



BLOOD AND WATER CAN'T RUN TOGETHER

PAHALGAM MASSACRE ; INDIA COMES DOWN HEAVILY ON PAK

Attari Border Shut Down, Indus Water Treaty on Hold, Mission staff Cut Down

■ HT NEWS NETWORK /UNI

NEWDELHI, APR 23: (UNI) Coming down strongly on Pakistan following the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 tourists were killed, India today announced it is holding in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, and shutting down the land border check post of Attari. India also declared the Defence advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi as Persona Non Grata and asked them to leave.

India is also cutting down the strength of the High Commissions -- of the Pakistan HC in New Delhi, and its own in Islamabad -- to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by May 1, 2025.

The Cabinet Committee on Security, which



met in the evening under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was informed of the cross-border linkages of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and it was also noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and its steady progress towards economic growth and development.

Recognizing the seriousness of this terrorist attack, the CCS decided upon the following measures:

- (i) The Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- (ii) The Integrated Check Post Attari will be closed with immediate effect. Those who

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Rajnath Singh hints at 'big revenge,' vows loud and clear response

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, APR 23 Hinting at a "big revenge" Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that orchestrators of Pahalgam attack will soon see a "loud and clear response."

Expressing solidarity with the families of Pahalgam terror attack victims, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency--said, "Yesterday, in Pahalgam, targeting a particular religion, terrorists executed a cowardly act, in which we lost many innocent lives... I want to assure the countrymen that the government will take every necessary step. We will not only reach the perpetrators of this act but also the actors behind the scenes... The accused will soon see a loud and clear response, I want to assure the country."

He said, "We are deeply distressed. I express my condolences to the families who lost their loved ones... I want to repeat India's resolve against terrorism. We have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism... I want to assure the countrymen that the government will take every necessary step to eliminate terror." The Defence Minister reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in a nearly two-and-half-hour meeting that was attended by NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. Rajnath Singh also cancelled his 2-day scheduled visit to Ladakh in view of the situation arising out of the terror attack in Pahalgam. Singh was to visit Ladakh on April 25 and 26. Pertinently, terrorists on Tuesday killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists, at Basaran, Pahalgam in South Kashmir on Tuesday. The attack triggered widespread outrage within the country and abroad--

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K mourns tourists' killing in Pahalgam, observes complete bandh to protest massacre

In Kashmir, political parties, traders, civil society carry out candlelight, solidarity marches shutdown, protests in Jammu

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 23: Kashmir observed a complete shutdown on Wednesday as grief grips the region following Tuesday's deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 28 civilians, mostly tourists and left several others injured. Anger and anguish spilled onto the streets, especially the city centre Lal Chowk as political parties, civil society groups and trade bodies held protest demonstrations condemning the deadly terror attack.

As reported by the news agency Lal Chowk, the heart of Srinagar city, reverberated with powerful chants like "Insaan Ka Qatle Aam Band Karo," symbolising the col-



lective grief and fury felt across the valley.

All shops in the commercial hub Lal Chowk and other districts of the valley remained shut. The usually bustling Jamia Market and commercial pockets of Downtown and uptown Srinagar also remained closed, including bakeries and essential stores.

"I have not seen Lal Chowk this silent in years. It feels like the city itself is grieving," said Irfan Ahmad, a resident.

A shopkeeper in Lal Chowk said they received formal calls from trade bodies asking them to observe

the shutdown. "We are with the victims. Today, business takes a backseat to humanity," he said.

Despite the widespread mourning, Srinagar International Airport saw an unusual rush of tourists trying to fly out early. Long queues formed at departure gates as uncertainty loomed over travel plans.

In Jammu division, a complete bandh was observed on Wednesday as political and social organisations from all walks of life supported the shutdown call to protest the deadly terror attack.

All markets, schools, transport

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

HM Shah winds up Kashmir visit, says Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators won't be spared

Pays tributes to victims at PCR Srinagar, reaches terror attack site, Baisaran; Meets injured at Anantnag Hospital



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 23: A day after terrorists shot dead 26 civilians, mostly tourists, at Pahalgam in South Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that perpetrators won't be spared. Shah, who arrived in Srinagar on Tuesday evening, according to the news agency chaired a crucial security review meeting last night and before winding up his Kashmir visit, paid tributes to victims at the Police Control Room Srinagar, visited the terror attack site at Baisaran and met the injured at Anantnag hospital.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CM Omar Abdullah chairs crucial cabinet meet in wake of Pahalgam attack

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 23: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday chaired a crucial cabinet meeting in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead and many injured.

Sources told news agency--that the Chief Minister chaired the meeting at his Gupkar residence. The meeting was attended by all his cabinet

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam horse rider dies protecting tourists; CM assures support to family

Participates in funeral along with party leaders

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that a local horse rider, Adil Shah, was killed in a terrorist attack in Pahalgam while heroically attempting

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



Major terror plot averted in Uri as two infiltrators gunned down: Army

'2 AKs, pistol, 10 kg IED recovered; identification of slain being ascertained'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 23: Security forces on Wednesday foiled a major infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Uri sector of north Kashmir, killing two heavily armed terrorists in a gunfight that lasted over two hours, officials said.

Addressing a press conference, Commander of the 161 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier Mayank Shukla, as reported by the news agency--revealed that the operation was carried out based on consistent intelligence inputs received over the past week regarding possible infiltration by Pakistani terrorists. He said the infiltrators were report-



edly planning a major terror strike to disturb the fragile peace in Kashmir. "Given the credible inputs, we enhanced both aerial and ground surveillance. Special focus was laid on sensitive points along the LoC

in Uri sector," Brigadier Shukla said.

He said the movement of the terrorists was first detected around 1 am on the intervening night of April 22 and 23 near the Uri nallah, close to the suspected enemy launchpads. Upon detecting suspicious movement, the surveillance grid, including drones, was activated, and ambush parties were swiftly redeployed to intercept the infiltrators, he said.

Brigadier Shukla said the contact with the terrorists was established at around 3 am. "A fierce gun battle ensued, lasting for over two hours, which ultimately resulted in the elimination of both infiltrators," he

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam Attack: CM announces ex-gratia relief Rs 10 lakh to NoKs of deceased

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 23: As a gesture of solidarity and to provide some succour to the grieving families and those injured in the Pahalgam terror attack, the Chief Minister today announced an ex-gratia relief package for victims of Pahalgam terror attack.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government will provide Rs 10 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives in the attack. Further, Rs 2 lakh will be given to those who sustained serious injuries, and Rs 1 lakh to those

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

US ready to aid India's fight on terror: JD Vance condemns Pahalgam attack

Calls PM Modi, expresses condolences over loss of lives

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, APR 23: A day after the deadly terror attack that claimed at least 26 lives including two foreign nationals in Baisaran meadows near Pahalgam, United States Vice President JD Vance has conveyed America's readiness to provide full assistance to India in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Vance, who is on a visit to India accompanied by his family, spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives in the attack.

The Vice President "strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack" and reaffirmed Washington's commitment to stand with New Delhi during this difficult time, according



to a statement posted by MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on X.

"Vice President Vance also expressed that the United States is ready to provide all assistance in the joint fight against terrorism," the statement, as per the news agency--Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, underscoring a renewed push for counter-terror cooperation between

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam attack gravest assault on Kashmir's identity in last 30 years: Sajad Lone

Terms attack an economic sabotage, says perpetrators seeking to reduce Kashmir to beggary

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 23: Peoples Conference Chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, on Tuesday described the Pahalgam terror attack—which claimed the lives of 27 tourists and a local—as the deadliest assault witnessed in Kashmir over the past three decades. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Lone, accompanied by scores of party workers, led a protest march in Srinagar against the carnage, with participants chanting slogans such as "Tourist hamari Jaan Hai, Begunahoun ka qatl-e-aam bandh karol" (Tourists are our life; stop the massacre of innocents!). Addressing the media, Lone said that the attack struck at the heart of Kashmir's identity. "The people of Kashmir must realize this is the gravest assault on our nation in 30 years. This is our land; we live here. Tourists come, trusting us—they stay in our hotels, ride in our vehicles, dine at our eateries, and shop in our markets. If an outsider kills our guests at gunpoint, we will never accept it. Today, our entire nation weeps tears of blood. These were our guests, our pride. The way Kashmir has risen in protest today, Insha'Allah, this collective outrage must serve as our answer to the perpetrators," he said. Lone said that Kashmiris have sent a resolute message: violence against innocents is intolerable. "We will never allow anyone, at gunpoint or otherwise, to harm our guests—the very people who have sustained our livelihoods for 50, 70, even 80 years. Our identity lies in



hospitality. When strangers face crises—be it snowstorms or disasters—we shelter them in our homes. What does today's massacre convey? The bloodshed was not our doing, but outsiders'. Yet the way our nation has taken to the streets, protesting in every lane and alley, must warn them: this ends now. Our guests are part of us. Whoever targets them targets Kashmir itself," he said. Lone condemned the attack as an economic sabotage, accusing the perpetrators of seeking to reduce Kashmir to beggary. "Our religion is sacred; do not kill in its name. Do not taint us with such crimes. Locals risked their lives to save others—proof that Kashmiri humanity still thrives.

We owe gratitude to heroes like Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the pony-wala who martyred himself trying to seize the terrorist's rifle, and those who carried wounded tourists on their backs to safety. They embody Kashmir's soul. These foreign beasts must know: if our nation unites, their brutality will not recur. They aim to cripple our economy, to force us into begging. We reject this," said the PC chairman. Lone added, "This is our land. If outsiders harm our guests with guns, it shames us. Tourists are part of our flesh and blood. No outsider can dictate terms. Only we decide who our guests are—and we will honor and protect them, Insha'Allah." When asked about media speculation that the attack targeted Hindus to stoke communal tensions, Lone said, "Was my father, Abdul Gani Lone, not a Muslim when they martyred him? Have they not slaughtered nearly ten thousand Kashmiri Muslims? What religion do they preach? They are faithless. Their primary victims were Muslims in the past—eight to ten thousand, by my count. Who are they fooling?" Reacting to the Pakistani Army Chief's remark that Kashmir is Pakistan's "jugular vein," Lone said, "Pakistan cannot govern itself—how will it handle our land? I repeat: this is our soil. These guests are ours, inseparable from us. No evil eye shall touch them." Meanwhile, Lone also confirmed that he has got an invite to take part in the All Party meeting called by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and that he will take part in it—

High Court of J&K and Ladakh pays homage to Pahalgam terror victims

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, APRIL 23: A condolence meeting was held today in the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar Wing to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the tragic incident at Pahalgam here yesterday. The legal fraternity stood together in this hour of grief to show unwavering solidarity with the victims and their families. The condolence meeting was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, and Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Judges, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. Besides, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Senior Additional Advocate Generals, Senior designated advocates, President J&K High Court Bar Association Srinagar, members of the Bar, officers and officials of the Registry and court staff also attended the condolence meet. The gathering observed two minutes of silence to pay heartfelt tribute to those who lost their precious lives in the act of terrorism at Pahalgam. They strongly condemned the barbaric act terming it as inhumane and cruel.

Commissioner SMC, senior officials observe Two-Minute silence in solidarity with Pahalgam incident victims.

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 23: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, along with senior officials of the Central Office, observed a solemn two-minute silence today at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, to honour the victims of the tragic incident that occurred in Pahalgam yesterday. This gesture reflects the deep sense of grief shared by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and reaffirms its solidarity with the affected families during this difficult time. The SMC stands united in mourning and in support of those impacted by the tragedy.

Ghulam Nabi Azad Condemns Pahalgam Attack, Hails Unity of Kashmiri Muslims

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 23: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) President Ghulam Nabi Azad has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, calling it an assault on humanity and the spirit of Kashmiriyat. Speaking to KNS, Azad said, "Today, if a militant asks tourists about their religion, it clearly shows that Pakistan-sponsored militants have attacked our shared values." He described the act as barbaric and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives. Azad praised the response of the Muslim community across Jammu and Kashmir. "This time, Muslims have stood up and said enough is enough. Earlier, they were often accused of sheltering militants, but today they have proven they are against such violence," he stated. He emphasized that people in the Kashmir Valley have realized that such acts are direct attacks on their identity and way of life. "From north to south, people have come out on the roads to condemn this attack, which clearly shows their awareness of what is really happening," Azad said.

