



Terrorists Attacked Soul of India, Guilty to face Punishment Beyond their Imagination: PM Modi

‘140 crore Indians stand united, retribution will be beyond imagination’

■ HT News Network/UNI

MADHUBANI, APR 24 (UNI) In his first public expression against the Pahalgam terror attack two days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday issued a stern warning that terrorists and conspirators involved in the ghastly incident will face punishment "beyond their imagination".

"The Pahalgam terror attack is an attack on the soul of India and every peace-loving person is in favour of strong action against the culprits,"

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



India briefs envoys of G20 nations on Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's link to it

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, APR 24 (UNI) India today briefed the envoys of G20 nations and those from many other close partner nations on the Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's links to it.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the envoys and top diplomats of Estonia, Slovak Republic, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Iceland, Malaysia, Switzerland, Germany, France,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pakistani Rangers arrest BSF trooper after he strays into Pak territory

■ HT News Network/UNI

JALANDHAR, APR 24 (UNI) Pakistani Rangers on Thursday took a BSF trooper in their custody after the trooper inadvertently strayed into Pakistani territory.

The Pakistani Rangers refused to hold a flag meeting with the BSF to resolve the issue,

with the incident coming amid the diplomatic stand-off between the two nations over the Pahalgam terror attack.

According to sources, the trooper was whisked away by the Pakistani Rangers when the trooper was taking a round near the International Border in Mamdot area along the India-

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

All-party meeting: Leaders back govt's action on Pakistan after Pahalgam terror attack

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, APR 24 (UNI) Leaders of all the political parties on Thursday came together in a show of solidarity and unanimously supported the action taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) with regard to Pakistan, following the deadly terror attack



in Pahalgam which claimed the lives of 26 tourists.

The Government had con-

vened an all-party meeting, which was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

All the leaders present in the meeting also unanimously expressed support for any future action the government would take to fight against terrorism.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

All Party Meeting led by CM Omar supports Centre's response to Pahalgam terror attack

Pays tributes to martyr Adil Shah, calls him real face of Kashmir's hospitality

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, APR 24: An All Party Meeting (APM) chaired by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here on Thursday termed the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead as barbaric and inhuman, the meeting also supported the steps taken by the Centre in response to the carnage and paid rich tributes to martyr Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a local horse ride operator, who was killed while attempting to fight off terrorists to save tourists.

After the meeting ended, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), while addressing a news conference here said, "Unanimous resolution was passed to denounce the deadly attack and expressing solidarity with the families of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Para-commando killed, 2 injured in Udhampur encounter

JAMMU, APR 24: A Special Forces Para Commando of the Army was killed and two others sustained injuries during a fierce encounter with terrorists in the Dudu-Basantgarh area of Udhampur district on Thursday.

Officials told the news that the joint operation was launched by the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the CRPF, following specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of terrorists in the area. "The operation—codenamed #OpBirliGali—

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

LG paid tribute to army personnel killed in Udhampur encounter

JAMMU , APRIL 24, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to Army Braveheart Hav Jhantu Ali Shaikh, who laid down his life for the nation during anti-terror operation in Udhampur.

According to News Service, Associated News Service, ANB, "I bow to our army braveheart Hav Jhantu Ali Shaikh who made supreme sacrifice for the nation. His valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Police arrest 3 drug peddlers in Bla, Kulgam

SRINAGAR, APR 24: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police on Thursday said to have arrested three drug peddlers in Baramulla & Kulgam and recovered a substantial quantity of contraband substances from their possession.

A Police party of Police Post Mirgund at a checkpoint established at Check Raza Khan intercepted a vehicle (Alto) bearing registration number JK01V-3940 with two persons on board, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—.

They have been identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Shah son of Abdul Ahad Shah resident of Lolab Kupwara

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Army Chief General Dwivedi to visit Srinagar Today

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, APR 24: In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi will visit Srinagar on Friday to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the details available with the news agency—the top Army Commanders will brief Gen Dwivedi on various aspects of the security scenario and the steps being taken to counter terrorists in the Union Territory and along the Line of Control. "The Corps commander of Srinagar based 15 Corps and other Rashtriya Rifles formation commanders will apprise the Army Chief about the prevailing situation in Kashmir and the strategies being framed to keep the terrorists at bay,"

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Rains lash Kashir parts, MeT predicts more

J&K sees 32% deficit rainfall, Sgr records average precipitation in 54 days

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 24 The light rainfall lashed the parts of Kashmir on Thursday while the weatherman predicted the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershowers for the next two days.

According to the news agency—, Jammu and Kashmir's deficit rainfall has reduced further after the recent heavy wet spell.

The data prepared by the local Meteorological department reveals that the present



deficit rainfall in J&K from March 01, 2025 to April 23, 2025 has reduced to 32 per cent with Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, recording an average rainfall.

Against the normal precipitation of 231 mm, Jammu

and Kashmir has recorded a rainfall of 156.2 mm in the last 54 days, the data revealed.

Besides Srinagar, the other stations including Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Kupwara and Ramban have recorded an average rainfall during the period.

However, Anantnag, Budgam, Doda, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Poonch, Shopian and Udhampur have recorded deficit rainfall upto 59 per cent during the period while Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri, Reasi and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Protests continue in Srinagar against Pahalgam terror attack

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 24: For the third consecutive day, protests rocked Srinagar in response to the horrific terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 27 people, mostly tourists. The protests focused around the historic Lal Chowk Clock Tower and Press Enclave in the city.

Various groups, including civil society members, traders, political parties and government employees, gathered to condemn the killings and show solidarity

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Harassment of Kashmiris outside J&K: CM, Mehbooba, Sajad, Mirwaiz concerned

Omar says in touch with my counterparts, Mirwaiz seeks safety of traders, students

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 24 (Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reacted to the reports of harassment to the Kashmir traders and students outside Jammu & Kashmir, saying that he is in touch with his counterparts in these states.

In a post on X, Omar



Abdullah, as per news agency—, said that the J&K government is in touch with the governments of the states where these reports

are originating from.

"I'm also in touch with my counterpart Chief Ministers in these states & have requested they take extra care," he said.

The Chief Minister added that the people should stop targeting the people of Kashmir in other states. Speaking to reporters, CM Omar said that there are

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam attack won't shake our faith in Kashmir: Tourists Praise hospitality; Say 'Media's portrayal different, Kashmir's made us feel like home'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APR 24: Amidst the shadow of recent tragedy at Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives and left several others injured, hope and resilience are still echoing at world's famous ski-resort—Gulmarg as tourists continue to find warmth, safety and solidarity.

Tourists, currently in Gulmarg while speaking with the news agency—, said that they feel secure and supported, while many urged fellow travellers not to give in to fear.

"Yes, the day of the incident was very frightening, but now there is nothing to worry about. Locals and security agencies are cooperating very well and we feel absolutely safe here," said Rupali, a tourist from Mumbai.

Echoing similar sentiments, Jagdish Mishra, another visitor, appealed to the travellers not to cancel their bookings. He said the Kashmiri people are incredibly supportive—from drivers to hoteliers, everyone has been welcoming.



"The Pahalgam incident was tragic and did cause fear but the way we have been treated here has motivated us to stay. There is no reason to panic," Mishra added.

While the tragedy in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Tourists defy fear: Over 15,000 visitors enjoy Gulmarg Gondola ride in 48 hrs

■ HT News Network

Gulmarg, Apr 24: In a strong message of resilience and unity, over 15,000 tourists took the iconic Gulmarg Gondola ride in the last 48 hours, days after the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam claimed 26 lives.

Amid shock and grief, the Valley is witnessing a return of faith from travellers, with many of whom continue to enjoy the beauty and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

G20

Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Norway on the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were brutally gunned down.

Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Home Minister met President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her about the steps taken.

The envoys of the G20 nations and other nations were briefed at South Block.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also told them about India's policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

The briefing came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day warned of stern action against the terrorists responsible for the killing of tourists at Pahalgam, and said they would be identified, pursued and punished.

Speaking at a function in Bihar's Madhubani district, Prime Minister Modi said, "India will identify, track and punish every terrorist, their handlers and their backers. We (India) will pursue them to the ends of the earth. They will be punished beyond their imagination."

"It's high time to take action against terrorism," PM Modi said, and described the Pahalgam attack as an attack on the whole nation, and said the nation will give the perpetrators a befitting reply.

The meeting with the envoys comes as India announced the downgrading of ties with Pakistan, including suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, expulsion of Pakistani military attaches and its decision not to issue any more visas to Pakistanis and those who are in India were told to leave by April 27.

PM

Modi said, adding that those involved in the act, would be identified, tracked and punished. "No one would be spared", he warned.

"Those involved in the attack would be chased till end of the earth," he said.

At least 27 tourists from across the country and a local died in a dastardly attack by terrorists in the picturesque tourist destination of J&K's Pahalgam on April 22, drawing worldwide condemnation and anger in the country.

While addressing a public meeting in Bihar's Madhubani, the Prime Minister said the entire country was united and was deeply disturbed by the gruesome act of terrorists.

The PM said people from different parts of India were in Pahalgam when they were attacked by terrorists. Those who lost their lives were from various states and spoke different languages, he said, adding the dead also included one person from Bihar.

The PM thanked all world leaders and people of their countries who stood with India in condemning the Pahalgam terror attack. Those injured in terror attack were being given the best medical treatment to ensure their early recovery, he added.

The public meeting addressed by the Prime Minister was his first after the Pahalgam terror attack.

BSF

Pakistan border.

The Rangers seized his weapon, believed to be an AK 47 rifle.

The trooper, PK Singh, a constable of 182 battalion of the BSF was on patrolling along with his party along the Indo-Pak border when he inadvertently entered into the Pakistan territory, as he was not aware of the Line of Control since he was transferred from Srinagar along with another of his colleagues recently.

The tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated following the barbaric gunning down of 26 tourists by Pakistan-supported militant organizations in the meadow resort near Pahalgam.

ALL PARTY

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar, Kiren Rijiju, JP Nadda, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, Sudip Bandopadhyay of TMC, BJD's Sasmit Patra, Supriya Sule of NCP-SP, AAP's Sanjay Singh among others.

Talking to media after the conclusion of the meeting, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "All leaders have in unanimous voice supported the action taken by the CCS with regards to Pakistan and also unanimously expressed support for any future action the government would take to fight against terrorism."

He said that the government has already explained to floor leaders that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government will adopt zero tolerance towards the terror activities in the country".

"All the political leaders have expressed their solidarity with the government for all the action that the government is taking and

the government would take in the future," Rijiju said.

The Minister said some leaders sought clarifications which were addressed by seniors officials with their presentations.

He said a two-minute silence was also observed to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the heinous terror attack.

Meanwhile, Mallikarjun Kharge after the meeting said, "We all strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack. It is very important to establish peace in Jammu and Kashmir, for which the government will have to make serious efforts."

Rahul Gandhi said that all the parties condemned the terrorist attack. "The Opposition has given full support to the government for any action", he said.

ALL PARTY SRINAGAR

the victims. The resolution also reiterated J&K's commitment to peace and communal harmony."

The resolution, Omar said, described the April 22 attack on unarmed civilians as "barbaric" and an "attack on the values of Kashmiriyat and the idea of India".

"The participants strongly denounced the attack on defenceless civilians and expressed their shock and agony. Such cowardly acts of brutality have no place in society and are a direct attack on the region's traditions of unity and harmony," the Chief Minister said. "The leaders pledged full support for all efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice and affirmed that no act of terror could weaken their resolve."

Participants, the Chief Minister said, also expressed support for the steps taken by the Union Government in response to the attack.

It's in place to mention here that India on Wednesday downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post in view of the cross-border links to the Pahalgam carnage.

The punitive measures against Pakistan were decided at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Omar said that during the all party meeting special tributes were paid to Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a local horse ride operator who was killed while attempting to fight off terrorists to save tourists. "The resolution hailed him as a symbol of Kashmiriyat and Kashmir's hospitality. His bravery would remain an inspiration for all," he said, adding that the resolution also extended deepest condolences to the families of the victims and expressed solidarity with them. "It also commended J&K people for their overwhelming support to tourists and for organising peaceful demonstrations across the region to condemn the attack," the Chief Minister said, as per KNO.

Expressing concern over the safety of Kashmiri students and citizens outside the Union Territory, the resolution made an earnest appeal to all state governments and Union Territories to ensure their protection.

It urged authorities to prevent any form of harassment, discrimination, or intimidation against Kashmiris residing or traveling outside J&K.

The meeting called upon political parties, religious leaders, youth groups, civil society organizations, and the media to maintain calm and resist any attempts to disrupt harmony.

It emphasised the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the prosperity and stability of Jammu & Kashmir.

The all-party meeting was attended by leaders including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, NC President Farooq Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, several ministers, Members of Parliament, former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress leaders Tariq Hameed Karra and Nizamuddin Bhat, CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone, PDP leaders Mehboob Beigh and Basharat Bukhari, Apni Party president Syed Altaf Bukhari, and BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur, and **OTHERS—**

AGA

Abdullah in the backdrop of the terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 27 tourists and a local.

Asked to comment on Indus Water Treaty suspension decided by the union government soon after the attack, Ruhullah refused to speak on the issue—terming it the prerogative of the union dispensation.

He, however, added that the meeting expressed concern over the safety and security of the Jammu and Kashmir residents especially the students who at present are in different states.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir who are currently in other states of the country—their safety and security must be ensured. A special assembly session is being called where this will be discussed. Many students are stranded, crying for help, demanding to be rescued. Incidents have been reported from various places where such things have been seen. We have also raised this here with the

Chief Minister, saying that the government should send as many officials as possible to different states so that if anyone wishes to return, their safe return can be facilitated with security. They should also engage with the governments of those states to ensure their safety. Additionally, the helplines that have been opened need to be expanded further. Logistic support and any other necessary assistance for these students must be ensured—this was discussed here," Ruhullah said—

WEATHER

Samba have recorded large deficit rainfall upto 99 per cent.

Meanwhile, the light rains lashed the parts of Kashmir this afternoon followed by the gusty winds at multiple places.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that there is a possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershowers for the next two days.

However, he said that the weather is expected to remain dry from April 27 to May 02—

ARMY CHEIF

sources told KNO. It's in place to mention here that India on Wednesday downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post in view of the cross-border links to the Pahalgam carnage.

The punitive measures against Pakistan were decided at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—

CM

some reports that people of Kashmir are being targeted in different states.

"I request the people of India not to consider people of Kashmir their enemies. If the Centre is saying that the attack was done by Pakistan, then why are the youth and the students of Jammu and Kashmir being targeted in the outside states? It should be stopped," he said.

CM Omar further said he spoke to several Chief Ministers and requested them to ensure the safety of Jammu and Kashmir youth in their respective states. "People of Jammu and Kashmir are not enemies of peace. Whatever happened did not take place with our wish. We have to come out of this."

He added that the government has sympathy with all those who were killed in Pahalgam terror attack. "Be it the local civilian who took bullets to protect our guests or the tourists who had come here to enjoy the vacations," CM Omar said.

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti also said that she also spoke with the Home Minister, requesting him to intervene in the wake of certain elements openly threatening Kashmiri students and traders.

"Spoke with Home Minister Amit Shah to extend my deepest condolences & also express solidarity with bereaved families of the Pahalgam terror attack. We stand with the nation in this hour of mourning. Also requested him to intervene in the wake of certain elements openly threatening Kashmiri students & traders across various states," she said.

She also urged the Home Minister to intervene without delay to ensure their safety and protection wherever such incidents are being reported.

Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Lone also raised concern over reports of Kashmiri students being harassed, beaten up and bullied across the country.

"There have been many incidents across the country wherein Kashmiri students are being harassed, beaten up, bullied and even asked to vacate their residential premises. I request the union government to please ensure the safety of Kashmiri students," he said.

