced families and the submission of fund requisition to the Finance Department for immediate financial support from the government.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the prompt response and real-time action by the district administration and Police, which helped save many precious lives.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, DDC Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan, MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh and other senior officers.

Later, a review meeting was also held at Ramban, where Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took stock of the ongoing rescue, relief, and restoration efforts being carried out by the district administration and stakeholder departments. Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani suggested measures for the timely restoration of essential services and urged early insurance claims processing to avoid delays in compensation.

### ELECTION

begin by 2034, marking the end of that Lok Sabha's term.

Notably, the bill will not affect the existing five-year term of the J&K Assembly, which began on 8 October 2024. However, it would reduce the five-year tenure of the next UT Assembly by six months in 2034.

According to the bill, if the J&K Assembly is dissolved before completing its five-year term, any mid-term election held would only cover the remaining period of five years.

In December last year, the Union Government introduced the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the Lok Sabha. These bills were subsequently referred to the JPC for review—





# 'One Nation, One Election' is a path-breaking, forward-looking reform: Anurag Thakur.

Anurag Thakur bats for 'One Nation, One Election' Reform During Visit to Srinagar.

HT News Network

Srinagar, 22 April 2025:- Former Union Minister, and Member of Parliament (MP) Anurag Singh Thakur addressed the BJP activists, and media at BJP District office in Srinagar. Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Adv Sheikh Salman District President Srinagar, Arif Raja NCM BJP, Altaf Thakur, Spokesperson, Er Aijaz DDC also accompanied Anurag Thakur on the occasion. During the interaction, he led in-depth discussion on the benefits of 'One Nation, One Election' and political and security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Thakur termed the proposed 'One Nation, One Election' Bill as a path-breaking and forward-looking reform. He emphasized that holding simultaneous elections across the country would not only conserve critical administrative and financial resources but also help boost the national GDP. He further explained that it would minimize disruptions caused by the repeated imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, enabling uninterrupted gov-



ernance and implementation of development projects. In a scathing critique of the opposition, Anurag Thakur highlighted the Congress party's inconsistent and controversial stances on key national issues such as Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment

Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the abolition of triple talaq. He also accused Congress of destabilizing democratic institutions in the past by frequently toppling elected governments between 1952 and 1967, thereby disrupting the possibility of unified elections.

"While strongly condemning the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, he reaffirmed that the Modi government upholds a strict zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism and will reciprocate with fierce retaliatory actions." He also announced that the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation, One Election' will begin its outreach and consultations with states starting May 17. The committee will first visit Maharashtra, followed by Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, and Punjab. These visits aim to engage with stakeholders from all sectors to ensure a transparent and participatory approach to this significant reform. In a scathing critique of the opposition, Anurag Thakur highlighted the Congress party's inconsistent and controversial stances on key national issues such as Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the abolition of triple talaq. He also accused Congress of destabilizing democratic institutions in the past by frequently toppling elected governments between 1952 and 1967, thereby disrupting the possibility of unified elections.

## Srinagar Admin holds Awareness programme under 'Drug Free J&K' campaign at GHS Lawaypora

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: As part of the ongoing Drug Free J&K campaign, an awareness programme was organized at Government High School (GHS) Lawaypora with the aim of combating drug abuse and promoting a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle. The programme, held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, focused on sensitizing the local population especially the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse. The event saw active participation from officials representing the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Education Department, Health Department, Excise Department, Social Welfare Department, and other concerned departments. School staff and students also took part in the programme. Speakers at the event highlighted the importance of collective community responsibility in addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse. They urged the youth to channelise their energy into constructive and developmental pursuits. Interactive sessions were conducted to ensure meaningful engagement and to effectively communicate the campaign's message. At the end of the event, participants took a pledge to support the Drug Free J&K campaign and commit to protecting future generations from the dangers of drug addiction.

## Two-Day Training/ Orientation prog. for YUVA DOOTs concludes in Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: A two-day training-cum-orientation programme for YUVA DOOTs (Youth Ambassadors) concluded successfully at the Kashmir Government Polytechnic (KGP), Gogji Bagh Srinagar, witnessing the participation of selected and reserve candidates from across the district. The programme was organized on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under the aegis of Mission YUVA, aiming to build a strong network of grassroots youth mobilizers for entrepreneurship development. The programme was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab, who highlighted the impor-



tance of youth-led development and grassroots entrepreneurship. In her address, she emphasized the importance of youth-led initiatives in promoting self-reliance and economic sustainability at the grassroots level. She lauded the efforts of the Department in reaching out to the youth and encouraged YUVA DOOTs to act as catalysts of posi-

tive change within their communities. Over the course of two days, training was imparted to all 190 selected YUVA DOOTs, along with 100 reserve YUVA DOOTs, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to guide aspiring entrepreneurs and to spread awareness about self-employment schemes under Mission YUVA. Deputy

Director Employment Srinagar, Dr. Sheeba Inayat presented an overview of Mission YUVA, its objectives, and the Institutional Business Support Mechanism, emphasizing the importance of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for result-oriented implementation. During the programme, the District Employment Officer provided detailed insights into the operational structure of the programme, roles and responsibilities of YUVA DOOTs, and the support framework available at the district level. District Career Counselling Officer shared findings from the Baseline Survey, conducted to identify youth with entrepreneurial potential across various Panchayats and wards of the district. She guided the participants on targeted mobilization, focusing on aspirants most likely.

## Labour Commissioner holds awareness camp at Industrial Estate Rangreth

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Labour Commissioner and Director J&K Employees State Insurance (JKESI), S. Charandeep Singh, today conducted an awareness camp at the Industrial Estate Rangreth, Srinagar. The event aimed to sensitize the ESI Insured Persons, HR representatives from various establishments and factories besides other stakeholders about the provisions and benefits of the ESI scheme. A comprehensive and interactive discussion was held during the session, providing a platform for insured persons and employers to voice their concerns. Besides, issues related to ESI coverage, medical benefits and administrative processes were raised and deliberated in detail. S. Charandeep Singh assured the participants that their grievances would be



addressed in a time bound manner. All Insurance Medical Officers (IMOs) of Kashmir division were present at the camp, actively engaging with the participants and providing valuable insights into the range of medical facilities available under the ESI scheme. They addressed health-related queries with clarity and commitment, reinforcing the department's dedication to employee well-being. The Inspector of Factories, Kashmir Division also attended the event, contributing meaningfully to discussions

on workplace safety, industrial compliance and the regulatory framework. The camp was further enriched by the presence of senior officials including Chief Accounts Officer Nimisha Anand, Assistant Labour Commissioner Srinagar Dr. Adnan Khawaja and Assistant Labour Commissioner Budgam Dr. Zameer Ali. This awareness camp is part of the Labour Department's ongoing initiative to strengthen dialogue with the industrial sector and ensure effective implementation of employee welfare schemes across Jammu & Kashmir.

## PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industries Kashmir Strongly Condemns Terrorist Attack on Tourists in Pahalgam

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: The PHDCCI Kashmir vehemently condemns the brutal and cowardly terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam. This gruesome act of violence is utterly unacceptable and has left the entire business community in shock and outrage. Mr A P Vicky Shaw, Chairman of PHDCCI, stated, Targeting innocent tourists is an inhuman act that goes against the values of peace and hospitality that Kashmir stands for. We demand an immediate high-level inquiry into this incident, and the perpetrators must be brought to

justice without delay. The attack not only endangers lives but also severely impacts the tourism industry, which is vital for the region's economy. The PHDCCI calls upon the government to take stringent measures to ensure the safety of tourists and locals alike. As a mark of protest and solidarity with the victims, the PHDCCI urges all business establishments across Kashmir to observe a complete shutdown to unequivocally condemn this act of terror. Mr. Vicky further added, We stand united against terrorism and violence. The business community must send a strong message that such acts will not be tolerated.

### Srinagar Administration establishes 24\*7 Control Room/ Help Desk for visitors/ tourists

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: District Administration Srinagar today established round the clock Help Desk/ Emergency Control Room for the tourists in the Deputy Commissioner's office Srinagar. The general public, particularly visitors/ tourists can contact the Emergency Operation Centre at D.C office Srinagar on 0194-2483651, 0194-2457543, and also Whatsapp on 7780805144, 7780938397.

## Driver Dies After Car Plunges into Dal Lake Near Centaur Hotel, Woman Passenger Rescued

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 22, : A road accident occurred near the Centaur Hotel on the Boulevard Road here Tuesday, as a car skidded off the road and plunged into the Dal Lake, resulting in the death of the driver and the rescue of a woman passenger. According to officials, a Swift car bearing registration number JK01N-7373 veered off the road while navigating a curve and rolled into the lake. The driver, identified as Waheed Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Rashid Dar, a resident of Chekpora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, lost his life in the incident. Personnel from the River Police and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) swiftly launched a rescue operation, managing to drag out the victims from the submerged vehicle. While Waheed was pulled out and efforts were made to revive him, he was declared dead following a medical examination. A woman who was also in the car was successfully rescued and shifted to the Nishat Police Station for further assistance. An official told KNT that preliminary findings suggest the driver may have suffered a heart attack, causing the vehicle to go out of control and crash into the lake. Police have registered a case and initiated further investigation into the incident.

## BJP Media Incharge Kashmir Sajid Yousuf Shah Condemns Terror Attack on Tourists in Pahalgam.

HT News Network

Srinagar, 22 April 2025:- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Media Incharge Kashmir, Adv Sajid Yousuf Shah, strongly condemns the terrorist attack on tourists in Baisaran, Pahalgam J&K. This heinous act of violence not only highlights the desperation of Pakistan-sponsored terrorists but also underscores their cowardice in targeting innocent civilians. Such actions reflect their frustration and will not deter the commitment of our security personnel or the resilient spirit of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and reiterate our unwavering support for all efforts to restore peace and security in the region. The BJP stands firm in its resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and ensure the safety of every citizen.

## Hakeem expresses deep concern over collapse of Sgr-Jmu highway

HT News Network

Srinagar, April 22: Hakeem Yaseen, President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, on Tuesday voiced serious concern over the alarming condition of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway from the past three days. The continuous disruption of this vital road link has left thousands of passengers and vehicles stranded, causing immense distress to people from all walks of life, he said. Terming the situation as "a humanitarian crisis," Hakeem said the highway, once considered the backbone of connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country, has become unreliable and dangerous. This is not just a traffic issue. This is a matter of survival. Entire families are stuck for days in harsh conditions. Goods, patients, students, and tourists are all suffering," he said.

## High Court Quashes Detention of North Kashmir Youth Under PSA Since 2019

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 22, : The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed the detention of a North Kashmir youth, Irshad Ahmad Dar of Mundji Sopore, who had been languishing in jail under the Public Safety Act (PSA) since 2019. Dar, represented by Advocate Bashir Ahmed Tak, was accused of providing logistic support to militants and was arrested in 2019. Advocate Tak submitted before the court that his client's detention under PSA had already been quashed by the court in December 2019. However, despite the court's order, Dar was not released. The counsel argued that Irshad Dar was arrested twice on the same charges, which he contended was both unlawful and unjustified. He pleaded that the authorities had shown disregard to the court's earlier ruling, violating the detainee's fundamental rights. After hearing detailed arguments and counterarguments, Justice Muhammad Yousuf Wani quashed the detention order and directed the authorities to ensure immediate release of Irshad Ahmad Dar from Srinagar Central Jail. [KNT]



EDITORIAL

Connect Kashmir with Katra through train without any further delay

Following the closure of Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to landslides in the Ramban and adjacent areas there is virtually no land connectivity of the Kashmir valley with the rest of the world. In such a scenario the rail connectivity would have been a big boon for the valley residents and they could have reached each and every nook of the country while boarding a train from Srinagar or any place of the Kashmir valley.

For months together we have been hearing that Kashmir valley will be connected with a train up to Katra but every now and then there is an inordinate delay in the inauguration of the same. In the latest instance the inauguration scheduled for April 19 could not take place due to the inclement weather. The Vande Bharat train connecting Kashmir with Katra was scheduled to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi but due to adverse weather forecast the plan could not take off.

It is high time that the people at helm take a decision about the start of the rail service so that there is round the year connectivity of Kashmir with the rest of India through the means of surface transport. It does not look nice to keep the people waiting for this all important development since it is linked with connectivity. Since the completion of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project is a milestone it is quite natural that the same should be inaugurated by a high profile personality like the Prime Minister of the country.

At the same time it is important that connectivity is given preference over inauguration so that the people heave a sigh of relief. People of the Kashmir valley want that like others are entitled to round the year connectivity without any disruption. As it will take some more days for the authorities to clear the debris from Srinagar-Jammu national highway and make the same motor able the people of valley are worried about the connectivity issue. In such a situation the connectivity through rail would have solved all their problems.

The people of the valley especially, those who have to travel outside for treatment are at a loss as to how to reach their respective destinations without discomfort. As on date they have to board the train upto Sangaldan and then they have to board a cab so as to reach Jammu in order to catch a train. Travelling through the Mughal route would consume a lot of time and one cannot rule deterioration in the condition of a patient.

Viksit Bharat: The Dream Comes True

BARIK HILAL ZARGAR  
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When Prime Minister Narendra Modi first spoke about 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), it was imagined by many as an ambitious dream that would take years, maybe decades, of tireless nation building, futuristic governance and public participation. Modi's India, in its third decade of the 21st century, is becoming a reality that is increasingly realizing the dream of a developed, self-reliant and India of respect in the international community. India today is on an unprecedented trajectory of growth, confidence and resilience, due to his decisive governance style, futuristic policies, strong connect with his grassroots, and itinerant diplomacy.

Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat is much wider than the conventional understanding of economic development. It does not merely seek prosperity, but equity; does not merely look for technological advancement, but societal upliftment; does not merely facilitate national progress, but be a global leader based on ancient Indian wisdom. The road map for Modi's developed India is based on economic rejuvenation, social transformation, environmental sustainability, innovation, and moral leadership on the world stage. He wants India to be counted among the most developed, inclusive and powerful nations of the world by 2047, the year when India will complete 100 years of independence.

A series of sweeping reforms and transformative initiatives across sectors formed the basis of Viksit Bharat. The economic rejuvenation of India was one of the early thrusts. Make in India and Startup India brought a new wave of entrepreneurship and manufacturing which has made India a global hub for innovation and industrial growth. The Atmanirbhar Bharat mission emphasised on self reliance in which critical sectors like defense, semiconductors, renewable energy were strengthened. In Modi's era, India became fifth largest economy of the world, as India kept recording 6-7% GDP growth despite global economic slowdown. The Indian economy proved resilient and dynamic, recording foreign direct investment surging to record levels, and its forex reserves among the strongest in the world.