Sunil Sharma Vows Justice for Victims of Pahalgam Attack, Says "No One Will Be Spared"

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 23 Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Wednesday asserted that those responsible for the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, will be held accountable. Speaking to reporters outside the Police Control Room (PCR) in Srinagar, Sharma revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cut short his foreign visit to return to India in light of the tragic incident. "This attack is an act of extreme cruelty. Those who are involved or supported the attackers will be punished. No one will be spared," Sharma declared. He condemned the brutality of the attackers, stating, "They have crossed all limits of humanity.

Apni Party leaders hold protest in Jammu against Pahalgam terror attack

HT News Network



Srinagar April 23: Apni Party leaders in Jammu also held a protest demonstration against the heinous terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam. According to a press release, the party's Provincial President for Jammu, Manjit Singh, led the demonstration. On this occasion, the participants raised slogans against the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack and their handlers. They expressed unwavering solidarity with the victims of the attack and their families. Speaking on the occasion, Manjit Singh urged the administration and security agencies to ensure that the perpetrators of the attack are brought to justice swiftly. He also appealed to all sections of society to unite against the menace of terrorism and to work collectively towards restoring peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. Besides Manjit Singh, the prominent party leaders who were present on the occasion included Arun Chibber, Aijaz Kazmi, Vikram Rathore, Balbir Singh Baba, Abhay Bakaya, Pavneet Kour, Vaibhav Mattoo, Neelam Gupta, Sheekha Bhardwaj, Tirath Singh, Dalbir Singh, Vijay Parkash Gurtol, Shakti Dutta, Farooq Chohan, Yash Chowdhary, and others.

Kashmir Erupts in Protest Against Terror Attack in Pahalgam

BJP J&K Pays Tribute to 28 innocent civilians killed in Pahalgam

HT News Network

Srinagar, 23 April 2025: Massive protests broke out across the Kashmir valley on Wednesday in response to the recent civilian killings in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The tragic incident has triggered a wave of public anger, leading to a complete shut-down of normal life throughout the valley. Markets remained closed, public and private transport stayed off the roads, and all major trade bodies joined the strike to express solidarity with the victims and condemn the ongoing violence. In a strong and united response, protest demonstrations were held in Pahalgam, Anantnag, Srinagar, and several other districts of Kashmir. People came out in large



numbers to denounce the senseless killings and demand justice for the innocent lives lost. The streets echoed with chants against terrorism and calls for peace. Mosques across Kashmir used loudspeakers to condemn the killings and call upon people to stand against the brutality inflicted upon civilians. Emotional appeals were made from the mosques urging unity and patience, while also demanding

action against those responsible. In Srinagar, BJP organized a momentous protest march at Jawahar Nagar. The march was led by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, and other senior leaders. Locals from various parts of the valley also joined the march, turning it into a large and symbolic gathering of solidarity. Participants held placards

reading "Stop Killing Innocents," "Down with Terrorism" and "We Want Peace." The entire Kashmir valley has risen in unity against the sponsored terrorism, declaring it as the true murder of Kashmir and the Kashmiriyat. Security forces have been deployed in sensitive areas to maintain law and order, while political leaders, civil society members, and religious scholars continue to appeal for calm, restraint, and justice. Meanwhile, BJP also paid tributes to the 27 martyrs at the BJP Head Office, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma condemned the brutal terror attack and emphasized the BJP's unwavering stand against terrorism. "The nation stands united in grief and in strength.

Pahalgam attack condemned widely across all the schools of Kashmir

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 23: The heart wrenching attack on tourists at Pahalgam has been widely condemned across all the schools of Kashmir, and in this connection, condolence meetings and special prayers were offered in favour of all the deceased tourists during the morning assemblies. In this regard, a divisional level condolence meet was held in the conference hall of Directorate of School Education Kashmir early in the morning. All officers/officials of the Directorate participated in the meeting wherein Director School Education, Dr G N Ittoo prayed for the deceased souls and also for the patience of the bereaved families. Director reiterated that every employee of the Department of School Education stands with the bereaved families at this hour of grief and also



prayed for speedy recovery of the injured persons. During the condolence meet, two minutes of silence was observed as a mark of respect for deceased souls. Condolence meetings were also held at District and Zonal Levels in all the offices of respective Chief Education Officers and Zonal Education Offices. In this regard, a divisional level condolence meet was held in the conference

hall of Directorate of School Education Kashmir early in the morning. All officers/officials of the Directorate participated in the meeting wherein Director School Education, Dr G N Ittoo prayed for the deceased souls and also for the patience of the bereaved families. Director reiterated that every employee of the Department of School Education stands with the bereaved families.

Mehbooba Mufti Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack, Apologizes to Nation on Behalf of Kashmir

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 23: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists. Speaking during a protest at Ghanta Ghar in Srinagar, Mehbooba, expressed deep sorrow and extended an apology to the nation on behalf of the people of Kashmir. "The attack on innocent tourists is not just an attack on lives, but an attack on Kashmiriyat. We condemn it in the strongest terms. It will not be tolerated," she said. Urging swift action, Mehbooba called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah—currently in Kashmir—to ensure the attackers are identified and brought to justice. "The Home Minister is here; he must act swiftly to ensure those responsible face the punishment they deserve," she asserted. Calling the attack "cowardly," Mehbooba lamented the damage to Kashmir's image as a peaceful tourist



destination. "People come to Kashmir to enjoy its beauty and peace, but this attack has tarnished that image. Kashmir is ashamed of what happened, and we stand with the people of the country during this crisis." "I want to express my regret to the people of our nation for this tragedy. We are deeply sorry for what has occurred," she concluded. The PDP also staged a protest in Srinagar today, demanding justice and peace in the wake of the tragic incident. (KNS)

EDITORIAL

Kashmiriyat comes to fore following killing of tourists at Baisaran

The widespread condemnation of the killing of tourists at Baisaran in Pahalgam at the hands of gunmen by the people of Kashmir has yet again proved that Kashmiris are strong votaries of peace and never believe in any act of violence. The unfortunate incident sent shock waves across the country with people cutting across religions and regions condemning the incident. The people as a whole voiced their concern over the incident and demanded stern action against the persons who carried out the attack.

The sacrifice given by a local in the incident clearly points out that Kashmiris can go an extra mile while ensuring the safety of their guests. At the same time scores of people gathered outside the Government Medical College & Hospital, Anantnag so as to donate blood for the tourists who were injured in the attack. Even though some of the media channels tried to portray a negative image of Kashmir and Kashmiris these attempts were foiled by the tourists who stayed put in the valley.

Following the unfortunate incident the tourists who got trapped at Pahalgam were offered free of cost food by the restaurant owners while the hotel owners provided free accommodation to them. The tourists were moved by such a noble gesture and they were all praise for the hospitality of Kashmiris. It is quite natural that there will be a temporary setback to the tourist industry in Kashmir but once a positive message goes out from the tourists who are still here one can expect the revival sooner than later.

The condemnation of the Baisaran incident was unprecedented as people belonging to different schools of thought took a dig at the perpetrators and threw their weight behind the Kashmir Bandh call given by trade bodies, school association and some political parties. This should act as an eye-opener for the people who are hell bent to tarnish and malign the image of common Kashmiris. Kashmiris are known for their hospitality and the same has been proved time and again.

It is high time the investigating agencies take extra pain in probing the incident so that the truth comes out loud and clear and the perpetrators are brought to book. Once the culprits are identified and then action is taken against them there would be a clear cut message to the people living in the country and outside that Kashmiris are peace loving people and never support violence.

Geographies at Risk: The Environmental Cost of Four-Laning of Highway

DR. MASOON A. BEIG
masoongeo@gmail.com

The National Highway-44 (NH-44), the main route that links Jammu and Srinagar, the hilly Banihal- Ramban Sector has become a hotspot for environmental concerns. As most part of this stretch reverberates with periodic rockfalls, landslides, slope collapses, and mud flows. These frequent occurrences are signs of a more serious ecological problem rather than being random occurrences. The phrase “the mountains are taking revenge” is frequently used by locals to convey their grief; it is a potent metaphor for how nature is reacting to unbridled human demands. Despite being deeply rooted in local opinion, this occurrence represents a genuine and serious alteration in the landscape brought about by unscientific development practices, geological fragility, and climate change.

Climate change is one of the main natural elements causing this catastrophe. Unpredictable rainfall patterns, frequent cloudbursts, and a discernible increase in ambient temperatures are among the more unpredictable weather patterns the region is seeing. In addition to directly affecting the frequency and severity of landslides, these changes have upset the conventional weather cycle. For instance, severe rainstorms flood the broken rocks and loose, weathered soil, making slope collapses more likely. In recent years, cloudbursts—sudden, intense rainstorms—have become more frequent. Particularly destructive was the cloudburst that occurred in 2022 close to Seri village, which demonstrated how quickly such severe weather conditions may wash away whole sections of the roadway. The stability of the rocks and soil has also been further diminished by warming temperatures, which have also changed the freeze-thaw cycle and undermined the permafrost at higher elevations.

Ramban’s innate geological fragility adds to these natural difficulties. The area belongs to a young fold mountain system, which is distinguished by unstable, fractured, and strongly jointed rock formations. The risk of landslides is naturally increased by the high angles of many of the slopes along NH-44, which often exceed 45 degrees. The sandstones, clayey soils, and decomposed shale that make up these slopes are all extremely vulnerable to erosion and displacement when disturbed. The already tenuous equilibrium is upset when these fragile strata are exposed during highway building or widening, leading to significant slope collapses. Because they



are built without a thorough understanding of the underlying geology, retaining walls and embankments frequently fail.

Human intervention, particularly in the form of haphazard development and infrastructure growth, is another important factor contributing to the so-called “mountain revenge.” Along NH-44, roadside shops, dhabas, hotels, and parking lots have grown quickly and frequently haphazardly due to the increasing need for transportation, tourism, and economic linkages. Often, these buildings are constructed without any kind of drainage or slope-retention design on steep or loose slopes. Water seeps into the slopes after rains, raising pore pressure and compromising the soil’s structural stability. This causes erosion and mudslides often. Drainage systems are frequently either non-existent or obstructed, which exacerbates the issue by channeling water flow into susceptible locations.

The practice of significant toe cutting and tunnelling during highway expansion and upgrading projects is equally concerning. Tunnelling operations, like those between Nashri and Banihal, pierce geologically delicate areas, upsetting the rock mass’s equilibrium and frequently causing internal collapses or surface subsidence. Similarly, the natural stability of slopes is undermined by toe cutting, which is the removal of a hill or slope’s base to make room for road building. A hill’s higher layers lose its basic stability and are more liable to collapse when the base is removed or disturbed, particularly when seismic activity or rainfall is present. These engineering techniques become a formula for catastrophe if they are not supported by comprehensive geological investigations and mitigation strategies.

Another major factor contributing to the destabilisation of the ground is the high volume of automobile traf-

fic along NH-44. The military uses this roadway as a vital supply line in addition to being a route for civilian traffic. Every day, thousands of vehicles pass through this area, including convoys, buses, and trucks that are fully loaded. The weakly held rocks and sediments along the slopes are disturbed by the continuous vibrations brought on by high traffic. Additionally, the already delicate ecology is further weakened by the heat and pollution released by vehicles in traffic jams. The sheer volume of traffic puts additional strain on the terrain in places like Ramsu, Nachlana, and Mehar that are narrow and prone to landslides.

This ecological catastrophe now has an additional dimension due to deforestation. Because their root systems bind the soil and absorb excess water, trees and other plants are essential for stabilising mountain slopes. However, the NH-44 corridor has seen the clearing of large tracts of forest cover in the name of development. This crucial natural barrier has vanished as a result of road building, timber harvesting, and population growth. Rainfall immediately affects the exposed soil in the absence of trees, accelerating erosion and making it more vulnerable to slides. Additionally, local biodiversity has been disturbed and the environment’s inherent resistance to climatic shocks has been diminished due to the loss of forest ecosystems.

This cumulative deterioration has serious repercussions. Landslides at Ramban cause fatalities, damage to infrastructure and automobiles, and extended highway closures each year for days and even weeks, the financial losses are enormous. Perishable items are frequently wasted, emergency services are delayed, and travellers are left stranded. Even though these tragedies happen often, the reaction is still mostly reactive, concentrating on debris removal rather than averting more occurrences.

A thorough and sustainable strategy is needed to stop the cycle of devastation and bring equilibrium back to this environmentally delicate area. First and foremost, thorough geotechnical and environmental impact studies must be conducted prior to construction and road-widening projects. Only under rigorous scientific supervision, with appropriate stabilisation measures in place, tunnelling and slope-cutting operations be conducted. Long-term slope stabilisation solutions can be obtained using bio-engineering methods such retaining walls with native vegetation, vetiver grass, and geo-grids. To improve soil cohesiveness and restore the green cover, reforestation initiatives must be given top priority. In order to avoid settlements on dangerous slopes, zoning regulations should be severely implemented and unplanned building should be tightly controlled.