Meanwhile, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the head cleric of Jamia Masjid, expressed concern over the attack on Kashmiris outside Jammu and Kashmir.

"Fear and distress expressed by Kashmiri's outside, especially students who are being attacked in the aftermath of the dastardly Pahalgam incident seen on videos circulating, is deeply concerning. Urge the concerned authorities to immediately intervene and ensure their safety and protection," Mirwaiz wrote—

PROTEST

with the victims. In Lal Chowk, black flags waved from shop rooftops, while shopkeepers in the Fruit Mandi displayed placards and banners, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

A local shopkeeper expressed grief, saying, "We joined the protest to send a message that we, as Kashmiris, reject such bloodshed. Tourists are our guests, and we feel shattered by what happened in Pahalgam."

Similar scenes unfolded in other areas of the city. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held

a "Shradhanjali Sabha" to honour the victims, during which party leaders observed a moment of silence and lit candles in memory of those who lost their lives.

A local resident said, "We want to make it clear that the people of Kashmir have nothing to do with this inhuman act. The terrorists aim to disrupt our unity, but today, Kashmiris have shown the world that we stand for peace."

The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) also staged a protest at Press Enclave, condemning the attack and appealing to the government to ensure the safety of Kashmiris living in other states, where they face harassment and threats following such incidents.

Employees from minority communities participated in the protests, demanding justice and security for everyone. One protester holding candles and banners said, "This is not just about Kashmir or tourists; it's about humanity. The attackers must be brought to justice."

Protesters chanted slogans such as "Kashmir se aayi ek awaaz – Hindu Muslim Bhai Bhai" (A voice from Kashmir – Hindus and Muslims are brothers) and "Tourist ka Qatl-e-Aam Band Karo" (Stop the massacre of tourists), echoing their condemnation and calls for peace.

Security forces were deployed in large numbers at both Lal Chowk and Press Enclave to ensure that the protests remained peaceful—

TOURIST

Pahalgam left a deep scar, it has also united Kashmiris and tourists alike in collective grief and resilience, even as the Valley, often painted with narratives of fear, continues to reveal its true colours of hospitality, unity and undeterred hope.

The atmosphere in Gulmarg is calm, with enhanced security presence and visible efforts by locals to make visitors feel comfortable. "We are overwhelmed with the love and safety we have felt here. Those who attacked wanted to disturb peace, but it won't work. People here are treating us like their own," said another tourist, moved by the solidarity shown by the locals.

Similarly, a tourist from Karnataka, who expressed grief over the attack but at the same time stood firm in his decision to continue the visit, saying that the attack at Pahalgam was painful. "We are sorry for the lives lost."

"We hope the government works to ensure such incidents don't repeat, but we never felt like leaving the Valley out of fear. People here stood with us at every step," he said, adding that they have been to Kashmir with a dream because it's a paradise on earth.

Earlier, a wave of concern gripped Kashmir's tourism industry post-Pahalgam terror attack, leading to cancellations and fear among incoming tourists, however, the tourists here in valley reassure the world of their safety and locals extending their unwavering warmth—

GANDOLA

warmth that Kashmir is known for.

Official data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), revealed that over 15,000 tourists availed the Gondola ride in the past 48 hours including 7,299 on Wednesday and 7,616 on Thursday.

"10,398 tourists took the Gondola Phase-I ride while 4,517 went up through Phase-II," the data revealed.

Meanwhile, the tourists, while praising the region's safety, hospitality and the proactive support from both locals and authorities, said that the incident at Pahalgam was indeed unfortunate, but what they have seen on the ground is completely different from what some media reports suggest.

As a gesture of goodwill, tourists at the Gondola base station were served traditional Kashmiri Kahwa, which many described as touching and thoughtful.

Officials say these efforts are a reflection of the Valley's determination to uphold its legacy of hospitality, even in times of sorrow.

Anita, a tourist from Delhi said that they have been treated with warmth, served Kahwa, and made to feel safe and welcome. "This is the Kashmir we always heard about – kind, welcoming and beautiful. The locals and security personnel have been outstanding," she said. "We never felt any sense of fear or threat," another tourist said.

Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation, Syed Qamar Sajjad, acknowledged the spirit of the visiting tourists. "We are grateful they haven't lost faith. The surge in Gondola rides is proof that tourism in Kashmir cannot be derailed by acts like Pahalgam," he told KNO. He said their teams, security forces and locals are working together to ensure that every visitor leaves with unforgettable memories. The top JKCC official also announced the introduction of relaxation in its refund policy, to further support tourists. "Full refunds will be issued for all no-show or un-scanned tickets, with visit date from April 22 to 30, additionally, full refunds will also apply to all online cancellations initiated during the same period," he said. Meanwhile, in a parallel initiative aimed at ensuring smooth and secure travel for visitors, the Divisional Commissioner

Kashmir has established a dedicated 24x7 tourist helpline to assist those currently in the Valley or intending to visit in the coming days.

According to an official communiqué, the tourists can reach out to the divisional-level helpline through the following round-the-clock contact numbers: +911942-740003, 8899931010, and 8899941010.

To further enhance regional assistance, area-wise contact persons have also been designated to provide on-ground support. These include: Mr. Rahul Raina at the Tourist Reception Centre Srinagar – 9596311771, Ms. Mehnaz Khan, Srinagar – 9622484772, Mr. Irfan Bini – 9419013335, Mr. Sandeep Pandita, Srinagar International Airport – 6005892772, Mr. Rafiq Ahmad – 7006154329, Mr. Gohar Rafiee, for Mughal Road status (Shopian) – 7006580763 and Mr. Shafaqat Itoo, Budgam/Doodpathri – 7006823575.

For broader regional facilitation, tourists can also contact: South Kashmir (Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian & Pulwama) – 9906663868 and Central Kashmir (Srinagar, Budgam & Ganderbal) – 9906906115.

The help desk will operate under the overall supervision of Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq, ensuring coordination at every level to make tourists feel welcomed, supported, and safe during their stay in the Valley.

This move comes in the wake of heightened concerns following the recent Pahalgam incident and is part of broader efforts to reassure and facilitate tourists—

PARA

began early Thursday morning in the dense forests of Basantgarh. During the mission, contact was established with a group of 3-4 suspected JeM terrorists, believed to have recently infiltrated across the international border. A heavy exchange of gunfire ensued in which one para commando lost his life and two others sustained injuries," said an official.

The Indian Army's White Knight Corps said: "Based on specific intelligence, a joint operation with the Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched today in Basantgarh, Udhampur. Contact was established and a fierce firefight ensued. One of our Bravehearts sustained grievous injuries in the initial exchange and later succumbed despite best medical efforts. Operations are ongoing."

LG

family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said. ANB

POLICE

A/P Rambailgarh, Khushboo Jan daughter of Bashir Ahmad Parray resident of Rambailgarh.

During the search, police said that 1146 grams of Charas Powder were recovered from their possession. Both the accused have been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the crime has also been seized.

Meanwhile in Kulgam, a Police team from Police Station Qazigund set up a checkpoint at Levdoora crossing NHW and intercepted a vehicle (Truck) bearing registration number JK02BK-8707 driven by Sardar Chand son of Deena Nath resident of Samba Manan, Jammu.

During the search, a Poppy Straw-like contraband substance was recovered. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations are underway. "We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said – A/P Rambailgarh, Khushboo Jan daughter of Bashir Ahmad Parray resident of Rambailgarh.

During the search, police said that 1146 grams of Charas Powder were recovered from their possession. Both the accused have been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the crime has also been seized.

Meanwhile in Kulgam, a Police team from Police Station Qazigund set up a checkpoint at Levdoora crossing NHW and intercepted a vehicle (Truck) bearing registration number JK02BK-8707 driven by Sardar Chand son of Deena Nath resident of Samba Manan, Jammu.

During the search, a Poppy Straw-like contraband substance was recovered. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in commission of crime has also been seized, police said. Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations are underway. "We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said – (KNO)



J&K celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day with over 1 Lakh participation across UT

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: Jammu and Kashmir today joined the rest of the nation in commemorating the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) 2025 with unprecedented enthusiasm and overwhelming public participation.

More than one lakh people from across 4,291 Gram Panchayats took part in the vibrant programmes held at the Panchayat, Block and District level, reaffirming the Union Territory's commitment to grassroots democracy and community driven development.

The national highlight was a historic event at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat in Bihar's Madhubani district, presided over by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Addressing the nation, the Prime Minister called for a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the Pahalagam terror attack on April 22, offering prayers and condolences to the bereaved families.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also presented the National Panchayat Awards, recognizing best-performing Panchayats from across the country for their excellence in governance and development. The NPRD 2025 observance also com-



memorated the continued legacy of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which institutionalized Panchayati Raj in India and empowered local self-governance at the village level.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the celebrations focused on promoting transparency, accountability and citizen participation.

Gram Sabhas were held across the UT, with a special focus on Water Management & Conservation, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and awareness campaigns under Nasha Mukta Bharat to address drug addiction. In a strong show of unity, districts across the UT passed unanimous resolutions at District, Block and Panchayat

level condemning the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalagam. The resolutions reflected the collective grief, outrage and unwavering resolve of the people to stand against terrorism.

A live telecast of the Prime Minister's address was arranged in Gram Panchayats across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring wide viewership and participation.

Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal, lauded the efforts of all districts in organizing special Gram Sabhas and reaffirmed the administration's commitment towards strengthening grassroots democracy. "We are committed to the development of all Panchayats and will ensure that the benefits of democracy reach every corner," he asserted.

On the National Panchayati Raj Day, PM Modi presented National Panchayat Awards, recognizing and incentivizing best-performing Panchayats. A live telecast of the Prime Minister's address was arranged in Gram Panchayats across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring wide viewership and participation.

Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal, lauded the efforts of all districts in organizing special Gram Sabhas and reaffirmed the administration's commitment towards strengthening grassroots democracy.

SED Attaches Baramulla, Anantnag CEO's to DSEK

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 24: The School Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir has attached the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of Baramulla and Anantnag to the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) amid scrutiny of certain orders issued by these officials.

While the exact reasons for the attachments have not been disclosed, sources told news agency JKNS that it may be related to recent administrative decisions. The CEOs will now report directly to the DSEK and may be assigned new duties. In a related move, the CEO of Bandipora withdrew an order regarding "Work from Home" for Jammu-based, PM Package, and migrant employees after it caused confusion within the teaching community.

An official order regarding the attachment reads: "In the interest of administration, Mr. Altaf Hussain Tarra, I/c Chief Education Officer, Baramulla is hereby attached to the office of Director, School Education Kashmir. Mr. Ashok K. Raina, Principal DIET Sopore, will handle the charge of CEO, Baramulla in addition to his own duties until further orders." Separate order issued by SED reads, In the interest of administration, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Shah I/c Chief Education Officer, Anantnag is hereby attached in the office of Director, School Education Kashmir, Mr. Kishore Kumar Principal DIET, Anantnag shall look after the charge of Chief Education Officer, Anantnag in addition to his own duties, till further orders. (JKNS)

Dy CM, Advisor to CM meet Maharashtra Dy CM

Expresses condolences, raises concern for J&K people residing in Maharashtra

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on the instructions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, today met Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, to express their deepest condolences on the death of Maharashtra civilians in Pahalagam terrorist attack.

The J&K Dy CM also raised the concern regarding safety of Kashmiri people residing in Maharashtra with



Eknath Shinde. Shinde assured full support from his government, assuring committed towards taking care of J&K residents in Maharashtra. He assured establishment of a dedicated helpline number with a Nodal Officer to assist those in need.

Surinder Choudhary said that the brutal targeting of innocent civilians in this cowardly attack is highly reprehensible. He added that targeting innocent tourists, is extremely condemnable and painful.

Condemning the cowardly terrorist attack, the Dy CM also expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, while expressing his condolences, said that the entire nation is united in fighting the scourge of terrorism. He added that these dastardly targeted attacks are a blot on humanity.

Medical Agency in Anantnag suspended for unethical practices

Anantnag, Apr 24: In a decisive move against unethical practices, a team of Drug Control Officers in district Anantnag has suspended the operation of a medical agency located in Khah Bazar Cheenichowk Anantnag. The action comes in response to violations of license conditions and guidelines pertaining to the disposal of expired medicines, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads.

The Drug Control Authority in Anantnag initiated an investigation following a complaint regarding the improper disposal of expired medicines by M/s Katlantic Pharmaceutical distributors.

The discarded consignment was discovered at Shipora road janglatmandi Anantnag and authorities successfully traced the origin of the waste to the aforementioned distributor.

The ensuing investigation revealed that the wholesale distributor, M/s Katlantic Pharmaceutical distributor, situated at Khah Bazar, had breached the terms of their license and disregarded established protocols for the scientific disposal of expired pharmaceutical products. As a consequence of these violations, the operational license of the agency has been suspended for a period of nine (09) days.

Director Agriculture reviews agriculture scenario in Ganderbal

Inaugurates Hi-tech polyhouse, farm machinery bank, village soil testing laboratory

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb today visited Ganderbal and reviewed overall agriculture scenario in the district in a meeting with the concerned officers.

During the visit, he also inaugurated a Hi-tech poly house (under HADP 2024-25) at Gujjar Patti, Prang Wussan, farm machinery bank and a Village soil testing laboratory.

Speaking to the farmers of different areas, Director Agriculture said that department is working on an ambitious plan of providing farmers with round the year availability of seedlings of different vegetable crops. He said to achieve this goal department has already established hi-tech powerhouses in all the districts of Kashmir division.



He said the Farm machinery bank would help concerned farmers in performing their farm mechanical activities easily and timely. He further said the village soil testing laboratory would be very helpful to the farmers of the area in ensuring the optimal use of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides.

Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of integrated farming, and asked the farmers to diversify their agriculture operations.

Director asked the concerned officers to guide the farmers

during their preparation of paddy nurseries and during the pre and post harvest operations of oil seed (Mustard) crop.

He asked the farmers that department would provide all the technical assistance to them in comprehensively performing their agriculture activities.

Later, Director Agriculture visited some seed village areas. He held interactions with the concerned farmers and took feedback from them. He also appreciated their role in agriculture sector.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for smooth conduct of NEET Examination

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: In order to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET UG-2025) examination in the district, a meeting to review the preparedness

was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

On the occasion, DC took a detailed stock of the preparations and the arrangements with regard to various logistical and security measures being put in place at all designated NEET examination centers across the district, which is scheduled to be held on May 4, 2014.

The DC underlined the importance of seamless coordination between the Administration and the National Testing Agency (NTA) to ensure the proficient and transparent conduct of this prestigious National-Level Exam.



He also emphasized on close coordination among the all concerned stakeholders to ensure free, fair and transparent conduct of the examination.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, the meeting was attended by senior Officers of Police, District Administration, Principals of City Colleges and other Educational Institutions, representatives of NTA and other concerned. Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, the meeting was attended by senior Officers of Police, District Administration.

Resident Commission New Delhi establishes helpline for J&K students

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, APRIL 24: Resident Commission, J&K Government New Delhi has established a helpline for the students of J&K studying across the country.

A communiqué received from Resident Commission New Delhi reads, "the students hailing from J&K, studying in different States, may contact on following Telephone numbers of Jammu and Kashmir Resident Commission, New Delhi in case of any help/assistance:

- 1. Hello JK Mobile Number: 7303620090
- 2. Manager JK House, Chanakyapuri: 9682389265
- 3. Manager JK House, 5 Prithviraj Road: 9419158581
- 4. Resident Commission J&K Govt, New Delhi: 01124611108, 01124615475, 01124611157, 01126112021 and 01126112022"

The communiqué adds that the above-mentioned numbers shall remain operational 24/7 for any kind of assistance.