There was a silent revolution on social welfare which for long had been plagued with corruption and inefficiencies. Modi's governance model was based on targeted, corruption free and technology driven welfare delivery. Millions of families were given homes with schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the under privileged were able to fulfil their dream of owning a house. The

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Ayushman Bharat scheme saw an unprecedented leap, wherein tens of crore Indians were provided free medical treatment, making it the largest health assurance scheme of the world. Clean cooking fuel empowered women under the Ujjwala Yojana, that liberated them from hazardous traditional methods of cooking. Direct Benefit Transfer system that plugged leakages that plagued welfare delivery for decades, saved the government billions and restored the people's faith in governance.

An other hallmark of Modi's leadership was infrastructure development. Rapid modernization took place in roads, highways, railways and airports. Highway construction speed more than tripled, semi-high speed trains like Vande Bharat were launched in Indian Railways, and record electrification projects made remote regions closer to the national mainstream. The Udaan scheme connected tier 2 and tier 3 cities and the number of operational airports increased from 50 to 100. Under the Smart Cities Mission, urban trans-

formation redefined the living standards of the urbanites, introducing modern amenities across cities and towns alike. Every project that Modi took up from Bharatmala to Sagarmala to Gati Shakti to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project was a testament to Modi's philosophy that infrastructure is a catalyst for national growth.

At the same time, a silent revolution had been taking place in the digital space. It was only with the Digital India campaign that India suddenly went from being digitally deficient to being a global leader in digital public infrastructure. The Aadhaar integration with the financial systems, the UPI success the like never before, the opening of over 50 crore Jan Dhan accounts democratized digital banking and digital transactions like never before. High speed broadband was brought to villages through Bharat-Net and made the rural India digitally empowered societies. India today accounts for nearly half of the world's real-time digital transactions, a testimony to the scale and success of the digital transformation.

In Modi's view, economic development would not go hand in hand with environmental degradation. Viksit Bharat took green growth as an integral pillar. India also played a leadership role in renewable energy promotion, through the International Solar Alliance. Achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070 at COP26 was a balancing act of developmental needs and environmental responsibility, which the country put forward. India is now one of the countries with the largest installed renewable energy capacity, with massive investments in solar and wind power. The 'Panchamrit' strategy of Modi for climate action is also based on the idea that development and environmental stewardship can, and must, coexist.

Modi's challenges were formidable. India demonstrated agility and innovation under the test of the COVID 19 pandemic. It was done with remarkable efficiency, saving countless lives in the world's largest free vaccination drive. India also made use of opportunities and turned crises into opportunities by luring industries aiming to diversify supply chains out of China. India showed agility and assertiveness on its diplomatic front. Under Modi's leadership, India's stature rose significantly whether it was leading the Global South, securing strategic gains through the Quad alliance, or hosting the G20 summit with the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's South Pole and the fact that India is becoming a net defense exporter only consolidated India's global image as a rising powerhouse.

Another defining feature of Viksit Bharat has been the spirit of inclu-

sivity. Modi's words of moto "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" became a series of targeted programs that uplifted marginalized communities, minorities and women. Special schemes for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the minorities encouraged education, entrepreneurship and skill development. With passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, history was made in women's empowerment with the guarantee of more women representation in Parliament and state legislatures. Women's presence in the workforce, in politics and in entrepreneurship exploded across sectors, as a society that was increasingly in favor of gender equality and social justice.

However, challenges remain, even with the remarkable strides. Issues of rising inequality, agrarian distress, environmental degradation in urban centers and preservation of social harmony persist. Deeper reforms in the labor, education and judicial systems have often been criticized by critics. Modi himself has, however, admitted that the road to 2047 will be a long and difficult one filled with continuous innovation, dynamic policy making, and a spirit of collective responsibility. Open criticism, active media and civil society participation are all part of vibrant democracy in India which is an important pillar in the process of refining the path towards Viksit Bharat.

The dream of Viksit Bharat under Modi's leadership is not limited to statistics or infrastructure marvels. An India, where every citizen feels empowered, where every opportunity is open, where the dignity of the individual is respected, where the wisdom of centuries is the guide to modern aspiration. This is a vision where spiritual growth and economic prosperity together, technological advancement and ethical governance, and nationalism based on global responsibility.

India is moving ahead with a momentum built up in the last decade and the dream of Viksit Bharat feels closer than ever. Modi is the one who gave the vision, the blueprint, the energy to push this national revival. But this dream will be fully realized only through collective efforts by policymakers, entrepreneurs, farmers, scientists, students and soldiers.

In his speeches, Prime Minister Modi often tells the nation: "This is the time." This is the right time. India's time has come." His call echoes in cities and villages, institutions. Viksit Bharat turned out to be no dream, but a living, breathing, living reality, with each innovation, with each policy, and with each citizen. This journey from a developing to a developed India is well under way and history will remember this era as the one in which a billion dreams took flight.

From Ajmer to Instagram: Question on the safety of daughters



PRIYANKA SAURABH

How are educated girls so easily allowed to get caught in cases of sexual abuse and blackmailing? This question is often asked when a case of sexual abuse or blackmailing of a girl comes to light in the media. But this is the wrong question. The right question should be that she was not trapped but was framed—by a conspiracy, a system of exploitation, and a nexus of silence. In this case, not only is the girl guilty, but also the society and the system, which, instead of making her safe and sensitive, taught her only to "be careful."

Ajmer incident: A dark chapter

Whenever Ajmer is mentioned in cases of sexual exploitation and blackmailing, it becomes necessary

to mention the gang rape incident of 1992. The Ajmer gangrape incident of that time shook the whole country when people with political and religious influence, and especially those associated with the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, were trapping thousands of school and college girls. First they were trapped in the trap of love, then they were blackmailed by taking their obscene pictures. Many girls even committed suicide due to this incident.

But now, 30 years later, a similar scene has come to light in Ajmer once again. This time, hundreds of girl students have been blackmailed through social media, Instagram chats, fake profiles, and videos. The police have arrested several boys, including minors.

What has changed in these three decades?

There has definitely been a change in the level of education and awareness of girls these days as compared to 30 years ago, but do we still feel that incidents like Ajmer

could have been avoided? Are we able to take adequate steps to keep girls completely safe? Do serious questions not arise about safety in schools and colleges even today?

The silent tracks of parenting

Often when a girl is sexually abused, the question arises as to why she allowed this to happen. Was she at fault? But the reality is that when girls are taught from childhood to "stay away from boys" or "you can make mistakes," they grow up in fear that if something happens, who will support them? This fear and silence makes them victims of criminals. If they are taught that "it is not your fault, you deserve protection, and you have the right to ask for help," then perhaps they could overcome these situations.

Educational institutions: There are books, no compassion.

Our schools and colleges have become mere educational institutions where education has only one purpose—to get results based on marks. These same institutions have

no sex education, no gender sensitization classes, and no mental health counseling facilities. Girls not only need self-defense education, but they also need to understand what can be the signs of abuse in love and relationships. When the response to girls' complaints is, "You must have done something, then she made the video," it is like ignoring the seriousness of the problem.

Social media: The modern hunter's gun

Social media and chatting apps have opened up new avenues for criminals. What happened in the new Ajmer case revealed the modern digital predator. Using social media platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, and WhatsApp, first false love relationships are created, then intimate chats and videos are made, and finally the process of blackmailing and exploitation begins. The biggest problem in this is that girls are emotionally vulnerable on these platforms. They see these as a safe, secret relationship, and then the crimi-

nals break their trust.

Hypocrisy of society

When girls excel in their studies, they are applauded. But as soon as they befriend a boy or become active on social media, they are labeled as "loitering" and "spoiled." After incidents like Ajmer, society asks the same question—"Why did you trust me?" When the question should be the reverse—"Where was the security system in your school and college?"

In our society, girls are educated in only one direction, that is, "be careful." But are girls also taught how they can protect their rights? Don't we need to understand that preparing girls to "defend themselves" is not only their personal responsibility but the responsibility of the entire society?

Silence of police and administration

During the Ajmer gang rape case in 1992, the police and administration suppressed the case due to political pressure. The same is happening now—many accused

are not being named, and minors are getting recourse to the Juvenile Justice Act. Is this the system we should trust? When the police and administration remain silent, incidents of abuse and rape are suppressed. The same is happening in today's colleges and schools, where there is no guarantee of safety.

In cases like Ajmer and Kota, it also came to light that girls were trapped through social media, chatting apps, and fake profiles. When online communication starts, it starts to feel like a 'confidential relationship.' This trust is exploited.

It is not a crime for a girl to trust, fall in love, or talk to someone. The crime is when someone exploits this trust, blackmails her, and forces her to live in humiliation. In such cases, we should not blame the victim but ask, what was the security system in that college? Why did the school administration not know? What did the police and administration learn from previous incidents?

What is the solution?

The solution cannot come from only one direction. For this, we have to make the education system, society, police and administration, and media aware at every level. First of all, we have to make sex education compulsory in the school curriculum. Counseling and digital safety training should be given in colleges. Cyber helplines and rapid response units should be established for women in every district. Along with this, the media has to stop blaming the victim, and there should be a fair investigation of old cases.

Ajmer's students were educated, but they were unaware of social silences and digital dangers. We have to accept that education should not only teach degrees; it should also teach security. And upbringing should not be just to make obedient but to make struggling and aware citizens.

Our daughters do not get trapped; they are trapped—and as long as education remains limited to marks, these predatory traps will continue to be spun again and again.



# Sanatnagar’s Flyover Stuck in Time Completion Jinx

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The Sanatnagar bypass flyover project in Srinagar, planned to reduce chronic traffic bottleneck at National Highway-44 intersection, has become a symbol of poor management and delays due to accomplishment jinx. It has become emblematic of poor planning and bureaucratic inertia primarily due to flawed project formulation, as result of technical over-sights, project is mired in delays and stalemate. This is mainly due to height of the fly over violates safety rules of a high-voltage power line that runs over it and this aspect has been ignored during the project formulation stage by the team and have trapped the project in a time loop. It seems the team has looked on the ground and beheld only earthy elements, underscoring presence of 132 KV line crossing over the flyover. It is a very serious hiatus which threatens both worker’s safety, future of commuter security and is a vivid example of undermining the importance of a vital on-site factor. It has conceived the same without delving into vital specific onsite element during the project conception. It is also a typical example of a project falter where coordination gaps and poor planning leaves the stakeholders up the creek and every unaddressed gap acts as a crack in the expected benefits, once left unresolved it is likely going to turn perplexing for the commuters. The project is a standing example of unsolved gaps in planning which is eroding its goals, targets, momentum, and is turning prospects into outlandish delay. The project was approved around 2018 as part of a plan to improve Srinagar’s roads, along with similar initiatives at Bemina, Hyderpora, Nowgam, and Lasjan along the same road. Execution/completion issues have frustrated commuters, general public and made the project timeline indeterminate.

### Diluted Project Benefits

The flyover was expected to turn the crowded intersection at Sanatnagar into a smoother transit area,

easing the pressure of through and heavy traffic, tourists, security convoys from local traffic. By separating traffic levels, it is expected to decrease travel times, accidents, and excessive daily commutes for many people. It is also anticipated to yield economic benefits for Srinagar by enhancing access to markets and tourist attractions, ultimately supporting local businesses once the construction is completed. The project aligns with urban development goals, suggesting modernization and possible investment. For security forces, it would ensure faster and secured travel along a crucial highway, improving operational efficiency. In the long term, it might lead to better public transport or pedestrian pathways, enhancing connectivity in Srinagar. However, due to the accomplishment jinx, it has turned the flyover project into an urban myth.

### Conception Flaws

The project seems to have indelible conception flaws and prefeasibility voids, vitiating the project targets and alienates the stakeholders by consigning the purpose to the shadows. These expected advantages have not materialized due to clear flaws in planning and execution, especially regarding the transmission line. The power line, is a pat of national grid managed by Power Grid Corporation on India Limited , does not have enough clearance from the flyover, posing electrocution or structural damage risks, particularly in Kashmir’s winter. While KPDCL has proposed raising the line or lowering the flyover’s height, both options need land acquisition and funds, which have not yet been materialized. This planning oversight shows a serious failure in utility mapping in conceiving a vital project. Effecting the project timelines with delays extending well beyond the original target. By 2022, the National Highways Authority of India was still working on the flyover’s design, unlike other projects at Bemina and Nowgam, which made quicker progress. The project is basically a proposal envisaged in the Master plan 2035 and stands to a vital recommendation

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in comprehensive mobility plan for Srinagar. Since the two plan being merely proposals which is to be detailed out while framing DPR including all on-sit and off site factors along with prefeasibility report to ensure its impact assessment. Most probably the project seems to have been conceived in hush-hush manner without feasibility studies which has landed in the present predicament.

### Nightmarish Ordeal to Commuters

Construction has turned Sanatnagar into a nightmare for commuters due to narrow roads, diversions, and barricades causing traffic jams. Daily gridlock has affected students, workers, and emergency services trying to reach hospitals. Local businesses have suffered from reduced customers due to noise and restricted access, with reports highlighting declining sales. Pedestrian safety is compromised due to the absence of temporary walkways, forcing people to navigate dangerous areas. Financially, the project was initially budgeted at Rs 40-50 crore, but costs may increase due to redesigns or utility adjustments. Critics have termed it a "white elephant," suggesting that funds could have been better used elsewhere. The ongoing issues erode public trust in governance, fostering cynicism about infrastructure projects in Kashmir.

Responsibility for the situation primarily lies with the project formulation team responsible for the Detailed Project Report. Their lack of foresight about the power line suggests either rushed work or inadequate expertise. The National Highways Authority of India, overseeing the project, approved flawed designs and failed to resolve issues early, elongating the timeline. The J&K government shares responsibility for slow land acquisition and coordination. Political instability has likely impeded progress but does not excuse the department’s inaction. KPDCL could have reported issues earlier, but their current attempts to find solutions are a positive step. Meanwhile, contractors and design firms likely relied on the faulty report without proper checks, a recurrent issue

in India’s infrastructure sector. Broader problems like underfunding, fragmented coordination, and premature project announcements complicate accountability further. Although the suggestion that the flyover troubles "the whole Kashmir population" is exaggerated, its impact on Srinagar is clear. Commuters face significant delays affecting access to schools and hospitals. Businesses near the junction are struggling, with some calling their shops "invisible" due to barriers. Emergency services are hindered by traffic, potentially delaying critical responses. Overall, the persistent delays relate to broader disenchantment with governance and infrastructure promises, as one poet described it as "endless torture. " The flyover’s effects are largely confined to Srinagar and adjacent areas. Rural districts face different challenges unrelated to the flyover. While delays could push up transport costs, the overall influence on rural Kashmir is limited. Construction has led to environmental issues, adding dust and noise while increasing vehicle emissions during traffic jams. Socially, the disruption aggravates community patience, occasionally leading to protests.