Preventing water buildup and seepage into the slopes also requires improved drainage systems. Slope movement can be identified and timely notifications can be sent with the use of real-time monitoring systems, such as early warning networks and remote sensors. Furthermore, the strain on the highway can be lessened by traffic management techniques including use of alternate Routes like Mughal Road and Sinthen-Kishtawar roads and seasonal movement patterns. The introduction of train services to Jammu will emerge as a vital step toward reducing traffic congestion on NH-44, easing the pressure on this already fragile and landslide-prone highway corridor. Last but not least, community involvement and awareness-raising initiatives are essential for fostering local resilience and making sure that development is done in a way that respects the environment.

Finally, Ramban’s depiction of the “revenge of the mountains” is a reflection of nature’s opposition to unsustainable human behaviours rather than a myth or artistic exaggeration. A perfect storm of environmental fragility has been generated by the region’s distinct terrain, unchecked development, and climate change. The consequences will only increase in terms of human lives, ecological balance, and economic stability if we ignore these warning indicators. The moment has come to reconsider our connection with the mountains as living systems that should be appreciated and conserved rather than as challenges to be overcome.

The Author is Environmental Geographer and teaches Geography at Altaf Memorial Government Degree College Kelam Kulgam

The Henna had not even dried yet. Murder of humanity in the valley of Pahalgam



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABHI

2 April 2025, some quiet moments of the morning. The snowy valleys of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir were welcoming tourists. Newly married couples, children, and the elderly—everyone was hoping that the air of Kashmir would provide them with peace and some relief from stress. But then there was a sound of terror. Guns roared. And in that valley where snow falls, blood now flowed.

A newly married couple from Rajasthan was also among those tourists. They had gotten married just five days ago. They had come to Kashmir for their honeymoon. But perhaps fate had something else in store. The terrorists stopped the car, asked their names, identified

them, and then shot them. The young man was a Hindu. This was the reason for his death. He was shot in the head. He died on the spot. His wife, whose mehendi on her hands was still wet, stood stunned. More than grief, she was frozen in an unspoken fear—as if time had stopped there.

This is not murder; this is religious hatred.

This was not just a terrorist attack. This was a planned murder—based on a thought, based on a religion. Today terrorism is no longer just a regional or ideological fight. It has now become a tool to erase religious identity. This murder shows that some elements have now decided who will live and who will die—and this decision will be taken by asking names.

Is this humanity? Is this the 'Kashmiriyat' in the name of which we have been pleading for peace for years?

When the screams of the martyr's wife fell silent

The picture of the wife staring at her husband's dead body went viral on social

media. No screams, no cries, no resistance. Just a stoic silence—which became the harshest accusation on the entire system. A question is hidden in that silence: "What wrong did we do?" Has it now become a crime for a couple to come to Kashmir, see its beauty, and love its valleys?

We have to understand that in this picture there was not just a woman but the soul of an entire nation—wounded, helpless, and ashamed.

Safety failure and insensitivity of administration

After every attack, there is a readymade script from the government—condemnation, compensation, investigation. But there is no accountability. Shouldn't the question be asked as to how terrorists are allowed to move freely in the valley? How can they shoot someone by asking for their name and then escape?

Shouldn't additional security forces be deployed during the tourist season? Doesn't the Jammu and Kashmir administration know that such attacks attack tourism, the economy, and the unity

The terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where a newly married Hindu tourist was shot in the head after being asked his name. This attack is not just a murder but a symbol of hatred and terror based on religious identity.

of India? Human rights or rights to terror?

Whenever India takes a tough stand against terrorism, the human rights shops open up. Delhi, London, New York—the so-called intellectuals everywhere suddenly become filled with 'sympathy.' But when a Hindu civilian is shot in the head just because of his name, these same voices fall silent.

Why? Is there sympathy only for the victims of a particular community? Is being a Hindu now equivalent to becoming invisible from the prism of human rights?

This is an attack on the whole of India.

The Pahalgam attack is not just the murder of one person—it is an attack on the soul of India. It is an attempt to send a message that “this is not your place.” It is a challenge to the unity, harmony, and secularism of India. And if we respond to this challenge only with tweets and candles, the next target will be another city, another name, another newlywed.

Pakistan's role and global silence

As usual, the terrorist organization behind this attack—'The' Resistance Front'—is a new avatar of Lashkar-e-Taiba. And its roots are in Pakistan. But on the international stage, Pakistan is still a 'victim of terrorism.'

The United Nations, the United States, Europe—all must say it clearly that the killing of civilians on religious grounds is not just a crisis of one country but a crisis of global humanity.

Now is the time for decision.

India now needs to take a clear decision. The police alone cannot deal with terrorism in Kashmir; it requires political will. The soft layers of separatism will have to be uprooted. The hatred being spread in the name of religious identity will have to be challenged at the social level as well.

At the same time, we must decide that tourism in Kashmir is not just a deal to show “paradise” but a bridge of national unity—and it is the responsibility of all of us to

protect this bridge.

Last lines: Another martyr, another life ruined.

After every terrorist attack, we feel sad for a few days and then forget about it. But for the woman who lost her husband and who was left alone with her dreams shattered, this incident is a lifelong wound.

This isn't news for him; it's his shattered world.

Our condolences should not be limited to social media posts. We must ask, "For how long?"

How long will we not be able to protect our citizens?

How long will we keep lighting candles for terrorist attacks?

We need action, not words. We need accountability, not grief. Because this time the question is not just about names; it is a question of humanity.

After the Pahalgam Terror Attack, PM Modi returned to the country, leaving his Saudi Arabia tour midway.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist,

Environmental sanitation in Jammu and Kashmir: A journey towards cleanliness

ER ASHRAF FAZILI
shahishaharyar2@gmail.com

The Kashmir Valley once boasted of the purest water bodies, but with the rapid growth of population and urbanisation, most of the water bodies became polluted due to the prevail-ing insanitary conditions.

Until the recent past, all houses in the city, towns, and villages had dry pit latrines. Early in the morn-ing, vegetable farmers or scaven-gers in the city would collect the night soil from the latrines of the houses in long conical baskets called yatchis hanging on their backs, allowing this night soil to decompose in their farmyards, cover-ing it with ashes. Additionally, the scavengers of the SMC would collect the night soil from the houses and dump it in open pits at Noorbagh to allow it to decompose. In rural areas, the night soil from the open pit latrines was used in their respective vegetable gardens as compost.

Hence, until this arrangement prevailed, there was minimal pollu-tion of the water bodies. However, with the introduction of municipal water taps in households and the construction of pucca lanes and drains in the city and towns, people found it easy to allow raw night soil to flow into the open drains, which ultimately discharged into the water bodies, thus polluting them. In Srinagar city, Dal Lake and other water channels like Nalla Mar and its tributaries, besides the River Jhelum, fell victim to this pol-lution, resulting in waterborne dis-eases. Similarly, in rural areas, the water channels used for drinking and washing also became polluted.

With the rapid urbanisation and expansion of city limits, some people moved to the outskirts and built houses with compounds where they could afford to con-struct modern latrines with septic tanks and soakage pits. However,

a significant section of the popu-lation continued to reside in the old city and maintain the existing arrangement.

In view of this alarming situ-ation, during the eighties, the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), headed by Er G.R. Mir, Chief Engineer, and I, as the Xen of the S&D Division, col-laborated with UNICEF to launch a Low-Cost Sanitation Scheme in Srinagar city. The UNICEF teams filmed documentaries of the exist-ing system of disposing of raw sewage through open drains into water bodies, adversely affecting the health of people and children. Mr Dan O'Dell, the advisor from UNICEF, made frequent visits, and a few demonstration units of low-cost twin-pit latrines were constructed in several households in Srinagar with UNICEF assis-tance. Additionally, Dr. Bindesh-war Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International from Bihar, was invited to share his experience, as he had succeeded in establishing this program in Patna, Bihar, and other states of the country, besides becoming an advisor to 21 coun-tries under UNDP.

The UEED launched a campaign by publishing pamphlets in Urdu and English for common distribu-tion, as well as posters explaining the adverse results of pollution from open defecation, etc. The pamphlets were distributed free of cost among the public, including the employees of the Secretariat and the S&D division in Jammu. Boards in Urdu were fixed at focal points like Karan Nagar Chowk and the B.Ed. College premises. A two-day workshop was also held by UNICEF at Pahalgam, chaired by Dr. Cousins, an advisor from UNICEF South Asia, in which I also participated.

The areas selected for low-cost sanitation in Srinagar city were the left bank of the River Jhelum and the western bank of Nigeen Lake.



The project was later handed over to the SMC for implementation. The Rural Development Depart-ment also found this program adaptable for rural areas. A survey of the existing situation in various towns was also conducted, along with a UNDP team filling out the necessary pro forma.

The pour-flush latrine consists of a squatting pan of a specific design (having a steep gradient at the bottom and a particular depth) and a trap with a 20 mm water seal. It is designed such that the human excreta of a person can be flushed by pouring 2 litres of watEr The excreta is discharged into the leaching pits constructed in the house or a compound. Where it is not possible to do so due to a lack of space, the pit can be con-structed under a footpath or street. The squatting pan is connected to the leaching pit through a pipe or covered drain. These pits are lined with honeycomb brickwork or open-jointed stone to allow liquid

in the pits to percolate, gases to be absorbed into the soil, and, at the same time, prevent the pit from collapsing. The sludge gets digest-ed and settles down gradually.

The twin pits are used alter-nately. When one pit is filled, it stops being used, and the excreta is diverted to the second pit. The filled-up pit is left unused, and in 24 months, the contents become rich organic humus, innocuous and free of pathogens and smell. When convenient, it is then ready to be put back into use when the second pit becomes full in its turn.

With simple care and cleaning by the household, the pour-flush latrine is a very satisfactory and hygienic sanitation system. This can be located inside the house, as the water seal prevents odour or nuisance.

Size of the pit: The size of leach pits depends on several factors, such as soil characteristics, sub-soil water level, cleaning intervals, the number of users, and people's food

habits. Studies in India have indi-cated that under dry conditions, per capita sludge contribution per year is about 0.045 cubic meters. The dimensions of leaching pits for different numbers of users over three years are as follows:

For 5 users, the internal diam-eter is 900 mm with an effective depth of 1,300 mm. For 10 users, the internal diameter is 1,100 mm with an effective depth of 1,400 mm. Lastly, for 15 users, the inter-nal diameter is 1,250 mm with an effective depth of 1,600 mm.

Shape of the pit: The shape of the pits can be circular, rectangu-lar, or a combination of the two. However, circular pits should be constructed wherever feasible, as these are more stable. Many inno-vations were tried here, but ulti-mately, the anaerobic process with circular pits was found to be the most suitable for our needs.

Leach pit configuration and materials used for its construction can readily be varied to suit the site conditions. In cases of space con-straints, an oval pit with a partition wall or pits of smaller diameter and greater depth could be provided.

In unsaturated zones where groundwater tables are more than 2 meters below the bottom of the pit, and the soil has an effective size of less than 1.00 mm, leach pits could be located even 3 meters away from wells or hand pumps used for domestic purposes. Where the water table is shallow and the soil contains coarse sand or gravel, pollution travel can be checked by providing a 500 mm thick envel-ope of fine sand (average size no more than 0.2 mm) all around the pits and sealing the bottom with clay or a polyethene sheet.

The distance between leach-ing pits and the house foundation depends on the depth of the leach pits, the foundation depth of the building, and its structural condi-tion. However, for average condi-tions, about 1 meter is sufficient.

Maintenance: The mainte-nance of a pour-flush latrine is very easy and simple. Day-to-day maintenance consists of washing the latrine floor and cleaning the pan. No other maintenance cost is needed. The cost of cleaning the pits can be covered by the sale of humus obtained from the pits.

Pan and Trap: The squatting pan and trap can be ceramic, fibreglass-reinforced polyester plastic (GRP), or cement.

Cost: The cost of a pour-flush latrine, including the superstruc-ture, amounted to Rs 2,500 in Sri-nagar in the eighties. The present cost can be estimated from the quantities described below:

Materials required:
Bricks: 815 nos. for the seat, pit, and drain; 1,138 nos. for the seat, pit, superstructure, and drain.

Sand: 0.802 Cum for the seat, pit, and drain; 1.057 Cum for the seat, pit, superstructure, and drain.