Div Com establishes dedicated helpline for assistance / facilitation of tourists in Kashmir

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: In order to facilitate tourist movement/stay in Kashmir valley, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has established a dedicated helpline at Divisional Level at Srinagar to provide assistance and support to the tourists presently in Kashmir valley or intending to visit in coming days. An order from Divisional Commissioner's office reads that in case of any help/assistance, the tourists can reach 24 x 7 Helpline Numbers +911942-740003, 8899931010 and 8899941010.

It further reads that the following region-wise contact numbers are put in public domain for providing tourist related assistance/ facilitation:

- 1. Mr. Rahul Raina - Tourist Reception Centre - Srinagar, Directorate of Tourism - 9596311771
- 2. Ms. Mehnaz Khan - Srinagar, Directorate of Tourism - 9622484772
- 3. Mr. Irfan Bini - 9419013335
- 4. Mr. Sandeep Pandita - International Airport Srinagar - 6005892772
- 5. Mr. Rafiq Ahmad - 7006154329
- 6. Mr. Gohar Rafiee - Shopian Mughal Road Status - 7006580763
- 7. Mr. Shafaqat Itoo - District Budgam, Doodpathri - 7006823575.
- 8. South Kashmir: Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian & Pulwama - 9906663868.
- 9. Central Kashmir: Srinagar, Budgam & Ganderbal - 9906906115

The communiqué further reads that the help-desk shall function under overall supervision of Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq.

Office of Adv. General condemns attack on civilians at Pahalgam

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: In light of the tragic and reprehensible incident that has shaken the conscience of the nation/people of Jammu & Kashmir, a meeting was convened today at the Office of the Advocate General to deliberate upon the collective response of the Law officers/Government Counsels. During the meeting, deep anguish and sorrow was expressed over the heinous act perpetrated by terrorists. The participants unanimously resolved that such acts of inhuman violence must be condemned unequivocally and collectively.

An appeal was made to the people of Kashmir, civil society, members of the Bar and Bench, and all conscientious citizens to stand united in this hour of grief and to express their unwavering commitment against terrorism in all its forms.

Awareness programme on 3 New Criminal Laws held at SP College

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, APRIL 24: In order to educate the masses on the new three criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, awareness programme was organized today by the District Administration on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at SP College here. Besides senior Officers of District Administration, the awareness programme was attended by Principal SP College, HoD Department of Forensics GMC, SDPO Kothibagh, Prosecuting Officer, Assistant LADC, students and others. Speaking on the occasion, Resource persons and other speakers stressed the need of creating awareness among the general public regarding transformative reforms having a positive impact on all in general and specifically on the women.

EDITORIAL

Time to say
goodbye to Indus
Water Treaty

Following the April 22 (Tuesday) terror attack at Baisaran-Pahalgam that left 25 tourists and a local dead, the Government of India has decided to suspend the implementation of the Indus Water Treaty. The Indus Water Treaty was signed by governments of India and Pakistan way back in 1960. The Treaty gives control over the waters of rivers like Beas, Ravi and Sutlej to India while control over the waters of rivers like Indus, Chenab and Jhelum was given to Pakistan.

For the past six and half decades the treaty has seen some ups and downs but it is probably for the first time that New Delhi has decided to suspend the same. The Government of India has accused Pakistan of perpetrating the Baisaran-Pahalgam attack and New Delhi took many steps in retaliation including suspension of the Indus Water Treaty. Although the treaty was signed by New Delhi and Islamabad the biggest sufferer has been Jammu & Kashmir and its people.

Since Pakistan has control over water of rivers like Indus, Chenab and Jhelum the power generation has not been done up to the expected level for the past six and half decades. Due to this reason the people of Jammu & Kashmir especially, those living in Kashmir have been suffering on the energy front. For ages together the people at helm have been claiming that Jammu & Kashmir has a potential of generating 20,000 megawatts of electricity but no headway has been made in this regard.

One of the reasons responsible for such a thing is the implementation of the Indus Water Treaty. As the running water of rivers like Indus, Chenab and Jhelum could not be utilized by India the generation of power could not materialize with the people of Jammu & Kashmir being the ultimate sufferers. The successive governments of Jammu & Kashmir failed to project their case with regards to the Indus Water Treaty and made their people suffer for no fault of theirs.

Since the Government of India has decided to suspend the Indus Water Treaty the time has come to break the treaty once for all. Once the treaty is dumped in the dustbin the people of Jammu & Kashmir would heave a sigh of relief. Following this the power generation would receive a fillip in the union territory and the dream of generating 20,000 megawatts of electricity would become a reality. Once this is done people of Kashmir would face less power cuts in general more so during winter.

Dark side of climate research: How
billions in green funds fail the planet

MOHD YOUNUS BHAT

Since climate change is real and climate research is urgent, there is a darker reality that cannot be ignored. The climate crisis has turned into a big-money industry that focuses more on appearances than real results. Leaders across the world frequently declare climate emergencies. Trillions are being pledged every year for adaptation and mitigation. Projects are approved in international summits, glossy reports are released with theatrical flair, and consultants fly from one sustainability conference to another. But the grim metrics continue unabated – carbon emissions rise, ice caps melt, and heatwaves grow more frequent and deadly. The promises grow louder while the planet gets hotter.

What has emerged is not just inefficiency – it is profiteering under the pretext of planetary salvation. Climate change has been commodified, repackaged as a billion-dollar business opportunity. At the heart of this system is an unholy nexus of bureaucrats, researchers, and policy brokers who monetise the crisis rather than solve it. Research projects that claim to “build resilience” or “develop frameworks for green futures” are routinely funded, with little or no field validation. And in most cases, what exists are verbose documents, animated presentations, and a trail of unspent or misused money.

Consider the Green Climate Fund (GCF), launched to support vulnerable countries in confronting climate change. Despite its noble intention, several funded projects have shown no measurable results on the ground. For example, in Senegal, a multi-million-dollar project aimed at coastal resilience faced criticism from civil society organisations for failing to deliver basic safeguards or infrastructure improvements. In Peru, allegations emerged that a GCF-funded project was benefiting private interests, bypassing local stakeholders it claimed to support.

India, too, is no stranger to such systemic rot. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), created to restore forests cleared for development, has repeatedly been misused. In several states, instead of planting trees or supporting forest communities, CAMPA funds were spent on administrative expenses like buying smartphones, laptops, and furniture. In Odisha, government auditors found that crores were spent on non-forestry purposes, raising serious questions about transparency and impact. The same pattern played out in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where fund diversion became



routine, and actual afforestation was poorly monitored or non-existent.

Jammu & Kashmir, a region highly vulnerable to climate extremes, has witnessed similar failures. A performance audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General revealed that nearly 25% of funds meant for disaster risk reduction were siphoned off to projects with no link to mitigation – ranging from construction of roads to unauthorised purchases. In several cases, documents listed climate training programs and awareness workshops that were either never conducted or grossly inflated in scope. The infamous Roshni land scam, although framed around economic upliftment, also touched the environment sector – land meant for forests and conservation was encroached and sold off to elites under the guise of “development.”

Beyond India, in Uganda, climate funds disbursed through NGOs were found to be embezzled using fake receipts and ghost employees. A forensic audit found no trace of several activities that had allegedly been completed. In the Philippines, the government’s “Greening Program” claimed to plant over a billion trees. Later audits revealed that nearly 88% of those trees were either dead or never planted to begin with.

What is worse is how this industry shields itself. The climate expert class – consultants, NGOs, international advisors – thrive in ambiguity. They use polished jargon like “resilience plans”, “adaptability”, “coping mechanisms”, “mitigation measures”,

“sustainability”, and “partnerships” to sound important and avoid clear answers. Peer-reviewed publications and conferences validate each other in an endless echo chamber, while the actual beneficiaries – communities living through floods, droughts, and heat – see no change. Paper-based success replaces physical impact. No one verifies whether claimed interventions ever happened. If you ask too many questions, you are labelled anti-science.

The media, unfortunately, has often served as an amplifier for these empty claims. Press releases are printed uncritically. Sensational headlines about breakthrough innovations circulate widely, only to be forgotten when those breakthroughs vanish into bureaucratic black holes. Investigative journalism on climate spending is rare because access to documents is limited, and criticism is branded as obstructionist. Yet, silence is complicity.

This systemic failure is not just about climate – it reflects how institutions worldwide function today. Governments treat sustainability goals like PR campaigns. Politicians invoke net-zero pledges while approving new coal and oil extraction. Large-scale renewable projects often displace indigenous communities and forests in the name of clean energy. Global climate talks promise justice, while elite consultants benefit from travel, contracts, and visibility. It is hypocrisy draped in the language of sustainability.

Even the world’s most prestigious

scientific body – the IPCC – has not been immune to criticism. Leading researchers have highlighted the misuse of emission scenarios like RCP 8.5 to justify extreme projections, fuelling panic, poor policy prioritisation, and misaligned funding. Instead of serving as a neutral advisory platform, climate science has become intertwined with political narrative building.

The truth is, we are facing two crises. One is the ecological emergency that threatens life on Earth. The other is an accountability crisis – an industrial-scale grift exploiting fear, urgency, and public trust. Until we distinguish real climate action from performative metrics, we will keep funding the same problems we claim to solve.

This is a wake-up call – not against science or policy – but against silence. Journalists must dig deeper. Policymakers must mandate audits and demand field verification. Scientists must be willing to challenge flawed data and resist institutional capture. And citizens must demand outcomes, not just narratives.

The climate fight must be real, not rhetorical. The planet does not need another summit. It needs the truth.

Because the environment deserves better than bureaucratic theatre. And journalism, if it must remain relevant, must investigate – not just echo.

The writer is a senior research scholar, Department of Earth Sciences, Pondicherry University

Maintaining home gardens; Oxygen factory at home



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Natural vegetation has a widespread reach up to lofty mountains, plateaus, hills, meadows, and water bodies. Banks are rich in a variety of natural vegetation like herbs, shrubs, running grass, and many more.

Nature itself likes and loves beauty, so we can see bizarre and lovely, picturesque views all around the corners of the world.

There are millions of natural vegetation and varieties produced after different techniques like grafting and genetic engineering. Genetic engineering plays an immense role in the upliftment of horticulture, floriculture, and agriculture.

Genetic engineering

Genetic engineering is the technique used in laboratories to produce new varieties. Example tomato and potato produced a new variety called pomato.

Home gardens

There is an ample percentage of people who love flowers and plants; scientifically, we call them Anthophile. Some people have their hobbies as they manage and maintain home gardens at home.

Advancements in floriculture sector.

What is floriculture. Floriculture also called as flower farming, this sector has great importance is aspects of economic development. This sector greatly known for the marketing of ornamental plants, and cultivation of flowers.

Like other sectors, floriculture greatly generates employment and produces new varieties through a number of techniques like grafting and budding.

Vase or flowers bed which one

is best

Vase adaptation is great but you have keep in mind the care on regular basis like watering, pruning regularly, even during harsh winters we can keep pots inside our house and till the ending of the winters.

Flower beds

Flowers beds are more attractive then flowers pots. We can maintain flower beds in a very alluring and beautiful ways. Like keep flowers height in a ascending order so that every flower may get visible and enhance the beauty of the garden.

What are best flowers and plants to choose for the home garden.

In this case different people have different choices some like plants having medicinal importance like aloe vera rose etc.some people make garden as their hobbies.

Roses of different types because roses bloom after every 6-8 weeks and during the growing season and lasts for upto winters.

Roses are shrubs it will stop soil erosion, and has



great medicinal importance.

Flower seedlings, are seasonal and most of the lower plant it in their gardens and like hamesh bahar, chrysanthemum, etc. looks so mesmerizing and enhances the beauty of the gardens.

What are famous and attractive plants

Plum is one the beautiful and lavishing plant, cyprus, pines, golden cyprus, english cyprus, italian cyprus, peach flower tree, canadian maple,

etc are the plants lovers can plant oll of them are accordingly the space available.

Role of watering, watering is necessary to maintain the garden in all respects, watering regularly your gardens.

Fertilizer, cow dung, chemical fertilizers lik di but in very little quantity.

Role of maintenance, lovers have to maintain, and look after every plant on regular basis.

Why gardens are important, gardens enhance the

beauty of our surroundings, provides us oxygen, and reduces carbon dioxide concentration from the environment.

During the peak summer, the flowers, and plants look so mesmerizing, endowed and charming. Everyone wants catch their aroma and wants spent time within them.

Such filed generates employment and for the gardeners who have good knowledge and it has great market. There are ample percentage of individuals related to it.

Garden as morning and evening, friend.

Well-maintained home gardens are the morning and evening friend; there are people who have fewer chances to get out and go for regular walks. Home gardens with carpet like surface provide you smoothening like environment and you get enjoyed all the time.

Morning and evening walk for 30 to one hour may provide you good health and is very vital for your good health.

One who walk or run slowly on green carpet like surfaces may get great and immense health benefits.

Lovers should keep water tank of 500 litres to 1000 liters during prolonged drought or when there is shortage of water in your surroundings.

Government administration should provide seedlings on subsidiary plans and and should provide skill centres where gardeners may learn new techniques and how to enhance and producing more new varities. We need lovers and we have generate employment where we have a chance. Not a single chance should be ignored. This sector has great and immense potential to generate employment for the skilled youth.

Where from we can get best and fresh varieties. This season starts from from the mid February every year. We can purchase from leading nurseries like we near botanical garden Srinagar, Tengpora bypass, and there are sellers at main markets in your towns, cities.

The Decline Of Teacher’s Diaries In J&K Schools

MUNTASHIR KIFAYAT

muntashirkifayat@gmail.com

A teacher’s diary is a research document, a collection of lesson plans and resources designed to support teachers in implementing the principles of NEP 2020. It is not a PDF file but an on-the-spot, situation-based tool catering to CBE (Competency-Based Education) and student-centric learning.

A teacher’s diary should document a teacher’s learning journey, student-centric learning, and continuous professional development. A teacher’s diary is a personal teaching scrapbook. A teacher’s diary is a flexible, free-spirited space where we, as educators, can jot down our feelings too—what happened in the class, how an excellent student is maintaining progress, improving, how a poor student is improving, and so on.

A teacher’s diary is not a structured planning tool but a composite one, covering almost everything in the classroom.

A few days ago, I observed a teacher friend of mine preparing a lesson plan in a hurry as he anticipated the visit of inspectors to my institute. What he did was ridiculous. He opened Google and started writing the answer to a question, presenting it as a lesson plan. The notebook where he wrote served as a teacher’s diary. The inspectors checked the so-called diary, and my friend had a smile on his face, indicating as if he had succeeded in deceiving the officials.

A teacher’s diary is a record of a teacher’s daily activities, including lesson planning, classroom observations, students’ progress, and reflection on teaching practices.

A teacher’s diary is a tool used for planning, reflection, and tracking teaching activities.

As an academic monitor, I often get chances to observe the situation at the ground level. Our School Education Department is doing tremendous work, but we, as educators, do not come up to the expectations. The education policies regularly get destroyed due to our laziness at the ground level,



and it pains

Lately, my fellow educators in one of the reputed government schools in my vicinity asked me about a teacher’s diary structure. When by chance, I turned over the leaves of the diaries they had prepared, I could find only questions and answers like a student’s primary class notebook.

A teacher’s diary is a personal assistant to an educator. It is a mirror, the reflection of which tells us how to decorate. A teacher’s diary is like a spy cam for me, helping to have a very close look over classroom management. A teacher’s

diary is a tool for continuous improvement, reflection, and professional growth, ensuring teachers are equipped to implement the vision of the new education policy, NEP 2020. It creeps like a mouse but has a jaw like a lion.

It is the responsibility of resource persons at the zonal, district, and state levels to provide assistance to the educators in government schools of J&K to learn about this beautiful tool—the teacher’s diary. But, unfortunately, most of the resource persons never visit schools and never provide on-the-spot assistance to the teachers. In

the context of NEP 2020, they are supposed to be in the schools.