The oversight of the transmission line signifies deeper flaws in planning. Detailed utility mapping and inter-agency collaboration should have been prioritized. Those involved should examine their processes to avoid future blunders. The approval of flawed designs highlights a mindset focused on deadlines over thoroughness. Delays and inaction reflect bureaucratic sluggishness, complicated by local land laws. A lack of funding for relocating the power line adds more challenges. Public anger, though justified, often oversimplifies complex problems. Better communication and community engagement could relieve some tensions. Immediate actions are needed to move forward. NHAi and KPDCL should finalize plans regarding the power line and flyover, securing land and funds promptly while providing a clear project timeline. Traffic management and improved safety mea-

sures should be implemented to ease commute challenges. Future projects require more thorough feasibility studies and community updates to rebuild trust. An inquiry into this oversight with publicly shared results would help prevent similar issues. If not addressed, the Sanatnagar flyover project risks being a cautionary tale of poor execution overshadowing its ambitious goals.

### Immediate Actions and Cautions

The transmission line oversight isn’t just a technical error but it is symptomatic of rushed planning and weak accountability. Feasibility studies should have involved rigorous utility mapping especially for high risk infrastructure like power line. It is a NHAi and J&K government’s failure to show greater steadfastness in such projects and also points fingers towards bureaucratic inertia or cost cutting on pre-construction surveys. Public narratives blame the project team are valid but oversimplify the issue. Since Sanatnagar flyover has the potential to decongest roads, ease traffic, enhance Srinagar’s economy, and modernize infrastructure. Still, its benefits are hindered by failures, primarily due to the problematic transmission line that affects safety and leads to delays. Each party involved shares the responsibility for the current state of the project, reflecting both personal mistakes and larger weaknesses in India’s development system. While the flyover disrupts daily life for many in Srinagar, its impact does not extend deeply into all of Kashmir. With decisive steps toward safety, transparency, and accountability, the flyover can still become a successful project. Without these changes, it will remain a source of frustration for those affected.

Finally sorting the issue by greater coordination to shift the power line is urgently needed to operationalize the flyover at an earliest. Besides stricter oversight is needed to ensure smooth implementation of projects in the future for avoiding repeating of cautionary tales of “ambition undone by poor execution”.

## From Masjid to Meow: The Rise of Persian Cats and the Fall of Values

ER HAYA ALJAZ  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR

In the charming valleys of Kashmir, a new trend is sweeping through households—one that was once a rare indulgence but has now become a full-blown obsession. The craze of keeping Persian cats has transformed from a personal choice into a statement of class, fashion, and, sadly, misplaced priorities.

What began as an innocent affection for furry companions has now escalated into a culture of over-indulgence. The youth of our valley, once known for intellect, spiritual grounding, and service to elders, are now seen running after vet appointments, arranging ultrasound scans, ovary removals, and castration procedures—for cats. Yes, Persian cats.

Have we really stooped to this level that we find pride and purpose in rearing animals whose only contribution is aesthetic appeal? Gone are the days when a visit to the mosque or fulfilling a grandparent’s request was part of our moral compass. Today, the youth are "on their toes" for grooming sessions, pet spas, vaccine schedules, imported litter, and gourmet treats—all for pets.

Ironically, the same energy isn’t shown when our parents are ill or when community responsibilities call.

Spending Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000 per month on a single Persian cat has become "normal." And this doesn’t stop

at one pet. Many homes now host 5 to 10 Persian cats, a trend that costs lakhs annually. Think about it—a family of six or seven could survive comfortably on that amount, and here we are spending it on cats just to maintain a show of high society.

Traditionally, Kashmiris kept goats, hens, or sheep—not just as animals, but as sources of food, income, and sustainability. But now, those who walk with a couple of goats are looked down upon, while someone walking a Persian cat in a stroller is admired like a VIP. What kind of twisted societal image have we accepted and internalized?

We are slowly turning into slaves of our pets. The irony? Animals were meant to benefit humans—not the other way around. A dog, when kept for a purpose, says "you are the king." But a cat behaves as if "I am the king." And it seems, we are happy being ruled.

But where are the Muslims headed? Have we become this ignorant? The religion that once led the world in knowledge, science, ethics, and community service has now reduced itself to a showbiz of pets and pictures. The Ummah that produced scholars like Ibn Sina, Al-Ghazali, and Al-Khwarizmi is today preoccupied with fur brushes, nail trimmers, and imported pet perfumes. What a fall from grace!

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us kindness to animals, yes—but he never said to treat animals as superior to human beings. When did we

start prioritizing cats over orphans, grooming over prayer, and entertainment over education? This ignorance is not just a lapse—it is a deliberate escape from reality. We’ve stopped reading books, questioning ourselves, serving our parents, or participating in collective betterment. Instead, we invest our time learning how to breed cats and upload videos that receive hollow likes but reflect empty souls.

Islam emphasized ‘ilm (knowledge), ‘ibadah (worship), and ‘amal (action). Sadly, all three are being replaced by obsession, consumerism, and mental laziness. We don’t even realize that this foolishness is slowly becoming our identity. Our youth doesn’t attend religious classes, doesn’t sit with scholars, doesn’t even know basic Arabic—but can tell you the breed, diet, and genetic disorders of Persian cats like a veterinary specialist.

If this is not a crisis, then what is? Are we truly preparing for the Akhirah, or have we buried our sense of purpose under a pile of cat toys and Instagram filters?

This is not just a financial or social issue—it’s a reflection of our inner decline. What we portray as "class" is in fact a display of how far we’ve distanced ourselves from reality, responsibility, and religion.

It’s time to wake up, reflect, and realign our lives with meaningful pursuits. Let’s not become a generation remembered for pampering pets more than we served people.

## Severe challenge to food and water safety

VIJAY GARG

The rapid melting of glaciers is a serious sign of the global climate crisis. According to UNESCO’s World Water Development Report 2025, its results will be disastrous if the process continues to remain the same. This may cause more than two billion people to suffer heavy water and food. Glaciers play an important role in keeping the earth’s water cycle balanced, and their melting is causing rivers to exist in distress. Rapid melting of glaciers due to climate change and decreasing snowfall in mountainous regions has become a serious threat to the food and water safety of the whole world. The seven lakh square kilometres area of more than 2.75 lakh glaciers present in the world is facing the killing of climate change. According to the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization, all 19 glacier regions have witnessed losses for three consecutive years, with regions like Norwegian, Sweden and Svalbard most affected. The drying of the Colorado River shows the magnitude of this crisis. According to UNESCO, the source of 70 per cent of the world’s drinking water is glaciers itself and the extinction of these could lead to further disintegration of water crisis. According to NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center research, the ice of Arctic and Antarctica has decreased by millions of square kilometres from year 2010 until now. Currently there are only 143 lakh square kilometres of snow remaining, which is less than the record low level of 2017. Around 270 billion tonnes of ice is melting every year from the glaciers of Greenland and Antarctica between the year 2000 and 2023, equivalent to the water used

by the global population in 30 years. According to NASA’s Scientific Linen Boisvert, there are fears of avoiding even less ice in the next summer. The main reason for this is the rise in temperature by human activities, especially by the excessive use of fossil fuels. As global temperatures rise, glaciers melt far more rapidly than they become, making their survival at risk. This crisis is not just the end of snow, but a sign of danger hovering over the existence of life on earth. According to government reports and scientific studies, Himalayan glaciers are melting quickly from different rates due to climate change. It is not only a sign of environmental imbalance but also increasing the risk of water crisis and natural disasters for about 160 crore population of South Asia. These glaciers spread over about 33,000 square kilometres are huge deposits of fresh water on which water supply of rivers like Ganga, Indus and Brahmaputra depends. These are called the water minaret of Asia and the third pole of the world. 440 billion tonnes of ice has melted from the Himalayas over the past 40 years, and only 20 billion tonnes of snow was lost in the year 2010. This condition becomes even more alarming when scientists warn that if global temperatures rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius, one-third by the end of the century and two-thirds of the glaciers may end if this rise reaches 2 degrees Celsius.

The UN Secretary-General warned that one-third of the snow from the mountains of Nepal has already been over. Nepal’s glaciers have melted by 65 per cent in the region, settled between major carbon emissions like India and China, and if that remains, 75 per cent of the glaciers of the Hindukush-Himalayan region could be destroyed by the end

of this century. From this crisis of glaciers it is clear that now time is not of words, of actions. Eliminating dependence on fossil fuels, limiting global temperature growth and preserving water sources should be humanity’s biggest priority | Aryabhata Pratham and Science Research Institute Nainital and Delhi University’s study has shown that the main cause of air pollution in the Himalayas is the increased use of fossil fuels, especially due to the increasing number of vehicles. The Himalayan region is now battling urbanization and population pressure. At the same time, lakes that are formed due to melting glaciers from global warming are posing serious threats. According to ISRO, 672 of the 2,432 glacier lakes of the Himalayas are growing rapidly, with 130 lakes of India on the verge of a possible breakdown. This condition is a sign of the coming gruesome natural disasters. It is true that rising temperatures and climate changes are leading to the destruction of glaciers. It’s not just the ice melting crisis, but like a devastating tsunami that can affect the whole world. The water level of the sea is rising, islands and coastal areas are sinking, floods and droughts are rising, and rivers are in distress. We have to make changes in our lifestyle as well as control of the curbs, climate change and carbon emissions in the Himalayan region, so that we can see some positive changes. Otherwise, the day will not go away when the shortage of water, the drought and the devils of the rivers will become part of our lives. Saving glaciers is not just to save ice, but to save the existence of its coming generations and life.

**Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab**

## My Song Offering

SIDHARTH P K  
KOCHI

I place before thee,  
The flowing river is

Like welled tears  
And it streams out  
In the musical note,  
Played by a breeze.  
I drift o’er the cloud,  
He is my messenger  
The night falls  
In adventure to me

I mother her name,  
And the goddess follows.  
I sing the live,  
And it grows in me  
It’s music never stops  
The rays are beam  
As it shares the,  
The companionship.





# CUKashmir holds 16th Academic Council, takes decisions for academic excellence

## HT News Network

Ganderbal, Apr 22: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) today convened its 16th Academic Council (AC) meeting at Tulmulla Campus with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath in chair. Reaffirming the university's commitment to academic innovation and inclusive education, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, in his opening address to the members, highlighted the University's continuous academic and research advancements, and emphasized CUKashmir's unwavering commitment to align with National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020),

citing numerous structural reforms, academic policy revisions in the recent academic sessions. Prof. A Ravinder Nath also presented key initiatives rolled out during the current academic session. He introduced student-centric policies that echoed the university's motto of accessibility, excellence, and innovation, to the Academic Council members. Prof. A Ravinder Nath said the "Earn While Learn" scheme marks a ground-breaking shift in student engagement, allowing students to gain work experience and financial support while continuing their studies. As Academic and Outreach Interns



the students will get work experience in varied fields "from library assistants to tech support roles and cam-

pus services, students now have access to meaningful work engagements that promote self-reliance,

time management, and real-world skills," he said. The Council while approving the same hailed this move as a "win-win" for both institutional efficiency and student empowerment. He further added that the Student Aid Fund (SAF) aims to bridge the financial gap for students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. "Designed to ensure that no deserving student is left behind, the fund provides financial assistance based on merit-cum-means, especially in cases of unforeseen hardship or economic distress," he added. "These welfare schemes not only embody the ideals of inclusive education but also reflect CUK's

moral commitment to social equity." The Academic Council appreciated the holistic implementation of reforms in line with NEP-2020, demonstrating the university's proactive role in national educational transformation. Prof. A Ravinder Nath also informed the members about international and national MoUs, including partnerships with: Lincoln University, Malaysia, Universitas Hindu Negeri, Indonesia, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, University of Kashmir and INFLIBNET Centre, Gujarat for the promotion of faculty and student exchange, joint research, and shared academic resources.

## Rs.10 Lakh Raised Overnight for Bandipora Driver After Ramban Tragedy

## HT News Network

Srinagar, April 22: In an extraordinary display of compassion, the people of Kashmir united overnight to raise Rs. 10 lakh for Ferooz Ahmad Dar, a humble and hardworking driver from the Kema area of Bandipora. His vehicle, which served as his sole means of income, was tragically buried under debris in Ramban on Sunday, leaving him in despair. Moved by his plight, noted social activist and entrepreneur Tawheed Sheikh is the first person who launched a heartfelt donation appeal early Monday morning. Speaking about the incident, Sheikh said, "I personally spoke to Ferooz Ahmad yesterday and assured him that the people of Kashmir will always stand by those in need. The generous peo-



ple of Kashmir proved me right by raising approximately Rs.10 lakh in just one day," he added. The appeal gained rapid momentum across social media and among locals, with support pouring in from all directions to help Ferooz rebuild his

life. Sheikh further stated that he would take up the matter with relevant authorities to ensure additional aid for the affected family. "I will also visit Ferooz Ahmad's family shortly. After assessing their situation, we will inform the public when to conclude the donation drive," he said, expressing deep gratitude to all who contributed. Ferooz Ahmad, overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who stood by him. "I am truly grateful to the people for their love and generosity. May Allah bless you all," he said with emotion. This powerful act of collective kindness stands as a reminder that even in moments of darkness, unity and humanity shine through.