Bajri: 0.211 Cum for both.

Cement: 3.5 bags for the seat, pit, and drain; 5.0 bags for the seat, pit, superstructure, and drain.

6mm Iron: 16 Kgs for both.

Timber: Kail – 0.08 Cum; Budloo – 0.0172 Cum.

C.G.I. Sheets: 15 Kgs.

2.5" Hinges: 2 nos.

2" Nails: 1 Kg.

Hooks: 2 nos.

WC Pan & Water Seal: 1 no. for both.

The cost can be calculated based on the present market rates.

Similarly, for the disposal of decomposable solid wastes, twin pits of one meter in diameter and one meter in depth were recom-mended to deposit the waste in one-foot layers, with each layer covered with lime and allowed to rest until the second pit is filled with waste. The waste decomposes to become organic compost useful for kitchen gardens, in addition to reducing pressure on the SMC.

Let the Bond of Harmony between Man and Nature be Strengthened

JAVAIID BHAT

Every year on April 22, Earth Day is observed across the globe to raise awareness about environ-mental protection and inspire action to safeguard our planet. What began in 1970 as a grassroot movement in the United States has evolved into a worldwide campaign, urging individ-uals, communities, and governments to reevaluate their relationship with nature. While the themes of climate change, pollution, and deforestation remain central, one pressing issue demands renewed attention—the relentless encroachments of man upon nature.

Celebrating Earth Day must go beyond planting a sapling or posting on social media.It should go more than a Symbolic gesture It should serve as a mirror to reflect on how our actions, both individual and col-lective, have strained the planet. We must ask" Are we building a future in harmony with the Earth, or are we constructing a world that can no longer sustain us?"

Governments must enforce strict environmental laws to curb illegal encroachments. Urban planning should prioritize green spaces, pre-serve natural landscapes, and respect ecological buffers. Educational insti-tutions should instill in young minds a deep respect for the environment, and citizens.

Human encroachments take many forms—urban sprawl, illegal con-struction, deforestation, mining, and industrial expansion into eco-logically sensitive zones. With the rising demands of an ever-growing



population, forests have been cleared for settlements, wetlands drained for real estate, and rivers diverted or pol-luted to meet industrial needs. These actions, often driven by greed and short-term gains, disrupt the delicate balance of ecosystems and endanger countless species.

Encroachment is not merely the loss of green cover; it is the violation of nature's right to exist unharmed. It leads to habitat destruction, biodi-versity loss, soil erosion, water scar-

city, and the increased frequency of natural disasters like floods and landslides. When we disrupt nature's boundaries, we also upset the balance that sustains human life itself.

Restoring what has been encroached upon is not easy, but it is necessary. Afforestation, wetland conservation, river rejuvenation, and sustainable land use practices are vital. But more than policies and projects, what we need is a change in mindset—from dominion over nature

to coexistence with it.

On this Earth Day, let us not merely observe a date but embrace a duty—to be guardians of the Earth, not its exploiters. Let every home, school, office, and government become a voice against encroachment and a force for ecological restoration,with the notion that the Earth is not given us by our fathers, but have borrowed it from our children.In the end, pro-protecting nature is not just about saving the Earth; it's about saving ourselves.

Embrace Diversity, Not Violence: A Call for Peace in Kashmir



YAWER HAMID
hamidyawer360@gmail.com

Kashmir, often celebrated as "Paradise on Earth," is a land of breathtak-ing beauty, rich culture, and diverse traditions. Tourists from across the country and the world visit this valley to explore its snow clad moun-tains, pristine lakes, and warm hospitality. However, the rising instances of violence against outsiders especially those vis-iting or working in Kashmir pose a grave threat not only to human lives but also to the very soul of the valley.Killing people in the name of religion or identity contradicts the essence of Kashmiri culture, which has always stood for peace, tolerance, and hospital-ity. The Kashmiriyat that once united people across religious and ethnic lines is being threat-ened by acts of extremism and intolerance. Such violence not only tarnishes the image of the valley but also deepens the suf-fering of its own people who have already endured decades of conflict, displacement, and trauma.

Tourism plays a vital role in the livelihood of thousands of Kashmiris from shikara boatmen and hotel workers to handicraft sellers and tour guides. When visitors feel unsafe, the economy suffers, pushing many into unemploy-ment and despair. Targeting innocent people who come to appreciate the region's natu-ral beauty and contribute to its economy is not only unjust but self defeating.It is essen-tial to recognize that every individual, regardless of their religion or place of origin, deserves safety, dignity and respect. Promoting inclusivity and embracing diversity are the only ways forward. Violence only begets more violence, while dialogue, mutual respect and harmony lay the foundation for a peaceful and prosperous future.The people of Kashmir have long shown resilience and strength. Now is the time to reaffirm those values by standing against hatred and violence. Let us uphold the true spirit of Kash-miriyat by welcoming visitors, preserving peace, and working collectively toward healing and growth. Peace in Kashmir will not come through fear, but through compassion and coex-istence.

He is a sporadic writer at headlines today . He knows the scratch of politics , presently polity student at kashmir university



CUKashmir holds lecture on 'AI and Buddhism: A Perspective'

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Apr 23: Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), Tuesday organized a special lecture "AI and Buddhism: A Perspective," delivered by Prof. M.V. Ram Kumar Ratnam, an eminent scholar of Mahayana Buddhist Studies, former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and former Director of the Centre for Distance Education, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Ram Kumar, delved into the Buddhist concept of impermanence, emphasizing the importance of being open to change and learning to embrace it. Sharing the vision behind the

establishment of the Centre for Mahayana Buddhist Studies at Acharya Nagarjuna University and his role in its foundation, he elaborated on the centrality of suffering (dukkha) in Buddhism, stating that suffering is not only inevitable but also a motivating factor and foundational to understanding Buddhist philosophy. He highlighted how Buddhism uniquely approaches causality, offering a nuanced view of multiple causes and effects, in contrast to many other Indian philosophical traditions. A part of the lecture was dedicated to Nagarjuna's contributions to epistemology and logic, where Prof. Ram Kumar explained how these tools help in making life more practical, meaningful, and contextually



relevant. He stressed that wisdom (prajna) is the fundamental mechanism for distinguishing right from wrong — a quality that is cultivated

through knowledge acquisition, contemplation, and meditation. Prof. Kumar explored the interface between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Buddhism,

encouraging the audience to reflect on how Buddhist ethical principles and cognitive practices can inform the evolving discourse on AI and its impact

on human life. Earlier, Dr. Rigzen Gurmet, introduced Prof. Ram Kumar and highlighted his remarkable contributions to Buddhist studies. He then invited Dr. Moyeedul-Zafar, the Department's coordinator, to deliver the welcome address, setting the tone for the thought-provoking session. The event was attended by faculty members, research scholars, and students of the Department. Dr. Nazir Ahmad Zargar, academic Coordinator, proposed the vote of thanks. Apart of the lecture was dedicated to Nagarjuna's contributions to epistemology and logic, where Prof. Ram Kumar explained how these tools help in making life more practical, meaningful, and contextually relevant. He

stressed that wisdom (prajna) is the fundamental mechanism for distinguishing right from wrong — a quality that is cultivated through knowledge acquisition, contemplation, and meditation. Prof. Kumar explored the interface between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Buddhism, encouraging the audience to reflect on how Buddhist ethical principles and cognitive practices can inform the evolving discourse on AI and its impact on human life. Earlier, Dr. Rigzen Gurmet, introduced Prof. Ram Kumar and highlighted his remarkable contributions to Buddhist studies. He then invited Dr. Moyeedul-Zafar, the Department's coordinator, to deliver the welcome address.

CEO invites public to review Electoral Rolls: SSR Deadline April 24 Lists of claims, objections available for public scrutiny

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 23: The Special Summary Revision (SSR) in the Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota, which commenced on 8th April, 2025, is going to end on 24th April, 2025. In accordance with the established electoral process, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) have meticulously prepared the lists of claims and objections, which are now available for public scrutiny. These lists, generated in Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B, detail the applications received for inclusion, deletion, correction and transposition of entries in the electoral rolls. To ensure transparency and facilitate



the public participation, these lists have been prominently displayed on the notice boards of the respective ERO offices. Furthermore, the lists are also accessible online through the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir,

at www.ceo-jk@nic.in. The Chief Electoral Officer has appealed all the electors of Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota to go through the displayed lists so as to ensure accuracy and completeness of the electoral rolls. The citizens who wish to object to an electoral roll entry or submit a claim can do so by contacting the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Assembly Constituency 27 Budgam or 77 Nagrota, as applicable. The Chief Electoral Officer has emphasised the importance of active citizen participation in this process, as it is fundamental towards upholding the integrity of the electoral system.

World Book Day-2025

Libraries Deptt organises series of events to showcase rare literary resources, promote book reading

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 23: A series of events were organized by the Department of Libraries & Research today across Kashmir division to commemorate the World Book & Copyright Day-2025. As part of the World Book & Copyright Day events, three closed libraries were also made functional today on the initiative of the Principal Secretary Department of Culture. These include Block Libraries of Khanyar (Srinagar) & Khanshab (Budgam) and Border Block Library Villgam (Kupwara). World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated on April 23 every year to promote the love for reading and writing; power of publishing, making reading accessible for all and the importance of protecting intellectual property through copyright



laws. The Day also signifies the potential of books and literature in shaping minds, uniting people, and inspiring social transformation. Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1995, the day commemorates the passing away of literary legends including William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, all of whom passed away on this day. This year's theme for World Book and Copyright Day is - "Role of lit-

erature in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", which highlights literature's pivotal role in driving progress towards the SDGs. It emphasises how literature can inspire action and awareness across key global issues such as poverty, hunger, inequality, and more. To mark the day, today's main event was organized at SPS Central Library complex with an Exhibition of Special Literary Collections including Manuscripts, Rare Books and Miniature Paintings. The main attractions of the exhibition, jointly organized by SPS Library Srinagar & the Oriental Research Library (ORL) Srinagar, were the historical manuscripts like Qarabai-Din, Sadh PandLuqman and Shahnama Firdous. Some of the rare books including Mahabharata & Ramayana, Rajtarangini by Kalhana, Tareekh-e-Rasheedi, Gazetteer of India.

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 ABDU 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 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 Mohamad Rafiq Bhat DOB 10/03/1996 S/O Ab Khaliq Bhat R/O Krumhoora Tehsil Zacheladara 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, SAFATYA 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

CUKashmir student bags silver medal

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Apr 23: Mr. Malik Istiyaq, final semester student of Masters in Physical Education, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) has brought laurels to the varsity by securing the Silver Medal in the 10th World Yogasana Championship held in Vietnam. Vice Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravindra Nath, felicitated Mr. Malik in recognition of his outstanding achievement. Mr. Malik expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for his constant encouragement and support, which enabled him to represent the university on the global stage.

Congress Party Bandipora Holds Condolence Meeting for Victims of Pahalgam Attack

HT News Network



Bandipora, April 23: In a heartfelt gesture of solidarity, the Congress Party Unit Bandipora organized a condolence meeting today at its district office to pay tribute to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. The meeting, attended by party workers and local functionaries, was held to express collective grief and offer prayers for the souls of the innocent civilians who lost their lives in the tragic incident. The atmosphere at the gathering was solemn, with participants observing a moment of silence in memory of the departed. Speeches were delivered condemning the heinous act, emphasizing that violence and terrorism has no place in a peaceful and democratic society. Party members strongly denounced the killing of innocent people and termed the attack an inhuman and cowardly act aimed at disrupting communal harmony and peace in the region. They urged the government and law enforcement agencies to take swift and decisive action against those responsible and ensure that justice is delivered without delay. During the meeting, the party reaffirmed its firm commitment to stand with the victims' families and support all measures aimed at safeguarding peace and protecting innocent lives. The gathering concluded with a collective call for unity, resilience, and a renewed commitment to upholding the values of justice, compassion and non-violence.