I was appointed as a general line teacher in 2007. I remember the teacher’s diary prepared in those days. With the passage of time, we, as educators, trimmed the lesson plans and reduced them to almost nothing. The impact of the teacher’s diary nowadays is like a king’s falcon. The king trimmed the feathers of his most loved falcon, and the falcon couldn’t fly.

Sometimes, a teacher starts jotting down many lesson plans in the diary—almost a couple of months’ worth—in one hour when expect-

ing inspection.

Here is a breakdown of what can be included in the teacher’s diary aligned with NEP 2020:

Daily Plan:

- Note the date and specify the subject being taught.

- Outline what students are expected to learn (e.g., understanding the structure of a sentence).

- Detail the specific activities and list the materials, books, or technology needed (e.g., picture cards, whiteboards, etc.).

- Follow this with an assessment—how you will gauge student

understanding (e.g., a quick quiz).
- Record various assessments, including formative and summative, focusing on skills and competencies rather than just rote memorisation.

Student Observation:
(This part has almost been neglected by most educators.)

- Make brief notes on individual student behaviour—their progress, challenges, and strengths.

- Note the overall class engagement and any behavioural difficulties.

- Identify areas where you need to improve. Be sincere. There is always room for improvement.

Parental Communication:
- Record any parent interactions and phone calls.

- Share progress and any areas of concern with parents.

Lesson Review:

- Reflect on how the lesson went—what worked well and what could be improved.

The teacher’s diary serves as a comprehensive record of the teacher’s work. When maintained properly, the diary can be used for documentation and evaluation. A teacher’s diary, as per NEP 2020, should align with:

- Holistic development: Ensuring lesson plans are engaging and relevant to each student’s unique needs.

- Continuous improvement: Allowing teachers to identify areas for growth.

- Teacher’s empowerment: Providing a platform for documentary work, sharing experiences, and engaging in professional development activities aligned with NEP 2020.

It is the responsibility of the resource persons at the zonal, district (DIET), and state levels (SCERT) to come out of their cosy rooms and help the teachers of government schools in J&K in these matters. They are meant for this. Provide special training to educators on a priority basis, exclusively meant for the “Teacher’s Diary,” as soon as possible.

The writer is a teacher at Government Secondary School, Narbal

Remembering My Grandmother “Amma” - Syeda Sakina Gilani (1930-2009)



BY SYED MAJID GILANI

When I reflect on the people who have shaped and influenced my early life, one person stands foremost in my heart and mind – Syeda Sakina Gilani, my late grandmother. Born in 1930 at ‘Yarkand House’, Malarata, Srinagar, she was the daughter of S. Syed Ahmad Gilani. He had left Srinagar to join his father, Syed Ghulam Mohammad Gilani, who was already settled in Yarkand (Central Asia) and successfully running a carpet business there. Besides being a leading businessman, Syed Ghulam Mohammad Gilani also held the position of political representative appointed by the British imperial government in Yarkand.

Sadly, my grandmother never saw her father in her lifetime, as he passed away in 1964 due to cardiac arrest in Murree (now Pakistan) and could not return to Srinagar. At a very young age, she was married to her cousin, Syed Abdul Rashid Gilani, the son of her elder maternal uncle, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani in Khanqah Moulla, Srinagar.

Amma was a pass out of Punjab

University, Lahore, and belonged to the first generation of educated women in Kashmir. Despite having ample opportunities for employment, she chose to dedicate her life to her home and family, a decision she took with grace and conviction.

For me, writing articles is not just a hobby – it is a powerful medium to express my emotions and preserve cherished memories. My father, Syed Iftikhar Gilani (1950-2001), passed away suddenly due to cardiac arrest on 12th June, 2001, at the young age of 50. His passing left me and my two sisters, Yasmeen and Sabiyah, orphaned. However, our grandparents, Syed Abdul Rashid Gilani (‘Abaji’) and Syeda Sakina Gilani (‘Amma’), never allowed us to feel the pain of that loss as orphans. They enveloped us and our grief-stricken mother, Shahida Chishti, in unconditional love and care – treating our mother not merely as a daughter-in-law, but as a daughter.

They raised us in a disciplined, decent, and deeply religious environment, something for which I remain forever grateful. Amma was one of the most disciplined, educated, and God-fearing women I have ever known. The secret to her graceful and happy life lay in her unwavering honesty, truthfulness, and straightforwardness. This article is my humble tribute to her cherished memory.

Amma always maintained a positive and optimistic outlook, and her sincere commitment to helping others was a source of inspiration. She was a wonderful wife, a devoted mother, a loving grandmother, and above all, a kind and supportive mother-in-law. She constantly encouraged us to pre-

serve her values with gratitude.

Her daily routine began before dawn with Tahajjud (pre-dawn prayers), followed by Fajr Namaz (dawn prayers). She would then devote herself to Zikr-o-Azkaar (remembrance of Allah), Tilawat-e-Qur’an (recitation of the Holy Qur’an), and reading of Aurad-e-Shareef, Kibrat Shareef, and Qaseedah Shareef. Even after these spiritual commitments, she never remained idle. She actively assisted my mother in household work, believing firmly that the teachings of the Holy Qur’an and the Hadith should not be confined to mere recitation but should be implemented practically in everyday life, fulfilling the true spirit of divine guidance.

When we were in our primary classes, she would personally teach us. Amma had a wonderful command over Urdu and spoke it with elegance. She instilled in us the values of hard work, honesty, self-discipline, and dedication, teaching us that success comes only through perseverance. She always encouraged us to stay focused and committed in our studies.

I still cherish fond memories of Amma’s surprise visits to our study room – gentle reminders of her care and concern for our education. Those thoughtful gestures shaped our learning habits and commitment. Spiritually too, she left a lasting influence, often taking us to Dargah Shareef for Friday prayers. Through her, we developed deep reverence for the Auliya-e-Kiraam (saints of Islam) – a tradition we proudly continue by visiting various shrines even today.

Despite leading a simple life, Amma

found immense joy in her family, relatives, and neighbours. She taught us that true happiness lies in nurturing strong and loving bonds within one’s family and community.

On 1st January 2009, at the age of 78, Amma passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of wisdom, love, and discipline. Though she is no longer physically present, her memories, life lessons, and unwavering faith continue to guide me and my sisters, Yasmeen and Sabiyah.

The love of a grandmother is unique, and we consider ourselves blessed by Allah to have had such a caring, educated, and compassionate grandmother. She played an irreplaceable role in our childhood, and I fondly remember the warmth of her kitchen and the lovingly prepared dishes we shared.

Amma was not only our grandmother – she was our mentor, friend, and greatest inspiration. The deep and lasting bond we shared was rare and special, for she was truly an extraordinary woman with remarkable qualities.

I will always cherish her memory, holding a special place for her in my heart. This tribute to Amma, Syeda Sakina Gilani, would be incomplete without honoring her noble and pious soul. Her teachings and values will forever live on in our hearts and continue to shape our family’s future.

May Allah grant her the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. Aameen.

Syed Majid Gilani writes on themes of human relationships, personal narratives, moral values, and heartfelt emotions. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

And the lidder weeps

SANTOSH BAKAYA

Who are these beasts masquerading as humans? Blooding the river, which has provided moments of bliss, where the pine, fir, and Spruce trees kiss each other in unvarnished rapture?

Where the Lidder ripples and roars in ecstasy.

Who are they?

Devoid of compassion and devoid of humanity.

Killing, with a chilling senselessness.

With a grotesque cannibalistic ferocity, unleashing ugliness on spring’s pulsating beauty?

Who are they?

My ink is running dry; my tears flow unbridled.

Why are they not in cages?

Is it not bizarre that they are not behind bars?

I feel cold. Very cold. My teeth rattle and shake.

Every second, my heart breaks.

And the Lidder weeps, all 73 km of it.

So do the trout, the boulders, the cattle, the sheep, the shepherds, and the clear, blue water.

Now all red.

Its scenic appeal hangs its head in shame, wondering why its curative properties could not cure the impure cannibals of their bloodlust.

My ink is running dry; my tears flow unbridled.

And the Lidder weeps.

I know, no poem can lessen the impact of this colossal tragedy.

No words can act as a balm.

The harm has been done – and not for the first time!

Did I hear vacuous words like compensation and condemnation?

No trips, cut short, can bring back those innocent souls, whose lives were cruelly cut short by the vile villains.

My ink is running dry; my tears flow unbridled.

And the Lidder weeps.

Who will keep track of its tears?

Who will keep track of the tears of those families who lost their dear ones to yet another attack?

My ink is running dry; my tears flow unbridled.

And the Lidder weeps.

Internationally acclaimed for her poetic biography of Mahatma Gandhi, Ballad of Bapu, Santosh Bakaya, Ph.D is a poet, novelist, editor, biographer and Tedx speaker with 30 books across different genres. Mail at santoshmagazine@gmail.com



National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated at Shopian

DC for strengthening of grassroots Democracy, briefs parents on combating Drug Abuse

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 24: District Administration Shopian today celebrated National Panchayati Raj Day at the Mini Secretariat here, underscoring the importance of empowering local self-governance and strengthening grassroots democracy. The event was chaired by DC Shopian, Shishir Gupta, who spoke about the crucial role Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play in promoting participatory development and responsive governance at the village level.

During the programme, DC held a brief counselling ses-

sion with parents and teachers, sensitizing them about the rising threat of drug abuse among youth.

He urged proactive involvement from families and educational institutions in guiding the younger generation and pledged the administration's continued support in awareness and intervention efforts.

As part of the celebrations, DC felicitated the Best Performing employees of RDD for the year 2024-25, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to rural welfare and development. The event was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACD Shopian, DPO,



BDOs and other senior officers of the district. District Administration Shopian today celebrated National Panchayati Raj Day at the Mini Secretariat here, underscoring the importance of empowering local self-governance and strengthening grassroots democracy. The event was chaired by DC Shopian, Shishir Gupta, who spoke about the crucial role Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play in promoting participatory development and responsive governance at the village level.

During the programme, DC held a brief counselling session with parents and teachers, sensitizing them about the ris-

ing threat of drug abuse among youth.

He urged proactive involvement from families and educational institutions in guiding the younger generation and pledged the administration's continued support in awareness and intervention efforts.

As part of the celebrations, DC felicitated the Best Performing employees of RDD for the year 2024-25, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to rural welfare and development. The event was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACD Shopian, DPO, BDOs and other senior officers of the district.

Blood Donation Drive Held in Baramulla to Honor Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims

HT News Network

Baramulla, 24 April: In a heartfelt tribute to the 27 innocent lives lost in the Pahalgam terror attack, the Rah-e-Umeed Foundation and Maqbool Memorial Hospital, in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, organized a large-scale blood donation camp in the Palhallan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The event, held for the first time in the Pattan region, saw overwhelming participation from locals, with over 50 pints of blood collected. The drive drew support from a wide cross-section of the community, including members of the



Traders Association Pattan and media professionals. Those present during the drive included Medical Superintendent, Associated Hospital, Government Medical College Baramulla, Dr. Parvaiz Masoodi; Managing Director, Maqbool Memorial Hospital, Ishaq Tantray; Traders Federation President Pattan, Nasir Bashir Shah; Editor-in-Chief of Kashmir

Tehalka, Mohammad Lateef; various media persons, and other senior citizens of the area. Their presence added weight and solidarity to the cause, further reflecting the shared sense of grief and purpose within the community. Prominent social activist Bilkees Ara, known as the "Blood Woman of Kashmir," was also present at

the camp. She commended the Rah-e-Umeed Foundation for their initiative, saying, "This camp is a tribute to the innocent lives lost in the Pahalgam terror attack. It is heartening to see the community come together in solidarity."

Sajad Ahmad, a representative of the Rah-e-Umeed Foundation, stated that the blood donation drive was specifically organized to remember the victims who tragically lost their lives in the lush forests of Pahalgam. "We wanted to channel our grief into something positive and life-saving. Voluntary blood donation is a noble act that can save countless lives," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Change/Correction/Modification in name/ Parentage in orders and service records thereof: It is for information to general public that my name/ parentage mentioned in my ReT/Regularization orders and in service records in ZEO Office Batmaloo has been spelled/mentioned wrongly as MOHD YOUSUF DAR S/O MOHD SUBHAN DAR and MOHAMMAD YOUSUF DAR S/O MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR respectively while as, correct spelling in my Name/parentage as per SSE (10th Class and other qualification certificates/AADHAAR/ Domicile and other Revenue records is MOHD YOUSF DAR S/O MOHD SUBHAN DAR R/O MALOORA, Now I like to rectify the name/parentage as per the documents in my ReT order, regularization order and in service records, if anybody has any objection regarding the correction in name/parentage, he/she may submit the same in zonal Education Office Batmaloo within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
Mohd Yousf Dar
Teacher Grade-IIS
Khoja Bagh Maloora
Cell: 9541009194

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Qurat un Nissa D/o Showkat Ah Wani R/o Khrew Pampore, hereby declare that my name is misspelled as "Qurat ul Nisa" in my birth certificate. I intend to correct the spelling to "Qurat un Nissa", which is my actual name. I request all concerned authorities to recognize the correction. My original name "Qurat un Nissa" reflects my true identity.

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 ISHRAT RAMZAN D/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN MIR R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 23/10/2007 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained
Executive Magistrate
1st Class KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 01220401000008734 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Mohd Lateef Wagay . my actual name as per Aadhar is Lateef Ahmad Wagay C/o Ghulam Mohammad Wagay R/o Seer Hamdan ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR if anyone have queries please contact the branch office Or call 6085136097

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 ARHAAN FAROOQ BHAT S/O FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT R/O CHANDKOTE Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 16/05/2020 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 DAWOOD AHMAD WANI S/O WAHEED UD DIN WANI R/O CHINAD Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 23/03/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at CHC 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

Earth Day 2025 Concludes at IUST with a Call for Innovation and Collective Action

HT News Network

Awantipora, April 24: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) successfully concluded its three-day Earth Day 2025 celebrations with a valedictory function, calling for urgent and collaborative action to address earth and environmental challenges through renewable energy adoption, innovation, and sustainability-focused solutions.

The final day featured an engaging panel discussion on the theme "Harnessing Renewable Energy, Innovation, and Collaboration for a Sustainable Future," chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo. The distinguished panelists included Er. Iftikhar Kakroo, Chairman, J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority; Prof. P.K. Joshi, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU, Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Ms. Shahala Ali Sheikh, and Dr. Touseef Bhat, both noted environmental activists from civil society. The panelists highlighted the urgent need to transition to renewable energy sources, promote innovation, and strengthen public participation in environmental conservation. The discussion also brought attention to local environmental challenges in Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing the region's vulnerability to climate change and resource degradation.

The valedictory function was graced by Prof. Ravinder-nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the role of sustainability and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in addressing Earth's pressing issues. In his presidential address, Prof. Romshoo highlighted IUST's commitment to fostering student-led innovations and research-driven solutions for environmental resilience. He also outlined the university's initiatives in creating knowledge and tools to combat the challenges faced by the Earth system. Er. Iftikhar Kakroo, Guest of Honour, stressed the importance of innovation in meeting energy demands and reducing the carbon footprint of our society. Dean Academic Affairs Prof. A.H. Moon underscored the power of youth and student engagement in environmental stewardship, while Dr. Jasia Bashir, Organizing Secretary, presented a summary of the three-day Earth Day activities.

The function was also attended by the Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, who welcomed the participants, and Dr. Tariq Abdullah, Head of the Department of Geomatics, who delivered the vote of thanks. Earlier in the day, a painting competition for school students was held, with around 50 enthusiastic participants from across the Kashmir Valley. The competition offered a platform for young minds from various schools and physically challenged students from Zeba Appa School, Pampore to express their creative reflections on environmental degradation and climate action through art. Prizes were awarded to winners of various events, including poster-making and debate competitions, for showcasing innovation, awareness, and commitment to the planet. The Earth Day 2025 events at IUST highlighted the university's proactive role in promoting environmental consciousness.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 0122040150000240 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Nusrat Jam . my actual name as per Aadhar is Nusrat Akhter Assadullah Raina Lari Pora Pahalgam ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR If anyone have queries please contact branch office.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is certify that , i am Ab Ahad bhat , s/o Abdul Rahman bhat , R/o chewa bonpora wants to renew my fertiliser license with license number 319 and ID no 891036 . If any body has any objection regarding this issue . They will contact office of the chief agricultural officer budgam within the period of seven days . After completion of said period . No objection will be accepted .