## Ashok Koul holds crucial meeting with District Presidents and Program Incharges of Kashmir.

## HT News Network

Srinagar, 22 April 2025:- Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), BJP J&K today held a crucial meeting with BJP District Presidents of Kashmir Valley at the party's Head Office, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar. The meeting aimed at reviewing the organizational activities and strengthening the party structure at the grassroots level. During the meeting, Ashok Koul took detailed feedback from the district presidents regarding ongoing party programs, public outreach initiatives, and upcoming political engagements. He emphasized the need to stay connected with the common people and highlighted the importance of efficient booth-level



management. Later in the day, Ashok Koul chaired a separate meeting with Program Incharges of the Kashmir Valley to review the implementation and progress of various central and state-sponsored BJP programs across the

region. He stressed on better coordination, timely reporting, and innovative strategies to enhance the party's reach and effectiveness on the ground. Speaking to the media, Ashok Koul said, "The BJP is committed to the development and empowerment of every citizen in Jammu & Kashmir. These meetings are vital for ensuring that our message and programs reach every corner of the Valley. We are confident that our dedicated activists will continue working tirelessly to serve the people." The meetings witnessed active participation from senior party functionaries and provided a platform for open dialogue and collective strategizing in view of upcoming organizational and political activities.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from old name MEELAD UN NISA to new name MEELAD UN NISSA in future I will be known as Meelad un Nissa if any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport office, Srinagar with in 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name & parentage has been wrongly written as AISA D/O ABUD AHAD WANI in school record while her correct name is AISHA AHAD & correct parentage name is AB AHAD WANI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her file in the office of Alamdar mission secondary school B K Pora Budgam / concerned ZONE Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....AB AHAD WANI  
F/O.... AISHA AHAD  
R/O ...MALIK MOHALLA MANCHOWA  
Dist....BUDGAM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my name and dob or father's name Seeping, has been incorrectly mentioned on my Adhar card 284711810732, as Mohmad Rafiq Bhat DOB 10/03/1996 S/O Ab Khaliq Bhat R/O Krumhoora Tehsil Zachelwadara the correct name and DOB is ROUF KHALIQ BHAT DOB 14/06/1999 S/O ABDUL KHALIQ BHAT R/O KRUMHOORA TEHSIL ZACHALDARA as pre school record now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at UIDAI OFFICE/concerned authority / TEHSIL ZACHALDARA within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: ROUF KHALIQ BHAT  
S/O ABDUL KHALIQ BHAT  
R/O: KRUMHOORA DOB 14/06/1999 TEHSIL ZACHALDARA  
DIST KUPWARA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MOHD AKBAR GANAIE S/O ABDUL REHMAN GANAIE R/O SALOOSA. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000 8289 wants to be registered on my child's name MANZOOR AHMAD GANAIE S/O MOHD AKBAR GANAIE R/O SALOOSA. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..MANZOOR AHMAD GANAIE  
S/O ...MOHD AKBAR GANAIE  
R/O SALOOSA  
DISTT..... BARAMULLA

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TAIMOOR REYAZ & MEHRAN REYAZ S/O REYAZ AHMAD TANTRAY R/O KAREWA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/02/2022 & 14/08/2023 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AYESHA REYAZ, SAFIYA REYAZ & AABROH REYAZ D/O REYAZ AHMAD PARRAY R/O KOHLINA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 16/07/2019, 18/05/2016 & 05/05/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## The JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR



### PUBLIC NOTICE

I HAVE PASSED/APPEARED IN SSE/ASSE-I/HSE-II CLASS 10 TH 11 TH 12TH UNDER 139027038 SESSION ANNUAL REGULAR 2023 YEAR: 2073 THROUGH THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. THE ERROR HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY THE INSTITUTE AGAINST MY MOTHER'S LAST NAME AS NAHIDA BILAL INSTEAD OF NAHIDA BANO NOW I HAVE APPLIED FOR CORRECTION IN THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR. IF ANY PERSON HAS ANY OBJECTION IN THIS REGARD MAY FILE THE SAME IN THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, CERTIFICATES KASHMIR DIVISION WITH IN SEVEN DAYS, FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE, AFTER THE EXPIRY OF SAID PERIOD, NO OBJECTION WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

THIS IS PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. AS UNDER: THE CORRECT PARTICULARS BE RECORDED NAME: AREEB BILAL  
FATHER'S NAME: BILAL AHMAD JAN  
MOTHER'S NAME: NAHIDA BANO  
DATE OF BIRTH: 08-05-2006  
RESIDENCE: GHULAB ABAD, SHALTENG  
MOBILE NO: 9107000648

The notice should be published in any one among the following Daily Newspapers:- Greater Kashmir, Kashmir Reader, Rising Kashmir, Kashmir Monitor, Kashmir Uzma, Aftab, Srinagar Times, Ahsaif, Afaq, Kashmir Times, Kashmir Observer, Kashmir Images, Tameel-i-Irshad, Voice of Ladakh (For Leh and Kargil Districts)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, IRFAN AHMAD SHEERGOJREE Holder of Passport No. Y1082707.i have lost my passport while Travelling from Quilmugam to Alooosa. If found, please return. Now I have applied for its Duplicate. If anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her file in the Passport office Srinagar Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Sincerely,  
Irfan Ahmad SHEERGOJREE

## SAD DEMISE



### Fayaz Ah Dagga

With profound grief and Sorrow we inform the Sad demise of Fayaz Ahmad Dagga S/o, Ghulam Mohi Din Dagga R/o, Palpora New Colony Lane No.1 Who left for heavenly abode on 21th April 2025 (Monday) May Allah (SWT) give him highest place in jannat. Fateh Khawani will be held on 23th April 2025 (Wednesday) At 10:00 Am Their ancestral graveyard MalTeng Dalgate

BEREAVED DAGGA  
Cell No.6005354464  
9622497846

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of NADEEM AHMAD MALIK S/O KHURSHED AHMAD MALIK R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/11/2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of UFAIRA AJAZ D/O AIJAZ AHMAD PIR R/O TUJER Tehsil ZAINGEER Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/11/2019 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class KREERI

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar

Short term e-NIT

No.: PHE/QC&PD/ 03of 2025-26 e-Tender Dated: 21-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir (UT), e-tenders in two cover system are invited from registered and reputed suppliers having similar experience or Manufacturers / authorized dealers/ Authorized Service providers of weigh bridges.

s.no	Name of the work	Tender document (Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated cost	Time of Completion	Tender validity
1	Repairs and replacement of electrical equipment installed at QC&PD Zainakote Srinagar	500	6000.00	290000.00	10 days	90 days

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of www.jkenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

Schedule of Critical Dates/Information	
1	Date of Inviting Tender
2	Clarification Period
4	Documents Downloading Period
6	On Line Document Submission Period.
8	Date of opening of Cover 1st.
9	Tender Document Receiving Authority
10	Tender Inviting Office
11	Document Fee
12	Earnest Money
13	Bid Opening Authority

- The Cover-1 shall contain:-
  - Scanned copy of Tender Document fee in the shape of Treasury receipt / e-Challan / e-Receipt
  - Scanned copies of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR.
- Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration Certificate along with Clearance Certificate and GSTR-3B of the latest quarter/ month as applicable.
- Scanned copy of PAN card.
- Scanned copies of the Annexure "A", "B" duly accepted/signed.
- The bidders have to submit an affidavit duly signed and stamped by 1st Class magistrate with the following affirmations:-
  - That M/s.....(Name of the Bidder) has not been declared bankrupt by any institution or Government.
  - That M/s.....(Name of the Bidder) has not been black listed by the Government or any other organization for failure to any dues.
  - That M/s.....(Name of the Bidder) has not been adjudged by any court of law of the land as insolvent or was/were not facing any/ under any arbitration proceedings in any court of law for any offence involving moral turpitude or any criminal activities etc.
  - That M/s.....(Name of the Bidder) was and is not detained under any provisions of preventive law of the land.
  - That all the documents uploaded with digital signatures have been scanned from original sources and there are no fake, forged, edited or electronically edited documents.
  - That in case of any discrepancy/mismatch found in the uploaded and the original documents we shall be responsible exclusively and shall be liable for any outcome/verdict of the Honorable Court of law.
  - That in case of any proven forging and/or other insertions manual or electronic we (Name of firm) are liable for blacklisting/debaring for e-Tender participation in the global tenders.

DIPK-692/25  
Dated:- 21 -04-2025  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
QC&PD PHE, Jai Shakti  
HMT Srinagar

## Public notice

It is being notified that my name in my Aadhar Card having Aadhar card number this 558221619467 has been wrongly mentioned as MOHD ASIF KHAN but my actual name as per School record is Asif Ahmad Khan DOB 04/03/2001 C/o Mohammad Maqbool Khan Address NALA SUNDHARI, KOKERNAG ANANTNAG J&K 192202

## Public notice

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 012204015000008734 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Mohd Lateef Wagay, my actual name as per Aadhar is Lateef Ahmad Wagay C/o Ghulam Mohammad Wagay R/o Seer Hamdan ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR. If anyone have queries please contact the branch office Or call 6085136097

## Public notice

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 01220401500000240 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Nusrat Jam, my actual name as per Aadhar is Nusrat Akhter Assadullah Raina Lari Pora Pahalgam ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR. If anyone have queries please contact branch office





# DC Budgam flags-off ECI's 'Democracy on Wheels' Van for enhanced electoral participation & awareness

## HT News Network

BUDGAM, APRIL 22: In a first of its kind mobile initiative, the 'Democracy on Wheels' Election Van, under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme was today flagged-off from Government Degree College, Budgam under the flagship outreach campaign of the Election Commission of India. The Van, flagged-off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Akshay Labroo, marks a unique addition to the electoral process, which blends accessibility with innovation.

This event was initiated under the supervision of Chief Electoral Office J&K, J&K Bank & District Administration, Budgam. The Election Van is set to traverse across both urban and rural areas, carrying with it registration forms and electronic devices besides powerful messages of civic responsibility, democratic values, and equal representation. More than just a vehicle, this Van symbolizes inclusivity, awareness, and active participation in the democratic process. It reaffirms the commitment of the Election Commission of India to ensure that no voice goes unheard and no voter is left behind.



Speaking on the occasion, DC said the Van will serve as a one-stop destination for all election-related queries, simplifying the Special Summary Revision (SSR) process and making it more transparent and accessible to citizens across 27-AC of Budgam. He said SSR activities are currently underway in full swing across the 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency. DC said the initiative aims to encourage eligible voters to register, modify or update their voter details and ensure a more inclusive electoral roll. ACR Budgam, Afroza Bano, who also serves as ERO for Assembly Constituency-27 Bud-

gam spoke on the importance of every citizen's vote. Special Secretary in the Chief Electoral Office Manzoor Ahmad, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer Kashmir, Muhammad Altaf Zullah and officers from the District Election Cell Budgam, senior Officers of the district, principal, staff and students of the college also participated in the proceedings. The District Administration urges all residents of Budgam to engage with the SSR campaign, visit the Van during its scheduled halts, and contribute to the strengthening of our democratic fabric. For more information, citizens.

## DC Bandipora assesses post-rainfall situation in Hajin, Sumbal; reviews Jhelum embankment repairs

### HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 22: To assess the post-rainfall situation and review the ongoing repair works on the Jhelum embankments, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to various low-lying areas of Hajin and Sumbal including main town Hajin, Banyari, Madwan, Bakshibal, Paribal, Wangipora Sumbal and adjoining areas. During the field visit, DC interacted with local residents, took stock of the situation and the preventive measures being taken by the concerned departments. Speaking on the occasion, DC said the administration's primary objective is to ensure the safety and well-being of the people living in low-lying areas. He said, recent rainfall highlighted certain vulnerable spots along the Jhelum embankments, and the administration is committed to addressing these issues on priority. Qadri said that the Depart-



ment of Irrigation and Flood Control has already initiated repair works, and all necessary steps are being taken to strengthen the embankments to prevent any potential threat to nearby habitations, besides genuine concerns raised by locals are being looked into and will be taken up in coordination with relevant departments. DC also issued instructions to the concerned departments to identify and remove all encroachments on irrigation and flood control land. He emphasized that such

encroachments hinder the free flow of water and pose a significant risk during heavy rainfall. Interacting with the media, DC said that the purpose of the visit was to conduct an on-ground assessment of the post-rainfall conditions and to ensure that all precautionary and restoration measures are being implemented effectively. Later, DC also inspected the irrigation canal at Wangipora, which has been affected due to the ongoing construction of Ring Road Phase II. He instructed.

## DC Budgam inaugurates Public Convenience at District Headquarters

### HT News Network

BUDGAM, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Akshay Labroo today inaugurated the public toilet complex at Old DC Office, and conducted the inspection of the completed repair and renovation works across the premises. The upgradation project, carried out by the District Administration Budgam, has transformed the old office complex with the improvements including plastering and fresh painting of the entire building facade, complete overhaul of existing washrooms, including new tiling and installation of modern sanitary fittings, repainting of all doors and windows for uniformity and durability, concealment of electrical wiring in corridors, installation of a centrally placed public information notice board, replacement of worn-out dustbins, construction of accessibility ramps and seating space for visiting public. These upgraded facilities will greatly enhance comfort, accessibility, and service delivery for both staff and public visiting the DC office complex. The Old DC Office Complex stands renewed and ready to meet the growing needs of the district's administration and its citizens, DC said. He added that the new public washroom adheres to high standards of privacy, cleanliness and universal access. The upgradation of the DC office complex will provide improved services and facilities, benefiting both staff and the general public visiting the offices.

## Three-Day Training Programme on AI and Edu-Tech Concludes at BHSS Qalamabad

### HT News Network



Qalamabad, April 22: In a progressive stride towards integrating advanced technology in the pedagogical landscape, Samagra Shiksha orchestrated a comprehensive three-day awareness programme on Artificial Intelligence and educational technology at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Qalamabad.

The initiative, meticulously tailored for capacity building, witnessed the participation of no fewer than 31 educators drawn from diverse academic backgrounds. These participants underwent rigorous training modules encompassing contemporary educational innovations, fundamentals of AI, and elementary coding frameworks.

The programme aimed to equip the teaching fraternity with the intellectual tools and technological acumen imperative for navigating the evolving contours of 21st-century learning. The sessions, marked by interactive demonstrations and hands-on engagements, were facilitated by domain experts proficient in the realms of digital pedagogy and algorithmic thinking. This endeavour under Samagra Shiksha not only underscores the state's commitment to fostering digital literacy among educators but also serves as a precursor to future scholastic reforms wherein AI and technological fluency will be indispensable. The event culminated with a formal valediction wherein certificates were conferred upon the participating teachers, acknowledging their successful completion of the training. Such initiatives are anticipated to engender a paradigm shift in the educational ethos, enabling a more adaptive, innovative, and learner-centric academic environment.

## Enforcement drive conducted at Chowki Choura to curb traffic violations

### HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 22: A joint enforcement drive was conducted today at Chowki Choura by a team of District Administration to ensure strict adherence to transport and traffic rules and regulations. During the drive, around 250 vehicles were checked at various points, of which 51 were e-challaned for different violations under the Motor Vehicles Act. The total fine expected from the challans amounts to Rs 1,58,200. The enforcement team comprised Tehsildar Chowki Choura Parmod Kumar, ARTO Mohammad Saleem, Sub Inspector Vinay Kotwal, Motor Vehicle Inspector C.S. Billowria and MVTA Tarunot Singh, along with supporting staff.

## Earth Day 2025 celebrations commence at IUST

### HT News Network

Awantipora, April 22: The Department of Planning & Geomatics, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) today inaugurated a three-day event to commemorate International Earth Day 2025, being observed from April 22 to 24, 2025 at the University Campus. The celebrations align with this year's Earth Day theme, This is Our Power, Our Planet: #RenewableEnergyNow, and aim to raise awareness and drive collective action toward renewable energy adoption, environmental conservation, and sustainable development. The event features a series of symposia, panel discussions, and technical sessions led by domain experts, thought leaders, and practitioners. Participants from academia, government departments, industry, and civil society engaged in meaningful dialogue on the region's pressing environmental and climate-related challenges.

## DLSA Kulgam, Social Welfare Office organize Awareness programme on Legal Rights for Disabled Persons

### Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 22: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Office, Kulgam, organized an awareness programme on Legal Rights for Disabled Persons at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, today. The programme was attended by staff members of DLSA Kulgam, staff members of the District Social Welfare Office, LADCs, and PLVs. Resource persons Muzaffar Ahmad (Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Kulgam), Labeeba Alamgir (Assistant LADC) and Sheikh Saqib Ansari (Assistant LADC) spoke on the topic and addressed the audience on the comprehensive rights available to persons with disabilities, fostering a better understanding and advocacy for their needs. The engagement aimed to enhance awareness and empower stakeholders in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities are upheld. Resource persons Muzaffar Ahmad (Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Kulgam), Labeeba Alamgir (Assistant LADC) and Sheikh Saqib Ansari (Assistant LADC) spoke on the topic and addressed the audience on the comprehensive rights available to persons with disabilities, fostering a better understanding and advocacy for their needs.