ازدفتر نائب تحصیلدار کھن پٹہ

عنوان درخواست منجانب شریف بیگم بیوہ محمد مقبول راتھر ولد سائنہ متی پورہ نسبت ازبانی لیگل ہیر (وارث جائیداد) سرٹیفیکٹ بحق وارثان متوفی اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام ماملہ مندرجہ الصدمیں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری وڈیٹھ سرٹیفیکٹ سال شوبہ محمد مقبول راتھر ولد محمد یوسف راتھر سائنہ متی پورہ مورخہ 16 فروری 2025 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متوفی اپنے چھٹلے مندرجہ ذیل وارثان جائز چھوڑ گیا رشید بھراہ متوفی

- 1.. محمد شریف بیگم بیوہ محمد مقبول بیوہ 40 سالہ بھلاکام
- 2.... محمد مقبول راتھر متوفی // بلاک شدہ ,
- 3... ارشادہ بانو دختر متوفی 17 سال زیر تعلیم
- 4.... خود پتر متوفی 15 سال //
- 5... محمد حسین ولد مقبول راتھر پتر 13 سال //
- 6.... محمد یوسف ولد حسین راتھر والدہ 72 سال عمرید

اس طور کنہیں (6) افراد پر مشتمل مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ وارثان جائز کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اتر کر نے مہی اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کو کوئی عود یا اعتراض ہو وہ اپنا عود یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر پیش کرے معاذ گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عود یا اعتراض قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: -Application for change in location of the excursion agency under the name and style "Fariha Holidays" located at DeviporaRangpora, Srinagar.

Public Notice

Whereas, proprietor of the excursion agency "Fariha Holidays" located at DeviporaRangpora, Srinagar, Srinagar has approached this office for change in location of his excursion agency from "DeviporaRangpora, Srinagar" to "Ellahi Bagh Main Chowk 90 feet Road, Srinagar" as per Section 39 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011;

Whereas, the said excursion agency is registered with this department under the name and style "Fariha Holidays" in the name of Ms. SubeenaMir W/o Sameer Ahmad Lone R/o Gousia Colony Lane No.6 Rangpora Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar bearing registration No. JKEA00003553 dated 01.01.2025 which is valid upto 31.12.2027;

Whereas, applicant has submitted Rent deed (Notarized) dated: 19.03.2025 along with supportive affidavit dated 25.03.2025 duly authenticated by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, , photocopy of Registration Certificate and affidavit dated 25.03.2025 for change in location duly authenticated by 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, NOC from Bank dated 26/03/2025;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before the request of the applicant for change in location of his Excursion Agency M/s Fariha Holidays from "DeviporaRangpora, Srinagar" to "Ellahi Bagh Main Chowk 90 feet Road, Srinagar" is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

DIPK-725/25

Date: Apr 23 2025

Sd/-
Assistant Director Tourism,
Registration



- Kashmir Erupts in Protest Against Terror Attack in Pahalgam.
- Chief Minister Omar Abdullah along with thousands of locals offering funeral prayers amid soaps and tears, of a local youth Syed Adil Hussain, who was killed in the major Pahalgam militants attack in which 26 tourists were killed and many were injured, at his native village in Pahalgam on Wednesday.
- Home Minister Amit Shah, along with LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited GMC Anantnag this morning, to enquire about the condition of the persons injured in the Pahalgam attack. Shah Also meets the families of the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack in Srinagar





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.

Saroori strongly condemns terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 22: - Former Minister J&K, G. M Saroori has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, which left several tourists dead and injured in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"Expressing deep sorrow over the killing of innocent tourists, Saroori termed the attack as "cowardly and heinous." He stated that such acts of violence have no place in a civilized society and must be denounced by all. This cowardly attack is highly condemnable, and I strongly denounce this heinous act," Saroori said.

I pray for the swift recovery of the injured tourists. Such acts of terror harm the well-being of the people and deepen their suffering. I strongly condemn this senseless violence."

Baramulla unites to condemn killing of tourists in Pahalgam; holds protest march

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, APRIL 23: In a strong display of unity and collective grief, members of civil society, traders' federation, transport Association, staff members from Government offices, and concerned citizens of Baramulla today gathered together and participated in a protest march condemning the tragic killing of tourists in Pahalgam on Tuesday.

The march witnessed massive public participation with people from all walks of life gathered in solidarity, holding placards and banners expressing their anguish and support for the victims and their families.

With firm determination, the participants urged the authorities to swiftly identify and bring to justice those responsible for the heinous act. They demanded for stringent action under the full ambit of the law, ensuring such acts of violence are met with zero tolerance.

'He Was Sole Earner, Our Backbone': Family Of Horse Rider Killed In Pahalgam

■ HT News Network

Anantnag: The quiet, picturesque town of Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam was shaken on Tuesday when a terrorist attack claimed the lives of several innocent people, including Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a horse rider and the sole breadwinner for his family. His tragic death has left his family in mourning, struggling to cope with the loss, and asking for justice for the loss of the innocent man.

Speaking to ANI, Syed Adil Hussain Shah's father, Syed Haider Shah, said, "My son was the only one who earned for our family. He went to Pahalgam yesterday to work, and around 3 PM, we heard about the attack. We called him, but his phone was switched off. Later, at 4:30 PM, his phone turned on, but no one answered. We rushed to the police station, and that's when we learned that he had been injured in the



attack. My son was martyred, and he was the only earner of our family. We want justice for his death. He was an innocent man. Why was he killed? Whoever is responsible must face the consequences." Shah's mother, her voice broken by tears, spoke of the irreplaceable loss of her son

and said, "He was the only support we had. He used to ride horses and earned money for the family. There is no one else to provide for us now. We don't know what we will do without him." Shah's uncle, Shaheed Bug Singh, said, "Adil was the eldest son in the family. He had children, a wife, and

he was the backbone of this family. Now, they have lost everything. They are poor, and this tragedy has left them with no one to turn to. We appeal to the government for help. Adil's family needs protection and support now more than ever."

A relative of Ghulam, a relative of Shah, Mohiddin Shah said, "We are from this area, and we feel the pain of this loss deeply. Adil came from a poor family, and his death has left them without any support. This is a stain on our Kashmiriyat. We urge the government to investigate this attack and ensure that such incidents don't happen to innocent people like Adil. We need justice for his family." The family are now asking for the government's help, as they navigate this overwhelming grief and uncertainty. The Shah's family seek accountability, not just for the death of their son, but for all those innocent lives affected by the brutal terror that continues to plague their region.

"Was Shot In Head": UP Man, Married In February, Killed In J&K Attack

■ HT News Network

Srinagar: The terror attack that swept through Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday has left behind a grieving family in various cities across the country, including Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Shubham Dwivedi, a newlywed who had gone to Kashmir with his wife for a short vacation, was among the civilians killed in the attack. Shubham was married on February 12, 2025, just two months prior. Tragically, his trip turned into a nightmare.

Speaking to ANI, his cousin, Saurabh Dwivedi, alleged that the terrorist started firing after asking the names of the individuals and was shot in the head.

"Shubham Bhaiya got married on February 12 this year. He was in Pahalgam with his wife. My sister-in-law called my uncle and told him that Shubham was shot in the head. It is also being said that the firing started after asking



for the names of the individuals... We have received information that the body will be released after 2-3 days after completing all the procedures..." he said.

In another unfolded name, Dilip Desale, a resident of Panvel, Maharashtra, was also one of the victims of the terror attack, which claimed his life. Condemning the attack, BJP MLA Prashant Thakur said, "The tragic and horrific attack in Jammu and Kashmir should be strongly condemned... Dilip Desale,

a resident of New Panvel, has died in the firing..."

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman cut short their visit to foreign nations in the wake of a gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam, one of the biggest terror attacks after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

PM Modi was on a state visit to Saudi Arabia, while Ms Sitharaman was on her official visit to the US and Peru.

The attack has claimed the lives of several tourists, including a young Indian Navy officer from Karnal, Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, who had recently married, Prashant Satpathy, an Accounts Officer from Odisha and Shailesh Kadatiya from Surat. Prashant was killed in the attack, leaving his family with no information about his wife and young son, who were travelling with him. He had gone for a short vacation to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife and son.

Chairman DLSA Anantnag visits GMC Ang, enquires about the injured of Baisaran attack

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 23: In the wake of the tragic and heinous terrorist attack in the Baisaran area of Pahalgam, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)/ Principal District and Sessions Judge, Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina today visited Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag to personally assess the medical condition of the civilians injured in the incident.

During his visit, Chairman DLSA interacted with the hospital administration and the injured persons under treatment. He expressed his deep concern over the grievous injuries inflicted on innocent tourists and civilians, and extended his heartfelt sympathies to the victims and their families. He also directed the Principal, Government Medical College Anantnag to ensure that the best possible medical treatment is provided to all the injured individuals without any delay or shortcoming. He emphasized the need for compassionate and prompt medical attention, particularly in the context of the trauma the victims have endured.

In an effort to provide immediate legal and logistical support, the Chairman also deputed a team of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) to GMC Anantnag. The deputed PLVs have been tasked with offering ready assistance, coordination and guidance to the victims and their attendants, ensuring that they face no procedural or administrative hurdles during their stay in the hospital.

TCS Techie Based In US Was In Kashmir With Wife, Son, Shot Dead In Pahalgam

Srinagar: Forty-year-old TCS techie Bitan Adhikari, who worked and lived in Florida, came down to his Kolkata home on April 8 to spend time with his wife Sohini and their three-year-old son, who had been living in Kolkata for the past two years. They travelled to Kashmir last week and were to return on Thursday. Last afternoon, Bitan was shot dead by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, along with at least 25 others, in one of the most heinous attacks ever in the Valley. His wife and son are safe and the government is trying to bring them home.



West Bengal Chief Minister spoke to Bitan's wife over the phone and assured her that her government is with her. "My heart goes out to the families of the victims of the devastating terrorist attack on the tourists in Jammu and Kashmir today. One of the victims, Sri Bitan Adhikari,

is from West Bengal. I have talked with his wife over phone. Though no words are enough to console her in this hour of grief, I have assured her that my government is taking all steps to bring back his mortal remains to his house at Kolkata," she said in a post on X. Bitan's elderly father, crushed by his son's loss, told Anandabazar Patrika, "He wanted to take all of us along. But I told him to go with my daughter-in-law. I spoke to him today as well, even in the afternoon. What happened after that," he said. Bitan's brother said, "I spoke to my younger brother this morning.

Don't Skip Amarnath Yatra, J&K Despite Pahalgam Attack: Karan Singh Urges Tourists

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, Congress leader Karan Singh on Wednesday urged people not to shy away from the Amarnath Yatra and Jammu and Kashmir during the upcoming tourist season due to the Pahalgam attack.

The former governor and Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir said a clear message has to be sent to the enemies that "we will not be cowed down by such cowardly acts" and asserted that it is the responsibility of the central government to ensure security in the Union Territory.

The terror attack at a prime tourist location in Pahalgam in south Kashmir on Tuesday left at least 26 people dead and several others injured.

"The natural calamity in Ramban that took several lives and created havoc was bad enough, but the gunning down of

peaceful tourists in Pahalgam has been a most deplorable and despicable act. This carefully planned and executed massacre could only have been the product of cruel and barbaric minds," Singh said in a statement.

"My heart goes out to the families of the tourists killed in this operation, and my prayer for the recovery of those wounded. I presume steps are being planned to respond to this frightful attack that crossed all norms of civilised behaviour," he said.

Singh said it is important that in the tourist season and the Shri Amarnath Yatra, which will begin soon, the security of the participants is ensured.

"Both of these are major factors in the economic life of the Kashmiris, and it would be a double tragedy if, as a result of this unspeakable crime, for both these events, people shy away from participation.

Anil Sharma, President of All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, Strongly Condemns Terrorist Attack on Tourists in Pahalgam

■ HT News Network

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 Babu, 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 genera-

tion 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 Babu, 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 Kha-





DC Rajouri leads observance of 2 minute silence in Solidarity with Pahalgam incident victims

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 23: In a solemn tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, along with senior officers and officials of the district administration, observed a two-minute silence today at the DC Office Complex. The observance was marked by a sense of collective grief and solidarity as the officers paid homage to those who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident. The Deputy Commissioner expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He emphasized the importance of standing united in times of tragedy and reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to ensuring peace, harmony, and support for those affected. Similarly, ADC Kalakote, ADC Kotranka, ADC Sunderbani, ADC Nowshera, and SDM Thanamandi also led the observance of a two-minute silence in their respective sub-divisions, expressing solidarity with the victims and their families. In a solemn tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, along with senior officers and officials of the district administration, observed a



two-minute silence today at the DC Office Complex. The observance was marked by a sense of collective grief and solidarity as the officers paid homage to those who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident. The Deputy Commissioner expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He emphasized the importance of standing united in

times of tragedy and reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to ensuring peace, harmony, and support for those affected. Similarly, ADC Kalakote, ADC Kotranka, ADC Sunderbani, ADC Nowshera, and SDM Thanamandi also led the observance of a two-minute silence in their respective sub-divisions, expressing solidarity with the victims and their families.