Ab Ahad bhat
s/o Ab Rahman bhat
R/o chewa bonpora
District : budgam
license no : 319

GDC Ganderbal organizes awareness program on Panchayati Raj Institutions for Vikshit Bharat

HT News Network

Srinagar: The NSS Units and Department of Political Science of Government Degree College Ganderbal organized a one-day awareness program on "Leveraging Panchayati Raj Institutions for Vikshit Bharat" on Thursday.

The event was organised in commemoration of National Panchayati Raj Day and aimed to highlight the significance of Panchayati Raj, local governance, and citizen participation in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Under the patronage of the College

Principal, Prof. Fouzia Fatima, the seminar was jointly organised by Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter (AP/ HOD, Urdu; NSS Program Officer-i), Dr. (Lt) Salma Khan (HOD, Political Science), and Dr. Mansha Nisar (HOD, EVS; NSS PO-ii). The event was moderated by Dr. Salma Khan, Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parray (HOD, Islamic Studies) acted as the rapporteur, and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Farooq Ahmad (independent researcher; and an Alumni of the host college) discussed in detail the historical, political and sociological aspects of Panchayati Raj. He stressed the

importance of empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions for inclusive development and urged investment in local governance. "Without empowering panchayati raj the dream of inclusive development and development at the last mile is not possible", he said. He stressed that we should invest in local governance to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat. A certificate of appreciation was presented to the learned resource person at the end of the program. The event drew a substantial audience of students and faculty, reflecting the topic's relevance and the academic enthusiasm for meaningful and thoughtful discussions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is information of general public that I have applied for the date of birth certificate namely SHABEER AHMAD GANAIE C/o Bashir Ahmad Ganaie R/o Wangam date of birth is 28/03/1983 if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the Office of the tehsildar kokernag

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Chief Education Officer, Mini-Secretariat Shopian

Email: Ph. No. 01933-260980, FAX: 01933-260479

Subject:- Tentative seniority list of Lib. Assistants/ Lab. Assistants/ Jr. Assistants/ Class-IV as it stood on 24/01/2024 and 13/02/2024 in respect of Jr. Librarian

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, vide this Office's Notification No: CEO/SPN/Estt/NT/24/371-433 dated 24/01/2024, the seniority list of Lib. Assistants/Lab. Assistants/Jr. Assistants/Class-IV employees as it stood on 24/01/2024, and the seniority list of Jr. Librarians as it stood on 13/02/2024, of the School Education Department (District Cadre Shopian), was notified; and

Whereas, 39 CPWs/ LFWs have been promoted as Class-IV, 04 Class-IV employees have been promoted as Lab. Assistants and 03 Class-IV employees have been promoted as Jr. Assistants based on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee, and a number of employees from the respective cadres have retired on superannuation and are to be excluded from the seniority list of the above-mentioned cadres; and

Now, therefore, the tentative seniority lists of Lib. Assistants/Lab. Assistants/Jr. Assistants/Class-IV employees as it stood on 24/01/2024, and 13/02/2024 (in respect of Jr. Librarians), are hereby issued, forming Annexures A, B, C, D, and E to this notification for circulation among all members of the service for inviting objections (if any) within 07 days from the date of publication of this notification in print media, after the expiry of stipulated time period, no objection whatsoever shall be entertained. The lists are also available on this Office's website at <http://ceoshopian.in>.

DIPK-760/25
Date: 24, 2025

Sd/-
Chief Education Officer
Shopian





Peace and provocation cannot coexist: BSF

Suspends symbolic handshake with Pak Rangers at Attari, 2 other points on border

HT News Network

Srinagar, Apr 24: Following the decision of the Government of India (GoI) to downgrade diplomatic ties with Pakistan the Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday said it has "scaled down" the retreat ceremony held at Attari, Hussainiwalla and Sadki along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

In a statement to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) a BSF spokesman said, "These steps reflect India's serious concern over cross-border hostilities. Peace and provo-

cation cannot coexist. As part of this calibrated decision the BSF is suspending the symbolic handshake of the Indian guard commander with the counterpart and the border gates will remain closed during the ceremony."

The spokesman said, "All other drills will continue and common people will be allowed to witness this daily flag-lowering ceremony."

Pertinently, twenty-six men, mostly tourists and including a Nepalese citizen, were shot dead by the terrorists at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam earlier this week plunging the entire nation into mourning.

In the aftermath of the attack India



has launched a diplomatic offensive against Pakistan and taken a number of counter-measures linking these attacks to the neighbouring country.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday decided to put the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance with immediate effect. The integrated checkpoint at Attari was closed. Pakistani nationals who entered India through valid endorsements were asked to return through that route before May 1, 2025. Pakistani nationals will no longer be allowed to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES). All previously issued

SVES visas are deemed cancelled. Pakistani nationals currently in India under SVES visas must leave the country within 48 hours.

The Defence, Military, Naval, and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi have been declared persona non grata and have one week to leave India. India will also withdraw its corresponding Defence, Navy, and Air Advisors from its High Commission in Islamabad. These posts in both High Commissions stand annulled. The total strength of the High Commissions will be reduced from 55 to 30 by May 1—(KNO)

2-day prog on "e-tools" for admn staff begins at CUKashmir

HT News Network

Ganderbal, Apr 24: Rajbhasha Cell, Central University of Kashmir, (CUKashmir) kick-started a two-day technical training programme on "E-Tools (Kanthasth, Inscript Keyboard, Microsoft)" for the administrative staff at Green Campus, here Thursday.

Addressing the participants, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar said, the tools Kanthasth, Inscript Keyboard, and Microsoft applications not only streamline communication and documentation, but also align with the broader vision of Digital India. "These tools play a crucial role in promoting Hindi as an official language in digital formats. They also simplify working in Hindi in the offices thus helping the employees to complete their assignments and official work in Hindi language," Prof. M Afzal Zargar said. He asked the participants to interact with the expert and clarify the doubts with regard to the use of the tools.



Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, Central Hindi Directorate, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ms. Vineta Tiwari, said, the key benefits of Kanthasth is its accessibility and user-friendly interface, which empowers even those with limited typing experience to prepare official documents in Hindi. "This is especially vital for government employees, clerical staff, and university personnel where bilingual communication is often mandatory," she further said.

Finance Officer, Dr Arif Khan in his address, said, the tools like Kanthasth, Inscript Keyboard, and Microsoft Office equip the

staff with the capabilities to meet modern administrative challenges head-on, enhancing not just efficiency but also inclusivity in the digital domain.

In her welcome address, Hindi Adhikari, Dr. Sakina Akhter, said, the training is aimed at equipping the University's administrative staff with enhanced digital literacy and practical know-how of vital electronic tools used in official communication and documentation. She further elaborated about the role played by the Rajbhasha Cell in promotion of Hindi in the varsity.

Dy Registrar, Mr. Abdul Rashid Bhat proposed the vote of thanks.

DIC Kulgam organizes Awareness programme under RAMP

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, APRIL 24: District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam today conducted an awareness creation cum outreach programme under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating of MSME Performance) here at Higher Secondary School, Qaimoh.

Officers from line departments viz. Lead District Manager Kulgam; Principal, Higher Secondary School, Qaimoh; District Nodal Officer, EDI Kulgam; Principal ITI, Qaimoh; besides representatives from Agriculture, Handicrafts/ Handloom, CSC centres and Cooperatives Department, IPOs and other officials of DIC Kulgam were present in the programme.

More Than 100 beneficiaries from various departments, viz. Handicrafts/ Handloom, NRLM, Cooperatives, EDI, Agriculture, CSC operators, and industrial unit holders of DIC Kulgam attended the programme.

In the inaugural address, participants and other stakeholders were sensitized about the importance and vibrancy of Udyam Registration for taking their business and industrial establishments to new heights in collaboration with the Government and the flagship schemes run by it.

The process flow and benefits under Udyam Registration was explained to the participants through a detailed power point presentation.

On the occasion Lead Bank Manager, Kulgam; Principal HSS Qaimoh; Principal ITI, Qaimoh; District Nodal Officer EDI Kulgam, also interacted with the participants regarding entrepreneurship and the benefits of registration.

Handwara's Fruit Growers Unite in Protest, Mourn Pahalgam Victims

DR.AB QAYOOM



Handwara, Apr. 24: In a moving display of solidarity and grief, the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association Handwara, under the leadership of Chairman Mohd Amin Wani, organized a protest march today at Handwara Fruit Mandi, strongly condemning the recent terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed innocent lives. The tragic incident, which resulted in the deaths of several tourists, has sent shockwaves across Jammu and Kashmir, prompting widespread calls for peace, justice, and enhanced security measures to protect civilians and visitors alike.

On Thursday morning, members of the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association assembled at the main gate of Fruit Mandi Handwara for a solemn foot march within the premises. Holding placards and banners, the protesters walked in silence, occasionally breaking into chants denouncing violence and urging an end to the bloodshed that has long plagued the region.

Chairman Mohd Amin Wani, along with core members and representatives of the association, led the procession. Addressing the gathering and the media, Wani condemned the attack in the strongest terms. "The barbaric killings are an affront to humanity," Wani told Headlines Today. "We must stand united against this cycle of terror that continues to disrupt lives and shatter families." The participants expressed heartfelt solidarity with the victims' families and extended support to the security forces and administrative personnel tirelessly working to safeguard civilians under challenging circumstances.

"The administration and security forces are doing their best to ensure safety," said one protester. "But collective efforts from both the public and leadership are essential to restore peace and normalcy in the region."

The march culminated near the head office of the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association, where a moment of silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam attack. This poignant demonstration reaffirmed Langate and Handwara's enduring commitment to non-violence and their collective yearning for a future free from the shadow of terror.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme for LSUC at GHSS Zainapora

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, APRIL 24: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Education Department, Shopian today organized an awareness programme for Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), support for Admission/Re-admission in schools at Government Higher Secondary School Zainapora.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian.

Deputy LADC, Dawood Ahmad Khan in his address briefed the audience about the Role of District Legal services Authority in rendering the services. In his address he also apprised the audience about specific legal provisions for vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, transgender children, and children at risk of trafficking or abuse.

Earlier, Assistant LADC, Bisma Rafiq gave a brief introduction about the programme.

Sajad Ahmad Najar, Assistant LADC, briefed the audience about LSUC and about educational opportunities for children particularly those rescued from trafficking, abuse, and other challenging circumstances and how we can support them for Admission/Re-admission in schools.

Police observes Thana Diwas in various police establishment

HT News Network

Anantnag, APRIL 24: April 24: As part of the ongoing public outreach initiative under the Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir, Thana Diwas were observed at various police establishments including Awantipora, Sopore, Budgam, etc. These programmes were held with the aim of bridging the gap between the police and the public by facilitating open dialogue and direct engagement. These meetings were chaired by senior officers along with the concerned Station House Officers. These meetings were attended by various associations and respectable of concerned areas. During the interactions, participants raised various issues and grievances related to policing and local civic matters. Officers assured the public that all genuine concerns related to the Police Department would be addressed on priority, while matters pertaining to civil administration would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely resolution.

The local populace appreciated the efforts of J&K Police in maintaining peace and security in the district and expressed strong support for such participatory forums.

Satish Sharma, Mian Altaf visit GMC Anantnag; meets injured of Pahalgam attack

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 24: Minister for Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, Member of Parliament, Mian Altaf Ahmad along with MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag to meet the injured of the tragic Pahalgam terror attack.

The visit was aimed to assess the medical condition of the injured, inspect the healthcare facilities and take stock of the treatment being offered to the attack victims there.

The Minister and the MP were briefed extensively on the immediate emergency response carried out after the incident, the current health status of the injured and the logistical and clinical support being extended to the victims and their families.

They interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of complete support from the administration. They expressed deep concern over the traumatic episode and conveyed heartfelt wishes for the victims' speedy recovery.



They praised the medical teams for their rapid and effective response, expressing hope that they will continue their yeoman service with the same zeal and spirit. They interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of complete support from the administration. They expressed deep concern over the traumatic episode and conveyed heartfelt wishes for the victims' speedy recovery.

KVK-Anantnag organizes awareness/ Input Distribution programme for Tribal Farmers

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, APRIL 24: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, under the aegis of SKUAST-Kashmir and ICAR, today organized a grand awareness-cum-input distribution programme under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) at the KVK Campus.

The event was aimed at raising awareness among tribal farmers about the various agricultural initiatives being undertaken by the Government of India to improve the livelihoods of tribal communities through modern, sustainable, and inclusive farming practices.

Prof. Rihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of officers, Programme Coordinators, and Scientists from various Research Stations



and KVKs participated in the programme, showcasing a collaborative effort to uplift tribal communities in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Kanth emphasized the importance of adopting innovative, climate-resilient, and sus-

tainable agricultural technologies. She urged tribal farmers to maintain regular contact with KVK scientists and field officers to ensure proper technical guidance and maximize the benefits of government-supported schemes.

Earlier, Dr. Ishitiyaq A. Khan, Head, KVK-Anantnag, presented the welcome address and highlighted the pivotal role of KVKs in transforming agriculture at the grassroots level. He also elaborated on the multifaceted achievements of KVK-Anantnag in areas such as capacity building, varietal promotion, entrepreneurship development, and climate-smart agriculture.

As part of the input distribution initiative, over 350 tribal farmers were provided with approximately 150 quintals of potato seed, 33 quintals of fodder maize, 10 quintals of improved paddy seed (variety SR-4).



Kathua admin conducts anti-encroachment drive at village Basantpur

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, : The Revenue team of Tehsil Kathua, under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today carried out an anti-encroachment drive at Village Basantpur near Nora Bridge to retrieve Government land. During the drive, a shed constructed illegally on state land bearing Khasra No. 254 was demolished. Besides, a shop constructed on state land under Khasra No. 213 was also dismantled. Pertinently, the district administration has taken a firm stance against illegal encroachments and today's action is part of its continued efforts to safeguard government land from unauthorised occupation.

Adjudicating Officer FSSA Jammu imposes 1.79 lakh fine for food safety violations

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 24: As part of ongoing efforts to ensure food safety and safeguard public health, the Adjudicating Officer under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA) in Jammu has imposed a fine of Rs 1.79 Lakh on various commercial establishments for violations of food safety norms. The penalties were levied on manufacturers, distributors, and retailers found guilty of selling or distributing substandard and misbranded food items in the district. The enforcement authorities have urged all food business operators to comply with the prescribed guidelines under FSSA 2006 to avoid punitive measures. Citizens can also report food safety violations by calling the toll-free number 104 or messaging on WhatsApp at 9484002101.

One-Day Training Program on Revised Birth & Death Registration Rules held at CMO Office Rajouri

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 24: In line with the recent amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2022, issued by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Jammu and Kashmir, a one-day training program was organized here at the Auditorium of the office of Chief Medical Officer (CMO). As per the amended rules, Superintendents, Medical Officers, and In-charge officers of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), and other government health institutions have been designated as Registrars of Births and Deaths for their respective institutions.

The training program was conducted under the directions of the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths, Jammu & Kashmir UT, with the objective of sensitizing and equipping the newly designated Registrars with the necessary knowledge and tools to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

The session was chaired by the Chief Medical Officer, who also serves as the District Registrar. Also present was District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO), Rajouri, who has been designated as the Additional District Registrar.

The training was attended by Block Medical Officers, in-charge officers of 28 Government Health Institutions and the data entry operators.