## SANJY-2025: DC Bandipora conducts spot review of arrangements at Shadipora Transit Camp

### HT News Network

BANDIPORA, APRIL 22: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today visited Shadipora Transit Camp to take first-hand assessment of the infrastructure, facilities and services being developed for the convenience of the Yatri.

During the visit, DC reviewed the pace and quality of ongoing works and finalizing arrangements at the transit camp for pilgrims heading towards the holy cave via Baltal route.

Qadri emphasized the timely completion of all necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth and safe experience for the pilgrims, and directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and maintain high standards of facilities at the transit camp.

DC directed the departments to work in synergy to ensure that the infrastructure and ser-



vices are in place well ahead of the Yatra commencement.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer Jai Shakti, Executive Engineer R&B and other senior officers from concerned departments.

## Forest Employees Welfare Association (Retd) Holds Key Meeting at Forest Complex PC Depot Srinagar

### HT News Network

Srinagar: An important and well-attended meeting of the Forest Employees Welfare Association Retired (FEWA Retd) was held today at the Forest Complex PC Depot Srinagar under the leadership of Haji Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, President FEWA. The meeting witnessed participation from several ex-DFOs, ex-Range Officers, and retired forest employees including Gh. Jeelani (Ex-DFO), Khursheed Muqbool (Ex-DFO), Mohd Rafeeq Qadri (Ex-Range Officer), Mir Majeed (Ex-Range Officer), Peerzada Rashid (Ex-Range Officer), Irshad Ahmad Khan (Ex-Range Officer), Mohd Muqbool Mandoor (Ex-Range Officer), Tariq Masoodi (Ex-Range Officer), Farooq Ahmad (Ex-Range Officer), Ifitikhar Ahmad Wani (Zonal Secretary South), Ali Mohd Bhat (Pamore Press Secretary), Mohd Hussain (Coordinator Srinagar), Gh. Mohd Thoker (District President Budgam), Gh. Nabi Dar (Bemina), Gh. Mohd Dar (Urban Forestry), Myseer Zaman (Range Officer), and Khur-



sheed Matoo (Range Officer), along with some in-service employees. During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on various key issues concerning the forest department and retired employees. Special focus was laid on the Eco-Tourism Policy and the importance of preserving forest regions such as Pahalgam, Gulmarg Forests, Bangus Valley, Lolab Valley, Wayan Forests, Zabarwan Hills Srinagar, and Chashma Shahi. Particular emphasis was given to the development of Aabshar Park, Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam Forests, and

Gandoola in Gulmarg Forests, with the decision to take up these matters with the Hon'ble Forest Minister, Commissioner Secretary Forests, and Director Tourism as per the Forest Map. Other significant issues discussed included the need for a clean environment, conservation of biodiversity, and resolution of unjustified recovery cases in Tangmarg Special Division. Concerns were also raised about pending GP Fund cases with the DFO Demarcation, pay anomalies to be addressed with the Commissioner Secretary Finance, and

the demand for free accommodation during forest-related events, including provision of a dedicated room for monthly meetings.

In a notable development, Peerzada Rashid was unanimously nominated as General Secretary for the Kashmir Province, and Irshad Ahmad Khan was named Vice President of the Province, filling positions that had remained vacant for several months. Coordinator Mohd Hussain was also tasked with nominating the District President, Vice President, and Zonal Secretary for the Srinagar Zone, as new members like Farooq (Range Officer), Gh. Nabi Dar, and Gh. Mohd Dar joined the association during the meeting.

The Association expressed deep gratitude to Feroz Marazi (Range Officer), Khursheed Matto (Range Officer), and their entire staff for the excellent arrangements, including proper accommodation and refreshments, under the guidance and support of DFO Urban Forestry Sheikh Mehraj.







## GDC Ramkote celebrates Earth Day 2025

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 22: The NSS Unit of GDC Ramkote celebrated Global Earth Day 2025 today with a blend of activities under the theme "Our Power, Our Planet".

The celebration started with a Plantation Drive in the college premises by planting saplings of Arjun, Sahjan and Guava. Thereafter, an Awareness Lecture on "Earth Day and its Importance" was organised to sensitise the students about environmental protection and conservation in this era of climate change.

The programme was organised under the supervision and guidance of Principal of the college Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, who. During his interaction, the Principal highlighted the importance of going back to nature and taking refuge in it for a happy and harmonious life. He mentioned that the students are the forerunners in the activities that protect and preserve our natural resources.

The resource person for the lecture was Dr. Sha-keeb Manzer, faculty from the Department of Sociology, who talked about the significance of Earth Day and various efforts that need to be made for saving the planet from deforestation. A Pledge Taking Ceremony was also organised in which faculty and students took an oath to make individual and collective efforts for the planet's well being and commit to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle. Nearly 50 NSS volunteers participated in the programme that was organised by Prof. Anu Sharma, NSS PO of the college.

The event ended with a formal vote of thanks by Prof Suresh Chander, HOD Dogri. Faculty present included Prof Pankaj Nandan, Prof. Vasundra Raje, Dr. Anu Salaria, Mr. Sudhir Kotwal, Dr. Mohd. Rouf Bhat, Ms Poonam Rani, Ms Preeti Mahajan.

## 'Vidya Pravesh' launched in Poonch Schools

■ HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 22: The Vidya Pravesh program—a three-month, play-based preparatory module for Grade-I students—was formally launched across all primary and middle schools in Poonch district. The initiative is being implemented on the direction of SCERT Jammu and under the guidance of Principal DIET Parkash Lal Thapa and Chief Education Officer (CEO) Itfikhah Ali Shah Kazmi, with the aim of bridging early learning gaps and strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

To ensure the effective and uniform implementation of the program across the district, two major online programs were organized by the CEO Office and DIET Poonch.

The first was a district-level online panel discussion organised by the District Resource Group (DRG), in which over 500 School Nodal Officers (SNOs) participated. The session covered in-depth components of the Vidya Pravesh module and strategies for school-level execution.

Simultaneously, an online orientation meeting was held with Heads of Institutions (HOIs) of Higher Secondary and High Schools, along with Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) by the Principal DIET Poonch. Prakash Lal Thapa. This session focused on building institutional understanding and readiness to support and monitor the program's rollout in their respective schools.

As the module officially began at the school level, Ms. Sapna Sharma, School Nodal Officer of MS Dhant, launched Vidya Pravesh in her school and said,

"The Vidya Pravesh module is really practicable and well-structured. It will definitely bring fruitful results after three months. Through this, we will bridge the learning gaps of students entering Class 1."

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# CEO appeals eligible citizens for registration as voter in Nagrota, Budgam ACs

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: The Chief Electoral Officer Jammu & Kashmir has appealed the eligible citizens of the Assembly Constituency 77 Nagrota and 27 Budgam, to participate in the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls. The SSR, which commenced on April 8, 2025, will conclude on April 24, 2025. With only two days remaining, till now in assembly constituency 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota only 1069 Form 6 and 1575 Form 6 have been received respectively. It is crucial that all citizens who have attained the age of 18 years as on 1st April 2025 and are not yet registered as voter are once again requested to get registration as voter before 24th April, 2025.

Registering as a voter is a fundamental right and civic duty, enabling participation in the democratic process. Ensuring an accurate and up-to-date electoral roll is



essential for fair and transparent elections. All citizens who have attained the age of 18 years as on 1st April 2025 and are residents of Assembly Constituency 77 Nagrota

or 27 Budgam and are not yet registered as voters, are strongly urged to register using the given methods. The eligible candidates can contact their respective

Booth Level Officers (BLOs), contact their respective Assistant Registration Officers/ Tehsildar (AROs), Contact their respective Electoral Registration Officer/SDM/ACR (ERO) and can also apply online through the Voter Helpline App/ www.eci.gov.in./ Call 1950. The citizen must provide required documents including proof of age and residence. They can use Form 6 for addition as new voter, Form 7 for deletion and Form 8 for shifting of residence, correction in existing entries, issuance of replacement EPIC or request for marking as Person with Disabilities. The EROs emphasized the urgency of this matter and requested all eligible citizens to utilize this final opportunity to ensure their inclusion in the electoral rolls. The citizen must provide required documents including proof of age and residence. They can use Form 6 for addition as new voter, Form 7 for deletion and Form 8 for shifting of residence, correction in existing entries, issuance of replacement.

## Albani Islamic School Excels in Indian Talent Olympiad: 250+ Kindergarteners Bag 190+ Medals

Principal Felicitates Young Achievers at Certificate Distribution Ceremony

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, April 22: In a proud academic feat, Albani Islamic School, Nowgam, functioning under the guidance of the Muslim Students Board (MSB), has made an exceptional mark in the Indian Talent Olympiad held last year. Registered under LCJK0005, the school fielded 254 students from LKG and UKG, making it one of the largest early-age participations from the Valley. Despite their young age, the students brought home a dazzling medal tally: 162 Gold, 13 Silver, and 15 Bronze medals, accompanied by certificates of excellence. The results reflect the students' brilliance and the school's strong academic foundation even at the pre-primary level. To honour these achievements, a certificate distribution ceremony was held today at the school campus. The event drew the attendance of proud administration, enthusiastic students,



and dedicated teachers, all gathered to celebrate this milestone. Principal Muzafar Ahmad, in his address to the gathering, congratulated the students and applauded their efforts. "This achievement at such an early stage speaks volumes about the capabilities of our children and the commitment of our teachers," he said. "We are committed to providing a learning environment where talent is identified, nurtured, and celebrated. Competitions like the Indian Talent Olympiad inspire a spirit of healthy competition and academic engage-

ment among students."

He also praised the relentless efforts of the teaching faculty and the support of parents, calling them key contributors to this success. The Principal emphasized the school's vision of delivering quality education grounded in Islamic values while encouraging participation in broader academic opportunities.

The celebration was filled with smiles and applause as students walked up to the stage, proudly donning their medals. The moment symbolized not just victory in a competition, but the beginning of a journey toward greater learning and achievement. Albani Islamic School continues to make strides in nurturing holistic development in children, combining modern education with moral and spiritual growth. The success in the Indian Talent Olympiad marks another milestone in its journey of academic excellence.

## ADC Doda imposes Rs 82,000 fine on Food Safety violators

■ HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 22: In a firm move to ensure food safety, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anil Kumar Thakur, under the supervision of District Magistrate, Harvinder Singh, has taken strong action against traders found selling substandard food items.

During the recent inspection and legal proceedings, five cases of food safety violations were disposed of. The defaulters, involved in selling items like Rajmash, Mong Dal, Milk Products, and Desi Ghee, were found guilty under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA) 2006. A total penalty of Rs 82,000 was imposed on the violators.

ADC Anil Kumar Thakur stated that the administration is fully committed to ensuring the availability of safe and quality food for the public. He warned that any negligence in following food safety norms will not be tolerated.

The administration has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards food safety violations and urged all food business operators in the district to strictly follow FSSA 2006 guidelines. This action is intended to serve as a strong warning to all traders to maintain proper hygiene and food quality standards, ensuring public health remains a top priority.

## Agriculture Department Jammu, CABI launch Awareness Campaign on Fall Armyworm Management

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), officially launched a comprehensive awareness campaign on the identification and management of Fall Armyworm (FAW) at Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo today. The campaign was inaugurated by Director Agriculture, Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, in the presence of Joint Director Agriculture Extension Satish Sharma; Regional Director South Asia, CABI Dr. Vinod Pandit; Deputy Director Central Dr. Ashwani Sharma; Deputy Director Trainings Alok Pandotra; Agriculture Chemist Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma; PWPlus Country Coordinator India (CABI) Dr. Manju Thakur and Subject Matter Specialist, RL Darmesh Vaid. In his inaugural address, Director A.S. Reen emphasized the serious threat posed by Fall Armyworm

to Kharif crops, particularly maize. He highlighted several preventive and management strategies, including deep ploughing before the cropping season, manual removal of egg masses, use of pheromone traps, and drone-based pesticide applications. He stressed that integrated pest management (IPM)—including cultural, mechanical, and biological methods—should be prioritized, with chemical controls considered as a last resort. He further noted the importance of such awareness campaigns in empowering farmers with the knowledge needed to protect their crops and livelihood. "Training of master trainers is crucial," said A.S. Reen, "so that they in turn can educate extension officers, progressive farmers, SHGs, FPOs, and agri-dealers in identifying and managing FAW infestations." He also announced that the department would be providing farmers with handbooks, literature, and regular training programs.

## HDFC Bank Parivartan to empower 1,000 villages with access to clean, renewable energy solutions by 2025

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: Marking Earth Day 2025 with a renewed commitment to sustainability, HDFC Bank has announced a major milestone in its flagship CSR initiative, Parivartan. The bank is set to enable access to clean, renewable energy in over 1,000 villages across India by the end of this year, empowering rural and semi-urban communities through solar-powered infrastructure, grassroots partnerships, and targeted awareness campaigns. This announcement comes in alignment with this year's Earth Day theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," which calls for a global acceleration in clean energy adoption. Under its natural resource management framework, HDFC Bank has already installed more than 61,655 solar-powered streetlights across 22 states—lighting up villages, improving street safety, and enhancing

quality of life even in the face of frequent power outages. Yet, the bank's efforts stretch far beyond basic infrastructure. In government schools and public hospitals, solar panels are ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply. In farming villages, solar-powered irrigation and food processing units are helping to reduce dependence on diesel, diversify income sources, and revive local economies. These solutions are not only climate-resilient but tailored to the specific needs of each region. HDFC Bank has launched Solar Shiksha, an educational initiative aimed at demystifying solar technology for common citizens. Through multilingual resources, live demonstrations, and information on government schemes, Solar Shiksha has reached over 450 communities so far, conducting more than 90 awareness workshops in states including Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Delhi.

## Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) created a new record under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

■ Farooq Rather

New Delhi: For the first time in the history of independent India, the turnover of Khadi and Village Industries surpassed Rs. 1 lakh 70 thousand crore\* KVIC Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar released the provisional data for the financial year 2024-25. \* In the past 11 years, production increased fourfold with a jump of 347% and sales increased fivefold with a jump of 447%. \* Historical increase of 49.23% in the field of total employment generation in 11 years, KVIC is providing employment to 1.94 crore persons.\* The turnover of Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan New Delhi reached a record figure of Rs. 110.01 crore for the first time\* Chairman KVIC Shri Manoj Kumar said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of the Ministry of MSME, the schemes and achievements of KVIC has established a strong foundation stone of 'Viksit Bharat'. The

Khadi and Village Industries sector, which empowers the spirit of self-reliance in the country, has not only touched new heights in the last 11 years under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), but has also brought new light to hope in the lives of crores of villagers. Khadi, the legacy of Pujya Bapu, is no longer just a fabric, but has become a symbol of the creation of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Said Shri Manoj Kumar Chairman KVIC while releasing the provisional data of Khadi and Village Industries for the financial year 2024-25 at the office located at Rajghat, New Delhi on Monday. He informed that KVIC has set a new record of production, sales and new employment generation in the financial year 2024-25. In the last 11 years, there has been an increase of 447 percent in sales, 347 percent in production and 49.23



percent in employment generation. As said, in the financial year 2023-24, there was an increase of 399.69% in sales and 314.79% in production in comparison to the year 2013-14, he added. Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar further said that this excellent performance of KVIC has made a significant contribution towards realizing the resolution of 'Viksit Bharat' by the year 2047 and making India the third economy of the world. He attributed this historic achievement to the inspiration of Pujya Bapu, the

guarantee of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the guidance of the Ministry of MSME and the tireless hard work of crores of artisans working in the remote villages of the Country. Chairman KVIC shared that while the production of Khadi and Village Industry products was Rs. 26109.07 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it increased nearly four times to Rs. 116599.75 crore in the financial year 2024-25 with a jump of 347 percent. While the sales were Rs. 31154.19 crore in the financial

year 2013-14, it increased nearly fivefold with an unprecedented growth of 447 percent to reach Rs. 170551.37 crore in the financial year 2024-25, which is the highest sale till date. Speaking to the media, he opined that unprecedented growth has also been observed in the production of Khadi clothes in the last 11 years. While the production of Khadi clothes was Rs. 811.08 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it increased by 366 percent and increased four and a half times to Rs. 3783.36 crore in the financial year 2024-25, which is the best performance till date. There has also been a tremendous jump in the sales of Khadi clothes. While its sale was only Rs. 1081.04 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it increased by about six and a half times to Rs. 7145.61 crore in the financial year 2024-25 with an increase of 561 percent. The promotion of Khadi by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from a larger platform

has had a huge impact on the sale of Khadi clothes, he reiterated. Speaking on objective of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission he said that major objective of KVIC is to provide maximum employment opportunities in rural areas. In this area too, KVIC has set a record in the last 11 years. While the cumulative employment was 1.30 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it rose to 1.94 crore in 2024-25 with an increase of 49.23 per cent. There has also been an unprecedented increase in the business of Khadi and Village Industries Bhawan, New Delhi. While the business of Bhawan was Rs. 51.02 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it increased by almost 2 times and reached Rs 110.01 crore in the financial year 2024-25 with a jump of 115 percent. Since the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) scheme, a total of 1018185 units have been established, for which the Government of India.





# DC inaugurates Vaccination Camp for Haj Pilgrims 2025 at AH GMC Doda

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today inaugurated the Haj Pilgrims Vaccination Camp 2025 at Associated Hospital Government Medical College Doda. The camp was organised as part of the district-level preparations to ensure the health and safety of the pilgrims before their departure for Haj.

The programme was held under the overall supervision of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, who was also present at the event.

A total of 82 Haj pilgrims were vaccinated at various designated centres across the district. These included 39 pilgrims at AH GMC Doda, 17 at SDH Bhaderwah and 26 at SDH Gandoh.

Similar vaccination programmes were also conducted at SDH Bhaderwah and SDH Gandoh, where the registered Haj pilgrims were given the required vaccina-



tions as per protocol. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, while giving details, said that different

vaccines including OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine), QMMV (Quadrivalent Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccine), and SIV (Sea-

sonal Influenza Vaccine) were administered to the Hajis for protection against various communicable diseases during the pilgrimage.

While interacting with the pilgrims, DC Harvinder Singh extended his best wishes for a safe and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage. He also appreciated the efforts of the Health Department in organizing the vaccination drive smoothly and efficiently.

Among others, Incharge Medical Superintendent AH GMC Doda, Tehsildar Doda, and staff of GMC Doda including CMO and Deputy CMO Doda were also present on the occasion.

The event marked a crucial step in ensuring that all Haj pilgrims from the district are medically fit and well-prepared for the journey. Among others, Incharge Medical Superintendent AH GMC Doda, Tehsildar Doda, and staff of GMC Doda including CMO and Deputy CMO Doda were also present on the occasion.

## DC gives away Rs 15 Lakh compensation to NoK of Road Accident Victims at Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 22: In a considerate gesture to ease the hardship of grieving families, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today disbursed Rs 15 lakh as compensation among Next of the Kin (NoK). A total of Rs. 1 lakh each was distributed among the legal heirs of fifteen deceased victims of road accidents under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund.

The event, held in the Office Chamber of the DC Kishtwar, witnessed the presence of ADC Pawan Kotwal, ARTO Tasleem Wani and other concerned officials. The government's initiative aims to extend support to those affected by such tragic incidents and underscores its ongoing commitment to assist bereaved families. This distribution marks an essential step in providing financial assistance and acknowledging the distress faced by the families of road accident victims.

## JKPCC Jammu North conducts Public Hearing at village Bhalwal

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: A Public Hearing was organized by JKPCC today here at village Bhalwal near Ring Road for "Environment Clearance of Integrated Solid Waste Management Project" in terms of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

A panel of officers was present for eliciting viewpoints and suggestions of the locals and other stakeholders for installation of Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant.

Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan; MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma and Commissioner JMC Devansh Yadav were also present at the Public Hearing.

The panel of Public Hearing comprised Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu (Chairman) Rakesh Kumar; Divisional Officer PCC Samba North (Member) Anil Sharma, representing Regional Director JKPCC Jammu and Divisional Officer PCC Jammu North (Convenor) Deepak Abrol.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar presided over the public hearing on behalf of District Magistrate Jammu and conducted under his supervision as per the provisions of EIA. Commissioner JMC Devansh Yadav apprised the general public that the purpose of conducting public hearing was to hear the views of the people of surrounding areas regarding the upcoming Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant.

Chairman District Development Council Bharat Bhushan; MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma and prominent citizens of the area presented their viewpoints and suggestions before the panel.

FI, JKPCC Dimple Sharma concluded the proceedings. She informed that the proceedings shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, where the same shall be appraised by Expert Committee framed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests GoI, and uploaded on the website of the JKPCC for information of all the stakeholders and participants in general.

## GCOE organises series of awareness events to mark Earth Day

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Nature Club in collaboration with Department of EVS of Government College of Education Canal Road on Tuesday celebrated Earth Day by organizing a series of events under the patronage of the Principal Prof.(Dr.) Jyoti Parihar. The activities included documentary screening on the theme 'Our Power, Our Planet', promotional rally on the theme and slogan writing. Pledge to 'Save Earth, Save Environment' was also taken by all. The activities were organised in different schools by the pupil teachers and their group Supervisors with school students.

The main objective behind this celebration aimed to endow the environmental significance and to protect and restore the planet through actionable and sustainable solutions. The Principal appreciated the efforts of the pupil teachers and reminded them that protecting our planet is not an option but a shared responsibility and a day to promote greater consciousness for the earth's resources. Dr. Shalini Sharma, Convener Nature Club and HOD EVS emphasised that the Earth provides us with everything, especially natural life supporting.

## GDC Bishnah organises awareness Lecture on Women's Rights against Sexual Harassment

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: The Women Development Cell (WDC) in collaboration with the Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH) of Government Degree College Bishnah organized a highly impactful awareness lecture on "Women's Rights Against Sexual Harassment", as part of its ongoing initiatives to foster a safe, respectful, and inclusive academic environment.

The keynote speaker for the session was senior advocate and President of the Bar Association D.K. Singh, who shared his valuable insights on the legal rights and protections available to women under Indian law. He emphasized the importance of awareness, legal literacy, and institutional mechanisms in combating sexual harassment, and was well-received by faculty and students alike. The event was held under the patronage of the College Principal Dr. Shailu Samyal, who in her address, underscored the role of educational institutions in empowering students, especially women, through informed discourse and proactive measures. She commended the efforts of both the Women Development Cell and CASH for organizing such a vital program. The lecture was convened by Convenor CASH Committee Prof. Anju Bala, and Convener Women Development Cell Dr. Rashmi Arya.

Both conveners highlighted the significance of creating a harassment-free campus and the responsibility of every stakeholder in ensuring safety and equality. The program saw active participation from senior faculty members, staff, and students.

The interactive session allowed participants to raise concerns and ask questions, making it a meaningful and engaging experience. Such awareness programs play

## DC Rajouri showcases Aspirational Block Program achievements at 17th Civil Services Day

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 22: On the occasion of the 17th Civil Services Day held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma presented the progress made under the Aspirational Block Programme in Rajouri district.

The presentation was made in the esteemed presence of Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Ministry of Planning, and Minister of State for Corporate Affairs V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG); and



senior officers from across the country. During the event, the DC Rajouri highlighted the transformational impact of the Aspirational Block Programme in the district, with a focus on key sectors such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water

resources, basic infrastructure and skill development. He presented success stories, innovations, and convergence efforts that have led to significant improvement in services delivery and quality of life in the Khawas block. The efforts of District Administration Rajouri under the leadership of DC Abhishek Sharma were lauded for adopting data-driven governance, community participation, and inter-departmental coordination to bridge development gaps in remote areas. The 17th Civil Services Day served as a platform for knowledge sharing and best practices among civil servants and recognized exemplary contributions in public administration aimed at improving citizen-centric services.

## DC reviews progress on identification, creation of Land Bank in Poonch



HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, chaired a meeting today with revenue and forest officers at the DC Office complex to review the progress of identifying and creating parcels for a land bank in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed the tehsil-wise progress in identifying land bank parcels across the district. Discussions focused on a systematic approach to identifying suitable government-owned land parcels, classifying them based on suitability for development or other purposes, and mapping. The process aims to facilitate creation of infrastructure projects in the district, including compensatory afforestation. The Deputy Commissioner asked the stakeholder departments to classify the identified land parcels

according to their suitability for development, compensatory afforestation, or other socio-economic welfare measures. He emphasized on the importance of maintaining accuracy, transparency, and accountability in the records of these land parcels.

All Tehsildars were tasked with revisiting the identified government land parcels within their jurisdictions as soon as possible. The Forest Department was directed to create maps of the identified land parcels, in coordination with the Revenue Department, ensuring accuracy and efficiency in the identification process.

The Tehsildars were also reminded to provide all revenue services accurately and to emphasize transparency in record-keeping.

The meeting was attended by DFO Poonch, Naveed Iqbal; ACR Poonch, Mohd Sayeed; and all Tehsildars.

## Deputy Commissioner Poonch leads Plantation Drive to mark Earth Day

HT News Network

POONCH APRIL 22: In celebration of Earth Day, a large-scale plantation drive was organized today in Poonch under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal. The event was organised by the Forest Department in collaboration with the Forest Protection Force (FPF) aimed at promoting environmental awareness, sustainability and fostering a greener, healthier surroundings. The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the event by planting a Chinar sapling at FPF Complex, City Forest, marking the beginning of the campaign. The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, government officials, members of civil society, and volunteers.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the participating students & shared valuable information regarding various local species and importance of tree plantation & forest conservation, particularly in wake of rising global environmental problems. "Planting trees is one of the simplest and most effective ways to combat climate change and restore ecological balance. Today's saplings are tomorrow's forests. It is our collective duty to preserve & protect them" he said.

Saplings of various indigenous species were planted during the drive, with the Forest Department ensuring proper maintenance and follow-up care. This initiative marked a meaningful celebration of World Earth Day and reflected the district administration's commitment to sustainable development in the region.

World Earth Day, observed globally on April 22, serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the planet. The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the event by planting a Chinar sapling at FPF Complex, City Forest, marking the beginning of the campaign. The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, government officials, members of civil society, and volunteers.

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## ADDC Rajouri reviews modalities for e-Office implementation up to Tehsil, Block Level

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 22: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa today chaired a meeting here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Rajouri to discuss modalities for the implementation of the e-Office system up to the tehsil and block level.

The ADDC underscored the importance of seamless transition to a digital workflow to

enhance administrative efficiency by timely processing of files, enhancing transparency, and ensuring accountability in government functioning.

He directed all concerned departments to provide the data of onboard officials at the earliest, so that official email IDs can be created and linked to the system. He stressed that this step is crucial for the successful rollout and functioning of the e-Office framework at the grassroots administrative levels.



The ADDC urged all departments to extend full cooperation and adhere to the timeline set for e-Office implementation, marking a significant move toward a more transparent and efficient administrative setup in the district.

The meeting witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Sheraz Chouhan; Chief Planning Officer, Ch. Mohd Nawaz; District Informatics Officer NIC, Muzaffar Mir; along with other district and sectoral officers.

Panchayat Officer, Ch. Mohd Nawaz; District Informatics Officer NIC, Muzaffar Mir; along with other district and sectoral officers. The meeting witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Sheraz Chouhan; Chief Planning Officer, Ch. Mohd Nawaz; District Informatics Officer NIC, Muzaffar Mir; along with other district and sectoral officers.





## 8 killed, six injured as SUV falls into river in MP's Damoh

### AGENCIES

DAMOH (MP), APRIL 22 (UNI)

Eight people were killed and six others sustained injuries after an SUV fell off a bridge into a dry riverbed in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Tuesday, police said.

Police sources said the accident occurred near Simri village under the Nohata police station area around 11 am.

Eight people, including a girl, died in the accident. Six seriously injured passengers have been admitted to the district hospital here.

Collector Sudhir Kumar Kochhar and Superintendent of Police Shrutakirti Somvanshi rushed to the spot along with their team.

The occupants of the jeep are said to be residents of neighbouring Jabalpur district.

## Funeral of Pope Francis to take place on Saturday - Holy See

### AGENCIES

VATICAN CITY, APR 22 (UNI)

The funeral of Pope Francis will take place on April 26, the Holy See said on Tuesday.

"On Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. [local time, 08:00 GMT], a funeral mass for Francis will be celebrated in front of St. Peter's Basilica," the press service said in a statement.

## 6.6-magnitude earthquake strikes Indonesia's North Sulawesi, no tsunami threat

### AGENCIES

JAKARTA, APR 22 (UNI)

A 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck off Indonesia's North Sulawesi province on Tuesday without triggering large waves, according to the country's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency.

The tremors occurred at 17:17 Jakarta time (1017 GMT), with the epicenter located 67 km southeast of Kepulauan Talaud Regency at a depth of 107 km beneath the seabed.

The agency did not issue a tsunami warning, as the quake was not expected to generate destructive waves.

Situated on the seismically active Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia frequently experiences earthquakes and is home to 127 active volcanoes due to intense tectonic activity.