District Tennis Ball Cricket Championship Baramulla 2025 Kicks Off at HS Watergam Kreeri

Lone Musabib

Kreeri :- District Tennis Ball Cricket Championship Baramulla 2025 kicks off at Govt. High School Watergam Kreeri today on 23rd April 2025. The District Championship was inaugurated by the Headmaster of Govt. High School Watergam Kreeri Mr. Abdul Rashid Lone. In his address, he praised all the players for their participation in the Championship and stated that participation will bestow countless benefits to all participants. He further lauded office bearers of District Baramulla Cricket Association for the organization of the colourful event. In the Championship 32 teams from boys and 8 teams from girls category have registered their entry for the Championship. The Valley Gladiators Tangmarg secured a thrilling win against Rising Star Burzichan, with Shahid and Yasir Hamid delivering impressive batting performances. Shahid scored 15 runs and Yasir Hamid added 14 runs to the team's total of 62 runs. Rising Star Burzichan put up a good fight but fell short with 52 runs. In another match, Affarwat XI dominated Mission Masters, effortlessly chasing down a target of 41 runs. Yousof was the standout batsman, scoring 24 runs to lead his team to victory. The tournament is organized by District Tennis Ball Cricket Association Baramulla.



District Doda observes 2 minute silence to honour Victims of Pahalgam Massacre

HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 23: The District Administration Doda, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, observed a two-minute silence today in solemn remembrance of the victims of the heinous massacre that took place in Pahalgam, Kashmir. The tribute was held at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, where Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anil Kumar Thakur; Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Ashraf Pervez; Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar Manhas; and other district officers and employees participated with heartfelt reverence.



The gathering stood in silence to pay homage to the innocent lives lost in the brutal act of violence. The Deputy Commissioner Doda emphasized the importance of standing united against such inhumane acts that aim to disrupt societal peace and fabric.

Meanwhile, similar observances were held simultaneously across all government offices in the district. From tehsil offices to block headquarters, officials and staff paused their routine work to participate in this solemn tribute. The coordinated effort across the district displayed a unified message of condolence and resilience. The observance served as a reminder of the value of human life and the need to uphold peace and unity. The coordinated effort across the district displayed a unified message of condolence and resilience. The observance served as a reminder of the value of human life and the need to uphold peace and unity.

Samba observes 2 minute silence in solidarity with Pahalgam terror attack victims

HT News Network

SAMBA, APRIL 23: As a mark of respect and solidarity with the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, officers and officials across District Samba observed a two-minute silence today. The observance was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma. The administrative officers, staff, and other officials gathered to express their condolences and strongly condemn the horrific act of violence. Similar moments of silence were observed in government offices throughout the district, reflecting a unified stand



against terrorism and a deep sense of grief for the lives lost. The administrative officers, staff, and other officials gathered to express their condolences and strongly condemn the horrific act of violence.

2 minute silence observed at District Poonch to mark solidarity with victims of Pahalgam terror attack

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 23: The officers and officials of District Administration Poonch, led by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, today paid homage to Pahalgam terror attack victims. A two-minute silence was observed by the officers/officials at a condolence meeting held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. The Deputy Commissioner extend-

ed heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. A two-minute silence was observed by the officers/officials at a condolence meeting held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. The Deputy Commissioner extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

District Admin Reasi observes 2-minute silence in Memory of Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims

HT News Network



REASI, APRIL 23: The District Administration of Reasi, led by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik observed a two-minute silence today to pay solemn tribute to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. The condolence meeting, held at the DC Office Complex, was attended by officers and officials of the administration who stood in solidarity to honor the lives lost in the tragic incident. The Deputy Commissioner expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. She also wished a swift and full recovery to those injured in the attack.

District Admin Reasi observes 2-minute silence in Memory of Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims

HT News Network

REASI, APRIL 23: The District Administration of Reasi, led by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik observed a two-minute silence today to pay solemn tribute to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. The condolence meeting, held at the DC Office Complex, was attended by officers and officials of the administration who stood in solidarity to honor the lives lost in the tragic incident. The Deputy Commissioner expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. She also wished a swift and full recovery to those injured in the attack.

Advocate General's office condemns Pahalgam terror attack

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 23: Joining the Nationwide condemnation of the tragic and reprehensible incident occurred at Pahalgam that has shaken the conscience of the nation, especially people of Jammu & Kashmir, a meeting was convened today in the Office of the Advocate General to deliberate upon the collective response of the Law officers/Government Counsels. During the meeting, the participants expressed deep anguish and sorrow over the heinous act perpetrated by the terrorists. They unanimously resolved that such acts of inhuman violence must be condemned unequivocally and collectively. An appeal was made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, civil society, members of the Bar and Bench and all conscientious citizens to stand united in this hour of grief and express their unwavering commitment against terrorism in all its forms.

Judicial Officers pay tributes to retired Principal District & Sessions Judge Dev Raj Sharma

HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 23: A condolence meeting was held today at the District Court Complex Kathua by the Judicial Officers to mourn the sad demise of Retired Principal District & Sessions Judge Dev Raj Sharma. The meeting took place in the office chamber of the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kathua. During the solemn gathering, the Judicial Officers expressed deep sorrow over the passing away of Sh. Dev Raj Sharma and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, and friends. The officers described his demise as an irreparable loss to the Judiciary. Remembering his remarkable service, the Judicial Officers acknowledged his extraordinary legal acumen, humility, and unwavering commitment towards the judicial system. His contribution to the Judiciary and the legal fraternity was termed exceptional and invaluable. The meeting concluded with a two-minute silence as a mark of respect, followed by heartfelt prayers for the departed soul. The officers prayed for strength and comfort to the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

Ramban observes 2-minute silence to mark respect, solidarity with Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims

HT News Network

RAMBAN, APRIL 23: Officers and officials across District Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect and solidarity with the victims of the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam. The solemn tribute led by ADDC Ramban Roshan Lal was held at the DC Office Ramban, where all administrative officers, staff and officials stood in silence, condemning the heinous act and expressing their heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. Similar observances were held in government offices across the district.

District Admin Udhampur pays homage to terror attack victims

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 23: The officers and officials of District Administration Udhampur, led by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, today paid homage to Pahalgam terror attack victims. A two-minute silence was observed by the officers/officials at a condolence meeting held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. The Deputy Commissioner extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. The officers and officials of District Administration Udhampur, led by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, today paid homage to Pahalgam terror attack victims. A two-minute silence was observed by the officers/officials at a condolence meeting held in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Director Agriculture Jammu launches Training Calendar 2025-26

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 23: Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen today launched the Training Calendar for 2025-26, here at Kissan Kendra Talab Tillo. In his address, the Director highlighted that the Training Calendar features 28 divisional-

level capacity building programmes designed for both farmers and officers, with a strong focus on sustainable agricultural practices and technological advancements. Joint Director Satish Sharma emphasized the Extension wing's commitment to enhancing the capacities of farmers and officers alike, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainability in agriculture.



The event witnessed the presence of Satish Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Dr. Ashwani Sharma Deputy Director Central, Dr. Manju Thakur, Country Coordinator CAB International, Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma Agriculture Chemist Jammu, Alok Pandotra Deputy Director Trainings, Darmesh Vaid SMS RL, Rajesh Verma Assistant Entomologist Jammu, Rajeev Katoch, Programme Offi-

cer and Extension Wing team who played a key role in formulating the calendar which is thoughtfully scheduled to align with significant national and international observances, enriching the thematic relevance of the training sessions. The event witnessed the presence of Satish Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Dr. Ashwani Sharma Deputy Director Central, Dr. Manju Thakur.





2 security personnel killed in attack on anti-polio team in SW Pakistan

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, APR 23 (UND)

Two security personnel were killed in an attack on a polio vaccination team in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, officials said on Wednesday.

According to the police officials, some unknown armed persons attacked the polio vaccination team in Mastung district of the province.

Police added that the team was engaged in a door-to-door vaccination campaign to give polio drops to children when the attack happened.

Following the attack, security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to apprehend the suspects.

Speaking to Xinhua, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind confirmed the attack. "It is a tragic incident. We have received reports of the killing of two security personnel. A thorough investigation is underway to examine all aspects of the attack."

The provincial government will not allow any attempt to sabotage the polio eradication campaign. "Security for polio teams is being further strengthened across the province," he added.

A seven-day nationwide polio vaccination drive is currently underway in Pakistan, aiming to immunize millions of children under the age of five.

Russia conducts large-scale program to help Africa fight epidemics - Putin

AGENCIES

MOSCOW, APR 23 (UND)

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday welcomed the participants of the first Russian-African international exercises of rapid response teams for sanitary and epidemiological emergencies, noting that Russia is conducting a large-scale program to assist Africa in combating epidemics.

The exercise is taking place from April 23-25 in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

"Following the results of the second Russia-Africa Summit, we are implementing a large-scale program to help African friends in the fight against epidemics, including those with pandemic potential," Putin said in a telegram published by the Kremlin.

In less than two years, the program has trained more than 150 African specialists, conducted joint research on dozens of dangerous infections, and dispatched six mobile laboratories to African countries, the Russian leader added.

Sanitary and epidemiological services from Russia and 15 African countries, as well as representatives of various international and regional organizations, are taking part in the exercises, the telegram said. The event raises cooperation to a new level and provides an excellent opportunity to exchange professional experience, practice the joint use of specialized equipment and improve methods of responding to outbreaks of dangerous communicable diseases, Putin added.

Sri Lanka signed MoU on Defence Cooperation with India 'with responsibility': Cabinet spokesperson

AGENCIES

COLOMBO, APR 23 (UND)

The Sri Lankan government signed the MoU on Defence Cooperation with India "with responsibility", and needs the consensus of New Delhi to disclose its contents, Cabinet Spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa has said.

Jayatissa told this to reporters when asked about the contents of the MoU signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Colombo earlier this month.

The Defence pact was signed amid Indian pressure to stop Chinese research vessels from berthing in Sri Lanka, with New Delhi maintaining they are a threat to the security of the Indian Ocean region, economynext reported.

"On certain contents, we need mutual agreement to disclose the information," Cabinet Spokesman Jayatissa, also the Minister of Media and Health, told reporters at the post-Cabinet media briefing on Tuesday, in response to a query on whether the defence pact had banned Chinese research vessels from coming to Sri Lankan waters.

"In future, we will be submitting them to the parliament. It will take some time. Definitely in the future."

PMs of Australia, Nepal, Mauritius call up PM Modi to condemn Pahalgam terror attack

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 23 (UND)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday received calls from his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, from Nepal's KP Sharma Oli and Mauritius PM Navin Chandra Ramgoolam, strongly condemning the Pahalgam terror attack and offering support to India in this difficult time.

The MEA spokesperson said:

"Prime Minister of Australia @AlboMP called Prime Minister @narendramodi and strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"He offered condolences on the loss of innocent lives and expressed solidarity with the people of India in this hour of grief. He extended all support in the fight against terrorism."

The Australian PM said in a post on X, that he had spoken to PM Modi and that those responsible for the killing of 28 people in Pahalgam in Kashmir must be held to account.

"This afternoon I have spoken to my friend Prime Minister @narendramodi to offer my condolences on behalf of Australia following the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The horrific loss of life



of innocent civilians is an act of senseless violence which has shocked the world.

"Those responsible must be held to account. Australia and India are great friends and we stand with India at this difficult time."

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on the Nepal PM's call, that PM Modi also conveyed his condolences on the death of a Nepalese citizen in the Pahalgam terror attack.

"Prime Minister of Nepal @PM_nepal_Mr. KP Sharma Oli called Prime Minister @narendramodi to strongly condemn the heinous terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, and offered his sincere condolences on the loss of precious lives.

"PM @narendramodi also conveyed his condolences on the death of

a young Nepali national in the terror attack, and underlined that India remains committed to bringing the perpetrators of the brutal terror attack to justice. India and Nepal stand together in the fight against terrorism."

The Nepal PM said in a post on X:

"Spoke with Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji and conveyed my deepest condolences on the loss of lives in the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

"Reiterated Nepal's firm solidarity with India against such heinous acts. Grateful for his heartfelt condolences on the loss of Nepali citizen."

The PM of Mauritius Navin Chandra Ramgoolam also spoke with PM Modi, and expressed support and solidarity with the people of India in this hour of grief.

PM Modi's Kanpur visit on Thursday cancelled

AGENCIES

KANPUR, APR 23 (UND)

After the incident of terrorist attack in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 tourists were killed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed programme in Kanpur on April 24 has been cancelled.