Participants received detailed instruction on the role and responsibilities under the amended rules, documentation procedures, and real-time data entry. A live demonstration of the Civil Registration System (CRS) portal was provided by master trainers from the offices of the CMO and DSEO, ensuring hands-on exposure to digital registration procedures.

Speaking on the occasion, the CMO Rajouri emphasized the importance of timely and accurate registration of vital events and encouraged all participants to actively adopt the digital tools provided.

DC Ramban visits flood-affected areas Reviews relief, restoration measures

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, APRIL 24: Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today undertook a comprehensive tour of all affected wards in Ramban town to assess the situation on ground.

Accompanied by officers of line departments, the DC visited the homes of affected families, evaluated the extent of damages and took realistic feedback to ensure immediate and effective relief and rehabilitation.

Today's visit also focused on future planning to mitigate such damages and losses, aiming to strengthen the district's preparedness and resilience against such disasters. His proactive engagement reflects the district administration's unwavering commitment to compassionate and efficient disaster response, said DC. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak,



ACR Shoket Hyat Mattoo, CMO Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, CEO Bikram Singh, Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, Executive Engineer PWD Abhishek Mahajan, CEO MC Ramban and various other officers.

While inspecting the restoration of essential services and the ongoing debris clearance operations, the DC issued necessary directives to concerned officers for expedit-

ing the work. He assured the affected families that the administration stands firmly with them and will provide every possible support to help them rebuild their lives.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of damage assessment at a review meeting and instructed the Assessment Teams to complete the evaluation within the stipulated timeline. Efforts to restore

water supply, power, street lighting, and link road connectivity are being undertaken on a war footing to bring normalcy to daily life.

To support the labour force actively engaged in restoration work, the District Administration has established a Langar at Ramban and is also distributing ration to affected families to address immediate needs. Further, a dedicated help desk has been set up at Sangaldan Railway Station to assist incoming tourists by providing information, guidance, and medical assistance, thereby ensuring a safe and smooth travel experience.

The Health Department has intensified spraying activities across affected areas to curb the spread of communicable diseases, while the Animal Husbandry Department is providing medical care to livestock and ensuring a continuous fodder supply in affected zones like Kelamoh, safeguarding both animal and human lives.

JKBRSETI Rajouri empowers youth through vocational training

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 24: JKBRSETI Rajouri concluded a 31-day Vocational Training Programme in Tailoring - Women's Garments, marking a significant achievement for the 34 candidates who completed the training. The course was designed to equip the trainees with practical skills in tailoring and garment making to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial prospects.

On the last day of the course, Lead District Manager Sanjeev Bhasin emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship and encouraged the trainees to leverage government schemes such as Differential Rate of Interest (DRI), Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA), TEJWANI The Radiant, JKREGP (Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme) and PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme) to set up their own units.



"These schemes can provide financial support, mentorship, and resources to help you to establish and grow their own tailoring ventures" he added. The Director of JKBRSETI Suniel Sharma congratulated the trainees on their achievement and wished them all the best for their future endeavours. The Director reaffirmed JKBRSETI Rajouri's

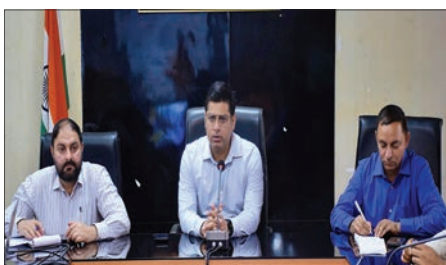
commitment to providing top quality vocational training and skill development opportunities, empowering youth for better livelihoods. The successful completion of this course demonstrates JKBRSETI Rajouri's dedication to skill development and youth empowerment in the region.

Implementation of E-Office System up to Block Level discussed at Poonch

POONCH APRIL 24: Deputy Commissioner of Vikas Kundal chaired a critical meeting today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex to review the implementation, extension, and operationalization of the E-Office system across all government offices in the district.

The initiative is part of a broader effort to streamline government operations by digitizing processes and significantly reducing paper usage.

The meeting was attended by line department officers, including those from subdivisions, tehsils, blocks and the sectoral departments within Poonch. Key topics discussed included, infrastructure requirements to support the E-Office system; Identification of existing challenges in the implementation process; Network Infrastructure Connectivity etc. A detailed discussion was held on connec-



tivity issues related to NICNET, SWAN, and BharatNet, as well as the overall IT infrastructure requirements necessary for effective implementation. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of timely action, instructing all district officers to compile a comprehensive list of all government offices operating in the district. Officers were asked to submit this information within two days to facilitate a smoother implementation process.

Div Com Jammu, IGP review law & order situation in Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, APRIL 24: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti today arrived here to take stock of the law and order situation.

The Div Com and IGP convened a meeting with officers from the Police, Army and Civil Administration.

The meeting focused on a comprehensive review of the security arrangements and the overall law and order situation in the District. Necessary directions were issued to ensure safety and security in the district.

Later, the Div Com reviewed the ongoing arrangements for the annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner took a



comprehensive review of the facilities being put in place for the smooth annual pilgrimage. He assessed provision of power, water supply, accommodation, transportation and other facilities.

Doda Admin observes National Panchayati Raj Day to celebrate grassroots level democracy

■ HT News Network

DODA, APRIL 24: The District Administration Doda today organised a mega event here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to celebrate National Panchayati Raj Day.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh led the event, which served as a reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to strengthening grassroots democracy through empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The participants led by the Deputy Commissioner took a solemn hygiene pledge, reaffirming their commit-

ment to promote clean and hygienic surroundings.

Later a comprehensive review was conducted of the works being carried out by different departments including Rural Development (RDD), Agriculture, AYUSH, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Sports, and others.

The Deputy Commissioner took a department-wise assessment of ongoing projects and the implementation of government-sponsored schemes across panchayats. He particularly emphasized the importance of the JJM initiative, urging officials to ensure the protection and conservation of natural



springs and water bodies, and to explore urban water resource tapping. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats to promote hygiene initiatives in every panchayat. Additionally, he reviewed the progress under the Kisan Ghar Ghar (KGG) and Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). He instructed officials to maintain proper records of migrant labourers working in the area, including their contact details and addresses.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; ACR Ashraf Pervaz; ACD Manoj Kumar;

CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas and ACP Mushraf Haff attended the event, along with PRI representatives who shared success stories and suggestions for strengthening the Panchayati system.

The program concluded with a collective pledge to ensure community welfare and effective governance through coordination between departments and PRIs. The district administration also watched the live telecast of the National Panchayati Raj Day celebration from Madhubani, Bihar, where Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Gram Sabhas nationwide.

World Numismatic Week 2025

Principal Secretary Culture inaugurates rare Coins Exhibition at Kala Kendra

HT News Network

JAMMU, APRIL 24: Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, today inaugurated a two day Rare Coins Exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The event was organized to mark observance of World Numismatic Week-2025 by Kala Kendra under the aegis of Department of Culture, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

A galaxy of art lovers, painters, heritage collectors and dignitaries were present to witness the inaugural ceremony.

While addressing the gathering, Brij Mohan Sharma stated "each coin on display is not merely a piece of metal, it is a witness to history, culture and tradition. It stands as a silent storyteller of trade, governance, empires and the everyday lives of our ancestors." He emphasized that through their inscriptions, materials, shapes and symbols, coins serve as vital carriers of our collective cultural memory.



The Principal Secretary invited all the collectors and cultural organizations to join hands with the government for resolving issues faced by the heritage collector community. He announced that the Department of Culture has devised a new scheme to recognize and reward

Non-Governmental Organizations working with commitment and zeal in the field of culture, heritage preservation and promotion. Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary Kala Kendra, informed that the exhibition is featuring around 1000 rare coins from various historical periods. These includ-

ed those of Kanishka, Indo-Greek rulers, Pre and post Islamic Kashmir, the Mughal Empire, British era, Sikh and Dogra regimes besides post-Independence India. He said the primary objective of the event is to provide a platform to the collectors to showcase their prized coin collections. Prominent collectors whose collections are on display included Dr. Suresh Kumar Abrol, Founder, Shashvat Art Gallery, Jammu), Inder Singh, Himalayan Heritage Museum, Jammu), Sudhir Gupta, Ashok Kumar Koul and Ramesh Kumar Raina. Their exhibits have been displayed at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery within Kala Kendra. Special Secretaries Culture Department, Trishla Kundal and Malikzada Sheeraz ul Haq besides eminent authors and cultural personalities like Khalid Hussain, A.S. Amn, Liaqat Jafri and Raj Kumar Behroopia, along with senior officers of Culture Department including Vishivjeet, Raiz Chowdhary and Amar Singh were present on the occasion. They also spoke on the subject and appreciated the initiative.

District Biodiversity Committee reviews Environmental Conservation initiatives in Doda

HT News Network



DODA, APRIL 24: In a proactive move to safeguard the region's rich biodiversity, the District Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Doda convened a crucial meeting at the Divisional Forest Office today. The session was chaired by District Development Council (DDC) Chairman and Committee Head Dhananther Singh Kotwal. The meeting aimed to review ongoing conservation strategies, enhance protection measures, and ensure sustainable utilization of local biological resources.

The meeting saw the presence of key forest officials, including Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle, Sandeep Kumar, who also serves as the Committee's Secretary. He emphasized the need for updating People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and involving local communities in eco-restoration efforts. Also in attendance were Manohar Lal Aryan (Member) Bipna Manhas (Member) Sumit Kotwal (Member); Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Mahesh Kumar (Doda) and DFO Bhaderwah, who shared updates on afforestation drives and steps taken to curb deforestation and encroachments in forest areas.

Adding to the inclusive nature of the meeting, DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani participated virtually, reflecting the committee's commitment to collaboration and transparency. The BMC stressed on enhancing public awareness through biodiversity awareness camps, school programs, and the promotion of traditional knowledge in preserving native flora and fauna. The session concluded with a call for collective action and stronger coordination among departments, local bodies, and civil society to secure the ecological future of the district.

Training on civil Registration System held at ANMT School Ramban

HT News Network

RAMBAN, APRIL 24: A training-cum-sensitization session on the Civil Registration System (CRS) was conducted today at ANMT School Ramban under the guidance and direct supervision of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Jee Zadoo (District Registrar, Births & Deaths) and District Statistical & Evaluation Officer Ganesh Kumar (Additional District Registrar, Births & Deaths). The session witnessed participation from Block Medical Officers, Medical Officers, and other relevant medical staff from across the district.

The training focused on equipping the participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills to handle cases related to births and deaths—including their accurate recording, documentation, uploading, and enumeration. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the capacity of healthcare functionaries to ensure the effective implementation of the Civil Registration System at the grassroots level.

Emphasizing the significance of timely and accurate registration of vital events, the training highlighted key areas such as improving the efficiency of the civil registration system, enhancing data quality for evidence-based decision-making, and facilitating citizen access to various essential services and government benefits.

Through this initiative, the participants gained valuable insights into the legal and procedural framework governing the CRS, thereby strengthening the district's efforts towards transparent and accountable governance.



Free Eyeglasses provided to inmates at District Jail Bhaderwah under Health Department initiative

HT News Network



DODA, APRIL 24: The Health Department today provided free eyeglasses to inmates at District Jail Bhaderwah on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar.

A total of 36 eyeglasses were distributed among the inmates diagnosed with the eyesight issues. The distribution was carried out by Superintendent Jail Hamid Ullah Naik, in the presence of Rishi Kumar Pandita, Nodal Officer Red Cross.

It is pertinent to mention that this initiative is the follow-up of a free eye screening camp organized by the Health Department in February 2025, during the visit of Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Atul Sreedharan. During the camp, 36 cases of visual impairment were identified among the inmates, who have now been provided with free spectacles as part of this welfare initiative.

Superintendent Jail, Hamid Ullah Naik expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration and the Health Department for their continued support and compassionate efforts towards inmate welfare.

This step reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring health and well-being for all sections of society, including those within correctional facilities. This step reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring health and well-being for all sections of society, including those within correctional facilities.

DC Rajouri inspects Eklavya Model School, Panchayat Ghara, Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Gurdhan Bala

HT News Network

RAJOURI, APRIL 24: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of the Gurdhan Bala area to assess the functioning of public institutions and review the facilities being provided to the local population.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Eklavya Model Residential School and took stock of the academic and infrastructural facilities. He interacted with the students, inquired about their academic progress, and encouraged them to remain focused on their goals. He also reviewed the availability of teaching staff, hostel facilities, extracurricular activities, and other essential



services being provided to the students. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Panchayat Ghar Gurdhan Bala and reviewed its functioning. He directed the concerned officials to ensure the Panchayat Ghar is effectively utilized for governance and community-related activities, while maintaining transparency and accountability at the grass-

roots level.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Gurdhan Bala and reviewed the healthcare services being extended to the local population. He stressed upon the need for efficient service delivery and asked the health officials to ensure the availability of medicines, regular OPDs, and prompt attention to patients.

Senior officers from district administration and concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit. The visit reflects the commitment of the district administration towards strengthening educational infrastructure, grassroots governance and healthcare delivery in the far-flung areas of the district.

Implementation of Road Safety measures reviewed in Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 24: Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh today convened a meeting here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex to review the road safety measures in the district.

Threadbare discussions were held on various aspects such as the enforcement of traffic rules, identification of black spots, road safety audits, minimizing road accidents, road maintenance and curbing issues like overloading, over speeding and rash driving, traffic decongestion on busy routes, installation of signage and conducting awareness programs etc.

The ADC was informed that several black spots have been identified and remedial actions were underway by the concerned departments. To prevent accidents, the Executive Engineers PWD and



PMGSY were directed to ensure regular road maintenance, promptly address black spots and install safety measures such as signboards and crash barriers.

Traffic Police were instructed to work in coordination with the police to regulate traffic flow, reduce congestion and curb overloading for the convenience of commuters. Emphasizing the importance of public awareness, the ADC called for widespread campaigns on road safety rules and stressed the need for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations.

Kathua observes National Panchayati Raj Day with live streaming of PM's address

HT News Network

KATHUA, APRIL 24: A special programme was today organized in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Kathua to commemorate National Panchayati Raj Day 2025. The event featured the live streaming of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address from Madhubani, Bihar, where he distributed the National Panchayat Awards and launched several key developmental projects

aimed at strengthening grassroots governance across the nation. The event in Kathua witnessed the enthusiastic participation of senior district officials and local governance representatives. Chairman DDC, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), District Panchayat Officer.

District Administration Samba orchestrates National Panchayati Raj Day Commemoration

HT News Network



SAMBA, APRIL 24: District Administration Samba marked the National Panchayati Raj Day 2025 by organizing an impactful event with overwhelming participation across all levels of local governance. The district-level celebration, spearheaded by District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and coordinated by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Nar Singh Dayal Verma, brought together district officials, Panchayati Raj Institution members, youth leaders, women representatives, and diverse community stakeholders in a powerful demonstration of inclusive governance. Attendees participated in a live broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address, which emphasized the transformative potential of self-reliant local governance systems. Following directives from district leadership, Block Development Officers ensured the Prime Minister's message reaches every Panchayat through synchronized broadcasts, creating a cascading effect of engagement throughout rural communities. "Today's celebration represents more than ceremonial observance—it showcases our collective resolve to build transparent, accountable rural institutions that truly serve citizen needs," said DDC Sharma during the event. The gathering featured compelling exhibitions highlighting Samba's innovative local governance practices and developmental achievements, offering inspiration for further advancement of Panchayati Raj objectives. As India continues strengthening democratic foundations at the grassroots level, Samba District stands as a model of participatory governance through its whole-of-district approach to empowering local democratic institutions.