## Shooter who killed 23 at US Texas Walmart will not face death penalty

### AGENCIES

HOUSTON, APR 22 (UNI)

Patrick Crusius, the shooter who killed 23 people in a 2019 attack targeting Hispanic migrants at a Walmart in El Paso, U.S. state of Texas, will not face the death penalty after he pleaded guilty in a state court on Monday.

Instead, he was sentenced to 23 consecutive life sentences.

El Paso District Attorney James Montoya's office last month offered Crusius the plea deal to avoid the death penalty.

At the time, Montoya said he personally believed Crusius should be executed but the death penalty would delay a trial even further, noting that most of the victim's families just want the case's closure.

Crusius was sentenced to 90 life terms in 2023 in his federal trial after pleading guilty.

The 2019 attack is one of the deadliest shootings in the United States.

## Airbus A330 catches fire at airport in US

### AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, APR 22 (UNI)

A Delta Air Lines Airbus A330 caught fire at Orlando International Airport in the United States, over 200 people were evacuated, the Fox35 broadcaster reported on Monday, citing the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA).

According to the FAA's data, the Airbus A330 was preparing to fly from Orlando to Atlanta with 282 passengers, 10 flight attendants and two pilots on board. People saw flames in the tailpipe of one of the engines as soon as the airplane started moving.

## Shakti Dubey tops UPSC 2024; Harshita Goyal gets 2nd rank

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APRIL 22 (UNI)

Shakti Dubey has topped the Civil Services Examination, 2024, while Harshita Goyal has secured second position, the final results of which were announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) here on Tuesday.

Dongre Archit Parag has secured third rank while Shah Margi Chirag and Aakash Garg have secured fourth and fifth positions respectively, an official statement said.

A graduate in Biochemistry from Allahabad University, Shakti Dubey qualified the examination with Political Science and International Relations as her optional subject.

A total of 180 candidates have successfully qualified for the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), while, 55 candidates have been appointed to the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and 147 have been selected for the Indian Police Service (IPS).

A total of 1,009 candidates have been recommended for appointment, including 335 from the general category, 109 from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), 318 from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), 160 from the Scheduled Castes (SC) and 87 from the Scheduled Tribes category.



egory.

In addition, 605 candidates have been selected for the Central Services Group 'A' while 142 candidates have been chosen for the Group 'B' Services, the statement said.

The statement said that in accordance with Rule 20 (4) & (5) of the Civil Services Examination Rules 2024, the Commission is maintaining a consolidated Reserve List of 230 candidates.

Out of the top 25 candidates, 11 are women while 14 are men.

The recommended candidates also included 45 persons with benchmark disability, comprising 12 orthopedically handicapped, eight visually challenged, 16 hearing impaired, and nine with multiple disabilities.

The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2024 was conducted on June 16, 2024. A total of 9,92,599 candidates applied for this examination, out of which 5,83,213 candidates actually appeared in the examination.

A total of 14,627 candidates qualified for appearance in the written (Main) examination which was held in September, 2024. Out of these, 2,845 candidates qualified for the Personality Test of the examination.

The Commission has set up a 'Facilitation Counter' near the examination hall on its campus, where candidates can obtain information or clarification regarding their examinations or recruitment on the working days between 10 am to 5 pm in person or over telephone Nos. 23385271 / 23381125 / 23098543.

Results will also be available on the UPSC website i.e. <http://www.upsc.gov.in>. Marks will be available on the website within 15 days from the date of declaration of result.

## PM Modi arrives in Jeddah, accorded ceremonial welcome

### AGENCIES

JEDDAH/NEW DELHI, APR 22 (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Jeddah on a two-day visit today, and was warmly welcomed by Prince Saud bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Governor of Makkah.

The Prime Minister said in a post on X:

"Landed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. This visit will strengthen the friendship between India and Saudi Arabia. Eager to take part in the various programmes today and tomorrow."

The MEA spokesperson said in a post that PM Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome with a



21-gun salute at the King Abdulaziz International Airport.

"Giving further momentum to our longstanding and historic ties."

"PM @narendramodi lands in the historic port city of Jeddah to a 21 gun salute & ceremonial welcome."

"Warmly received by HRH Prince Saud bin

Mishal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Governor of Makkah, H.E. Majid bin Abdullah Al Kassabi, Commerce Minister of Saudi Arabia and H.E. Saleh Ali Al-Turki, Mayor of Jeddah."

Earlier, the PM's aircraft was accompanied by F15 jets of the Royal Saudi Air Force in a special gesture.

## Constitution is for the people; elected representatives are its repository: Dhankhar

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 22 (UNI)

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday asserted that the Constitution is for the people and its repository of safeguarding is that of the elected representatives and "they are the ultimate masters as to what the Constitution's content will be".

Addressing the gathering on 'Kartavyam', an event commemorating 75 years of the Indian Constitution at the University of Delhi, Dhankhar said, "The Constitution is encapsulated—its essence, it's worth, its nectar—in the Preamble of the Constitution. And what does it say? 'We, the People of India', the supreme power is with them. No one is above the people of India", an official statement said.

He added, "And we, the People of India, under the Constitution, have chosen to reflect their aspirations, their desires, and their will through their public representatives. And they hold the representatives accountable—severely accountable, on occasions—through elections".

Reflecting on the duty of citizens in democracy, Dhankhar said that democracy is not only for the government to govern.



It is participatory democracy, just not laws, but also culture and ethos.

He stressed that Constitutional offices are not ornamental and every citizen is supreme in a democracy because a nation and democracy are built by citizens.

The Vice President said, "For any democracy, every citizen has a pivotal role. I find it inconceivably intriguing that some have recently reflected that constitutional offices can be ceremonial or ornamental. Nothing can be far distanced from a wrong understanding of the role of everyone in this country, constitutional functioning or a citizen".

Stating that there is no visualisation in the Constitution of any authority above Parliament, he said, "Parliament is supreme and that being the situation. Let me tell you, it is as supreme as every individual in the country".

Underlining the significance of quality of discourse in any healthy democracy, the Vice President said, "If you want to know the health of democracy, like the health of an individual, if you want to analyse how healthy is our democracy, then you will have to find out discourse quality, the kind of discourse we have. Is our discourse moderated? Is our discourse manipulated? Is our discourse controlled by moneybags, by muscle power, by foreign interests, by people working against the interests of this nation? You will have to discern."

Emphasising the role of youth in nation-building, Dhankhar said that, "The quality of discourse defines our democracy and in this, I have no doubt, our youth must elevate beyond partisanship to thoughtful deliberation. Our youth cannot afford this critical juncture when Bharat is rising, the rise is unstoppable."

## SC to hear next week contempt plea against BJP MP Dubey over remarks on CJI

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 22 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that a plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament Nishikant Dubey, for his controversial remarks targeting the apex court and Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, be listed for hearing next week.

A Bench comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih passed the direction after the matter was mentioned by a lawyer seeking urgent listing of



the contempt plea.

The lawyer informed the court that despite having approached the Attorney General for India for mandatory consent under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, there had been no response.

"The remarks have

gone viral. Mr. Dubey has stated that the CJI is responsible for civil wars in the country. There is still no reply from the Attorney General regarding consent to initiate contempt proceedings," the lawyer submitted before the Bench.

## No vacancy for CM post in Bihar: Manjhi

### AGENCIES

GAYA, APR 22 (UNI)

Taking a dig at senior RJD leader and leader of opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejaswi Prasad Yadav, union Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) patron Jitan Ram Manjhi said there was no vacancy for the post of Chief Minister in the state.

Manjhi attacked Yadav during a public function held in Kharkhura locality here on Tuesday saying that Yadav may become the convenor of the INDIA Alliance but is not a contender for the post of Chief Minister.

He said that Bihar is continuously developing under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. He claimed that this time in the Bihar Assembly elections, the



National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will win 225 seats.

The Union Minister clarified on the Waqf Amendment Act that he had objection to the provision of this law which talks about the entry of non-Muslims. When non-Hindus cannot be in Hindu monasteries, how non-Muslims will be in the Muslim institutions, he questioned saying that he will fight against it till his last breath. Manjhi said that he would tell the government that it is

one-sided and it should be amended.

Manjhi also raised questions about the government's intentions regarding the common schooling system.

He said that neither the previous governments nor the current government had the courage to implement the common schooling system. The government's intentions had flaws due to which the dream of common education was still incomplete, he alleged and stressed the need for a system of common education in the entire country.

HAM patron also advised senior Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Chandrashekhar Singh, saying, "Singh is definitely a scholar but he should either correct what he said about me or I clarify it".

## SKorea successfully launches 4th spy satellite into Orbit - Defense Ministry

### AGENCIES

SEOUL, APR 22 (UNI)

South Korea has successfully launched the fourth of its five military reconnaissance satellites from a US space base in Florida, the country's defense ministry said on Tuesday.

The satellite was launched Monday from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. The rocket placed the satellite into orbit 15 minutes after liftoff. The satellite later established contact with a ground station.

"The successful launch of the fourth military reconnaissance satellite has further strengthened our armed forces' independent surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities," the ministry said in a statement.



With the previous successful launches of three satellites, the South Korean military can now operate them as a group significantly reducing reconnaissance revisit time, the ministry added.

"This enables more precise and timely detection of potential provocations by North Korea," the statement said.

In December 2023, South Korea launched its first reconnaissance satellite, equipped with electro-optical and infrared sensors for high-resolution imagery. South Korea plans to launch its fifth satellite later this year. Once all five are operational, the country is expected to monitor North Korean territory every two hours.



# Gene-based blood test may help predict early signs of cancer’s return

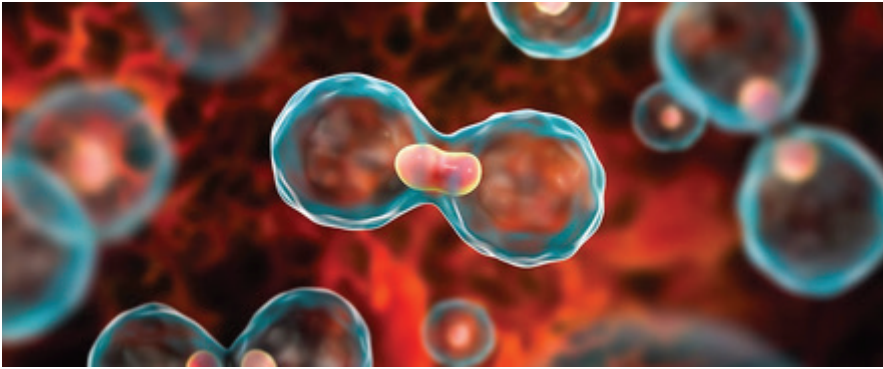
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Monitoring blood levels of DNA fragments shed by dying tumour cells may accurately predict cancer recurrence, according to a new study.

Researchers at New York University-Langone Health, US, focussed on nearly 600 men and women from Europe, North America, and Australia, with stage III melanoma -- among the most aggressive forms of skin cancer.

The study showed that approximately 80 per cent of skin cancer patients with detectable levels of circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), before they started treatment to suppress their tumours, went on to experience recurrence.

The disease was also found to return more than four times faster in this group than in those with no detectable levels of the



biomarker, and the higher their levels, the faster the cancer returned.

"Our findings suggest that circulating tumour DNA tests could help oncologists identify which melanoma patients are most likely to respond well to therapy," said study lead author Mahrukh Syeda, a research scientist at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

"In the future, such assessments may be used routinely in the clinic to help guide treatment decisions," added Syeda.

In the study, published in the journal The Lancet Oncology, the team also found that nearly all of those with detectable levels of ctDNA at three, six, nine, or 12 months into treatment experienced melanoma recurrence. As a result, the researchers said, if the gene fragments are not observable prior to therapy but appear later on, this could indicate that the disease might be worsening.

Syeda said that the ctDNA method works by focusing on the most

common mutations in the genetic code in melanoma cells.

The mutated DNA spills into surrounding blood as the cells break down.

Further, the team showed that assessing ctDNA levels were as good or better at predicting recurrence than other experimental tests that examine a tumour itself, such as those that measure immune activity within a group of cancer cells.

# India to soon get indigenous firefighting suit made from aluminised coated glass fabrics

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM), an initiative by the Ministry of Textiles, is developing an innovative firefighting suit using aluminised coated glass fabrics, the ministry said on Wednesday.

These indigenous firefighter suits will be used by personnel in firefighting and emergency services, defence forces, the oil and gas industry, aerospace and aviation, power plants, and the thermal industry, etc.

India currently imports the most specialised fire-fighting suits (also known as fire entry suits) from Europe, the US, and China, as its manufacturing in the country is in its nascent stage.

"The annual current consumption would be approximately 1,000 sets by various end users in India. However, with the introduction of an Indian-



certified aluminised suit, the consumption could go up exponentially," said the ministry.

The NTTM project is implemented by Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), in collaboration with its industrial partner, System 5S.

It is developed using aluminised coated glass fabrics, OPAN (Oxidised Polyacrylonitrile) Non-woven battings, and FR (Flame Resistant) viscose fabric. All the inner layers are quilted together.

The new suit "prioritised the safety, comfort, and ease of donning and doffing for firefighters", the ministry said.

It added that System 5S's fire-fighting suit is designed to meet European as well as Indian standards.

According to European Standard, protective clothing for specialised

firefighting must protect the full body, including the head, hands, and feet, against radiant heat and flame impingement.

This protective gear includes a garment, a hood (integrated or separate), gloves, and over boots. In addition, the design of such suits is intended for use with respiratory protection, with designs varying on whether the breathing apparatus is worn inside or outside the protective clothing.

Meanwhile, the industrial partner has already begun manufacturing the new suits for trial purposes, the ministry said.

It added that the commercial manufacturing will start once the fire manikin test is completed successfully to ensure the suit meets all necessary performance requirements.

System 5S' will "have an annual production capacity of 1,000 suits with this commercialisation," the ministry said.

# Stem cell therapy safe, and effective in treating Parkinson's disease

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

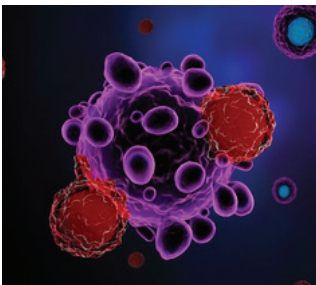
Stem cell therapies are a safe and effective way of treating Parkinson's disease, according to results of two independent clinical trials.

The two papers, published in the journal Nature, investigated the use of cells derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells and human embryonic stem cells, respectively.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease characterised by the progressive loss of neurons that produce dopamine, a neurotransmitter.

Although current treatments, such as -dopa, can alleviate symptoms in the early stages, their efficacy declines, and they are often accompanied by side effects such as dyskinesia (involuntary movements).

However, the studies found that cell therapy could replenish dopamine-



tumours -- a risk associated with stem cell therapy.

The researchers also observed a decrease in motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's in four of the six participants who continued the trial to efficacy evaluation while not taking their standard medication, and in five while taking medication.