The PM was scheduled to come here on Thursday to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development projects worth more than Rs 20,000 crore.

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana confirmed the cancellation of PM Modi's visit and said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit tomorrow has been can-



celled. He will not come tomorrow."

Mahana had come to express condolences at the house of Shubham Dwivedi of Kanpur, who was killed in the Pahalgam attack. He met Shubham's family and con-

soled them.

The Assembly Speaker condemned the cowardly attack and said that anti-national elements, shaken by the determination of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to establish peace in the Kashmir Valley, have carried out this cowardly act.

The Speaker said that this attack will definitely be answered and the culprits will be brought to justice. "The whole country is saddened by the Pahalgam incident. I have personal relations with Shubham Dwivedi's family and is very sad. The whole country has faith in the Indian Army, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister," he said.

US VP visits Taj with his family, accorded warm welcome by CM

AGENCIES

AGRA (UP), APRIL 23 (UND)

US Vice President JD Vance on Wednesday reached the iconic Taj Mahal with his family, including wife Usha Vance, to watch the beauty of the architectural marvel.

Upon reaching the Taj Mahal premises, Vance seemed mesmerised by the beauty of the Taj. During this time, he took photos with his wife and children and took information about the history from the guide.

Earlier, Vice President Vance was accorded a warm and ceremonial welcome by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who received him at the Technical Airport of



Agra Air Force Station.

As Vice President Vance's special aircraft touched down at 9:15 am, CM Yogi extended a heartfelt welcome, presenting a bouquet of flowers and greeting Vance and his family with traditional Indian hospitality. The US Vice President expressed

his gratitude before proceeding directly to visit the Taj Mahal.

As the motorcade made its way through the city, schoolchildren lined the streets waving the flags of both India and the United States, cheerfully welcoming the dignitary and his family.

Kharge says Pahalgam attack not the time for partisan politics

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, APR 23 (UND)

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday called for national unity and a collective resolve to seek justice for the victims of the recent terrorist attack at Pahalgam in Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasised that this is not the time for partisan politics but for standing together as a nation against terrorism.

In his remarks, Kharge condemned the attack in the strongest terms, labelling it a "cowardly" and "dastardly" act that targeted innocent tourists. "This is not a time for partisan politics. It is a moment for collective resolve to ensure justice for those who lost their lives and for their grieving families," he said. His statement reflects the need for unity and cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The attack, which occurred around 2:30 PM yesterday, claimed the lives of several tourists, including two from Karnataka, Manjunath and Bharat Bhushan. Kharge personally reached out to their grieving families, offering his condolences. "I spoke to both the grieving wives of the victims and offered my condolences to them," he said.

Highlighting the gravity of the attack, Kharge compared it to the infamous Chittisinghpura massacre



of 2000, calling it one of the most brazen acts by terrorists in recent times. "This is among the most brazen and outrageous attempts by terrorists and separatist forces," Kharge remarked. He further stated, "Those who murder unarmed and innocent civilians cannot be human."

The Chittisinghpura massacre took place on March 20, 2000, at Chittisinghpura in Jammu and Kashmir, when 35 Sikh men were killed by armed terrorists. The victims were deliberately targeted and executed just days before US President Bill Clinton's visit, which brought international attention to the incident. Fast forward to today, US Vice President JD Vance is in India amid the aftermath of the recent Pahalgam attacks.

Kharge informed the media that he had spoken with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and other senior leaders to coordinate the response.

Additionally, Karnataka's Labour Minister, Santosh Lad, was deputed to assist nearly 200 tourists from Karnataka affected by the attack and help arrange flights for their safe return.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) is scheduled to meet tomorrow at 11 AM in the AICC office, Delhi, to discuss the incident. Kharge revealed that he had preponed his programme to attend the meeting. "We will continue to work with the government to eliminate terrorism from its roots," he said, reaffirming the party's commitment to addressing the challenge of terrorism.

In his address, Kharge also called for heightened security measures, particularly for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. He urged the government to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of pilgrims, as such attacks have targeted the Yatra in the past. "The Amarnath Yatra is about to begin, and security must be tightened to protect the Yatris," he said.

Vatican reveals Pope Francis' final words before his passing, said he was 'tired but content'

AGENCIES

ROME, APR 23 (UND)

The Vatican has revealed the final words of Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21. The 88-year-old spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church had reportedly said that he was both "tired" and at the same time "content", and thanked his longtime aide Massimiliano Strappetti.

Among his final words in the day before his death were, "thank you", according to the Vatican.

"Around an hour later, after making a gesture of farewell with his hand to his longtime health aide,



Massimiliano Strappetti, lying in bed in his second-floor apartment at the Casa Santa Marta, the Pope fell into a coma," the Vatican said.

"According to those who were with him in his final moments, he did not suffer. It all happened quickly," the church's statement continued, describing Francis' death

as "discreet ... almost sudden, without long suffering or public alarm".

The Pope's health deteriorated quickly on Monday morning, according to the church, with "the first signs of the sudden illness" appearing about 5:30 a.m. local time.

During the Pontiff's final hours, he had hesitated to surprise a throng of 50,000 faithful who amassed in St. Peter's Square with a ride in the popemobile following his Easter blessing from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican News reported. The pontiff had asked Strappetti, "Do you think I can manage it?"

Yogi offers condolences to father of Pahalgam terror attack victim Shubham Dwivedi

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, APR 23 (UND)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday expressed deep sorrow and offered heartfelt condolences following the tragic death of Shubham Dwivedi, a Kanpur resident, in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister personally conveyed his sympathies in a phone call to the grieving father, Sanjay Dwivedi. He paid tribute to Shubham Dwivedi, condemning the terrorist attack and expressing profound sorrow over the tragic loss.

In a post shared on



his official X account, he wrote, "The tragic demise of Shubham Dwivedi from Kanpur district in the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, is deeply saddening."

During his conversation with Sanjay Dwivedi, Yogi assured the grieving father that the UP government stands firmly with the family during this difficult time and pledged all possible assistance.

He has directed state officials to make arrangements for Shubham Dwivedi's mortal remains to be brought back to his home district of Kanpur with full state honours. He also prayed to Lord Ram to grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

It may be noted that Shubham Dwivedi's home is shrouded in sorrow following his tragic death in the Pahalgam terror attack. Just two months after his wedding on February 12, he was shot dead by terrorists on Tuesday, right in front of his wife, in Pahalgam.

Dr Tasaduk attends international conference on Clinical Endocrinology, Diabetes, Metabolism

Kashmir-based medico cum noted health columnist Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo attended 34th European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) international post-graduate conference in Clinical Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

The 5-day conference, held virtually, throw light on latest advances in diabetes technology and management, thyroid disorders, hormone abuse, adrenal disorders and polyendocrine syndromes.

A certificate was awarded to Dr Itoo along with ten European Continuing Medical Education Credits (ECMECs) that are accredited by European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) and European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).



Currently working as a doctor at Narayana Health,

Dr Itoo is also a Fellow of the International Diabetes

Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium).



Dolo-650 or Cadbury Gems?: Doctor Warns Against Overuse of India's Favourite Paracetamol

US-based gastroenterologist and health educator Dr Palaniappan Manickam has stirred up conversation on social media with his latest tweet comparing Indians' frequent use of Dolo-650 to "popping Cadbury Gems." The viral remark has sparked renewed discussion around the potential side effects of the widely used paracetamol tablet and how it should be consumed safely.

Dr Pal Manickam is widely known for his witty YouTube videos on healthy eating habits. He often incorporates humour while explaining how food affects the human body.

A household staple across India, Dolo-650 is a paracetamol-based medication used to relieve fever, headaches, body aches, toothaches, and mild to moderate pain. Its popularity surged during the COVID-19 pandemic,



particularly following vaccine rollouts, when healthcare professionals recommended it to manage post-vaccine symptoms.

Does Dolo-650 Have Side Effects?

While Dolo-650 is generally safe when taken as prescribed, excessive or prolonged use can lead to serious liver damage. The recommended dosage should not exceed 4,000 mg within a 24-hour period, and a minimum

gap of 4 to 6 hours must be maintained between doses. Each tablet contains 650 mg of paracetamol, making it easy to unintentionally exceed safe limits if not careful.

In rare cases, Dolo-650 can cause allergic reactions, including skin rashes, swelling, or breathing difficulties. In such instances, immediate medical attention is essential.

The paracetamol is easily available in phar-

macies, priced between Rs 25-Rs 30 for a strip of 15 tablets. Its accessibility combined with high effectiveness has contributed to casual, and sometimes excessive, usage.

Dr. Manickam's comments highlight the need for greater awareness around self-medication and dosage limits, especially when it comes to commonly trusted OTC (over-the-counter) drugs like Dolo-650.

World Liver Day: Fix food habits to cut liver disease risk by 50 pc

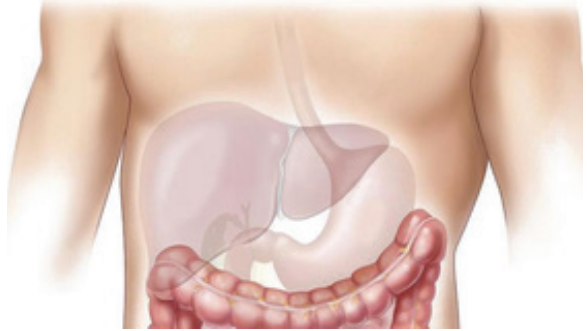
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Medical experts on Friday emphasised the critical link between dietary habits and liver health, saying that healthy changes today can cut liver disease risk by 50 per cent.

Ahead of the World Liver Day which falls on April 19, healthcare experts said that food is medicine, as cases of liver diseases among both urban and rural populations rise in the country. Doctors said that liver disease is no longer confined to alcohol abuse – there is a worrying rise in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) due to unhealthy eating patterns, obesity, and lack of exercise.

A recent large-scale study published in Frontiers in Nutrition has reinforced the critical role of diet in liver health.

Analysing data from over 121,000 partici-



pants in the UK Biobank, researchers found that individuals consuming diets with higher pro-inflammatory potential – measured by the Dietary Inflammatory Index (DII) – had a 16 per cent increased risk of developing chronic liver disease (CLD).

Adherence to anti-inflammatory dietary patterns, such as the Mediterranean diet and those scoring high on the Healthy Eating Index 2020, was associated with a reduced risk of CLD.

"About 50 per cent of liver disease cases can

be prevented simply by changing food habits and improving nutrition. Damage done to liver from poor dietary choices, alcohol, processed food, and sedentary lifestyles can be reversed if we take action today," said Dr Sanjiv Saigal, President, Liver Transplantation Society of India (LTSD).

The liver has a remarkable ability to heal itself, and even years of damage can be reversed with the right lifestyle changes.

A diet rich in fresh fruits, green vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein not only prevents

liver disease but also supports liver regeneration.

"As doctors, we witness miracles when patients switch to cleaner diets – liver enzyme levels improve, energy levels bounce back, and long-term health outcomes become significantly better. The first step is reading food labels and reduce your dependency on processed foods," Saigal added.

By choosing fresh produce, home-cooked meals, hydration, and mindful eating, we can keep liver diseases at bay. Sugar-loaded drinks, junk food, and fast meals are contributing to liver damage.

Another recent study published in Nutrients highlights a concerning link between high fructose intake from processed foods and the development of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) in obese children.

Indian pharma giants target bigger share of \$145 billion US cancer drug market

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Indian pharmaceutical companies are ramping up efforts to expand their footprint in the lucrative US oncology generics market, which is currently valued at \$145 billion and growing at a robust pace of 11 per cent annually, according to a new report.

In recent months, several Indian drugmakers have secured approvals from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for generic versions of cancer drugs which marked a steady increase in the entry of complex generics and biosimilars into the American market.

With oncology emerging as one of the fastest-growing therapy segments globally, Indian firms are positioning themselves to tap into this high-value space by leveraging their strength in affordable manufacturing, technical



expertise, and increasing regulatory approvals, the report said.

Industry experts say this marks a shift from traditional generics to more complex formulations – reflecting the evolving capabilities of Indian pharma companies.

This growing global push coincides with robust foreign investment trends in the domestic sector.

According to the

Department of Pharmaceuticals, India's pharmaceutical and medical devices sector received a foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of Rs 11,888 crore between April and December 2024.

Additionally, 13 FDI proposals worth Rs 7,246.40 crore for brownfield projects were approved during FY25, taking the total FDI to Rs 19,134.4 crore.

Much of this momen-

tum is driven by the central government's production linked incentive (PLI) Scheme, which aims to boost domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependency, and enhance exports.