National Panchayati Raj Day observed at Surankote

HT News Network

POONCH, APRIL 24: The National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated today at Block Surankote, marking a significant occasion in promoting grassroots governance and community engagement. The event was organized by the District Administration in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

The program was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, accompanied by SDM Surankote, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, BDO and other key officials. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, with a notable presence of women, reflecting a strong commitment to inclusive governance.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal stated, "Today's celebration underscores our commitment to empowering local governance

and ensuring that every citizen is aware of their rights and the resources available to them. Together, we can build a healthier and more prosperous community."

The celebration commenced with a pledge ceremony focused on "Nasha Mukh Bharat." Participants, including district officers, officials, staff, and residents, collectively committed to making India drug-free. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the severe consequences of drug abuse and

promote a healthier community.

During the event, attendees were educated about various government schemes related to the Rural Development Department (RDD). Special emphasis was placed on the importance of Panchayati Raj institutions in effectively implementing these schemes at the grassroots level, ensuring that benefits reach the most vulnerable populations.

Moreover, the program highlighted the

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiative under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Participants were informed about the critical role of WASH in sustainable development, focusing on access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation facilities, and good hygiene practices. Community members were reminded that access to WASH is fundamental for preventing waterborne diseases, promoting public health, and enhancing the overall quality of life.



Stopping Indus Water Treaty will be considered an act of war: Pakistan responds to India

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, APR 24

Pakistan today warned that any move by India to divert the flow of the Indus river waters will be considered as "an act of war".

This was decided at the National Security Committee (NSC) -- the top civil-military decision-making body -- meeting chaired by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.

As part of its immediate response to India's downgrading of ties, the Pakistani government announced the restriction of the Indian High Commission's diplomatic staff in Islamabad to a maximum of 30 personnel, effective April 30.

Pakistan has also closed its airspace to all Indian-owned or operated flights with immediate effect.

The committee also decided to suspend all forms of trade with India, including those routed through third countries.

Furthermore, it announced the immediate closure of the Wagah Border crossing.

The NSC vowed that Pakistan would respond



to India's hostile actions with full national strength, declaring that the nation and its armed forces are fully prepared to counter any form of aggression, Geo News reported.

Islamabad's response comes after India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) laid out five measures which New Delhi has termed as "decisive response to cross-border terrorism".

India yesterday announced suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, facilitated by the World Bank.

It gives India control over the three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) of the Indus basin while it gives Pakistan authority over the three western rivers (Indus,

Jhelum and Chenab).

The other measures announced by India include the immediate closure of the Integrated Check Post Attari as well as the issuance of a deadline for Pakistanis to leave the country before May 1, 2025.

Also, Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and any SVES visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are now deemed cancelled.

Any Pakistani national currently in India under an SVES visa has 48 hours to leave India.

India announced the moves following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were gunned down by Pakistan-linked terrorists.

CWC condemns Pahalgam terror attack, adopts resolution demanding probe into security lapses

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 24

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Thursday held an emergency meeting during which it strongly condemned the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and also expressed grave concern over the security lapses that allowed such an attack to occur.

The CWC, attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, ex-Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and members of the Working Committee, paid tribute to the 26 people killed in the terror attack.

The CWC also adopted a resolution holding



Pakistan responsible for masterminding the terror attack, describing it as a direct assault on the values of the Indian Republic.

It also expressed grave concern over the security lapses in a region known for its heavy security and three-tier protection system.

Before the meeting began, the CWC observed a two-minute silence as tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam attack.

Later addressing the media, party leaders KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khera, said that the CWC adopted a resolution expressing its deepest shock and condemnation of the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

The resolution adopted by the CWC said, "This cowardly and calculated act of terror, masterminded by Pakistan, is a direct assault on the values of our Republic. The delib-

erate targeting of Hindus was done to inflame passions across the country," the resolution read, while appealing the people to "remain calm in the face of this grave provocation and reaffirming the collective strength in the face of adversity".

The resolution demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the intelligence failures and security breaches, especially since the area falls under the direct jurisdiction of the Union Home Ministry.

With the Amarnath Yatra set to begin soon, the CWC stressed the urgency of implementing strong, transparent, and proactive security measures without delay.

"Robust, transparent, and proactive security arrangements must be put in place without delay.

The safety of pilgrims, as well as the livelihoods of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, many of whom depend on tourism, must be protected with full sincerity and seriousness," the CWC resolution said.

The resolution also slammed the BJP, accusing the party of politicising the tragedy.

"The BJP is exploiting this grave tragedy through official and proxy social media platforms to sow further discord, mistrust, polarisation, and division at a time when unity and solidarity are most needed," the resolution said.

Meanwhile, the party will hold a candlelight march across the nation on Friday, at state and district levels, against the Pahalgam terror attack and against terrorism.

SC to hold final hearing on Godhra train carnage appeals on May 6-7

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 24

The Supreme Court on Thursday scheduled the final hearing of the 2018 criminal appeals in the 2002 Godhra train burning case for May 6 and 7, declaring that no other matters will be listed on those days.

A bench comprising justices J. Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar issued the order while hearing a series of appeals both by the convicts challenging their conviction, and by the State of Gujarat, which is seeking the death penalty for those whose sentences were commuted by the High Court.

Notably, the case has seen repeated adjournments, with the court previously expressing its displeasure over continuous deferments sought by the parties.

On this occasion, the matter was not taken up as the bench was scheduled to sit only until 1 p.m. The court instead engaged with senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, representing one of the convicts, to discuss a viable date for an uninterrupted hearing.

The bench then issued a formal directive.

"The case was opened by senior counsel Sanjay



Hegde, and a compilation has been filed. Along with the said, heading-wise material is not attested. However, he undertakes to revise this compilation and supply all on or before May 3."

The court said the counsel for accused persons may take guidance from the said compilation and may prepare their own compilations.

As stated by the counsel, the hearing of this matter is required at least for two weeks.

The court said, "First, we will take up this matter on May 6 and 7 continuously. We request the Registry to list the matter for final hearing both on May 6 and 7 and, on said dates, no other cases would be listed."

The court also clarified that it would convene a three-judge bench on May 6. This aligns with arguments raised ear-

lier by Hegde, who cited Mohd. Arif vs The Reg. Supreme Court Of India & Ors (2014), asserting that a death penalty appeal mandates a larger bench.

While some questions regarding remission were raised during the proceedings, the court reiterated its earlier stance that the power to grant remission lies with the state and is not part of the current judicial review.

The Godhra incident on February 27, 2002, led to the deaths of 58 people in a fire that engulfed the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express, which was carrying kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya. The tragedy sparked one of the most severe episodes of communal violence in Gujarat.

In March 2011, a trial court convicted 31 individuals, sentencing 11 to death and 20 to life imprisonment, while acquitting 63 others.

Govt failed to ensure security of tourists: Akhilesh

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, APR 24

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday while condemning the terrorist incident in J&K's Pahalgam, said the Central government, which has failed to protect tourists, should take strict action against the terrorists.

In a press conference held at the party's state office, Akhilesh said that terrorists have no religion. "The government has called an all-party meeting on Pahalgam. The party's national chief general secretary Prof Ram Gopal Yadav will represent the SP," he said.

He said that no party should take political advantage from such a gruesome incident because it is a matter of national interest. "It is also the responsibility of the government to immediately stop any kind



of fake news that hurts our internal and external security and keep a close watch on social media," he said.

The SP chief said the government took decisions in the Kashmir valley as per its discretion and now it was the responsibility of the government to take care of the safety of the tourists going to Kashmir.

"The place in Pahalgam where terrorists fired on innocent tourists was not a deserted place, but no arrangements were made there for the safety of the tourists. The government will have to take this

responsibility," he said.

He said that his party welcomes the decisions taken by the government after the terrorist incident.

Akhilesh reiterated that the youth of the country was not in favour of the Agniveer scheme for the armed forces. "They want permanent jobs and permanent uniforms. No matter how much budget is spent for the security of the country, we should spend it. The government should have taken even harsher decisions against terrorism and they should be implemented strictly," he said.

Speaking in favour of Kashmiris doing business in other parts of the country, he said, "Business unites us, it has no caste or religion. This thinking flourishing on social media that Kashmiris should not be allowed to do business in other states will have to be removed."

Bangladesh SC scraps corruption charges against Yunus

AGENCIES

DHAKA, APR 24

The Bangladesh Supreme Court has scrapped corruption charges against Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, filed by the country's Anti-Corruption Commission, effectively ending all of Yunus' legal troubles.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court dismissed the ACC graft on money laundering case against the CA, after he was charged with misappropriating Tk25.22 crore (USD 2 million) from Grameen Telecom Workers' Profit Participation Fund and illegally transferring the funds, violating anti-money laundering laws, according to The Daily Star.

The charges were formally filed against the accused in Dhaka on June 12, 2023, in a special judge hearing.

Contacted, Barrister Abdullah-Al-Mamun, principal lawyer for CA Yunus and the six others, said following the Appellate Division's verdict, all charges against the accused were proven false and baseless.

This is not the first time that charges against the CA have been "legally"

squashed, after he took charge as head of the interim government last year, following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government.

As head of the Grameen Telecom, Yunus along with several others were charged with money laundering, and labour law violations, by the ACC in 2023, though all of these charges have been squashed by the courts, exonerating Yunus and his fellow accused.

On August 7, 2024, a day before Yunus was sworn in as Chief Adviser, the Labour Appellate Tribunal hurriedly reversed the decision of a Dhaka Labour Court which, on January 1, 2024, convicted and sentenced Yunus, who had served as chairman of Grameen Telecom, and three top officials of Grameen Telecom to six months' imprisonment for labour law violations.

Three days after Yunus was sworn in as the Chief Adviser, on August 11, he was acquitted by a Dhaka Court in a corruption case after the ACC withdrew its own allegation (filed on June 12, 2024) against Yunus for misappropriation from Grameen Telecom workers' fund.

9 killed, 70 injured in Russian drone and missile attack on Kiev



AGENCIES

KIEV, APR 24

Nine people were killed and over 70 injured in an overnight Russian drone and missile attack on Kiev, said the State Emergency Service of Ukraine on Thursday.

The assault caused extensive damage to residential buildings and ignited fires in garages, non-residential structures and administrative buildings. Rescue operations are still underway in

the western Sviatoshynskiy district, where a missile strike partially destroyed an apartment building.

In total, emergency teams have responded to 13 locations across Kiev to address the damage.

In addition to Kiev, the attack also targeted eight other regions across Ukraine. Two people were reported injured in the eastern Kharkiv region, while one person was wounded in the northern Zhytomyr region.

Siddaramaiah urges Centre to crush terrorism after Pahalgam attack

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, APR 24

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday visited the Bengaluru residence of one of the Pahalgam terror attack victims to offer condolences, and called upon the Central Government to take decisive action to eliminate terrorism.

Siddaramaiah said that it is the Centre's responsibility to ensure national security, and assured that the state government would extend full support in suppressing terrorist activities across the country.

"It is the responsibility of the Central Government to completely eliminate terrorists. Our Government will fully support the Centre in completely suppressing terrorist activities in the country and defeating terrorists," Siddaramaiah said, in the wake of three Kannadigas falling victim in the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Chief Minister visited the residence of one of the victims, Bharat Bhushan, a well-educated youth from Mattikere, to pay his last respects and offer condolences to the bereaved family.



"The terrorist attack is an inhuman act. Killing innocent people in broad daylight, in front of their families, is a heinous act," he said. Drawing parallels with previous incidents, Siddaramaiah added,

"Pulwama and Balakot incidents have happened in Kashmir in the past, and such attacks recurring again indicate possible lapses in Central Intelligence."

The other victims from Karnataka were Manjunath Rao and Madhusudan.

Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy met the families of Bhushan and Rao in Bengaluru and Shivamogga respectively. Minister Madhu Bangarappa instructed officials to extend full cooperation to the bereaved families. The government has announced an ex gratia of

Rs 10 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad, along with a team of officials, was despatched to Kashmir to assist Kannadigas stranded in the valley and facilitate the return of the victims' mortal remains.

"A total of 175 Kannadigas are being brought back to the state safely. It is the duty of the government to protect Kannadigas in distress," Siddaramaiah said.

He also noted that while the Central Government had initiated some steps following the incident, the State Government would offer complete cooperation for any further counter-terror operations.

"The entire country stands with the family of Bhushan in this hour of grief. I pray to God that the departed soul may rest in peace," he added.

Trump to shut down agency funding developing countries: Report

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, APR 24

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that it will shut down the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a foreign aid agency known for funding infrastructure projects in developing countries, according to media reports.

Employees were informed during a staff meeting that the agency is "coming to an orderly close," and that all ongoing programs will be discontinued. The announcement followed a staff-wide memo stating that the Department of Government Efficiency, led by Elon Musk, had mandated a "significant reduction" at the MCC.

Established in 2004,

the MCC has invested approximately 17 billion U.S. dollars in development assistance across developing countries that met its governance criteria. Over the years, the agency has signed numerous contracts and overseen major infrastructure projects around the world.

The exact timeline for the agency's closure has not yet been disclosed.

GenAI’s diagnostic capabilities comparable to non-specialist doctors: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A new research on Friday showed that generative AI’s (GenAI) diagnostic capabilities are comparable to non-specialist doctors.

The use of generative AI for diagnostics has attracted attention in the medical field and many research papers have been published on this topic.

However, because the evaluation criteria were different for each study, a comprehensive analysis was needed to determine the extent AI could be used in actual medical settings and what advantages it featured in comparison to doctors.

A research group led by Dr Hirotaka Takita and Associate Professor Daiju Ueda at Osaka Metropolitan University’s Graduate School of Medicine conducted a meta-analysis of generative AI’s diagnostic capabilities, using 83



research papers published between June 2018 and June 2024, that covered a wide range of medical specialties.

Of the large language models (LLMs) that were analysed, ChatGPT was the most commonly studied.

The comparative evaluation revealed that medi-

cal specialists had a 15.8 per cent higher diagnostic accuracy than generative AI, according to the study published in the journal npj Digital Medicine.

The average diagnostic accuracy of generative AI was 52.1 per cent, with the latest models of generative AI sometimes showing accuracy on par with

non-specialist doctors.

“This research shows that generative AI’s diagnostic capabilities are comparable to non-specialist doctors. It could be used in medical education to support non-specialist doctors and assist in diagnostics in areas with limited medical resources,” said Dr Takita.

“Further research, such as evaluations in more complex clinical scenarios, performance evaluations using actual medical records, improving the transparency of AI decision-making, and verification in diverse patient groups, is needed to verify AI’s capabilities,” according to researchers.

Established in Osaka as one of the largest public universities in Japan, Osaka Metropolitan University said it is committed to shaping the future of society through “Convergence of Knowledge” and the promotion of world-class research.

Soft brainstem implant delivers high-resolution hearing: Researchers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team at EPFL’s Laboratory for Soft Bioelectronic Interfaces in Switzerland on Friday said it has developed a soft, thin-film auditory brainstem implant (ABI) that closely conforms to the curved surface of the brainstem.

The device uses micrometer-scale platinum electrodes embedded in silicone, forming a pliable array just a fraction of a millimeter thick.

This novel approach, published in Nature Biomedical Engineering, enables better tissue contact, potentially preventing off-target nerve activation and reducing side effects.

Over the last couple of decades, many people have regained hearing functionality with the most successful neurotech device to date: the cochlear implant.

But for those whose



cochlear nerve is too damaged for a standard cochlear implant, a promising alternative is an auditory brainstem implant (ABI).

“Designing a soft implant that truly conforms to the brainstem environment is a critical milestone in restoring hearing for patients who can’t use cochlear implants. Our success in macaques shows real

promise for translating this technology to the clinic and delivering richer, more precise hearing,” said Stephanie P. Lacour, head of Head of the Laboratory for Soft Bioelectronic (LSBI) Interfaces at EPFL.

Rather than simply relying on surgical tests, the researchers ran extensive behavioural experiments in macaques with normal

hearing.

This allowed them to measure how well the animals could distinguish electrical stimulation patterns as they would with natural acoustic hearing.