The second phase I clinical trial led by a team from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the US explored the safety of a dopaminergic neuron progenitor cell product (bemdaneprocel) derived from human embryonic stem cells.

Twelve patients with a median age of 67 received surgical transplantation of bemdaneprocel to the putamen on both sides of the brain.

Five participants received a low dose and seven received a high dose.

The cell product was generally well tolerated and no severe adverse events related to the therapy were reported during the follow-up period of 18 months.

There was no incidence of dyskinesia.

In addition, some improvement in motor function was also observed in patients in both the low-dose and high-dose cohorts.

Even with limitations such as the small sample size, both clinical trials establish the safety of allogeneic (non-self) transplantation of stem cell-derived cell products for the treatment of Parkinson's.

While this can be "an important step towards the establishment of this cell therapy for Parkinson's disease", further research is needed with a larger sample size to test the effectiveness and clinical benefits of these therapies, the researchers said.

# India needs to shift towards sustainable, recyclable, biodegradable alternatives: Minister

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India needs to shift towards sustainable, recyclable, biodegradable alternatives, said Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav.

Jadhav said this while inaugurating a national stakeholder consultation organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in Mumbai.

In his address, Jadhav highlighted the growing importance of sustainable packaging of food items.

He announced that the guidelines for the use of rPET in packaging have been prepared by FSSAI after extensive consultations with all stakeholders and in line with the best global practices.

He also mentioned that a logo has been developed for easy identification and to benefit consumers of



food products.

"Shifting towards sustainable methods of packaging is the need of the hour," said Jadhav.

He stressed that the usage of plastic is a growing concern globally, as it stays undecomposed in the environment for years having detrimental consequences.

"What we need today

is a shift towards alternatives that are sustainable, recyclable, and biodegradable," he added.

Jadhav hailed India's age-old traditional methods and emphasised the need to connect ancient ecological practices to modern techniques to ensure sustainability.

"India has the potential to lead the world in this

direction," the Minister said.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and FSSAI for providing an important platform in the form of a stakeholder's consultation to deliberate upon crucial issues that affect the health and well-being of the country.

The Minister of State for Ayush also held an informal open consultation session with stakeholders, providing them an opportunity to share their challenges and discuss future avenues for improvement and growth.

The consultation brought together over 1,500 stakeholders representing food businesses, packaging industries, recycling associations, regulatory bodies, environmental organisations, consumer groups, farmer groups, government departments to deliberate on the future of sustainable food packaging in India.

# India top-funded developing market for agrifood tech investment in 2024: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

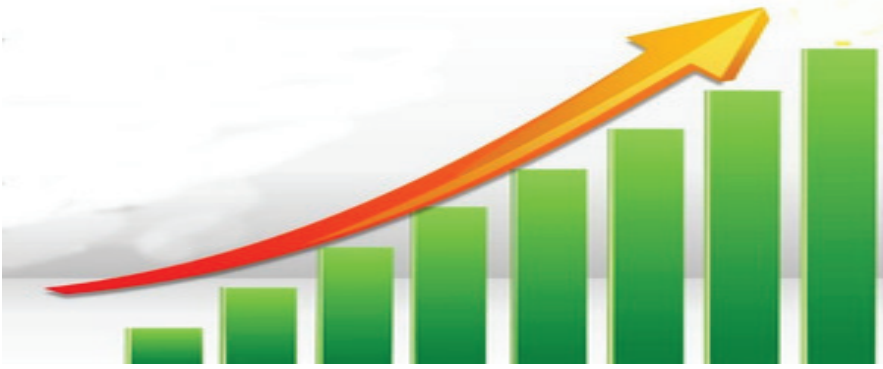
India was the top-funded developing market in 2024, posting spectacular growth of 215 per cent in dollar funding and 27 per cent in deal count, according to a report.

The report by Omnivore, in collaboration with AgFunder, a global investment platform, showed that investment increased in five of the top 10 countries in 2024.

India topped with investments in the agrifood tech startups jumping over 3-fold to \$2.5 billion last year. It was followed by Singapore \$172m (+3 per cent), Mexico \$97m (+250 per cent), Vietnam \$87m (+350 per cent), and Chile \$58m (+33 per cent), noted the report.

The rise in investments is driven by funds raised by quick commerce company Zepto.

Zepto was 2024's best-



funded agrifoodtech company globally, raising nearly \$1.4 billion across three late-stage deals, the report said.

"Top rounds for India in 2024 highlight continued investment into eGrocery and restaurant-related startups, which are well-suited to the country given its dense urban settings and high population. Midstream Technologies has also been a high-performing category for India agrifood tech investment," the report said.

According to a state-

ment, agrifood tech investment in developing markets reached \$3.7 billion in 2024, up 63 per cent from 2023 and accounting for 23 per cent of global investment.

"Deal activity declined 8.4 per cent YoY to 523 as the industry closed fewer and larger deals," it said.

"India is one of the world's most established agtech ecosystems. Startups in the country raised 49 per cent more YoY with Zepto excluded. Ag marketplaces and midstream tech startups raised nearly \$500 million

alone," the report added.

The report showed that funding in developing markets' agrifood tech sector grew substantially between 2023 and 2024 (63 per cent) versus a 4 per cent decline in global agrifoodtech.

Upstream investment increased some 22 per cent to \$1.2 billion, with agri marketplaces and fintech leading the charge. Downstream investment grew 91 per cent to \$2.1 billion, representing 57 per cent of all developing markets funding, the report said.

# Health Benefits of Eating Leafy Greens Daily!

Leafy vegetables are a powerhouse of nutrition and play a vital role in everyday Indian meals. Packed with essential vitamins, minerals, and fiber, these greens not only add flavor to our food but also provide numerous health benefits. From boosting heart health to reducing the risk of diabetes and cancer, regularly eating leafy greens can greatly improve your overall well-being.

Medical experts recommend including a variety of leafy greens in your daily diet to support immunity, digestion, and disease prevention. Here are the most commonly used leafy vegetables in Indian households and their specific health benefits:

**Spinach**

Spinach is rich in iron and antioxidants. Eating it regularly helps lower the risk of heart attacks and improves overall heart health.

**Fenugreek Leaves**

Fenugreek is high in fiber, which helps manage blood sugar levels. It also



reduces the risk of breast and prostate cancer.

**Coriander Leaves**

Coriander leaves are commonly used in Indian kitchens. They help reduce bad cholesterol (LDL) by 10-15% and support better digestion.

**Amaranth Leaves**

Thotakura is loaded with nutrients and believed to prevent breast cancer. It also boosts immunity and supports

bone health.

**Gongura**

Popular in South India, Gongura supports heart health and helps control blood pressure due to its rich antioxidant content.

**Curry Leaves**

Curry leaves aid digestion, improve hair and skin health, and help reduce cholesterol.

**Mustard Greens**

Sarson is widely used in North India. It is rich in

vitamins A, C, and K, and helps improve eye health and bone strength.

**Radish Leaves**

Often thrown away, radish leaves are rich in calcium and iron. They help with digestion and improve liver function.

Doctors recommend including a variety of these leafy greens in daily meals for better health, disease prevention, and overall wellness.



# Uppal to burn bright as SRH face rampaging MI

BY BD NARAYANKAR  
HYDERABAD, APR 22 (UN)

A resurgent Mumbai Indians side will look to consolidate their mid-season comeback when they take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in Match 41 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at Uppal here on Wednesday.

Mumbai, who endured a shaky start to the season, have bounced back with three consecutive wins and now sit sixth in the points table with eight points from as many matches. In contrast, hosts Hyderabad are languishing in the bottom half, having secured just two wins in seven outings and struggling to find rhythm in either department.

The visitors come into this fixture high on confidence after a thumping nine-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings, where they chased down 177 in just 15.4 overs.

Opener Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 76 off 45 balls marked a return to form, while Suryakumar Yadav's dominant 68\* off 30 reinforced his reputation as one of the league's most explosive batsmen. SKY has amassed 333 runs at an average of 55.50 and a strike rate of 162.43, and



will again be a key figure against SRH.

Mumbai's bowling has also clicked into gear. Jasprit Bumrah (economy 6.25) and Trent Boult have been instrumental in closing out innings, while skipper Hardik Pandya has picked up 11 wickets and provided crucial breakthroughs in the middle overs. Mitchell Santner's tidy spells and Deepak Chahar's support at the top round off a well-set attack.

Hyderabad, meanwhile, remain heavily reliant on their explosive top order to mask weaknesses elsewhere. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma have shown sparks of brilliance, with Abhishek scoring 40 and 141 in his last two matches. With 513 runs at

has taken four wickets in five games and could play a key role in the middle overs.

The match is expected to be another high-scoring affair. The Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium has already witnessed innings totals in excess of 240 this season, and with pitch number two likely to be used – known for its flat nature and short boundaries – both teams will aim to breach the 200-run mark. Chasing has been the preferred option here, with three of four matches this season won by the side fielding first.

Predicted Playing XIs:

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Aniket Verma, Pat Cummins (c), Harshal Patel, Zee-shan Ansari, Mohammed Shami, Eshan Malinga; Impact Player: Abhinav Manohar

Mumbai Indians: Ryan Rickelton (wk), Will Jacks, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya (c), Naman Dhir, Mitchell Santner, Deepak Chahar, Trent Boult, Jasprit Bumrah, Ashwani Kumar; Impact Player: Rohit Sharma

# Mandhana named Wisden's Leading Women's Cricketer

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, APR 22 (UN)



India's Smriti Mandhana has been named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World (Women) for 2024, an honour that caps a stellar year where she blended promise with performance to scale new heights in international cricket.

Annesha Ghosh's profile on Mandhana appears in the 2025 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, chronicling a year in which the elegant left-hander amassed 1,659 international runs – the highest by a woman in a calendar year.

Mandhana's consistency was underlined by her four One-Day International centuries, also a record for a woman in a year, while she topped the T20I run charts with 763 runs alongside 747 in ODIs. Her adaptability across formats shone brightly, especially during a remarkable mid-year series against South Africa, where she scored 117, 136 and 90 in successive ODIs, a record 343 runs in a three-match series, a career-best 149 in the one-off Test, and 100 runs in T20Is for just one dismissal.

Reflecting on her purple patch, Mandhana credited a simplified approach to batting. "Scoring five international centuries was mostly down to not think-

ing much about scoring centuries," she said. "Clearing my mind helped, big time. I reinjected into my muscle memory the habit of batting long – something I did routinely as an Under-19 cricketer."

Mandhana's contribution was all the more significant given the frequent changes at the top of the order, with her opening partner changing seven times during the year. Nearly a quarter of India's 6,739 international runs in 2024 came off her bat, underlining the team's heavy reliance on her.

Her performances were not just about volume but maturity, notably during the T20 World Cup, where India's early exit coincided with her rare lean patch. She also led Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their maiden WPL title, the only silverware she clinched despite her prolific run-

scoring.

Towards the close of the year, Mandhana struck vital centuries against New Zealand in Ahmedabad and Australia in Perth. She showed remarkable composure and innovation, combining her traditional off-side flair with greater discipline and patience at the crease.

"The New Zealand ton matured me beyond imagination," Mandhana recalled. "After single-digit scores in the World Cup and tough net sessions, I resisted the cover-drive, my bread-and-butter shot, through the first ten overs. That knock taught me the most about discipline."

At 28, and into her twelfth year of international cricket, Mandhana continues to prove that her success is not merely a product of innate talent, but also of relentless evolution and resilience.

# Punjab FC beat Odisha FC 3-0 in Kalinga Super Cup

AGENCIES  
BHUBANESWAR, APR 22 (UN)

Punjab FC delivered a clinical and composed performance to book their place in the quarter-finals of the 2025 Kalinga Super Cup, dispatching Odisha FC 3-0 in a one-sided Round of 16 clash at the Kalinga Stadium here.

Goals from Asmir Suljic (14'), Norberto "Pulga" Vidal (69') and Nihal Sudeesh (90') sealed the result for Punjab FC, who capitalised on Odisha's poor finishing and defensive lapses throughout the match on Monday night.

Punjab FC came into the game on the back of a difficult ISL campaign, having finished 10th with just eight wins. But they looked like a transformed side in Bhubaneswar, combining resolute defending with incisive attacking play.

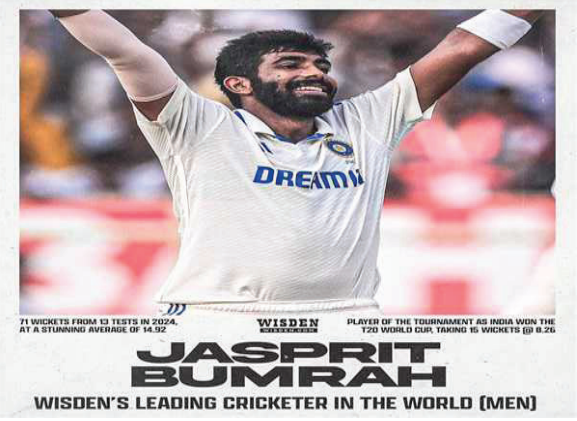
Odisha FC, on the other hand, struggled to shake off their recent inconsistency – they had won just two of their last seven matches and were missing key striker Roy Krishna due to an injury.

Odisha were undone by Punjab's fast start. In the 14th minute, Asmir Suljic calmly slotted home the opener following a sharp exchange. Suljic's combination with Vidal repeatedly exposed Odisha's backline, which looked shaky without the presence of a strong defensive leader.

# Bumrah named Wisden's Leading Cricketer

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, APR 22 (UN)

Jasprit Bumrah, India's pace spearhead, has been named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2024 after a record-breaking year that saw him take 71 Test wickets – the most ever in a calendar year at an average of 14.92 and an unprecedented strike-rate of 30. The 2025 edition of Wisden Cricket-



ers' Almanack recognised Bumrah's phenomenal exploits with the ball, which turned the tide for India in some of the most critical moments across formats. From stunning England in Visakhapatnam with a trademark yorker to breaking South Africa's resistance in the T20 World Cup final in Barbados, Bumrah's interventions often proved decisive.

# Bad light ends Day 3 as Shanto fifty extends lead

AGENCIES  
SYLHET, APR 22 (UN)

Bangladesh posted 194 for 4 in their second innings of the first Test against Zimbabwe before bad light brought an early end to Day 3 at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Despite a rain-marred morning that delayed the start of play until 1:00 pm, the hosts made steady progress once action got underway.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto led from the front with a composed unbeaten 60, anchoring the innings with calm authority. He found a reliable partner in Jaker Ali, who remained not out on 21, as the duo ensured Bangladesh extended their lead to a healthy 112 with six wickets still in hand.

However, just as the final session was building towards a crucial phase, fading light forced umpires to call off play at around 5:00 pm – an hour before the scheduled close at 6:00 pm, the Daily Star reported.

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