The scheme, launched in 2021 with a financial outlay of Rs 15,000 crore for pharmaceuticals, focuses on high-value products such as complex generics, biopharmaceuticals, and anti-cancer drugs.

One of the notable outcomes of the scheme is the exceeding of the initial investment target. While the original commitment stood at Rs 3,938.57 crore, actual investments touched Rs 4,253.92 crore by the end of 2024.

Projects like the Penicillin G unit in Andhra Pradesh and the Clavulanic Acid facility in Himachal Pradesh are among key beneficiaries, expected to significantly cut import costs.

"Call an Ambulance Now"- How ChatGPT Saved a Pregnant Woman's Life

What started as a casual question to an AI chatbot turned into a life-saving moment for a pregnant woman in North Carolina.

Natallia Tarrien, a photographer based in Charlotte, was eight months pregnant when she decided to ask ChatGPT a simple question, something she says she did "just for fun."

"Why does my jaw feel tight?" she typed in, not expecting anything serious. But the answer she got changed everything.

The AI didn't brush it off. Instead, it told her to check her blood pressure.

"So I did," Tarrien wrote in an Instagram post. "It was high, really high."

She waited, thinking maybe it would come down on its own. But it didn't. In fact, it kept climbing. Still not feeling dizzy or ill, she considered ignoring it. That's when ChatGPT became firm: "Call an ambulance. Now."



Thankfully, she listened.

By the time she reached the hospital, her blood pressure had soared to 200/146, a dangerously high level, especially during pregnancy. Doctors

told her she was incredibly lucky to have come in when she did.

Tarrien later shared the full story online, expressing her gratitude: "ChatGPT saved my life. And my baby's."

What was meant to be a fun, throwaway interaction with AI ended up being a powerful reminder, sometimes, technology knows when to take things seriously, even if we don't.

DNA sequencing may become prime target for hackers, warns study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hackers could exploit genomic data vulnerabilities using next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) technology, warns a study on Thursday urging the need to secure it.

The powerful sequencing tool NGS is used for the development of tailor-made medicines, cancer diagnostics, infectious disease tracking, and gene research.

Researchers from the University of Portsmouth, UK, raised concerns over how the tool can be exploited for data breaches, privacy violations, and even future biotreats by hackers.

While the steps are essential for generating accurate results, they also open up multiple points of vulnerability. As many DNA datasets are openly accessible online, the study warns cybercriminals can misuse the



information for surveillance, manipulation, or malicious experimentation, said the researchers in the study published in the journal IEEE Access.

"Our work is a wake-up call. Protecting genomic data isn't just about encryption -- it's about anticipating attacks that don't yet exist. We need a paradigm shift in how we secure the future of precision medicine," said Dr. Nasreen Anjum from the

University of Portsmouth's School of Computing.

The research team identified new and emerging methods that hackers and those with malicious intent could use to exploit or attack systems, such as synthetic DNA-encoded malware, AI-driven manipulation of genome data, and identity tracing through re-identification techniques.

These threats go beyond typical data

breaches, posing risks to individual privacy, scientific integrity, and national security.

"Despite its importance, cyber-biosecurity remains one of the most neglected and poorly understood research disciplines and is leaving a critical gap in global biosecurity. To make sure our DNA information stays safe and is used only for good, we're urging more research and collaboration to find ways to keep this powerful technology secure," Anjum said.

The experts called on "governments, regulatory bodies, funding agencies, and academic institutions" to prioritise this field "before it's too late".

The team also shared recommendations and practical suggestions, including secure sequencing protocols, encrypted storage, and AI-powered anomaly detection, creating a foundation for much stronger cyber-biosecurity.



RCB aim to break Chinnaswamy curse against RR

BD NARAYANKAR

BENGALURU, APR 23 (UNI)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, riding a red-hot resurgence in IPL 2025, are eyeing a change in home fortunes as they gear up to face a wounded Rajasthan Royals outfit at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday.

With the business end of the tournament in sight, RCB's form, flair, and fire-power make them the odds-on favourites, but a home jinx still lingers.

RCB's top-order has clicked like clockwork, with the ageless Virat Kohli orchestrating the charge. The 35-year-old has reasserted his supremacy with 322 runs at an imperious average of 64, including four composed fifties.

Phil Salt, with his fearless pyrotechnics, has proven the perfect foil – his 213 runs at a strike rate of 178 have injected tempo from ball one, and his 33-ball 65 against RR earlier in the season remains one of the stand-out knocks of the year.

Devdutt Padikkal has quietly stitched together an impressive season at number three, while RCB's middle order – boasting the likes of Rajat Patidar, Tim David, and Jitesh Sharma – has transformed



into a finishing juggernaut.

David, in particular, has been RCB's ace in the hole: 142 runs at a strike rate approaching 195, and crucially, only dismissed once this season.

Jitesh Sharma has contributed not only with the gloves – nine catches so far – but also with meaningful cameos down the order. Liam Livingstone, though yet to explode with the bat, has chipped in with two wickets and continues to offer versatility.

With the ball, Josh Hazlewood remains the spearhead – 12 wickets in eight matches at a miserly economy. Krunal Pandya's allround contribution (10 wickets) has been vital, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Yash Dayal have lent reliability with the new ball and at the death.

But while RCB's squad reads like a winning formula, one nagging stat

persists: they have lost all three home games this season – each while chasing. Chinnaswamy, once a fortress, has become something of an enigma. Thursday offers them a chance to rewrite that script.

Rajasthan, meanwhile, are in disarray. Four losses in their last five games have sent their campaign into a tailspin. The injury to Sanju Samson – ruled out with an abdominal strain – has delivered a punishing blow to both leadership and batting stability. In his absence, 22-year-old Riyan Parag takes over the reins, hoping to inspire a turnaround.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi, the 14-year-old sensation, remains a bright spark. His debut knock of 34 off 20 hinted at precocious talent, and with Yashasvi Jaiswal (307 runs, four fifties) anchoring the top, RR will hope the duo pro-

vides a flying start. But the middle order – led by Parag, Nitish Rana, and Shimron Hetmyer – has flattered to deceive.

Dhruv Jurel and Shubham Dubey have shown glimpses of promise, but RR's real Achilles' heel has been their toothless bowling attack. Wanindu Hasaranga's 9 wickets have come at an economy of 9.4, while Jofra Archer has oscillated between brilliance and disaster. Tushar Deshpande and Maheesh Theekshana have lacked penetration and consistency, managing just six wickets between them in their last four outings.

No RR bowler boasts an economy below 9 – a sobering stat ahead of a clash against RCB's turbo-charged batting unit.

The Chinnaswamy pitch promises runs aplenty, with short boundaries and high altitude fuelling big totals. Historically, the chasing team has held the edge here – and that trend has held true in all three games this season.

The weather on match day is set to be clear and warm, perfect for cricket under the lights. The toss, as ever at Chinnaswamy, could prove decisive. Teams winning the toss will be tempted to bowl first and chase under the lights.

Shastri pinpoints major change that has helped Shreyas Iyer prosper

AGENCIES

DUBAI, APR 23 (UNI)

Former India coach Ravi Shastri believes the excellent recent form of Shreyas Iyer can be attributed to a key adjustment made to his batting technique.

Iyer has been superb against the white-ball in recent times, with the 30-year-old dominating the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 earlier this year when he finished the tournament as the second leading run-scorer amassing 243 runs at an average of 48.60.

It helped Iyer regain a place in India's list of 34 players with contracts for the 2024/25 international season and Shastri pinpointed a key change to the right-hander's technique when discussing his recent rise with host Sanjana Ganesan on the most recent episode of The ICC Review.

"He was very side on, was back and back, very much leg-side. The fact that he's prepared to go back and across now and with a very upright stance and the pick up," Shastri observed.

"While he's moving back, the bat's being picked up as well when



he's going back and across," he said.

"That allows him to play both sides of the wicket. If they bang it in short, he can pull and hook. And if there's any room outside the off stump, he can cut as well," Shastri said.

In Shastri's opinion, this change has enabled Iyer to play more freely on both sides of the wicket and, crucially, to counter the short ball – an area that had long been considered a weakness in his game.

"So that opens up the game for him rather than being too leg-side where the rib cage was being targeted and then there was no escape," he said.

"Now he's got space to go both ways and he's such a good timer of the ball. He's got good hands and

when he gets into position early then he can be devastating as he's showing now when he's batting," Shastri said.

India's next major challenge is the red-ball tour of England, where they are set to face the hosts in a five-match Test series that will be their first hitout for the new ICC World Test Championship cycle.

Iyer hasn't featured at Test level since the start of last year, but Shastri believes the 30-year-old has an outside chance of earning a recall.

"Shreyas Iyer in particular, the way he's played for India over the last 18 months and he's become an absolute certainty in the white-ball format of the game, especially the one-day format," he said.

Sri Lanka name strong squad for India, South Africa tri-nation series

AGENCIES

COLOMBO, APR 23 (UNI)

Sri Lanka have announced a 17-member squad for their upcoming tri-nation series against India and South Africa at home.

The Chamari Athapaththu-led squad have made a host of changes to their playing group that was defeated by New Zealand recently.

As many as eight changes have been made to the squad that featured against the White Ferns including spinner Malki Madara, who has received a maiden call-up to the ODI squad.

Madara had forged impressive debut bowling figures during the T20I series in New Zealand, helping Sri Lanka to their solitary win on the multi-format tour.

Among other changes, the likes of Vishmi Gunaratne, Nilakshi Silva, Hasini Perera, Piumi Wathsala, Dewmi Vihanga, Inoka Ranaweera and Hansima Karunaratne are back in the fray.

The tri-nation series, kickstarting April 27 in Colombo, will offer vital preparation to all three sides with the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 in India on the horizon.

BCCI condemns Pahalgam terror attack

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APR 23 (UNI)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday condemned the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the tragic loss of innocent lives.

In a statement, BCCI Honorary Secretary Devajit Saikia expressed

deep shock and anguish over the horrific attack, extending heartfelt condolences to the grieving families of the victims.

"The cricketing community is deeply shocked and anguished by the tragic loss of innocent lives in the gruesome terror attack at Pahalgam yesterday," Saikia said.

"On behalf of the BCCI, while condemning this

ghastly and cowardly act with the strongest possible words, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the departed souls," he said.

The BCCI's statement highlighted the board's solidarity with the affected families and emphasised the importance of standing united in the face of such senseless

violence. "In sharing their pain and grief, we stand hand in hand at this hour of tragedy," Saikia added.

The attack, which occurred in the popular tourist destination of Pahalgam, has shocked the nation, with authorities working swiftly to investigate the incident and ensure the safety of civilians in the region.

Netherlands unveil full strength squad for UAE & Scotland series

AGENCIES

AMSTERDAM, APR 23 (UNI)

Netherlands have announced a power-packed squad for their upcoming series against Scotland and UAE as part of the Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 2023-27 cycle.

The Dutch will play four ODIs in the first half of May – two each against Scotland and United Arab Emirates – in what are crucial fixtures on the road to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, set to be hosted in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Led by skipper Scott Edwards, the 15-member squad features a mix of experienced internationals and big names such as Paul van Meekeren, Bas de Leede, Max O'Dowd, and the seasoned campaigner Roelof van der Merwe as they aim to consolidate their position on the League 2 table.

All matches will be played at two venues – VRA in Amstelveen and Kampong in Utrecht an ICC report said.

Cell. 9149442151 | 9419007973

AZIZ

AUTO MOBILES

ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS ARE ACCEPTED HERE
ALSO INSURANCE FACILITY ARE AVAILABLE HERE.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ | RELIANCE | HDFC ERGO | DIGIT | ICICI LOMBARD | LIBERTY INSURANCE ETC

SERVICE AVAILABLE: DAINTING PAINTING WASHING MECHANICAL WORK

KREERI

Increasing business profitability
by reducing printing cost

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality

When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for:
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812
9419008414
Tel: 0194 2496287
Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar

■ Prepress
■ Sheet Fed
■ Bindery
■ Finishing
■ Promotions

Our Printing Services

- Flyers
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calenders
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers

Chief Patron of LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS Group: SYED SAD UD DIN BUKHARI (SAIDI), Printer Publisher, Owner and Editor - SYED JAHANGIR BUKHARI,

Printed at : LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS, Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar -190017, Gen. Manager - SHEIKH MUSHTAQ AHMAD - Cell No - 9697071471,

Editorial Section- 7006846797, Multimedia Section-9419008414, Advertisement Section - 9697071471, RNI NO- JKENG/2011/39231