“Our main idea was to leverage soft, bioelectronic interfaces to improve electrode-tissue match,” explained Alix Trouillet, a former postdoctoral researcher at EPFL and co-first author of the study. “If the array naturally follows the brainstem’s curved anatomy, we can lower stimulation thresholds and maintain more active electrodes for high-resolution hearing.”

Beyond conformability, the soft array’s flexible microfabrication means it can be reconfigured for different anatomies.

Although these findings are promising, the path to a commercially available soft ABI will require additional research and regulatory steps, said authors.

IPOs in global biopharma industry rise to \$8.52 billion in 2024

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The initial public offerings (IPOs) in the biopharmaceutical sector surged 68.4 per cent to reach \$8.52 billion globally in 2024, according to a new report.

The sector saw an upturn in 2024, with 50 completed IPOs raising \$8.52 billion, from \$5.06 billion raised in 2023 and marking the highest total IPO value raised since 2021.

This rebound, driven by US Federal Reserve interest rate cuts, marks the highest total since 2021, said GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

While cautious, investors are showing increased interest in companies with strong clinical data, signalling a recovery in the public markets and a shift toward more advanced-stage biopharmaceuticals.

Completed IPOs that raised more than \$100 mil-



lion almost doubled, from \$4.39 billion across 15 IPOs in 2023 to \$7.88 billion across 24 IPOs in 2024.

The increase in the number of high-value IPOs in 2024 suggests that while public investors remain selective, increased capital availability due to inter-

est rate cuts has facilitated investments in biopharmaceutical companies with a strong value proposition, said Alison Labya, business fundamentals analyst at GlobalData.

The largest biopharmaceutical IPO completed in 2024 was Switzerland-

based dermatology company Galderma, which raised \$2.48 billion, according to the report.

Galderma’s IPO followed a planned IPO in February 2022 that did not close, as well as Galderma postponing its IPO in March 2023 amid market volatility.

Despite the overall increase in IPO value raised, discovery and preclinical-stage companies saw a four-fold drop in total IPO value from \$490.6 million in 2023 to \$112.5 million in 2024, indicating a shift in public investor preference towards more advanced stage companies, Labya added.

However, IPO activity could be dampened by an anticipated increase in private biopharmaceutical M&A in 2025 as companies seek to refill their pipelines ahead of upcoming patent expirations, said the report.

What is Type 5 Diabetes? Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment Options

After years of disregard and misdiagnosis, a specific type of diabetes called Type 5 diabetes has at last been officially recognized by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). This type of diabetes is experienced by lean and undernourished adolescents and young adults in low- and middle-income nations, especially in Asia and Africa.

What is Type 5 Diabetes?

Type 5 diabetes is a diabetogenic effect of malnutrition that results in abnormally functioning pancreatic beta cells and inadequate release of insulin. In contrast to Type 2 diabetes, wherein the primary dysfunction is insulin resistance, Type 5 diabetes results from a tremendous decline in the secretion of insulin. Type 5 diabetes was documented in multiple nations, among which are India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Korea.



Causes and Markers

The major cause of Type 5 diabetes is malnutrition, and its onset is during pregnancy. When a baby does not get proper nutrition during fetal growth, it may predispose them to diabetes at a later age. Characteristics of Type 5 diabetes are abnormally low body-mass index (BMI), decreased body fat percentage, and extremely low insulin secretion.

Treatment and Management

Since its recent official acknowledgment, definitive diagnostic criteria and therapeutic standards for Type 5 diabetes remain to be agreed upon. A diet rich in protein and proper consumption of carbohydrates and fats is necessary to manage the condition, though. The IDF has appointed a working committee to formulate official diagnostic and therapeutic standards for Type 5 diabetes within the next two years.

Global Impact

Type 5 diabetes is approximately estimated to be found in 25 million individuals worldwide, with a majority in middle- and low-income countries. The absence of official diagnosis has slowed efforts towards diagnosing the patients and an effective therapy. The workgroup is targeting creating a worldwide registry, formulating education modules, and establishing collaborative research for greater understanding and control of the disease.

Conclusion

Official acknowledgment of Type 5 diabetes is an important milestone in meeting the needs of millions of individuals who suffer from this condition. With increased focus and research, hopes are that proper diagnostic criteria and therapeutic guidelines will be established to enhance the treatment and management of Type 5 diabetes.

Scientists create novel method to identify healthy and cancerous cells

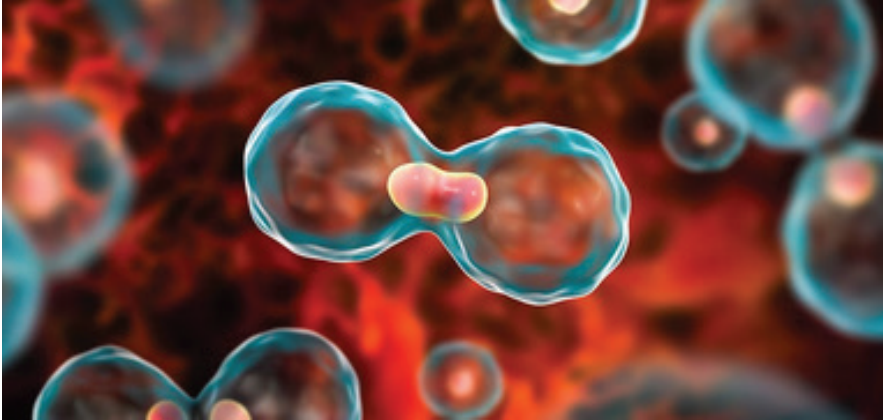
AGENCIES
TOKYO

Researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan on Saturday said they have found that the motion of unlabelled cells can be used to tell whether they are cancerous or healthy.

They observed malignant fibrosarcoma cells and healthy fibroblasts on a dish and found that tracking and analysis of their paths can be used to differentiate them with up to 94 per cent accuracy.

Beyond diagnosis, their technique may also shed light on cell motility related functions, like tissue healing, according to the study published in the journal PLOS One.

The team of researchers, led by Professor Hiromi Miyoshi, came up with a way of tracking cells using phase-contrast microscopy, one of the most common ways of observing cells.



Phase-contrast microscopy is entirely label free, allowing cells to move about on a petri dish closer to their native state, and is not affected by the optical properties of the plastic petri dishes through which cells are imaged.

Through innovative image analysis, they were able to extract trajectories of many individual cells. They focused on properties of the paths taken, like migration speed, and how curvy the paths were, all

of which would encode subtle differences in deformation and movement.

As a test, they compared healthy fibroblast cells, the key component of animal tissue, and malignant fibrosarcoma cells, cancerous cells which derive from fibrous connective tissue.

They were able to show that the cells migrated in subtly different ways, as characterised by the “sum of turn angles” (how curvy the paths were), the frequency of shallow turns,

and how quickly they moved. In fact, by combining both the sum of turn angles and how often they made shallow turns, they could predict whether a cell was cancerous or not with an accuracy of 94 per cent.

The team’s work not only promises a new way to discriminate cancer cells, but applications to research of any biological function based on cell motility, like the healing of wounds and tissue growth, said the study.

Paediatric thyroid cancer risk rises with early exposure to air, light pollution

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Early-life exposure to small particle air pollution and outdoor artificial light at night could increase the risk of paediatric thyroid cancer, a new study led by researchers at Yale University in the US has suggested.

The team found a “significant association” between exposure to ambient fine particulate matter air pollution (PM2.5) and outdoor artificial light at night (O-ALAN) and increased risk of papillary thyroid cancer in children and young adults up to 19 years old, according to the study published in Environmental Health Perspectives.

The exposures occurred during the perinatal stage of life, typically defined as the time from when pregnancy occurs up to a year after birth.

“These results are concerning, especially given



how widespread both of these exposures are,” said Dr Nicole Deziel, an environmental epidemiologist with the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH) and the study’s lead author.

Fine particulate matter is found in urban air pollution due to automobile traffic and industrial activity, and artificial light at night is common, particularly in densely populated urban areas, Deziel added.

The research team analysed data from 736 individuals diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer before age 20 and 36,800 matched control participants based on birth year.

Using advanced geo-

spatial and satellite modelling, the team assessed individual-level exposure to PM2.5 and O-ALAN based on residential location at birth. All of the study participants were from California.

The findings showed that for every 10 micrograms per cubic meter increase in PM2.5 exposure, the odds of developing thyroid cancer rose by 7 per cent overall.

The strongest association between exposure and thyroid cancer was found among teenagers (15-19 years of age) and Hispanic children. Similarly, children born in areas with high levels of expo-

sure to outdoor light at night were 23-25 per cent more likely to develop thyroid cancer, according to the study.

“Thyroid cancer is among the fastest growing cancers among children and adolescents, yet we know very little about what causes it in this population,” said Deziel, an associate professor of epidemiology (environmental health sciences) and co-director of the Yale Center for Perinatal, Pediatric, and Environmental Epidemiology.

The study is the first large-scale investigation to suggest that these exposures early in life – specifically to PM2.5 and outdoor light at night – may play a role in this concerning trend.

The researchers emphasised that more work is needed to replicate and expand on their findings, ideally using improved exposure metrics and longitudinal designs.



In a contest between bottom teams, CSK, SRH faces uphill task

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, APR 24 (UNI)

Having been battered and bruised losing four of its last five matches, the two bottom places teams five time winners and home favourites Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Sun Risers Hyderabad (SRH) comes face to face in key contest at the iconic Chepauk stadium here tomorrow.

Both the teams with four points each in eight matches have a mountain to climb to entertain any hopes of qualifying for the play-offs, which seemed a distant target at present.

For that, both the teams should win their remaining matches with big and huge margins to cope up with the nett run rate and also pray that the top placed teams face reverses in their remaining encounters tilting the table balance.



With six more matches remaining, both the teams utmost could reach 16 points if they win their remaining contests, but the task is not that easy, considering their performance in this edition of this lucrative league.

Despite playing at home and having the advantage, CSK needs to get its balance right. The change of guard at the helm, with th iconic M S Dhoni returning to lead the side did

not work wonders, having been battered by Mumbai Indians the other day at Wankhede.

The five-day break for CSK would have given the much needed impetus for the dug out to iron out the differences and pick the right balance both in batting and bowling to outwit its opponent, which too is going through a rough phase having lost to Mumbai Indians at home yesterday.

CSK had just a solitary victory at home this season that too in its pipe-opener against MI in a tricky chase where another 10 to 15 runs in the target would have posed a problem in the chase.

Losing wickets in the power play, lack of scoring boundaries in this phase seems to have been costing both the teams dearly, though SRH has a strong line up and has scored heavily in previous outings.

SRH too faces a similar dilemma and seemed over dependant on Klasen after the top order misfired against Mumbai yesterday.

With both the teams keen to put to the record straight, as CSK had never lost to SRH at home, a keen contest is on the cards, irrespective of the fact whether they could progress to the play offs.

Shanto backs Mushfigur Rahim to bounce back after Zimbabwe loss

AGENCIES

DHAKA, APR 24 (UNI)

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto has voiced his support for wicketkeeper-batter Mushfigur Rahim following their three-wicket defeat to Zimbabwe in the first Test at Sylhet.

The batter has been through a lean patch in recent times, with a highest score of 37 from his last 12 Test innings.

"He is an experienced cricketer. He is not only contributing with his batting, he is a part of the planning group as well when we field," Shanto said of Rahim, who managed just four runs in each of the innings in the first Test.

"He helps the batters. He talks a lot during training. Of course, his batting is important. I am not thinking about his milestones or achievements from the past, I don't think he is either. I hope, with one match remaining, he will make a comeback. I am not giving up hope. He has been in poor form in the past and made comebacks," Shanto said.

Despite Mushfigur's struggles, Shanto was also critical of himself after being dismissed on



the second ball of the final day, a moment he says swung the momentum decisively in Zimbabwe's favour.

Bangladesh had a healthy lead and looked all set to make it bigger, before Shanto, who had made 40 in the first innings, lashed his bat out at the second delivery of day 4 from Blessing Muzarabani, only to find the fielder at deep fine-leg, leading to his dismissal for 60. The hosts, who were 194/4 at that point, were bundled out for 255, an ICC report said.

"It was my fault that we lost the match, that's the truth," he said.

"My wicket early in the morning [off the second ball of the day] ruined the whole match for us. If we [Shanto and Jaker Ali] had added 50 or 60 more runs at that time, we would be

in a better position.

I don't want to blame anyone else. I am taking all the responsibilities since my dismissal came at a very bad time," he said.

Known for his positive intent at the crease, Shanto acknowledged that better shot selection could have made a difference.

"I always think about taking scoring opportunities. Maybe I could have taken more time before playing my shots. But I will play that shot again, maybe the timing wasn't right on this occasion," he said.

Zimbabwe's tall pacer Blessing Muzarabani was instrumental in their win, taking nine wickets across both innings and troubling Bangladesh's top order consistently, including a rollicking six-wicket haul in the second innings that tumbled the hosts.

Hockey India names 54-member core probable group for National Coaching Camp

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 24 (UNI)

Hockey India has announced a 54-member core probable squad for the upcoming Senior Men's National Coaching Camp, which will begin on April 25 at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru.

Following their performances at the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025, held in Jhansi Uttar Pradesh.

Hockey India has selected a core group of 54 players for the upcoming national camp. The camp will be held from April 25 to 30, during which the group will be assessed and subsequently pruned down to 40 players. The selected 40 players will then continue training in the next phase of the camp, scheduled from May 1 to 25.

Out of the 54 players, 38 have been retained from the existing core group. The rest have been drafted based on their impressive outings in the recent nationals, with players coming in from Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Punjab, UP Hockey, Hockey Bengal, and Manipur Hockey.

MLC to expand with investment from New Zealand Cricket

AGENCIES

FLORIDA, APR 24 (UNI)

A new Major League Cricket franchise team will launch in 2027 with direct investment from New Zealand Cricket (NZC).

Terms have been agreed between NZC and a US-based consortium True North Sports Ventures (TNS) in what will be an unprecedented overseas franchise investment for a national governing body, the BBC reported.

A statement from NZC said they will provide "high-performance and operational support" to the new MLC franchise "including coaching, management, and support staff, as well as integrating



the franchise into NZC's domestic high-performance ecosystem".

TNS will be headed up by MLC co-founders Vijay Srinivasan and Sameer Mehta and include backers such as the 49ers Enterprises, the investment wing of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers.

The name and home city of the new franchise has yet to be decided although Atlanta in Georgia and the Canadian city of Toronto are both under consideration.

NZC will also have the option to invest in a second MLC franchise, earmarked for 2031.

"As franchise cricket grows globally, NZC needs to adapt to seize strategic opportunities that ensure the sustainability of our cricket network," said NZC chief executive Scott Weenink.

"This helps diversify our revenue streams, expands our global brand and fan base, and creates new talent development and retention pathways for both our players and coaches."

MLC launched in 2023 as a six-team tournament with this year's edition taking place between June 12 and July 13 across venues in Dallas, Florida and Oakland.

15th SAFF Championship to be staged in 2026

AGENCIES

DHAKA, APR 24 (UNI)

The 15th edition of the SAFF Championship has been postponed to 2026, with the venue and the tournament format yet to be finalised, the federation announced on Thursday.

Originally slated to be held this year, the biennial tournament has been deferred to next year as both the federation and the event sponsor, SportFive, felt that additional preparation time was necessary to ensure a smoother execution.

"The SAFF had decided to stage the prestigious SAFF Championship in a home or away format this year. Preparations had been made accordingly. However, SAFF, our Member Associations, and SportFive felt that more arrangement needed to be in place to deliver the competition in a smooth manner," the SAFF press statement 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

BAJAJ Allianz **RELIANCE General Insurance** **HDFC ERGO GENERAL INSURANCE** **digit INSURANCE** **ICICI Lombard GENERAL INSURANCE** **Liberty Insurance**

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